



# Agenda

## Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting

Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 5pm

Council Chamber,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of  
Whittlesea**

## Attendance

### Councillors

Mayor, Cr Martin Taylor  
Cr Blair Colwell  
Cr Stevan Kozmevski  
Cr Jarrod Lappin  
Cr Christine Stow

### Officers

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

### Apologies

Nil

## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair will open the meeting by reading the following Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners 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."*

## Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair will ask those in attendance the following question: *"Does any Councillor or Officer have a conflict of interest in any matter on the agenda today?"*

## Order of Business

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## 1 Reports from Officers

### 1.1 Hearing of Submissions Committee - Proposed Budget, Proposed Financial Plan and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan Submissions

**Director/Executive Manager:** Director Customer & Corporate Services

**Report Author:** Adis Cindrak, Acting Chief Financial Officer

**In Attendance:** Adis Cindrak, Acting Chief Financial Officer  
Alessandra San Vicente, Unit Manager Corporate Planning  
Natasha Bilyk, Senior Finance Services Accountant  
Rahul Shah, Unit Manager Financial Strategy & Performance  
Tony Singh, Acting Unit Manager Financial Development and Accountability

This attachment 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 confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Hearing of Submissions Committee (the Committee) to hear all the submitters who wish to speak and elaborate on their written submission received by Council regarding the Proposed Budget 2025-26 (the 'Proposed Budget'), Proposed Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2034-35 (the 'Proposed Financial Plan'), and Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 (the 'Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan').

The Committee also have the opportunity to ask questions to the submitter, seeking clarification if required.

#### Officers' Recommendation

**THAT the Hearing of Submissions Committee hear from submitter/s wanting to provide a verbal submission relating to the Proposed Budget, Proposed Financial Plan and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan.**

## Background / Key Information

At the Council meeting held on 15 April 2025, Council endorsed the Proposed Budget, Proposed Financial Plan and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan to be advertised for community consultation and submissions from Wednesday 16 April 2025 to Sunday 4 May 2025.

Two submissions have been received in relation to the Proposed Budget, Proposed Financial Plan and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan.

Two submitters wish to be contacted regarding their submissions, and one of these submitters wish to speak in support of their submission at the scheduled Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting.

## Considerations of *Local Government Act (2020)* Principles

### Financial Management

The cost is included in the current budget.

### Community Consultation and Engagement

An extensive program of community engagement has been conducted to inform the development of the Proposed Financial Strategic Documents. Throughout August-September 2024 Council asked the community to tell us what was important to them to help shape Council's Proposed Financial Strategic Documents including 2025-26 Budget, Financial Plan 2026-35 and Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-29. More than 880 people shared their thoughts, both online and at 13 community-based pop-ups.

Our community told us their top five priorities were roads, public transport and footpaths; park,s playgrounds and open space; community facilities; community safety; and arts, culture and events.

We again checked in with the community during December 2024 and January 2025 to confirm the priorities identified. Of the 133 people that participated, the majority (75%) agreed with the order of the priority areas.

In February 2025, 46 carefully selected community members, representing the diverse demographics of the community, participated in three focus groups to discuss local priorities. They identified key service areas they valued most and wished to see maintained or enhanced. Local business support, youth services, public health and safety, waste management, and ageing well services emerged as top priorities for continued or increased support. Participants also provided support for maintenance of areas such as animal management, creative communities, community strengthening, biodiversity, land management, and sustainable planning and design.

At the Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 15 April 2025, proposed documents were endorsed for a further phase of consultation and to allow the community an opportunity to lodge formal submissions between Wednesday 16 April 2025 to Sunday 4 May 2025.

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

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

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

### **Attachments**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACED - Hearing of Submissions Committee Clive Denholm [1.1.1 - 2 pages]

## **2 Close Meeting**