

Council Plan
2017 – 2021 UPDATE 2019

Council Action Plan
2019 – 2020

A place for all



WHITTLESEA



A place for all



**City of
Whittlesea**

About the City of Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea is located about 20 kilometres north of Melbourne. It is one of Melbourne's largest municipalities, covering a land area of approximately 490 square kilometres with 223,000 residents. It is also one of the fastest growing municipalities, welcoming approximately 8,000 new residents every year.

The City of Whittlesea includes the suburbs of Beveridge (part), Bundoora (part), Donnybrook, Doreen (part), Eden Park, Epping, Humevale, Kinglake West (part), Lalor, Mernda, Mill Park, South Morang, Thomastown, Whittlesea, Wollert, Woodstock and Yan Yean (part).

The City of Whittlesea provides a range of civic and social services including waste and recycling collection services, building and planning services, maternal and child health services, services and support for the aged, people with a disability and migrants.

Council is also responsible for community infrastructure such as community centres, bike paths, upgrades to sporting facilities, local roads and playgrounds and parks.

Council works with all levels of government including other local councils, developers, local organisations and community groups to advocate, plan and provide for our community's needs.

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.



Message from the Mayor

I am delighted to present an Update to the City of Whittlesea Council Plan 2017-2021. This Update aligns our Council Plan to the newly adopted *Whittlesea 2040 vision; A place for all*.

The vision was developed by Council in partnership with our community and has four goals:

GOAL 1 – Connected community

GOAL 2 – Liveable neighbourhoods

GOAL 3 – Strong local economy

GOAL 4 – Sustainable environment



These goals pave the way for our city to grow and thrive over the next 20 years. However, these goals are more than words in a document, they also come with actions to ensure we achieve what we say we will.

I'm proud of what we've achieved over the past two years including delivering more than \$110 million in infrastructure and refurbishing major facilities, but we still have a long way to go.

We know that we are not alone in helping our residents create the type of community they want to live and work in. We rely on our partners in community groups and in the state and federal governments to achieve the best outcomes for our community. We'd like to acknowledge and thank them. Without their support these vital projects wouldn't happen.

I commend this Update and Action Plan to you. I believe they position us well to deliver the services, activities, facilities and infrastructure our rapidly growing community deserves.

Cr Lawrie Cox
MAYOR

Key achievements 2017-2019

We redeveloped and upgraded parks, gardens and recreation reserves including an all abilities play space, sports grounds, soccer pitches and pavilions.

In partnership with the community, a new vision was developed.

Whittlesea 2040; A place for all.

Council prevented the installation of further electronic gaming machines in South Morang in a landmark legal case that will contribute to addressing the harmful impacts of gambling more broadly across the municipality.

We delivered more than \$110 million in infrastructure and refurbished major facilities including the start of the \$25 million Mill Park Leisure, Stage 1 of the Whittlesea Swim Centre and the Civic Centre redevelopment.



Council has delivered 100% of the Council Action Plan 2017-2018 and is on track for 100% completion for 2018-2019.

Our innovative new approach to procurement will save \$10 million over ten years, grow local jobs and encourage social inclusion.

We led an innovative collaboration with neighbouring Councils to deliver the new Animal Welfare Facility in Epping.

Council successfully advocated for key local infrastructure including two new primary schools, the O'Herns Road/Hume Freeway interchange, Plenty Road duplication, Mernda Rail extension and Mernda Town Centre.

Our city opens its arms to every resident and is a place where all walks of life are celebrated and supported.

1.1 We want a socially cohesive community where:

- our community is friendly and welcoming
- there is a sense of community and belonging
- we embrace and celebrate diversity
- there are opportunities to connect and build social networks.

1.2 We want a healthy and safe community where our community:

- is healthy and well
- is physically active
- has access to health and support services
- is safe at home and in public.

1.3 We want a participating community where:

- our community is well-informed
- decisions are made locally
- there is volunteering and leadership
- we have vibrant community groups.

Council provides these services:

- community facilities
- Aboriginal reconciliation
- arts, heritage and festivals
- leisure and recreation
- ageing well
- animal management
- public health and safety
- youth services
- family and children's services
- community strengthening
- customer service, communications and civic participation.

Council measures progress on:

- social cohesion
- physical activity
- safety in public areas
- civic participation.

Our city is the smart choice for innovation, business growth and industry investment.

3.1 We want increased local employment where:

- residents are employed locally
- there are a variety of jobs to meet local needs
- there is job seeker and employment support.

3.2 We want education opportunities for all including:

- local access to quality education and lifelong learning
- flexible training and skills for jobs
- our community being engaged in learning.

3.3 We want successful, innovative local businesses which:

- invest and grow
- produce locally and create new enterprises and start-ups
- have access and provide a variety of local services, trades and commercial centres.

Council provides these services:

- investment attraction
- libraries
- local business support.

Council measures progress on:

- local jobs
- access to education
- gross regional product.

Our city is well-planned and beautiful and our neighbourhoods and town centres are convenient and vibrant places to live, work and play.

2.1 We want a smart, connected transport network where:

- road networks flow
- our public transport is well connected
- we have paths and trails for walking and cycling.

2.2 We want well-designed neighbourhoods and vibrant town centres where we have:

- attractive streetscapes and public spaces
- easy access to local shops and major commercial centres
- access to quality local facilities, parks and amenity.

2.3 We want housing for diverse needs including:

- quality and varied housing options
- housing that is affordable and accessible.

Council provides these services:

- roads, public transport (advocacy) and footpaths
- traffic management
- parks and open space
- planning and building.

Council measures progress on:

- commuter travel time
- ease of walking and cycling
- use of town centres
- access to services and facilities
- housing affordability.

Our city's superb landscapes and natural environment are an enduring source of pride.

4.1 We want valued natural landscapes and biodiversity where the community:

- protect and improve local biodiversity
- has sustainable land management
- has an appreciation of local natural environment.

4.2 We want to be climate ready, with more:

- trees for cooling and shelter
- infrastructure built to withstand the changing climate
- community resilience.

4.3 We want to be leaders in clean, sustainable living who:

- reduce waste and increase recycling
- reduce energy use and carbon emissions
- have renewable energy and use water efficiently.

Council provides these services:

- conservation and bushland management
- environmental management
- waste and recycling
- water management.

Council measures progress on:

- use of open space
- tree canopy
- energy and water use
- waste minimisation.



1.1 A socially cohesive community

- **Early activation of the growth corridor** – work closely with developers, state government and emerging communities for better service access, participation and social connection.
- **Places free from racism** – support and foster local settings that are fair, welcoming and inclusive.
- **Advocate for multicultural communities** – provide leadership and advocacy training for multicultural women and community groups, and facilitate key multicultural networks.

1.2 A healthy and safe community

- **Aboriginal gathering place** – create an inclusive and culturally safe space where the local Aboriginal community can access a comprehensive range of community supported programs.
- **Improving community safety and preventing violence against women** – invest into community safety, crime prevention, gender equality and prevention of violence against women/family violence.
- **Addressing financial vulnerability** – increase community understanding of financial hardship and advocate for better access to services.
- **Building inclusive sporting environments** – increase participation particularly for women and girls and develop guidelines and processes to encourage greater community access.
- **Improving safety outcomes** – achieving better safety outcomes by applying a risk-based approach to regulatory issues.

1.3 A participating community

- **Local area community planning** – explore the feasibility and process for developing place-based community plans across the 13 precincts in the City of Whittlesea.

2.1 Smart, connected transport network

- **Upgrading local roads** – improve traffic flow, the overall condition of the road network and road safety, including the extension of Findon Road and the Lakes Boulevard intersection.
- **Cycling and walking** – continue to improve the local shared path network including Hendersons Creek Trail and McDonalds Road shared path, and advocate for further external funding.
- **Advocate for better public transport** – influence other levels of government to deliver favourable community outcomes regarding the Wollert rail corridor and the tram route 86.

2.2 Well-designed neighbourhoods and vibrant town centres

- **Redeveloping Mill Park Leisure Centre** – deliver a facility that is accessible, equitable, affordable and viable.
- **Rejuvenating neighbourhoods in established areas** – invest in the modern appearance and amenity of our suburbs.
- **Improve established town centres** – make retail and activity centres more attractive, particularly through traffic management and street scaping.
- **Improve the city's parks** – Improve Norris Bank Reserve, Whittlesea Gardens and six neighbourhood parks in Thomastown, Mill Park and Bundoora, and commence construction of the All Abilities Playspace in Mill Park.
- **Improve the city's buildings and accessibility** – better access to public buildings and toilets.
- **Improve protection of historic dry-stone walls** – use technology and planning tools so developers can protect and incorporate these important heritage features more effectively into our landscape and neighbourhoods.
- **Edgars Creek Community Activity Centre** – deliver an activity centre in the Epping North growth area.

2.3 Housing for diverse needs

- **Delivering social housing in growth areas partnership project** – partner with developers and housing associations across Whittlesea, Mitchell and Hume to increase supply of social housing.

3.1 Increased local employment

Council provides ongoing services and programs to attract investment and support local businesses.

3.2 Education opportunities for all

- **Preventing youth disengagement from education** – partner with key stakeholders to support at risk young people from disengaging from school.

3.3 Successful, innovative local businesses

- **Driving our rural economy** – work with the sector to adapt to climate change.
- **Whittlesea Food and Farm Collective** – partner to support people experiencing food insecurity.

4.1 Valued natural landscapes and biodiversity

Council is finalising the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to solidify key future initiatives to protect and grow appreciation of our local natural environment.

4.2 Climate ready

- **Greening Whittlesea Urban Forest Plan** – plant more trees and grow community ownership of our local trees to adapt to climate change and build resilience.
- **Integrated Water Management Strategy and Action Plan** – secure safe and affordable water supply, prepare for droughts and mitigate against stormwater risks.

4.3 Leaders in clean, sustainable living

- **Corporate Energy Transition Plan** – achieve zero net emissions by 2022 and grow energy leadership.
- **Food and Garden Organics Waste Collection** – trial a better service option for the disposal of organic waste to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase diversion from landfill.

Council Action Plan Major initiatives 2019 – 2020

GOAL 1 Connected community



GOAL 2 Liveable neighbourhoods



GOAL 3 Strong local economy



GOAL 4 Sustainable environment



Delivering value to the City of Whittlesea community*



927,000

Aquatic facility visits



2,065

Animals collected



5,786,682

Bins lifted



164,070

Customer service calls



28,236

Meals delivered



2,344

Food and health inspections



29,143

Vaccinations administered



8,552km

Local roads swept/maintained



1,016,089

Books and other library items loaned



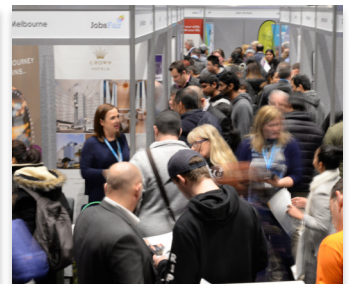
42,751

Maternal & Child Health consultations



1,110

Planning and building permits issued



959

Business engagement activities to support local jobs growth

*in 2017-18

High-performing organisation

Council delivers a range of internal functions and activities enabling the delivery of efficient and effective services and initiatives. Council's goal is to be a high-performing organisation which delivers best value to the community. There are four main internal services:

- our governance
- our people
- our finance and assets and
- our systems and knowledge.

The Strategic Resource Plan

The Strategic Resource Plan is prepared and updated every year in conjunction with the Council Plan to reflect the financial and non-financial resources required to achieve the key directions and actions included in the Council Plan.

The Strategic Resource Plan is available at Council's offices or on Council's website whittlesea.vic.gov.au



City of Whittlesea



City of Whittlesea

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Opening hours

Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm



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