



City of Whittlesea

Youth Council minutes

Monday 3 August 2026 at 6pm



Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of
Whittlesea**

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Youth Councillors

Youth Cr Emma Fasciani

Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Gabby Charman

Deputy Youth Mayor

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis

Youth Cr Alana Luscombe

Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall

Youth Cr Charlize Pommier

Youth Cr Clare Joseph

Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar

Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo

Youth Cr Hemal Sharma

Youth Cr Osama Akkad

Youth Cr Mannat Sooch

Youth Cr Suad Issa

Youth Cr Theresa Yan

Officers

Bobbie Bright

Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

Justine Smith

Unit Manager Council Governance

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Youth Mayor opened the meeting at 6pm.

Welcome to this Youth Council Meeting of 3 August 2026 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

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

Deputy Youth Mayor Gabby Charman

Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis

Youth Cr Osama Akkad

Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar

Youth Cr Suad Issa

Youth Cr Clare Joseph

Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo

Youth Cr Alana Luscombe

Youth Cr Charlize Pommier

Youth Cr Hemal Sharma

Youth Cr Mannat Sooch

Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall

Youth Cr Theresa Yan

We also have in attendance Bobbie Bright, Unit Manager Compliance & Governance and Justine Smith, Unit Manager Council Governance.

1.2 Apologies/Absent

Nil

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Youth Mayor read the following statement:

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

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

1.4 Youth Council Charter

The Chair read the following statement:

“We the members of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council, commit to advocating for and being the voice of the youth within our municipality. We ensure a safe space for all, to engage in constructive collaboration on matters affecting young people. We aim to empower and foster community connectedness in our youth so they feel valued and supported to achieve their aspirations.”

1.5 Acknowledgements

The Youth Mayor made the following acknowledgements:

National Tree Day

Last month, in recognition of National Tree Day, we attended a tree planting day at bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills. The planting days are part of a broader program of planting at the parkland, where 25,000 indigenous trees and wildflowers will be planted there in 2026, helping restore natural environments and support native wildlife across the City of Whittlesea.

Councillors Meet & Greet

The Youth Council also met with the City of Whittlesea Council recently. This was a great opportunity to meet with Councillors and chat to them about our priorities.

DPV Health

The Youth Council also met with DPV Health, as we continue to progress the escape the vape campaign that was initiated by the previous Youth Council. We look forward to sharing more on this soon.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 6 July 2026, as circulated.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	Deputy Youth Mayor Gabrielle Charman
Seconded:	Youth Cr Suad Issa

THAT the Youth Council confirm the Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 6 July 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Overview and consideration to Data Centres

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Manager Economic Development

In Attendance: Manager Economic Development
Unit Manager Investment Attraction & Growth
Unit Manager Established Area Planning
Senior Environmental Sustainable Design Planner

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of data centres.

As of 29 May 2026, there are currently more than 270 data centres in Australia, with 60 in Victoria, each ranging in size and scale.

Data centres are now recognised by both the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments as critical digital infrastructure that underpins AI capability, economic growth and future productivity. While the sector presents opportunities for investment and enhanced digital capability, it also creates significant planning, environmental and land use challenges.

The Commonwealth's 2026 expectations for data centres and AI infrastructure developers, together with Victoria's AI Mission Statement 2026 and Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan 2026, signal strong support for sector expansion. At the same time, significant projects can be assessed through state pathways such as the Development Facilitation Program (DFP), reducing local government's decision-making role.

The report identifies economic opportunities associated with data centres, particularly during construction, supply chain activation, and the expansion of Victoria's digital economy. The report also presents the implications of data centres, including environmental impacts and land use and urban design impacts.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council note the report.

Youth Cr Theresa Yan moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</i>

THAT the Youth Council note the report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Mayor Emma Fasciani</i> <i>Deputy Youth Mayor Cr Gabrielle Charman</i> <i>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</i> <i>Youth Cr Alana Luscombe</i> <i>Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall</i> <i>Youth Cr Charlize Pommier</i> <i>Youth Cr Clare Joseph</i> <i>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</i> <i>Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo</i> <i>Youth Cr Hemal Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</i> <i>Youth Cr Suad Issa</i> <i>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4.2 Whittlesea Youth Ride Project

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Transport Planner

In Attendance: Sadaf Saeed, Transport Planner

External Attendance: Glen Eckardt, President Whittlesea Bicycle Users Group

Executive Summary

Ride Whittlesea Youth Initiative (RWYI) is a proposal being presenting to Whittlesea Youth Council to discuss opportunities of increasing teenage cycling participation in the City of Whittlesea.

Project Description

RWYI is a 12-month, youth led bicycle engagement program designed to increase the number of teenagers (12–18 years) who ride for transport, recreation, and social connection. The initiative seeks support from the leadership of the Whittlesea Youth Council, partnerships with local organisations, and a co-design approach to build a safe, inclusive, and appealing bicycle culture for young people.

Project Vision

A Whittlesea where young people feel confident, safe, and excited to ride. The cycling experience can be supported by peers, connected to community, and empowered to influence local bicycle infrastructure investment and safety outcomes.

Project Outcomes

RWYI integrates practical skills development, social riding opportunities, creative projects, and youth driven advocacy. Together, these four elements address key barriers such as low rider confidence, safety concerns, limited peer support, and lack of awareness of local riding routes.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback on Ride Whittlesea Youth Initiative.

Youth Cr Gabrielle Charman moved the Officers' Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Deputy Youth Mayor Gabrielle Charman</i>
Seconded:	<i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i>

THAT the Youth Council provide feedback on Ride Whittlesea Youth Initiative.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

YOUTH COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Deputy Youth Mayor Gabrielle Charman

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Youth Mayor Emma Fasciani</i> <i>Deputy Youth Mayor Cr Gabrielle Charman</i> <i>Youth Cr Ahmed Abumeis</i> <i>Youth Cr Alana Luscombe</i> <i>Youth Cr Caleb Whitehall</i> <i>Youth Cr Charlize Pommier</i> <i>Youth Cr Clare Joseph</i> <i>Youth Cr Dhyani Bhavsar</i> <i>Youth Cr Ethan Kosumo</i> <i>Youth Cr Hemal Sharma</i> <i>Youth Cr Osama Akkad</i> <i>Youth Cr Mannat Sooch</i> <i>Youth Cr Suad Issa</i> <i>Youth Cr Theresa Yan</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

5 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

6 General / Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

7 Closure

There being no further business the Youth Mayor formally closed the meeting at 6:58pm.

Confirmed this 7th day of September 2026.

Youth Cr Emma Fasciani
Youth Mayor