



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 17 June 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 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
Debbie Wood	Director Infrastructure & Environment
Aaron Gerrard	Acting Director Customer & Corporate Services
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jacinta Stevens	Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 17 June 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

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

Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni, Cr Nic Brooks, Cr Blair Colwell, Cr Lawrie Cox, Cr Deb Gunn, Cr Jarrod Lappin and Cr David Lenberg.

We also have attending virtually Cr Christine Stow.

I would now like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he in turn introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team.”

“Good evening everyone, I would like to introduce:

Emma Appleton, Director Planning & Development;
Agata Chmielewski, Director Community Wellbeing;
Debbie Wood, Director Infrastructure & Environment;
Aaron Gerrard, Acting Director Customer & Corporate Services;
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs; and
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.

Thank you Chair.”

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair read the following statement:

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

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

1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Chair read the following statement:

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

1.5 Acknowledgements

The following acknowledgements were made:

King’s Birthday Honours List

On behalf of Council, we would like to recognise three individuals for service to the community and extend our congratulations. The following local people were named on the Kings Birthday honours list:

- Mrs Lynne Harris from Bundoora for service to the community through social welfare organisations. Mrs Harris is the Director at Mill Park Community House, the treasurer at North East Neighbourhood House Network and a volunteer with the Whittlesea Disability Network.
- Mr Ian Shanks from Mill Park for service to the community through charitable organisations. Mr Shanks was the co-founder of the Fulllife Foundation and served as its director and Chief Executive Officer, working with a number of foundation partners including World Vision Australia, Barefoot Initiative and International Needs Australia.
- Mr Geoffrey McIlvenna from South Morang for service to the community through charitable organisations. Mr McIlvenna has been involved in many charities, including the Rotary Club of Preston, the Children's First Foundation, the Whittlesea City Basketball Association, and also served as a City of Whittlesea/Shire of Whittlesea Councillor for 11 years, and as Mayor in 1993-94. Mr McIlvenna was a former Senior Sargent of Police in the Thomastown, Reservoir and Mill Park stations. As a long-term resident and former Councillor who served with me (Cr Cox) in the Shire and his service in the basketball community, Mr McIlvenna has been exemplary.

Refugee Week

This week is Refugee Week and on Thursday the City of Whittlesea will be hosting a special event in recognition of this important week.

This year’s theme, ‘*Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community*’ provides an opportunity for us all to celebrate the contributions of refugees and acknowledge the challenges they overcome to rebuild their lives.

The event will be held here at the Civic Centre, and will include a lively celebration featuring multicultural performances, music, and a guest speaker. I encourage everyone to come along and honour the journeys of our refugee community.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Last week we hosted a wonderful event to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The information session was presented by Senior Rights Victoria and provided valuable information for older residents about their rights and the support available to keep them safe and informed.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of and prevention of elder abuse and highlight the importance of the rights of older people.

The City of Whittlesea is proud to provide a wide range of services and programs for older people in our community and we recognise the important role we play in responding to suspected elder abuse situations.

City of Whittlesea Business Awards

As Mayor, I was honoured to present the City of Whittlesea Business Awards last month, where our business community gathered for a wonderful celebration in recognition of our vibrant local businesses.

Congratulations to all the nominees, and the following award recipients:

- Start-Up Award: Joanne's Temple Colonics and Wellness Centre
- Customer Service Award: Fastflex Heating and Cooling Supplies
- Innovation and Enterprise Award: Iconyx
- Sustainability and Environment Award: Eriez Magnetics
- Community Contribution Award: DPV Health
- Workplace Diversity Award: NLA Logistics
- Small Business Award: Lashes On Point Salon
- City of Whittlesea Business of the Year: DPV Health

Northern Business Achievement Awards

As Mayor, I also had the pleasure of recently attending the Northern Business Achievement Awards Breakfast. The event brought together business and community leaders from across the northern region to celebrate innovation, entrepreneurship, and outstanding contributions to our local economy.

Congratulations to Shristi Sharma, the founder and clinical director of Helping Hands Behaviour Support on receiving the Young Achiever award.

Annual Report Award

The City of Whittlesea recently received a Gold Award at the Australasian Reporting Awards for our 2023-24 Annual Report and the Communication Award for the Public Sector.

The 2023-2024 report, with a theme of 'a greener tomorrow today', showcased Council's many sustainability initiatives to foster a climate resilient future for all where our community can continue to live, work and thrive.

Congratulations to all involved in bringing this report together.

Parks Awards

At the recent Parks and Leisure Victoria/Tasmania Awards, the City of Whittlesea was awarded Park of the Year for the Whittlesea Public Gardens Revitalisation in Lalor. The redevelopment of the gardens is a multi-stage project that has transformed the park with new features including a new playground, learn-to-ride area, skate park, rock-climbing wall and half-court basketball courts.

At the same awards ceremony, Timbertop Park in Doreen received a Commendation in the Playspace under \$500,000 category.

We're incredibly proud of these projects and the teams behind them, delivering innovative, inclusive and high-quality open spaces for our growing community.

Whittlesea Public Gardens will now represent Victoria at the PLA National Awards later this year, and we wish them all the best.

More Awards

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Olivine Recreation Reserve project, which received a Commendation Award at the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Awards last week.

Council partnered with Mirvac to address community demand for recreation facilities by delivering two sports fields, pavilion, netball courts and skate park in the fast-growing Donnybrook area.

Congratulations also to the Lalor Neighbourhood House Community Garden Project on being awarded the AILA VIC Landscape Architecture Award for Community Contribution. This project was delivered by Lalor Neighbourhood House with the City of Whittlesea also contributing towards the project.

Vale Leanne Murnane

Council would like to pass on their condolences to the family and friends of Leanne Murnane who sadly passed away recently.

Leanne volunteered her time and supported the community in various capacities, including the Whittlesea Country Music Festival, where she served as the Secretary for 10 years. Leanne was well known and beloved in the Whittlesea Township, and we would like to acknowledge her contribution both as part of the Whittlesea Country Music Festival and more broadly within the community.

Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

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

THAT Council confirm the Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated:

1. Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 20 May 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Question 1 from Nick Brain of Epping

Can Council advise how it accommodated the views of the residents who expressed they want better services, better infrastructure and cost of living relief from the 2025-26 budget?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

Council has carefully considered the views of the community throughout the development of the 2025-26 Draft Budget which will be considered by Council later this evening.

A comprehensive community engagement process was undertaken, including an initial community survey, targeted focus groups, and a formal public exhibition period. Feedback received from residents played a critical role in shaping budget priorities.

The 2025–26 Draft Budget includes a total investment of \$460.6 million, including \$110.7 million in capital works. This funding supports the delivery of key infrastructure projects such as road upgrades, park and playground renewals.

Council recognises the ongoing cost of living pressures and has maintained a range of supports, including the Financial Hardship Policy, interest free payment plans and flexible payment arrangements.

The Draft Budget that Council will consider for adoption tonight reflects a commitment to responding to community needs while ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Question 2 from Emin of Eden Park

Can Council please specify how the construction of small dams for low level agricultural use and temporary structures to house chickens contravenes Council's Green Wedge Management Plan.

Response:

Thank you for the question.

While we are unable to discuss specific sites, the City of Whittlesea's Green Wedge Management Plan provides a strategic framework to protect and manage the municipality's valued green wedge areas by preserving biodiversity, supporting sustainable land use and protecting cultural heritage.

Whittlesea's Green Wedge has areas of high environmental value and also areas subject to significant environmental constraints including areas prone to erosion and within important water catchments.

To manage the environmental impacts of development in certain parts of Whittlesea's Green Wedge, the Whittlesea Planning Scheme restricts the development of buildings and structures on small lots which are inappropriately sized for development.

The development of dams is also carefully managed through the planning controls to minimise the impacts of erosion and on water catchments.

Council officers are available to discuss specific sites and what activities, or alternatives may be suitable for the land in accordance with Whittlesea Planning Scheme and the Green Wedge Management Plan.

Question 3 from Ross Lee of Doreen

Can Council please provide a list of all community organisations, and committees that were formed during the administration period with a total amount of ratepayer money contributed to each of them during the same time.

Response:

Thank you for the question.

The City of Whittlesea established one advisory committee during the term of Administrators. The Business Advisory Panel was established in 2021, bringing together representatives from local business and industry and the City of Whittlesea to support the delivery of initiatives that deliver a strong local economy for our municipality. A budget of \$1,500 is allocated each year to support the Panel.

The City of Whittlesea is not responsible for establishing community organisations.

A full list of committees and the Councillors appointed as representatives on these committees is available on our website.

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 State Government Planning System Reform - Submissions

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Acting Manager Strategic Futures
Strategic Planner

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) proposed review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Act) and present the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Local Government Sector submission to the review process for endorsement by Council. The report also presents Council's submission to the recently held *Inquiry into on Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* conducted by the Select Committee of the Victorian Parliament. This report presents the outcomes of this inquiry including the Select Committee's final report.

The Act is the primary legislation guiding the use and development of land in Victoria. A review of the Act was first mooted as an action identified in the *Victoria's Housing Statement, the decade ahead 2024-2034 Statement* (the Housing Statement) which was released by the State Government in September 2023. The objective of the review was identified 'to build a modern, fit-for-purpose planning system'. The review of the Act forms part of the State Government's broader planning reform program.

In parallel to the review process, the State Government has introduced significant reforms to the planning system. These include a suite of planning scheme amendments introducing various changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions, the release of *Plan for Victoria* - a state-wide strategy for Victoria, and the introduction of the Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Bill. These changes, together with the proposed changes to the Act, have far-reaching implications for planning in Victoria and calls into question the approach that DTP is undertaking in reviewing the Act.

It is noted that a number of planning scheme amendments introduced by the Minister for Planning have recently been inquired into by the *Select Committee on Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257 (Housing Choice and Transport Zone and Built Form Overlay), VC267 (Townhouse and Low-Rise Code) and VC274 (Precinct Zone)*.

Council officers provided a submission to the Inquiry on behalf of Council. A number of other Councils also made submissions and presented to the inquiry.

This report recommends endorsing the MAV's submission *Reforming Victoria's Planning System: Local Government Sector Submission* (refer to *Attachment 1*) as Council's submission to the broader planning reform process. Council officers have contributed to the sector wide submission. The submission raises concerns about the process being undertaken by DTP, particularly the lack of genuine engagement between the state government, who are the system designers, with local government, who are the primary administrators of the planning system.

The MAV submission proactively recommends 'a better way' forward consisting of a comprehensive review of the planning system, undertaken in partnership with local government to design and build a better planning system. The MAV submission calls for a review which places integrity, housing, sustainability and local communities front and centre.

The submission also makes specific recommendations for the review of the Act to consider reforms that address the critical challenges facing planning in Victoria, including housing supply, location and affordability, climate change, natural hazards and environmental sustainability, and the delivery of infrastructure.

The report also recommends that Council note the officer submission provided to *Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* (refer to *Attachment 2*). The Select Committee's report was tabled on 13 May 2025 and is included at *Attachment 3*. The Committee found that there is common support for the policy objective of facilitating increased housing in well located areas however that "the Victorian Government failed to adequately consult on the three amendments and the Committee is of the view that the Minister for Planning inappropriately exempted herself from expected consultation". The Committee also made a series of other findings which are recommendations discussed in the report, including impacts of the new planning controls on environmentally sustainable design, tree canopy coverage and consideration of natural hazards. The report recommends that Council note the Select Committee's final report at *Attachment 3*.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Department of Planning and Transport is proposing to review the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as part of its planning reform program.
2. Note the Municipal Association of Victoria's submission 'Reforming Victoria's Planning System: Local Government Sector Submission – April 2025' to the State Government's proposed revision of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* at *Attachment 1* which proposes a planning reform model where state government partner with local government to design and build a better planning system.

3. Endorse the Municipal Association of Victoria Local Government Sector Submission – April 2025’ as Council’s submission to the State Government’s proposed review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
4. Note the Council officer submission to *Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* at Attachment 2.
5. Note the Select Committee’s final report in respect to the *Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* at Attachment 3.
6. Write to the local members of parliament advising of Council’s support for the Municipal Association of Victoria’s submission ‘Reforming Victoria’s Planning System: Local Government Sector Submission – April 2025’.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note the Department of Planning and Transport is proposing to review the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as part of its planning reform program.
2. Note the Municipal Association of Victoria’s submission ‘Reforming Victoria’s Planning System: Local Government Sector Submission – April 2025’ to the State Government’s proposed revision of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* at Attachment 1 which proposes a planning reform model where state government partner with local government to design and build a better planning system.
3. Endorse the Municipal Association of Victoria Local Government Sector Submission – April 2025’ as Council’s submission to the State Government’s proposed review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
4. Note the Council officer submission to *Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* at Attachment 2.
5. Note the Select Committee’s final report in respect to the *Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* at Attachment 3.
6. Write to the local members of parliament advising of Council’s support for the Municipal Association of Victoria’s submission ‘Reforming Victoria’s Planning System: Local Government Sector Submission – April 2025’.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni, Cr Lappin and Cr Cox

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

5.2 Q3 Community Grants Update

Director/Executive Manager: Acting Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Grants Coordinator

In Attendance: Manager ePMO & Change
Grants Coordinator

Executive Summary

This report is to provide a brief overview of the grants processed for Quarter 3 of the 2024-25 Financial Year from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025.

A total of 22 applications were received across the individual, small, medium, large and the Business Relocation and Growth grant programs. Of the 22 applications received, 11 were approved for funding. The approval rate of applications continues to steadily rise, with an increase from 50% to 55% approval of submitted grant applications seen this quarter.

The Centralised Grants team worked with the Leisure and Recreation Team to open another round of Female Inclusion in Sport Grant Program and another round of Community Based Emergency Services grants. The latter grant was open by invitation only to Country Fire Authorities and State Emergency Services servicing our Municipality.

The centralised grants budget has actual and committed forecast amounts totalling \$2.2 million, representing 80% of the budget. Further details are provided in the attached Management Panel report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note the attached 2024-25 Q3 Overview Report.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Cr Cox
Seconded:	Cr Stow

THAT Council note the attached 2024-25 Q3 Overview Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox and Cr Stow

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

5.3 Community Vision

Director/Executive Manager: Acting Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Senior Research Officer

In Attendance: Manager ePMO & Change
Senior Research Officer

Executive Summary

Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All was reviewed internally from December 2024 to March 2025. A background paper for the Community Vision was produced and circulated to ELT and Council. The conclusion of this internal review and background paper was that the current community vision continued to meet the needs and reflect community-identified priorities.

During April 2025, Council engaged with community through focus groups, in-person pop-ups and an online survey (31 people participated in focus groups, 100 through the pop-ups and 20 online) to reaffirm the vision. The participants reflected the demographics of the community. Community affirmed their support for the alignment of the community vision with community need (94%) and its continued relevance (93%).

The revised Community Vision, *Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All* is at Attachment 1.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council adopt the City of Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All Community Vision.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council adopt the City of Whittlesea 2040: A Place for All Community Vision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni and Cr Colwell

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

5.4 Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29

Director/Executive Manager: Acting Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Unit Manager Strategic Revenue

In Attendance: Acting Chief Financial Officer

Executive Summary

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councils are required to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan (Plan) by 30 June following a general election, covering a minimum period of four years. The Revenue and Rating Plan forms a critical part of Council's integrated planning framework.

This Plan establishes the guiding principles for calculating and raising the revenue necessary to fund Council's operations. It also outlines how the funding will be equitably distributed among ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

While the Plan does not set specific revenue targets, it provides the strategic framework and key decisions that determine how revenue will be calculated and collected to ensure Council's financial sustainability and its ability to deliver essential services and infrastructure for the community.

The Plan determines the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Council, which in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the delivery of the Community Plan and Council's operations.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions that assisted with the development of the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29.
2. Adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 at Attachment 1.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to effect administrative and wording changes to the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 document, if required.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

- 1. Acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions that assisted with the development of the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29.**
- 2. Adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 at Attachment 1.**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to effect administrative and wording changes to the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 document, if required.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox and Cr Lenberg

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

5.5 Budget 2025-26 and Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35

Director/Executive Manager: Acting Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Acting Chief Financial Officer

In Attendance: Acting Chief Financial Officer

Extension of Speaking Time

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

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the Budget 2025-26 (the 'Budget', Attachment 2), and the Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 (the 'Financial Plan', Attachment 3) which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Budget and Financial Plan have been developed to align with community priorities identified through consultation and Council's key strategic directions.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note all submissions received regarding the Proposed Budget 2025-26 and the Proposed Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 at Attachment 1.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions that assisted with the development of the Budget 2025-26 and Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2024-35.
3. Adopt the:
 - a. Budget 2025-26 at Attachment 2; and
 - b. Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 at Attachment 3.
4. Note the amount Council intends to raise through its total Rates and Charges for 2025-26 is \$241,890,803. Full details on Rates and Charges are contained within the Budget document.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor editorial changes, formatting and design to the Budget and Financial Plan documents, if required, noting no changes will be made to financial amounts.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note all submissions received regarding the Proposed Budget 2025-26 and the Proposed Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 at Attachment 1.
2. Acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions that assisted with the development of the Budget 2025-26 and Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2024-35.
3. Adopt the:
 - a. Budget 2025-26 at Attachment 2; and
 - b. Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 at Attachment 3.
4. Note the amount Council intends to raise through its total Rates and Charges for 2025-26 is \$241,890,803. Full details on Rates and Charges are contained within the Budget document.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor editorial changes, formatting and design to the Budget and Financial Plan documents, if required, noting no changes will be made to financial amounts.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox, Cr Gunn, Cr Zinni, Cr Colwell and Cr Stow

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

5.6 Asset Plan 2025 - 2035

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Manager Assets & Facilities

In Attendance: Manager Assets & Facilities

Executive Summary

The Asset Plan 2025–35 (the Plan) is a strategic framework for managing public assets over the next decade and beyond, ensuring their sustainability for current and future generations. It aligns with the Whittlesea 2040 objectives and its vision of "A Place for All", fostering a community-friendly environment. Additionally, the Plan informs the public about how assets will be managed to support these objectives.

The Plan focuses on optimising capital and maintenance investments, balancing new assets and growth with existing infrastructure, and delivering services that adapt to evolving community needs. It promotes evidence-based decision-making, enhances community and Council engagement in asset management, and strengthens the link between costs and service levels while addressing key challenges and risks.

As a planning tool, the Asset Plan ensures the efficient allocation of resources by maintaining, improving, and replacing essential public assets such as roads, parks, buildings, and drains. It provides expenditure forecasts to guide long-term financial planning, maintenance, and capital projects, ensuring responsible budget management and asset sustainability for future generations (Attachment 1 - Asset Plan 2025-35 draft).

Council has prepared the Plan in compliance with Section 92 of the Victorian Local Government Act 2020, which requires the use of deliberative engagement in its development. Engagement with the community and stakeholders resulted in the establishment of eight asset planning principles, guiding the creation of an integrated, long-term, and transparent plan to ensure the best outcomes for the community over a minimum period of 10 years.

The Plan reinforces Council's commitment to inclusive, transparent, and best-practice asset management for the benefit of current and future generations.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions that guided the development of the Asset Plan 2025-35.
2. Adopt the Asset Plan 2025-35 at Attachment 1.

Cr Brooks moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Acknowledge and thank the community for their valuable contributions that guided the development of the Asset Plan 2025-35.
2. Adopt the Asset Plan 2025-35 at Attachment 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Gunn

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

5.7 Draft Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Open Space Planning

In Attendance: Unit Manager Landscape & Open Space Planning Coordinator
Coordinator Open Space Planning

Executive Summary

Edgars Creek, a tributary of the Merri Creek, flows through Wollert, Epping, Lalor and Thomastown in the City of Whittlesea. Managed by state authorities, Council and private entities, the creek's design and community interaction have evolved over time. While older sections reflect a primarily engineered approach, newer areas emphasise on conservation and accessibility for the community.

The 2001 Edgars Creek Corridor Master Plan aimed to naturalise the creek corridor within the City of Whittlesea, with shared paths, canopy trees, and improved integration with nearby sporting reserves. However, many initiatives were not implemented, and infrastructure upgrades have fallen short of the plan's vision.

The draft Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan (LIP) outlines a vision for the creek's future, focusing on infrastructure development, native vegetation restoration, ecological enhancement, and creating a resilient corridor. The plan aims to develop diverse landscape experiences, a continuous shared trail, and an inviting corridor while supporting community care for the creek, fostering connections to nature, and advocating for enhancements. The creek corridor is divided into six precincts, each offering unique characteristics and opportunities, including new residential areas, industrial sites, and heritage listed properties.

Key proposed actions include planting native vegetation, improving water quality through natural filtration, and naturalising sections of the creek. It also emphasises better access with pathways and crossings, enhanced public spaces featuring picnic shelters and community gardens, and promoting safe, active travel.

Next steps involve presenting the draft to Council for endorsement, initiating Phase 2 community consultation, and refining the plan based on the feedback.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan at attachment 1.
2. Endorse the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan for public exhibition and consultation between the period 20 June to 18 July 2025.

3. Note a subsequent report seeking approval of the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan will come back to Council for formal adoption following the public exhibition and consultation period.

Cr Colwell moved the following motion:

Motion

THAT Council:

1. Note the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan at attachment 1.
2. Endorse the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan for public exhibition and consultation between the period 20 June to 18 July 2025.
3. Seek feedback on the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan from the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group and Youth Council.
4. Note a subsequent report seeking approval of the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan will come back to Council for formal adoption following the public exhibition and consultation period.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan at attachment 1.**
2. **Endorse the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan for public exhibition and consultation between the period 20 June to 18 July 2025.**
3. **Seek feedback on the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan from the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group and Youth Council.**
4. **Note a subsequent report seeking approval of the Edgars Creek Corridor Landscape Improvement Plan will come back to Council for formal adoption following the public exhibition and consultation period.**

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Colwell, Cr Stow and Cr Cox

VOTING

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

<i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Stow</i>	<i>Cr Brooks</i>	
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5.8 2025-38: Fuel Contract

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Head of Operations

In Attendance: Manager Maintenance & Operations
Head of Operations

The attachments have been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this contract is to provide fuel and lubricant products for the operation of Council fleet including heavy and light vehicles, and mobile plant equipment.

Council's fuel, fuel cards, oil and lubricants have been provided through a collaborative procurement contract facilitated via the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). A variation to the contract was approved in June 2024 for a 12-month period and will expire on 30 June 2025.

To ensure continuity of supply and value, MAV engaged the National Procurement Network (NPN) to undertake a procurement process for the ongoing supply of bulk fuel, fuel card services, oils, lubricants, and vehicle care products. That engagement resulted in contract NPN1.17-2, referenced internally as 2025-38. Contract 2025-38 is a ten-year contract with an option to extend a further two years.

That contract establishes a panel of preferred suppliers for the supply of bulk fuel, fuel cards and vehicle lubricants on behalf of participating NPN members, including Local Government Procurement (LGP) and MAV providing value for money, operational efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

Due to low usage and the close proximity of public fuel stations, the Epping works depot has ceased its on-site refuelling service. Bulk fuel is unlikely to be required moving forward.

NPN's collaborative contract utilises the following suppliers:

- Fuel, Fuel Cards, Bulk Fuel
 - AMPOL, BP Australia, Barcourt Pty Ltd, Business Fuel Cards Pty Ltd, WEX Australia for fuel cards
- Oil, lubricants, AdBlue and vehicle care products

- AMPOL, Castrol Australia Pty Limited, for oil, lubricants, AdBlue and vehicle care products

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to use the head contract panel arrangement established by the National Procurement Network (NPN) on behalf of the Municipal Association of Victoria for the provision of fuel and lubricants at an amount not exceeding \$10,111,044 ex. GST over the 10 year term of the contract ending 31 January 2035, as detailed in the confidential attachments.
2. Through the NPN head contract arrangement, resolve to enter into contracts with:
 - a. AMPOL as the primary supplier for fuel cards and BP as the secondary supplier; and
 - b. AMPOL for the supply of oil and lubricants as the primary supplier and Castrol as the secondary supplier.
3. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachments.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

Cr Lappin moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to use the head contract panel arrangement established by the National Procurement Network (NPN) on behalf of the Municipal Association of Victoria for the provision of fuel and lubricants at an amount not exceeding \$10,111,044 ex. GST over the 10 year term of the contract ending 31 January 2035, as detailed in the confidential attachments.
2. Through the NPN head contract arrangement, resolve to enter into contracts with:
 - a. AMPOL as the primary supplier for fuel cards and BP as the secondary supplier; and
 - b. AMPOL for the supply of oil and lubricants as the primary supplier and Castrol as the secondary supplier.
3. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachments.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Gunn and Cr Colwell

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

5.9 2025-16: Construction of Stables Kindergarten

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Acting Coordinator Major Works

In Attendance: Manager Capital Delivery
Acting Coordinator Major Works

Attachment 1 has been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

- (i) relates to trade secrets; or
- (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Executive Summary

This report summaries the evaluation of the 15 tender submissions received for contract 2025-16, Construction of The Stables Kindergarten, Mill Park.

The Tender Evaluation Panel advises that:

- 15 tenders were received.
- The recommended tender was the highest ranked. Though not the lowest in price, it was deemed the best value due to their demonstrated capability and capacity to deliver the project in line with Council's specified scope and quality requirements.
- Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it is not listed in the Northern Councils Alliance consolidated contract register and this contract relates to a State Government grant funded project.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award contract 2025-16 to Izza Group Pty Ltd for the provision of The Stables Kindergarten construction for a lump sum cost of \$4,175,871.89 (ex. GST).
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Note any price variations will be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award contract 2025-16 to Izza Group Pty Ltd for the provision of The Stables Kindergarten construction for a lump sum cost of \$4,175,871.89 (ex. GST).
2. Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Note any price variations will be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni and Cr Colwell

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

5.10 2018-132: Supply of Road Drainage & Associated Street Lighting Works

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Civil Infrastructure Renewal

In Attendance: Manager Capital Delivery
Unit Manager Engineering Design & Construction

These attachments have been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Executive Summary

Contract 2018-132 Supply of Road, Drainage and Associated Street Lighting Works enables the provision of civil infrastructure construction services via several civil contractors. It is proposed that this panel contract be varied by extending the contract term by twelve months, up to 30 June 2026, to meet operational requirements and provide additional time to complete the procurement process for a new civil panel contract.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note on 10 December 2019, Council resolved to award this contract to a panel of six contractors, as detailed in the Background/Key Information section of this report.
2. Approve a non-financial contract extension for a period of 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 to enable the current procurement process for the provision of a new civil panel contract to be finalised.
3. Note sufficient budget is available within this contract to cover the 12 month extension period.

Cr Brooks moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note on 10 December 2019, Council resolved to award this contract to a panel of six contractors, as detailed in the Background/Key Information section of this report.
2. Approve a non-financial contract extension for a period of 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 to enable the current procurement process for the provision of a new civil panel contract to be finalised.
3. Note sufficient budget is available within this contract to cover the 12-month extension period.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Lenberg

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

5.11 2019-78: Supply of Asphalt Works & Materials

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Civil Infrastructure Renewal

In Attendance: Manager Capital Delivery
Unit Manager Engineering Design & Construction

These attachments have been designated as confidential in accordance with sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that it contains confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Executive Summary

Contract 2019-78 – Supply of Asphalt Works facilitates the provision of road resurfacing services via a panel of asphalt contractors. It is proposed that this panel contract be varied by extending the contract term by twelve months, to 30 June 2026 and to increase the contract sum by \$12 million (excl. GST) to accommodate the estimated costs of planned road resurfacing and rehabilitation works during this proposed extension period. This extension will ensure operational road resurfacing requirements are met and provide additional time for Council Officers to complete the procurement process for a new panel contract.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note on 2 June 2020, Council resolved to award this contract at a cost of \$37 million (ex. GST) to a panel of five contractors, as detailed the Background/Key Information section of this report.
2. Approve an extension of the contract by 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 at a cost of \$12 million (ex. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$50.818 million (ex. GST) to enable the current procurement process for the provision of the supply of asphalt works and materials to be finalised.
3. Note during the 12-month extension period, planned road resurfacing and rehabilitation works will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Road Renewal Program.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

MOTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Cox</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Zinni</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note on 2 June 2020, Council resolved to award this contract at a cost of \$37 million (ex. GST) to a panel of five contractors, as detailed the Background/Key Information section of this report.
2. Approve an extension of the contract by 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 at a cost of \$12 million (ex. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$50.818 million (ex. GST) to enable the current procurement process for the provision of the supply of asphalt works and materials to be finalised.
3. Note during the 12-month extension period, planned road resurfacing and rehabilitation works will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Road Renewal Program.

Mayor, Cr Taylor used his discretion to adjourn the meeting for up to five minutes at 7:26pm.

Mayor, Cr Taylor resumed the meeting at 7:30pm.

Cr Colwell proposed the following amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Note on 2 June 2020, Council resolved to award this contract at a cost of \$37 million (ex. GST) to a panel of five contractors, as detailed the Background/Key Information section of this report.
2. Approve an extension of the contract by 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 at a cost of \$12 million (ex. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$50.818 million (ex. GST) to enable the current procurement process for the provision of the supply of asphalt works and materials to be finalised.
3. Note during the 12-month extension period, planned road resurfacing and rehabilitation works will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Road Renewal Program.
4. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the contract extension and authorise payments to an amount not exceeding \$50,818 million ex GST.**

Cr Cox and Cr Zinni accepted the amendment which then became the substantive motion:

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Note on 2 June 2020, Council resolved to award this contract at a cost of \$37 million (ex. GST) to a panel of five contractors, as detailed the Background/Key Information section of this report.
2. Approve an extension of the contract by 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 at a cost of \$12 million (ex. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$50.818 million (ex. GST) to enable the current procurement process for the provision of the supply of asphalt works and materials to be finalised.
3. Note during the 12-month extension period, planned road resurfacing and rehabilitation works will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Road Renewal Program.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the contract extension and authorise payments to an amount not exceeding \$50,818 million ex GST.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. **Note on 2 June 2020, Council resolved to award this contract at a cost of \$37 million (ex. GST) to a panel of five contractors, as detailed the Background/Key Information section of this report.**
2. **Approve an extension of the contract by 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 at a cost of \$12 million (ex. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$50.818 million (ex. GST) to enable the current procurement process for the provision of the supply of asphalt works and materials to be finalised.**
3. **Note during the 12-month extension period, planned road resurfacing and rehabilitation works will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Road Renewal Program.**
4. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the contract extension and authorise payments to an amount not exceeding \$50,818 million ex GST.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox and Cr Zinni

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

5.12 Governance Report

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

Report Author: Compliance & Governance Officer

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 or noting for the following matters:

- Unconfirmed Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 13 May 2025.

Further information on the above matter is located within the body of the report.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for June 2025.
2. Note the 13 May 2025 Unconfirmed Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 1 to this report.

Cr Cox moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for June 2025.
2. Note the 13 May 2025 Unconfirmed Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Cox and Cr Lenberg

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

6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update

8.1 Reports from Councillors

Cr Gunn

- City of Whittlesea Business Awards on 30 May 2025.
- Meeting residents in the community.
- Meeting with State and Federal Members of Parliament.
- Been involved in a few panels/meetings.
- Attended Council Briefings.

Cr Colwell

- Hume Whittlesea LLEN – AGM on 15 May 2025.
- Whittlesea Youth Commitment 25 years Celebration on 15 May 2025.
- National Sorry Day event at City of Whittlesea on 26 May 2025.
- City of Whittlesea Community Grants Celebration on 10 June 2025.
- Acknowledged Mr Geoffrey McIlvenna for Kings Birthday recognition.

Cr Lenberg

- City of Whittlesea Business Awards.
- Attended the Shiv Shakti Arts Culture & Yoga Centre.
- City of Whittlesea Community Grants Celebration on 10 June 2025.
- Dragon Boat Festival at Pipeworks Market in Thomastown.

Cr Zinni

- Met with the leaders of Rivergum Cricket and Football Club.
- Australasian Reporting Awards Dinner at Crown.

Cr Brooks

- Council Briefing on 27 May and 3 June 2025.
- Dragon Boat Festival at Pipeworks Market in Thomastown.
- Greek Food & Wine Festival in Thomastown.

Cr Cox:

- National Sorry Day event at City of Whittlesea.
- City of Whittlesea Business Awards on 30 May 2025.
- The Northern Business Achievements Awards.
-

Cr Lappin

- City of Whittlesea Business Awards on 30 May 2025.
- Ride with the WhitBUG Group on 31 May 2025.
- Mernda Neighbourhood House on 5 June 2025.
- City of Melbourne Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action on 5 June 2025.
- Attended Committee meeting for Mernda Garden on 5 June 2025.
- City of Whittlesea Community Grants Celebration on 10 June 2025.
- Mernda Football and Netball Club Sponsor Day on 14 June 2025.

Cr Stow

- National Simultaneous Storytime Event in Whittlesea.
- You Are Not Alone Conference at Abbotsford Convent.
- Not in our Name meeting regarding Emergency Services Levy.
- City of Whittlesea Community Grants Celebration on 10 June 2025.
- The Northern Business Achievements Awards.

Cr Taylor

- Attended 23 events in the capacity as the Mayor since the last Council meeting.
- Cr Taylor spoke about position of Mayor: *'This is a full-time position and as such works very closely with this Council which is demonstrating excellent good governance which you would see by tonight's meeting. It is an honour to work with a Council as dedicated to the municipality as what this Council is, and I will continue working hard in that nature to achieve what we are achieving, and that is maximum coverage of our municipality and interaction with our municipality.'*

8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

Reid Street Carpark

Council will soon begin work on upgrading the Reid Street carpark that services the Gorge Road shopping precinct in South Morang.

This will expand the carpark to 85 spaces, replace existing lights with energy efficient LEDs and add new trees to provide natural shade.

This project follows the recently completed upgrade of the Gorge Road shopping precinct, which included installation of outdoor dining, seating, bins, bike racks, streetlights and changes to parking.

The businesses trading along Gorge Road will continue trading as normal throughout the carpark works.

The Gorge Road project was supported by the Victorian Government via a grant from its Growing Suburbs Fund.

Dog Parks

We know how important dog parks are to our residents and I am pleased to advise we recently completed works on two local parks.

- A new dog park at Allumba Park in Wollert features a fully fenced off-leash dog area with a quiet dog zone, shelters, drinking fountains, park furniture and garden beds.
- Work to upgrade the off-leash dog park at Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor also finished recently, with users enjoying the new shelters, upgraded furniture, improved fencing and more.

The Allumba Park project received \$500,000 and the Whittlesea Public Gardens project \$340,000 from the Victorian Government's Open Space for Everyone - New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program. Council contributed \$80,000 to the Whittlesea Public Gardens dog park project.

Public Toilet Amenity Plan

Council is inviting residents to take part in a review of our *Public Toilet Amenity Plan*, with a five-week community consultation process opening yesterday.

Public toilets play a vital role in supporting people of all ages and abilities as they go about their everyday social, commercial and recreational activities.

Residents are invited to have their say on where new public toilets should be located, which existing public toilets should be upgraded, and what features are preferred in public toilets.

Following feedback from the community, Council will develop an updated Public Toilet Amenity Plan to be considered at a future Council Meeting.

For more information on ways to have your say, please visit Council's Engage page.

Bin Inspections

Council has recently commenced an in-house kerbside bin compliance program. In the first six weeks of the program, the team has inspected 2140 household collections and directly engaged with 250 people about how to put the right thing in the right bin.

Households who have had their bin inspected all receive further information to help them to sort their waste correctly.

This program is helping Council reduce costs and improve the quality of our green waste, recycling and glass bins by reducing contamination.

It is great to hear how interested our community is to continue to learn how to sort their waste correctly.

If you would like to know more about bin inspections or how to dispose of your waste correctly, please visit our website.

Staff Award

We have a dedicated and talented workforce here at Council and I am delighted to report that at the recent Parks and Leisure Victoria/Tasmania Awards, our Sports and Recreation Officer, Jacinta Ganino, was nominated for the David Aldous Emerging Leader Award.

Jacinta has a passion for the role sport can play in people's physical and mental wellbeing and in developing an inclusive society. Jacinta's leadership skills and passion have also been on display as a Facilitator at SALT (Sport and Life Training) and in the Change our Game Program for Next Generation Leaders. Congratulations Jacinta.

9 Tabled Reports

No Tabled Reports

10 Confidential Business

No Confidential Business

11 Closure

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting at 7:56pm.

Confirmed this 22nd day of July 2025.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor