



Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 22 July 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
Sarah Renner	Director Customer & Corporate Services
Debbie Wood	Director Infrastructure & Environment
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, Cr Martin Taylor opened the meeting and introduced the Councillors and Chief Executive Officer:

“Welcome to this Scheduled Council Meeting of 22 July 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 Blair Colwell, Cr Lawrie Cox, Cr Deb Gunn, Cr Jarrod Lappin, Cr David Lenberg, Cr Christine Stow. We also have attending virtually Cr Nic Brooks.

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*;
Janine Morgan, *Executive Manager Public Affairs*; and
Jacinta Stevens, *Executive Manager Office of Council and CEO*.

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:

National Tree Day

On Sunday 27 July, Council will celebrate National Tree Day with a free, fun tree planting day at the Brunton Park Conservation Area in Mernda.

Increasing the number of trees and green cover across our municipality is a key goal for Council, and we are pleased to support events that help our community get involved in plantings and understand the important role trees play in our everyday lives.

I encourage our community to come down to this event and help us plant a range of native trees and wildflowers to help our local environment and animals thrive.

Victorian NAIDOC Awards 2025

On behalf of Council, I would like to extend our congratulations to Lalor resident Aunty Eva-Jo Edwards on being named an Elder of NAIDOC by the Victorian NAIDOC Committee.

The Victorian NAIDOC Awards are presented each year during NAIDOC Week to recognise achievements in art, culture, education, sport, environment and leadership.

A proud Boon Wurrung/Bunurong, Mutti Mutti and Yorta Yorta woman, Aunty Eva-Jo is a respected cultural leader, artist and knowledge keeper.

Her life-long work has preserved stories, language and traditional practice, generously guiding younger generations.

Congratulations to Aunty Eva-Jo on this well-deserved recognition.

Victoria Police Chief Commissioner's NAIDOC Awards 2025

We also wish to congratulate Epping resident Jo-Ann Proctor on receiving the Community Member Award in the Victoria Police Chief Commissioner's NAIDOC Awards for 2025.

Jo-Ann is the manager of the Women's Healing Journey program at specialist Aboriginal family violence service Dardi Munwurro.

Through this role she has built strong relationships with local police and is focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for First Peoples.

Congratulations to Jo-Ann for earning this wonderful award.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

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

THAT Council confirm the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters**4.1 Public Question Time**

Due to the Lalor Ward by-election and in accordance with our Governance Rules, there will be no public question time as Council is in its Election Period (Caretaker) until 2 August 2025.

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Draft Community Plan 2025-29 and Community Action Plan 2025-26

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Unit Manager Corporate Planning

In Attendance: Manager ePMO & Change
Unit Manager Corporate Planning

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 draft Community Plan 2025-29 (Attachment 1) is a comprehensive four-year strategy designed to support all residents of the City of Whittlesea, regardless of background or stage of life. Communicated through 12 key themes, the Plan addresses diverse aspects of community life, including safety, connectivity, transport, enjoying the natural environment and full participation in community activities.

Developed through extensive engagement with over 1,000 community members via surveys, pop-up sessions and focus groups, the draft Community Plan reflects the priorities and aspirations of local residents. It commits to 55 Strategic Priorities aimed at delivering meaningful and lasting improvements, such as safer roads, enhanced transport infrastructure, vibrant parks and open spaces and welcoming community facilities.

Grounded in community feedback and local data, the draft Community Plan also tackles pressing challenges including violence prevention, physical and mental wellbeing, homelessness and barriers to employment and participation. It integrates key Council initiatives, including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, into a unified framework. To ensure effective delivery, an annual Community Action Plan will guide the implementation of priorities, starting with the draft Community Action Plan 2025-26 (Attachment 2). This roadmap aligns with the long-term vision of Whittlesea 2040 and reinforces Council's commitment to transparent progress reporting.

Through this draft Community Plan, Council aims to foster a more connected, inclusive and vibrant community where everyone belongs, everyone matters and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the following Plans for community consultation between the period 24 July 2025 to 31 August 2025:
 - a. Draft Community Plan 2025–2029 at Attachment 1; and
 - b. Draft Community Action Plan 2025–2026 at Attachment 2.
2. Note following community consultation, a subsequent report will be brought back to Council on 21 October 2025 seeking formal approval of the Community Plan 2025–2029 and Community Action Plan 2025–2026.

Cr Zinni moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the following Plans for community consultation between the period 24 July 2025 to 31 August 2025:
 - a. Draft Community Plan 2025–2029 at Attachment 1; and
 - b. Draft Community Action Plan 2025–2026 at Attachment 2.
2. Note following community consultation, a subsequent report will be brought back to Council on 21 October 2025 seeking formal approval of the Community Plan 2025–2029 and Community Action Plan 2025–2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni, Cr Gunn, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, Cr Taylor

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 2021-89: Property Maintenance Contract Variation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Manager Ageing Well

In Attendance: Manager Ageing Well

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 they contain Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's approval to exercise the final extension of Contract 2021-89 for the provision of property maintenance.

Council receives funding to deliver property maintenance as part of its range of services supporting residents under the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Home and Community Care for Young People.

In September 2022, Contract 2021-89 was awarded to a panel of three contractors. The total contract value was \$1,433,055 ex GST.

In July 2024, the first extension of Contract 2021-89 was exercised to accommodate the transition period required for the implementation of the Federal Government's Aged Care Reform. A one-year, \$450,000 ex GST extension through to September 2025 took the total contract sum to \$1,883,055 ex GST.

As the Federal Government's Aged Care Reforms have not been implemented as quickly as anticipated, this report seeks Council's approval to exercise a final extension of Contract 2021-89, from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026.

This extension will add \$450,000 ex GST to the contract, bringing the total value to \$2,333,055 ex GST.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve a final extension of Contract 2021-89 for the provision of property maintenance through a panel of providers comprising Borgies Trust and the Auxiliary Services Group.
2. Approve the contract extension from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026 at a cost of \$450,000 ex GST, bringing the total value to \$2,333,055 ex GST.
3. Note the property maintenance services budget for the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Home Community Care for Young People is included in the 2025-26 financial year budget.

Cr Stow moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Approve a final extension of Contract 2021-89 for the provision of property maintenance through a panel of providers comprising Borgies Trust and the Auxiliary Services Group.
2. Approve the contract extension from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026 at a cost of \$450,000 ex GST, bringing the total value to \$2,333,055 ex GST.
3. Note the property maintenance services budget for the Commonwealth Home Support Program and Home Community Care for Young People is included in the 2025-26 financial year budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow, 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>

5.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C290 - Public Acquisition Overlay - 70 and 80 Boundary Road, Wollert

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Strategic Planner Infrastructure Contributions

In Attendance: Manager Strategic Futures
Strategic Planner Infrastructure Contributions

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the commencement of a Planning Scheme Amendment to apply a Public Acquisition Overlay 15 (PAO15) to part of the land at 70 and 80 Boundary Road in Wollert which is required for the future construction of the Boundary Road and Andrew Road intersection. The land to which the PAO15 is proposed to be applied is 2559sqm in total area.

The Boundary Road and Andrew Road intersection is located in the Wollert Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) area which is experiencing significant growth and development. The intersection upgrade project is identified in the Wollert Development Contributions Plan (DCP). The DCP sets aside the requirement to deliver essential infrastructure projects such as this intersection upgrade and then identifies Council as the responsible delivery agency to acquire land and deliver the project utilising funds from the DCP. Funds are collected from the levies paid from developers upon subdivision and development of land within the Wollert PSP area.

Delivery of this key intersection will improve safety, reduce Council's financial risks, and facilitate development within the Andrew Road precinct of the Wollert PSP area. The upgraded intersection will ultimately service approximately 450 new dwellings and unlock employment land that could support up to 1000 jobs.

The upgrade works to the intersection will be delivered by the developer of adjoining land through a 'works in kind' arrangement, which will assist Council in meeting its infrastructure delivery obligations. Given the current availability of land, it is proposed that the developer will deliver an interim intersection upgrade.

The acquisition of the additional land will enable the ultimate intersection to be delivered by developers as 'works in kind' either instead of an interim intersection (depending on timing) or in the future as part of a further upgrade.

In order to facilitate the upgrade of this intersection in its ultimate form, Council sought to acquire the land through voluntary negotiations with the landowners, which were unsuccessful. As such, the proposal is to compulsorily acquire the land in accordance with Council's obligations under the DCP.

The PAO15 is the statutory mechanism to enable compulsory acquisition under a separate subsequent process. The application of the PAO15 is required to facilitate delivering of the intersection works identified in the DCP. The PAO15 is applied by an amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme which will include notice being given to the subject landowners.

Should the land not be secured by Council in a timely manner, it risks missing the opportunity for the ultimate intersection upgrade to be delivered by others in a timely manner and realising the development opportunities of the Andrews Road precinct. Therefore, this report recommends that Council resolve to commence a Planning Scheme Amendment to apply the PAO15 to the subject land at 70 and 80 Boundary Road in Wollert.

The report recommends, that given the land has been identified for the purposes of the intersection in the Wollert PSP and DCP, that Council request the Minister for Planning to prepare and approve the Planning Scheme Amendment through a fast-track process under 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Should the Minister for Planning not agree to be the planning authority for the Amendment, it is recommended that Council request for the Amendment to proceed through the standard Planning Scheme Amendment process.

Further, the report recommends that Council writes to the Minister for Planning to highlight the issues affecting the timely acquisition of land for public purposes in Precinct Structure Plan areas which delay the development land for housing, employment and infrastructure which is needed by growing communities. In this circumstance, despite the land being identified in the Wollert PSP and DCP for the purpose of the intersection upgrade and there being a developer willing to upgrade the intersection, the need to process a Planning Scheme Amendment to apply a Public Acquisition Overlay to the land adds significant delay to the delivery of the infrastructure and the development of land in accordance with the incorporated plans.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Authorise the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to write to the Minister for Planning requesting, pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, that the Minister prepare and approve Planning Scheme Amendment C290wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to:
 - a. apply the Public Acquisition Overlay 15 (PAO15) to parts of land at 70 and 80 Boundary Road, Wollert as shown in *Attachment 1*; and
 - b. facilitate the construction of an upgrade to the intersection of Boundary Road and Andrew Road.

2. Note should the Minister for Planning not agree to prepare an Amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme as per point 1 above, that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C290wsea.
3. Note the challenges experienced, as detailed in the background section of the report, in respect to accessing and acquiring land for public purposes in Precinct Structure Plan areas which is required to deliver the infrastructure needed to support growing communities.
4. Authorise the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to write to the Minister for Planning, highlighting the barriers affecting the timely acquisition of land for public purposes in Precinct Structure Plan areas, and the delays those barriers cause to the development of land for housing, employment and infrastructure required for growing communities, outline potential solutions and request changes to the planning system to overcome these barriers.

Cr Lappin moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. Authorise the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to write to the Minister for Planning requesting, pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, that the Minister prepare and approve Planning Scheme Amendment C290wsea to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme, which seeks to:
 - a. apply the Public Acquisition Overlay 15 (PAO15) to parts of land at 70 and 80 Boundary Road, Wollert as shown in *Attachment 1*; and
 - b. facilitate the construction of an upgrade to the intersection of Boundary Road and Andrew Road.
2. Note should the Minister for Planning not agree to prepare an Amendment to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme as per point 1 above, that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C290wsea.
3. Note the challenges experienced, as detailed in the background section of the report, in respect to accessing and acquiring land for public purposes in Precinct Structure Plan areas which is required to deliver the infrastructure needed to support growing communities.

4. Authorise the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to write to the Minister for Planning, highlighting the barriers affecting the timely acquisition of land for public purposes in Precinct Structure Plan areas, and the delays those barriers cause to the development of land for housing, employment and infrastructure required for growing communities, outline potential solutions and request changes to the planning system to overcome these barriers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Lappin, Cr Cox, Cr Stow

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

5.4 Mill Park Place Framework

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Unit Manager Urban Design & Placemaking

In Attendance: Manager Urban Design & Transport
Unit Manager Urban Design & Placemaking
Urban Designer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the final Mill Park Place Framework (Attachment 1) for Council approval.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Mill Park Place Framework at Attachment 1.
2. Write to the Mill Park Place Framework Community Reference Group members to thank them for their involvement and feedback throughout the report's development.
3. Update Council's website and Engage page to reflect the final version of the Mill Park Place Framework.

Cr Colwell moved the following motion:

MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Mill Park Place Framework at Attachment 1.
2. Authorise the Director Infrastructure & Environment to write to the Mill Park Place Framework Community Reference Group members on behalf of Council to thank them for their involvement and feedback throughout the report's development.
3. Update Council's website and Engage page to reflect the final version of the Mill Park Place Framework.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

1. Approve the Mill Park Place Framework at Attachment 1.
2. Authorise the Director Infrastructure & Environment to write to the Mill Park Place Framework Community Reference Group members on behalf of Council to thank them for their involvement and feedback throughout the report's development.
3. Update Council's website and Engage page to reflect the final version of the Mill Park Place Framework.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION***Cr Colwell, Cr Zinni, 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>

5.5 Lauries Field Master Plan Draft

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator Open Space Planning

In Attendance: Manager Urban Design & Transport
Coordinator Open Space Planning

Executive Summary

Lauries Field Park is a 5.4-hectare informal recreation park located in Doreen, a growing residential suburb. Developed in the 2000's and inherited by Council through the Laurimar estate, the park features open grass areas, wetland, conservation areas, play space and a connected path network. Despite its size and community value, Lauries Field was not included in the 2016 Open Space Strategy due to Doreen's status as a growth area at the time.

Classified as a municipal-level open space, Lauries Field is the local park for over 3,000 residents within an 800m walkable catchment and is primarily used for informal recreation and environmental interaction. In addition to this, the park plays an important role in biodiversity, water quality and flood mitigation. The park faces several challenges, including deteriorating infrastructure, poor water quality in the wetland and vandalism to the conservation areas.

To address these issues and guide future improvements, Council initiated a Master Plan process led by the Open Space Planning team, with input from specialists in conservation, water management and park operations.

The draft Master Plan was informed by initial community engagement, engaging 144 community members through in-person pop-ups and an online platform, gathering feedback on how the park is used and what improvements are needed. The most common uses were walking around the wetland and exercising dogs. Community priorities included upgrading the play space, adding public toilets and amenities, improving the walking track, and addressing wetland health. Key concerns included outdated equipment, safety, lack of maintenance and insufficient recreational facilities.

The vision for Lauries Field Park is to transform it into an accessible, inclusive park that supports community well-being through social connection, active lifestyles, and the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

The Master Plan focuses on three strategic themes:

- enhancing movement and access through improved paths, entrances and safety
- expanding informal recreation with upgraded play spaces, fitness equipment, and social amenities and
- strengthening environmental stewardship by improving wetland health, increasing tree canopy, and protecting conservation areas with appropriate planting, fencing, and educational signage

The draft plan is to be exhibited for additional community and stakeholder engagement, to ensure the recommendations and actions are aligned with community expectations.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the prepared draft Lauries Field Master Plan at attachment 1.
2. Endorse the public exhibition of the draft Lauries Field Master Plan for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between the period of 25 July to 22 August 2025.
3. Note a subsequent report seeking approval of the Lauries Field Master Plan will come back to Council for formal adoption following the public exhibition and consultation period.

Cr Gunn moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

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

THAT Council:

1. **Note the prepared draft Lauries Field Master Plan at attachment 1.**
2. **Endorse the public exhibition of the draft Lauries Field Master Plan for community and stakeholder consultation and engagement between the period of 25 July to 22 August 2025.**
3. **Note a subsequent report seeking approval of the Lauries Field Master Plan will come back to Council for formal adoption following the public exhibition and consultation period.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Gunn, 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 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:

- Summary of Informal Meetings of Council
- Total cost to Council for Municipal Monitors
- Interstate Conferences:
 - Attendance at the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) National Congress 2025
 - Attendance at the Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) visit to Canberra
- Nomination to the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) Strategic Advisory Committee
- City of Whittlesea Community Awards Terms of Reference
- Australian Local Government Association Conference (ALGA) update.

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

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for July 2025.
2. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 14 May to 16 July 2025 at Attachment 1.
3. Note the total cost to Council during the term of the Municipal Monitors, appointed by the Local Government Minister, was \$66,196.52.
4. Note Council at its May 2025 meeting approved Cr Taylor and Cr Cox to attend the National Growth Areas Alliance National Congress, in Perth, between 30 to 31 July 2025 and note Cr Cox will now be attending the National Congress from 29 July 2025.
5. Authorise the Mayor, Cr Taylor to attend the Northern Councils Alliance visit in Canberra between the period 26 to 28 August 2025 at an approximate cost of \$2,300.
6. Authorise Councillor _____ as Councils representative on the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee for a period of two years.

7. Adopt the Community Awards Terms of Reference at Attachment 2 and note they will be published on Council's website.
8. Note the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly update from Cr Cox at Attachment 3.

Cr Zinni moved the following motion:

MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Note the Governance Report for July 2025.
2. Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 14 May to 16 July 2025 at Attachment 1.
3. Note the total cost to Council during the term of the Municipal Monitors, appointed by the Local Government Minister, was \$66,196.52.
4. Note Council at its May 2025 meeting approved Cr Taylor and Cr Cox to attend the National Growth Areas Alliance National Congress, in Perth, between 30 to 31 July 2025 and note Cr Cox will now be attending the National Congress from 29 July 2025.
5. Authorise the Mayor, Cr Taylor to attend the Northern Councils Alliance visit in Canberra between the period 26 to 28 August 2025 at an approximate cost of \$2,300.
6. Authorise Councillor Cox as Councils representative on the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee for a period of two years.
7. Adopt the Community Awards Terms of Reference at Attachment 2 and note they will be published on Council's website.
8. Note the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly update from Cr Cox at Attachment 3.
9. Resolve to hold a Hearing of Submission (HoS) Committee meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 9 September 2025 in the Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing verbal submissions from community members, if required. The HoS follows a statutory process seeking community feedback on Council's intention to enter into a lease with Optus for the establishment of a low impact telecommunications facility located at 25W Main Street, Thomastown.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Zinni</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the Governance Report for July 2025.**
2. **Note the summary of Informal Meetings of Council for the period 14 May to 16 July 2025 at Attachment 1.**
3. **Note the total cost to Council during the term of the Municipal Monitors, appointed by the Local Government Minister, was \$66,196.52.**

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5. Authorise the Mayor, Cr Taylor to attend the Northern Councils Alliance visit in Canberra between the period 26 to 28 August 2025 at an approximate cost of \$2,300.
6. Authorise Councillor Cox as Councils representative on the National Growth Areas Alliance Strategic Advisory Committee for a period of two years.
7. Adopt the Community Awards Terms of Reference at Attachment 2 and note they will be published on Council's website.
8. Note the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly update from Cr Cox at Attachment 3.
9. Resolve to hold a Hearing of Submission (HoS) Committee meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 9 September 2025 in the Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing verbal submissions from community members, if required. The HoS follows a statutory process seeking community feedback on Council's intention to enter into a lease with Optus for the establishment of a low impact telecommunications facility located at 25W Main Street, Thomastown.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION
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 Taylor</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Cr Stow</i>

6 Notices of Motion

6.1 General Maintenance - Vic Roads

Cr Colwell has given notice that it is their intention to move the following Motion at the Scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22 July at 6pm.

Motion

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:
 - a. Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;
 - b. What action officers have taken to date in trying to resolve any inactions of VicRoads and/or the State Government in maintaining their assets within the Whittlesea municipality; and
 - c. Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc.

MOTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Lenberg</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:
 - a. Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;
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 - c. Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc.

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Colwell, Cr Lenberg

Cr Zinni proposed the following amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:
 - a. Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;
 - b. What action officers have taken to date in trying to resolve any inactions of VicRoads and/or the State Government in maintaining their assets within the Whittlesea municipality;
 - c. Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc.; and
 - d. **Authorise the Mayor write to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and all relevant State Government Politicians to bring to their attention the concerns of Council and residents in relation to ineffective maintenance and servicing of Department of Transport land including management of grass, weeds and rubbish removal and roadside safety infrastructure within the City of Whittlesea.**

Cr Colwell and Cr Lenberg accepted the amendment which then became the substantive motion:

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:
 - a. Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;
 - b. What action officers have taken to date in trying to resolve any inactions of VicRoads and/or the State Government in maintaining their assets within the Whittlesea municipality;
 - c. Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc; and
 - d. Authorise the Mayor write to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and all relevant State Government Politicians to bring to their attention the concerns of Council and residents in relation to ineffective maintenance and servicing of Department of Transport land including management of grass, weeds and rubbish removal and roadside safety infrastructure within the City of Whittlesea.

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Zinni

Cr Cox proposed the following amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:
 - a. Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;
 - b. What action officers have taken to date in trying to resolve any inactions of VicRoads and/or the State Government in maintaining their assets within the Whittlesea municipality; and
 - c. Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc.
 - ~~d. Authorise the Mayor write to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and all relevant State Government Politicians to bring to their attention the concerns of Council and residents in relation to ineffective maintenance and servicing of Department of Transport land including management of grass, weeds and rubbish removal and roadside safety infrastructure within the City of Whittlesea.~~

Cr Colwell and Cr Lenberg as the mover and seconder of the substantive motion did not accept the amendment.

AMENDMENT

Moved:	Cr Cox
Seconded:	Cr Stow

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO THE AMENDMENT

Cr Cox, Cr Stow

The Chair put the amendment to the vote:

VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
Cr Gunn Cr Colwell Cr Cox Cr Lappin Cr Stow https://portal2.docass	Cr Lenberg Cr Zinni Cr Taylor Cr Brooks	Nil

emblem.com.au/-/minutetypedetail/7dfe87fd-1e06-ec11-b563-2818780d348a/false/false

CARRIED

The motion was carried and became the new substantive motion.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:
 - a. Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;
 - b. What action officers have taken to date in trying to resolve any inactions of VicRoads and/or the State Government in maintaining their assets within the Whittlesea municipality; and
 - c. Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve to receive a report, via the CEO, at a Council briefing in August 2025 covering the following:**
 - a. **Inactions taken by VicRoads in relation to the required general maintenance (ie. mowing, weed control, rubbish removal, fallen tree limbs, graffiti removal and replacement of damaged traffic barriers etc) on their land and fixing their managed assets;**
 - b. **What action officers have taken to date in trying to resolve any inactions of VicRoads and/or the State Government in maintaining their assets within the Whittlesea municipality; and**
 - c. **Suggested officer recommendations that Council could consider in addressing any concerns raised by officers in their report ie. advocacy, writing to relevant Minister etc.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7 Urgent Business

No items of urgent business.

8 Reports from Councillors and CEO Update

Cr Colwell

- 24 June, 1 & 15 July Council Briefings.
- 19 June Coffee with Council at Stables Shopping Centre.
- 24 June Youth Services School Principals Breakfast (delivered welcome address to principals).
- 26 June SOD turn for the Mernda Regional Sports Precinct.
- 26 June VAEAI Best Practice Protocol Training Session.
- 7 July Bubup Wilam NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition and Movie Night.
- 8 July Connect with Council Forum for new residents.
- 9 July Aborigines Advancement League for the Victorian Police NAIDOC Week Community Awards. Acknowledged Aunty Eva-Jo and Jo-Ann Proctor on receiving awards.
- 19 July Alexander Avenue Shopping Precinct Upgrade Opening Event.

Cr Gunn

- 22 June BAPS Rathyatra Celebration.
- 24-26 June National General Assembly Conference 2025.
- 8 July Connect with Council Forum.
- Lauries Field – spoke with resident who makes sail boats, is excited that in the future Lauries Field may be a place to have those yachts sailing.

Cr Lenberg

- 19 June Coffee with Council at Stables Shopping Centre
- 26 June Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel
- 2 July Commenced Professional Development with the AICD Course to keep my Governance and Compliance skills relevant and up to date
- 14 July Whittlesea Multicultural Society
- 17 July Melbourne Market Tour

Cr Zinni

- 24-26 June National General Assembly Conference 2025.
- Meet with Hume and Mitchell Councils in relation to the Cloverton Activity Centre.
- Met with Italian Seniors Group at Thomastown Library.
- Met with Northern Mauritian Seniors at Spring Street Thomastown.
- Crime Forum in Blossom Park, Mill Park.

Cr Stow

- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board Meetings and CEMAC Meetings.
- Met with 2 residents of Whittlesea.
- Feedback session on Donnybrook Road with residents in Kalkallo.
- Met with Wendy Lovell, MP to discuss Donnybrook Road.
- Correspondence with Evan Mulholland, MP regarding Donnybrook Road.
- Meet with your Councillors in Donnybrook on 31 July.
- Bubup Wilam NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition and Movie Night.
- Melbourne Market Tour.
- nugal biik Garden Facility and Recycling Yarra Valley Water recycling facility beside it in Wollert.

Cr Lappin

- 22 June welcomed first child Morgan, has been an amazing experience and we are obsessed with her. My wife and I are starting to settle into this lifestyle and getting into a routine. Incredible support from Councillors, staff and also from the Maternal Child Health Services available in the City of Whittlesea. Support provided has been second-to-none and we are very lucky in the City of Whittlesea to have such first-rate services and incredible staff to make it happen. Being first time parents there is obviously lots of anxiety and stress around a new baby every noise is the worst noise you have heard in your life and the reassurance and care provided to us has been absolutely essential, and passed on a huge thank you to all of Whittlesea's MCH services, you all do amazing work and thank you for making the transition to parenthood so manageable and feel so safe. We feel very secure knowing that we can always reach out and get support that we need should we have any issues.
- NAIDOC March to Parliament House.
- Two shout-outs:
 - Coffee with Council will be held on 24 July at the Station Grind Café, Mernda;
 - Encourage everyone to attend the National Tree Day event in Brunton Park, Everard Road, Mernda.

Cr Cox

- 19 June Coffee with Council at Stables Shopping Centre.
- 24-26 June National General Assembly Conference 2025, including the National Growth Areas Alliance Briefing.
- 8 July Connect with Council Forum.

- Met with Wendy Lovell, MP to discuss Donnybrook Road and Craigieburn Road East. Discussions also took place on the growth areas investment contributions and the developer contributions program in terms of release, and we understand that successive governments have been very reluctant to release those funds which are necessary for appropriate development of infrastructure in our areas and I look forward to seeing a policy come out that is actually going to release those contributions rather than criticise one another about maintaining them for treasury receipts.
- 17 July Melbourne Market Tour.
- 19 July Alexander Avenue Shopping Precinct Upgrade Opening Event.

Cr Brooks

- Regular Briefings.
- 2 July Metropolitan Transport Forum.
- 14 July Whittlesea Multicultural Committee.
- 19 July Alexander Avenue Shopping Precinct Upgrade Opening Event.

Cr Taylor

I'm repeatedly asked what does the Mayor do, what do you do, what do you perform, what duties do you perform, I've decided tonight to outlay those and I've attached a full copy of my report to the documents of tonight's transcript.

From the reporting period of 20 June to 22 July this report provides a detailed overview of the official activities, engagements, and responsibilities undertaken in my role as Mayor of the City of Whittlesea during this reporting period. It reflects the commitment of the Mayoral Office to transparent and accountable governance, as well as ongoing engagement with Councillors, the community, Council officers, external agencies, and stakeholders.

- 219 hours (average 55 hours per week) worked in the performance of Mayoral duties.
- 517 emails received and responded to.
- 9 CRMs lodged and recorded.
- 10 CRMs investigated and closed.
- 23 Council meetings, briefings, committee meetings and external stakeholder meetings.
- 27 community engagement meetings attended.
- 6 of the below Council endorsed committee meetings attended:
 - Outer Melbourne Councils Committee.
 - Northern Councils Alliance Committee.
 - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (YPRL).
 - Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.
 - City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel.
 - Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).
 - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC).

- Hearing of Submissions Committee (HoS).
- 152 telephone calls made and received.
- 398.7 kms travelled in performance of Mayoral duties and events.
- 29 events attended.

Cr Colwell moved a procedural motion to extend the speaking time for up to an additional 2 minutes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Colwell</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Gunn</i>

THAT the speaking time for the Mayor, Cr Taylor be extended for up to an additional 2 minutes.

CARRIED

- Attended the following community events which include civic receptions, ceremonial events, cultural and religious celebrations, media interviews and meetings not recorded in items 5 & 6 of this report and they include:
 - Retail and Hospitality Business Breakfast.
 - Meeting with members of South Morang Walking Club.
 - Meeting with 3 local business owners regarding concerns with Youth Crime.
 - Quarterly update meetings with CEO and individually with:
 - Minister D'Ambrosio;
 - Lauren Kathage, MP;
 - Bronwyn Halfpenny, MP;
 - Al Siraat College Eid Al-Adha Interfaith Community Dinner.
 - Hanuman Ji Katha & Bhoomi Daan Religious Celebration.
 - The Rathayatra Religious Celebration.
 - Hilltop Splash Park with Rob Mitchell MP and Lauren Kathage MP.
 - National General Assembly Conference 2025. Also, meetings individually with several Mayors and Deputy Mayors and specialist exhibitors.
 - Community Wellbeing Tour (Active Places & Communities & Ageing Well).
 - Whittlesea Public Gardens Dog Park & Allumba Dog Park with Bronwyn Halfpenny MP.
 - Plenty Valley FM Interviews.
 - Site Visit for proposed Yoga and Meditation, Place o Worship, Cultural & Educational Centre at Shiv Shakti Arts, Cultural and Educational Centre.
 - Participated in Community Clean-up Day in Whittlesea.
 - Infrastructure & Environment Tour.
 - Connect with Council – New Residents.
 - Meeting at the Whittlesea Agricultural Society Administration Building.
 - Community Wellbeing Tour (Children & Families).
 - Dedication of South Morang CFA and Annual Dinner & Awards Night.

- Meeting with Northern Councils Alliance and CEO.
- Crime and Health Community Concerns with Managing Director, Heyington Avenue Thomastown.
- Participated with a number of significant business owners within our community.
- Melbourne Market Authority Tour.
- Meeting with Wendy Lovell, MP.
- Alexander Avenue Shopping Precinct Upgrade Opening Event.
- Winter Shelters Working Group.
- Meeting with owner and staff of Degani Restaurant, University Hill Bundoora.

8.2 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

Plenty Road-Everton Drive intersection

The new Plenty Road – Everton Drive intersection, which will provide safe and convenient access to the regional sports precinct, is expected to open fully in the next couple of weeks.

The streetlights have recently been turned on, improving visibility for drivers and pedestrians.

As soon as the permanent traffic lights are operational, which I believe we are waiting for Department of Transport to program, the intersections with Station Lane and Everton Drive will be opened.

Hill Top Splash Park and Playground

As mentioned by the Mayor, I am very pleased to report that the upgraded Hill Top Splash Park and Playground in Doreen is set to open in just a couple of weeks.

The revamped park includes a range of features including a large play unit with slides, climbing nets and trampoline for older children.

Younger children have a dedicated play area with a cubby, slide and rocker, while there is a focus on nature play, with logs, boulders and winding paths to encourage exploration.

For me the standout feature of the park is the new 150-square-metre splash pad with jets, misters and water channels, and that will open later on in the year when the weather warms up.

For parents and those with their children there, there's picnic shelters, barbecues, a new expanded car park, public toilets and a fully accessible Changing Places facility as well.

We look forward to opening that one fairly soon.

Allumba Park

Council recently opened a brand new off-leash dog park at Allumba Park in Wollert.

This is a purpose-built space that gives local dogs and their owners a safe and welcoming place to play, exercise and connect.

This park features fully fenced areas, quiet zones for less social dogs, dog-friendly landscaping, seating, shelters and drinking fountains. And that was supported by the Victorian Government's New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program.

Alexander Avenue shopping precinct now open

It's been mentioned a couple of times, the Alexander Avenue Precinct which opened last weekend. So, we had a family event at the weekend there in Thomastown.

The improvements have transformed the area to make it more safe, more accessible and welcoming space for the community.

There's been upgrades to new shopfront footpaths, raised pedestrian crossing, accessible car spaces, improved lighting, seating and picnic settings, brick garden beds, a new pedestrian and cycling path and landscaping works at Nick Ascenzo Reserve.

It was good to see so many people out there. It was a bit cold I understand, people braving that weather to connect with the local traders to take part in the celebrations.

Thank you again to the Victorian State Government this time to the Living Local Suburban Grant program, who supported that project with a \$200,000 contribution.

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 7:33pm

Confirmed this 19th day of August 2025.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor