

# Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting Monday 12 December 2022 at 7:30 pm

Mernda Village Community Centre at Mernda Village Community Centre, 70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda and livestreamed via Council's website <a href="https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings/">https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings/</a>



### **Administrators**

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan Administrator

Chris Eddy Administrator

On 19 June 2020 the Acting Minister for Local Government appointed the Panel of Administrators for the City of Whittlesea and appointed Ms Lydia Wilson as Chair of the Panel. The Panel of Administrators comprises of Ms Lydia Wilson, Ms Peita Duncan and Mr Chris Eddy who will undertake the duties of the Council of the City of Whittlesea until the October 2024 Local Government Election.

### **Senior Officers**

Debbie Wood Acting Chief Executive Officer

Kate McCaughey Director Community Wellbeing

Frank Joyce Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

Janine Morgan Executive Manager Public Affairs

Jim Karabinis Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment



### Order of Business

The Acting Chief Executive Officer submits the following business:

1	Opening	5
	1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions	5
	1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement	5
	1.3 Diversity Statement	6
	1.4 Acknowledgement - Whittlesea Disability Network Hub	6
	1.5 Acknowledgement - Mernda Repair Café Award	6
	1.6 Acknowledgement – Northern Business Achievement Awards	7
	1.7 Acknowledgement – Amanda Marijanovic	7
	1.8 Attendance	7
2	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	8
3	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s	8
4	Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters	9
	4.1 Public Question Time	9
	4.1.1 Public Question – Overgrown Grass	9
	4.1.2 Public Question – Fines at VR Michael Reserve	10
	4.2 Petitions	10
	4.3 Joint Letters	10
5	Officers' Reports	11
	5.1 Connected Communities	11
	5.1.1 Library Services Update	11
	5.2 Liveable Neighborhoods	13
	5.2.1 Petition - Additional Parking Request, VR Michael Reserve, Lalor	13
	5.2.2 Epping Animal Welfare Facility Renaming	14
	5.3 Strong Local Economy	15
	5.4 Sustainable Environment	15
	5.4.1 Recycling Processing Contract	15
	5.5 High Performing Organisation	16
	5.5.1 Appointment of Council Representation on Organisations and Committees	16

### MINUTES - Scheduled Council Meeting 12 December 2022



6	Notices of Motion	18	
7	Urgent Business	18	
8	Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update	18	
	8.1 Administrator Peita Duncan Report	18	
	8.2 Administrator Chris Eddy Report	18	
	8.3 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson Report	19	
	8.4 Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood Update – 12 December 2022	19	
9	Confidential Business	21	
	9.1 Confidential Connected Communities	21	
	9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods	21	
	9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy	21	
	9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment	21	
	9.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation	22	
	9.5.1 Confirmation of minutes of CEMAC meeting 14 November 2022, CEO		
	Performance, KPI and remuneration review	22	
	9.6 Confidential Notices of Motion	22	
12	12 Closure		



#### 1 Opening

#### 1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

"Welcome to this Council Meeting of 12 December 2022 which is being held in person at the Mernda Village Community Centre, 70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda and livestreamed.

This Meeting has followed a community forum where we had the opportunity to meet and engage with community members on a number of key matters. Thank you for everyone who attended the forum and also for those in attendance today.

I am Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council and I would also like to introduce my Panel colleagues

Administrator Peita Duncan and Administrator Chris Eddy.

I would also like to introduce our Acting CEO, Debbie Wood and ask that she in turn introduce the Council Officers in attendance today."

"Good evening everyone, we also have with us:

Director Community Wellbeing, Kate McCaughey; Executive Manager Governance & Strategy, Frank Joyce; Executive Manager Public Affairs, Janine Morgan; and Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment, Jim Karabinis.

The following members of the Executive Leadership Team are an apology for tonight's meeting:

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd; Director Planning & Development, Justin O'Meara; and Director Corporate & Shared Services, Sarah Renner."

#### 1.2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson 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."



#### 1.3 Diversity Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson 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."

#### 1.4 Acknowledgement - Whittlesea Disability Network Hub

Administrator Peita Duncan made the following acknowledgment:

"I am thrilled to advise on 3 December - which was International Day of People with Disability, the City of Whittlesea launched the Whittlesea Disability Network Hub.

This new hub is a custom online space for people with a disability and their carers to provide feedback to Council on what people with disability need to live independently and safely in the community. This online space will help us to better understand the needs of this group of people in our community to inform our decision-making.

This is one of many steps we will be taking to support positive conversations and work together to make our community a more accessible place for people with disability. The hub is available at engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au"

#### 1.5 Acknowledgement - Mernda Repair Café Award

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson made the following acknowledgment:

"I'm thrilled to share that the Mernda Repair Café has taken out a top award at the recent Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Awards.

The repair café, that has been operating monthly since it opened in April, received the Climate Action Award, recognising the importance of the work they do to minimise the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

As the first repair café in the municipality, the Mernda Repair café has provided our community with a fantastic way to not only fix and salvage some of their most precious items, but also encourage people to think about their waste and alternatives to simply throwing things in the bin. Each month, there are a range of volunteer repairers on hand to fix items including bikes, small electrical items, clothing and jewellery and there have been a number of workshops held to upskill people to take on their own repairs.



This award is also a well-deserved recognition of the time and effort the staff at Mernda Community House and Whittlesea Community Connections put in to running the repair cafe, as well as the wonderful team of skilled volunteers - without them, this service would not be available.

We are enormously proud of the difference the repair café is making and we're excited to support initiatives such as this that tackle waste at a local level."

#### 1.6 Acknowledgement – Northern Business Achievement Award

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson made the following acknowledgment:

"I also would like to take the opportunity to again congratulate two of our amazing local businesses who were award finalists in the Northern Business Achievement Awards. Wine in a glass and also Pack Queen both received Awards for their amazing local businesses and I should just note the that Wine in a glass is represented on our business advisory panels so we're really thrilled that they've received their accolades through the business achievement awards."

#### 1.7 Acknowledgement – Amanda Marijanovic

The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood made the following acknowledgment:

"I would like to say thanks and best wishes to Amanda Marijanovic, Coordinator Governance Administration. Amanda has been with Council for 12 years with the majority of this time working behind the scenes to ensure Council Meetings run like clockwork. Amanda has been the lead officer in Freedom of Information requests, Council report advice and coordination of Council and Community Meetings. Amanda has also coordinated many citizenships and the community awards committee during her time.

Amanda has accepted a promotion at Brimbank Council as Senior Freedom of Information (FOI) and Privacy Officer. Thank you Amanda for your wonderful contribution to Council over the past 12 years and we wish you all the best for your next step."

#### 1.8 Attendance

#### Members:

Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council Peita Duncan, Administrator Chris Eddy, Administrator

#### Officers:

Debbie Wood, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Kate McCaughey, Director Community Wellbeing
Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jim Karabinis, Acting Director Infrastructure & Environment



#### **Apologies:**

Craig Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer
Justin O'Meara, Director Planning & Development
Sarah Renner, Director Customer & Corporate Services

#### 2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No Declarations

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson made the following statement:

"I wish to note publicly and for the purposes of the minutes that I am a Board Member of the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation and I just particularly wanted to note that and the fact that I'm actually exempt from having to declare a conflict of interest in relation to Item 5.1.1 which is the Library Services Update report this evening under the Local Government Act 2020 Clause 129 (d) as I am council's representative on the YPRL Board under the terms of reference and as per council's resolution on appointment committee representation hence no need to actually make a declaration.

#### 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Chris Eddy
Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed: Scheduled Meeting of Council on 21 November 2022.



#### 4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

#### 4.1 Public Question Time

#### 4.1.1 Public Question – Overgrown Grass

#### Nick Brain, Epping:

"A recent local media report quoted homeowners at the Amber Estate in Wollert, who say the estate has '...fields of weeds and overgrown grass taking over.'

Another media report quoted residents in Bundoora, Mill Park and South Morang had taken to social media to share their concerns about "waist-high" grass in public areas near homes.

It is also clear council has experienced great difficulty in adequately maintaining neat, tidy and safe public spaces and parks in the Epping/Epping North areas. The height of grass in these areas has at times posed an unacceptable risk to public health, given we are coming into fire and snake seasons.

What is council doing to ensure ratepayers receive value for the rates they pay regarding the provision of local municipal services, and when can they expect to see basic amenities attended to?"

#### **Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood:**

"As you may have seen and heard in the media over recent months, long grass has been a challenge for Councils right across Melbourne, with exceptionally wet weather making it difficult to service many parks and gardens across the municipality with the heavy machinery required.

Whilst the weather has played a part in the level of service we have been able to provide, we are working closely with our maintenance contractor to take action to improve the conditions of our parks and open space including putting more crews on more often.

We take enormous pride in our municipality, and we are taking all necessary steps to ensure that our parks, gardens and open spaces are at the standard we expect for our community as quickly as possible.

Council has also established a taskforce to address the issues raised by residents regarding the Amber Estate in Wollert. Our litter enforcement, asset protection and local laws teams will be actively patrolling the area and we are meeting with developers to ensure that areas under their responsibility are maintained to the required standards as per the obligations set out in their planning permits"



#### 4.1.2 Public Question – Fines at VR Michael Reserve

#### Margaret Calleja, Reservoir:

"Whilst council considers the outcomes of the petition and potential works, could council consider pausing fining the people who park illegally in this area?"

#### **Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood:**

"I will take that question on notice but what we'll do Margaret is we'll get some officers to come and talk to you about your concerns and they will also just go and have a look at the site as well and just see what the issues are.

Mainly we want to make sure there's no safety concerns before we actually commit to doing something like that so we will be in contact."

#### 4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

#### 4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters



#### **5** Officers' Reports

#### 5.1 Connected Communities

#### **5.1.1 Library Services Update**

Responsible Officer Director Community Wellbeing

Author Anthony Traill, Manager Active & Creative Communities

In Attendance Anthony Traill, Manager Active & Creative Communities

#### **Purpose**

Libraries are known as an important universal service that provide free, safe and accessible places and resources to support community development, and the creation of a distinct sense of place.

This report provides updates and recommendations on two actions within the Strong Local Economy section of the Community Plan 2021-2025;

- Review the library service to inform transition to a new entity as required under the Local Government Act 2020, and
- Increase participation and access to library services through additional 'satellite' library programming at community centres.

This report sets the timelines for the Library service review and presents a proposal for two new library services; a medium-term small branch library delivered in a retail space in the Mernda Town Centre Shopping Centre and a Community Library Hub in the foyer of the Kirrip Community Centre in Wollert East.

The Mernda Town Centre facility will comprise a small community library including a seating/reading/workspace area, public computers and printing access and programming space.

The Community Library Hub in the Kirrip Community Centre will be located in the foyer of the facility and will comprise bookshelves, adults and children's seating, a self-checkout kiosk and returns area.

The estimated costs of the facilities are:

Mernda Town Centre small Community Library, 10-year period:

- \$1 million establishment and fit-out costs
- \$3.42 million operational costs (\$342,500 per annum).



Permanent Community Library Hub, Kirrip Community Centre:

- \$150,000 fit-out costs
- \$100,250 operational costs per annum.

#### Recommendation

#### **THAT Council:**

- Notes the Community Plan 2021-2025 action to review the library service has commenced and will be presented to Council in June 2023 and will inform the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation's transition to a new entity as required under the Local Government Act 2020.
- 2. Notes Council's participation in the joint planning initiative with Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation, Nillumbik Shire Council and Banyule City Council to work together to ensure the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation transitions successfully to a new entity as required under the Local Government Act 2020.
- 3. Endorses the establishment of a medium-term library and community space at the Mernda Town Centre, to be opened in the first quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year.
- 4. Endorses the establishment of a Library Hub at the Kirrip Community Centre, to be opened by the end of 2023.
- 5. Notes that the community and stakeholders will be informed about the service review and Mernda Town Centre community library and Kirrip Community Centre Library Hub projects.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan Seconded: Administrator Chris Eddy

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Library Services Update.



#### 5.2 Liveable Neighborhoods

#### 5.2.1 Petition - Additional Parking Request, VR Michael Reserve, Lalor

**Responsible Officer** Director Infrastructure & Environment

Author Tara Jolfaei, Coordinator Open Space Planning

In Attendance Tara Jolfaei, Coordinator Open Space Planning

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to consider a petition requesting an increase to the number of parking spaces and accessible parking at VR Michael Reserve in Lalor.

#### Recommendation

THAT Council, in relation to the petition requesting additional car parking spaces at VR Michael Reserve (the Reserve):

- Undertake a park masterplan in FY 23/24 for a more comprehensive approach to park planning for existing and future uses.
- 2. Explore options to upgrade the offsite parking (east of entrance of VR Michael Reserve) and provide all weather pedestrian connection from the parking to the clubrooms as part of future capital works program.
- 3. Advise head petitioner of the outcome of Council's decision.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT Council, in relation to the petition requesting additional car parking spaces at VR Michael Reserve (the Reserve):

- Upgrade the offsite parking (east of entrance of VR Michael Reserve) and provide all weather pedestrian connection from the parking to the clubrooms as part of the 2023/24 capital works program;
- 2. Undertake a park masterplan in the 2023/24 Financial Year for a more comprehensive approach to park planning for existing and future uses; and
- 3. Advise head petitioner of the outcome of Council's decision.



#### **5.2.2 Epping Animal Welfare Facility Renaming**

**Responsible Officer** Director Planning & Development

Author Debbie Blandford, Manager Compliance & Environmental

Health

In Attendance Debbie Blandford, Manager Compliance & Environmental

Health

#### **Purpose**

To provide Council with the outcomes and recommendations arising from the public exhibition period regarding the proposal to rename the Epping Animal Welfare Facility located at 20 Companion Place, Epping (previously Lot 3, 490 Cooper Street, Epping) to wat djerring Animal Facility.

#### Recommendation

#### **THAT Council:**

- Approve the proposed renaming of the Epping Animal Welfare Facility located at 20 Companion Place, Epping (previously Lot 3, 490 Cooper Street, Epping) to wat djerring Animal Facility;
- 2. Write to submitters to advise of the outcome and appeal mechanisms through Geographic Names Victoria; and
- 3. Authorise the CEO to submit the name to Geographic Names Victoria seeking final approval of the proposed name, wat djerring Animal Facility.
- 4. Write to the City of Darebin and City of Merri-bek to advise the final outcome of the renaming process.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Chris Eddy Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Epping Animal Welfare Facility Renaming.



#### 5.3 Strong Local Economy

Nil reports

#### 5.4 Sustainable Environment

#### **5.4.1 Recycling Processing Contract**

**Responsible Officer** Director Infrastructure & Environment

**Author** Unit Manager Resource Recovery

In Attendance Amanda Dodd, Manager Sustainable Environment

#### **Attachments**

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED Contract 2019-119 Variation Details [**5.4.1.1** 2 pages] 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 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.

The attachment contains information regarding tender amounts submitted by tenderers. The release of this information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the persons who supplied the information or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

#### **Purpose**

It is proposed that:

• Contract number 2019-119 for Recycling Receipt and Sorting is varied to suit operational requirements.

#### Recommendation

THAT Council, in relation to Contract No. 2019-119 for Recycling Receipt and Sorting:

- 1. Approve a contract variation of \$2,551,481.00 (excluding GST) making a revised contract sum of \$8,538,605.00 (excluding GST).
- 2. Approve the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3. Approve extension of the contract end date to 30 June 2024.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Administrator Peita Duncan Seconded: Chairperson Lydia Wilson

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Recycling Processing Contract.



#### 5.5 High Performing Organisation

## 5.5.1 Appointment of Council Representation on Organisations and Committees

**Responsible Officer** Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

**Author** Amanda Marijanovic, Coordinator Governance Administration

In Attendance Frank Joyce, Executive Manager Governance & Strategy

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the report is to appoint Council representatives to organisations and committees for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. This enables ongoing Council representation, participation and contribution to local and strategic organisations.

#### Recommendation

#### **THAT Council:**

- Nominate Administrator delegates to the organisations and committees that have been identified to be of strategic significance listed as follows for the period
   January 2023–31 December 2023 (also highlighted in yellow in Attachment 1):
  - Audit and Risk Committee (Internal) Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson and Administrator Peita Duncan
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) (External) -Administrator Peita Duncan
  - CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee (CEMAC) (Internal) All Administrators
  - Business Advisory Panel (Internal) Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson and Administrator Peita Duncan
  - Community Awards Committee (Internal) Administrator Peita Duncan
  - Interface Councils Group (External) Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson, substitute Administrator Peita Duncan
  - Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) (External) Chair of Council, Lydia
     Wilson, substitute Administrator Peita Duncan
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive (NAGA) (External) Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson
  - Northern Councils Alliance (External) Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson, substitute Administrator Peita Duncan
  - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) (External) All Administrators
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) (Internal) Administrator Peita
     Duncan
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (External) Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson



- 2. Nominate Officers to the organisations and committees listed as follows for the period 1 January 2023–31 December 2023 (as per Attachment 1):
  - Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) (External)
  - Bundoora Indoor Netball & Sport Centre Board (External)
  - Community Awards Committee (Internal)
  - Darebin Creek Management Committee Incorporated (External)
  - Friends of South Morang (External)
  - Interface Councils Group (External)
  - Merri Creek Management Committee Incorporated (External)
  - Metropolitan Transport Forum Inc. (External)
  - Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) (Internal)
  - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Executive (NAGA) (External)
  - Northern Councils Alliance (External)
  - Visual Art and Civic History Collections Acquisitions Advisory Group (AAG) (Internal)
  - Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct Advisory Committee (Internal)
  - Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group (WAGPAG) (External)
  - Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership (External)
  - Whittlesea Courthouse Association (External)
  - Whittlesea Disability Network (WDN) (External)
  - Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council (WMCC) (External)
  - Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG) (Internal)
  - Whittlesea Showground and Recreation Reserves Committee of Management (External)
  - Youth Advisory Committee (Internal)
  - Whittlesea Youth Commitment Strategic Advisory Group (WYC) (External)
  - Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board (External)
- 3. Note the Terms of Reference of the Visual Art and Civic History Collections
  Acquisitions Advisory Group (AAG) (Internal) requires amendment in accordance
  with the appointments made.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Chairperson Lydia Wilson
Seconded: Administrator Peita Duncan

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Appointment of Council Representation on Organisations and Committees.



#### 6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

#### 7 Urgent Business

No Items of Urgent Business.

#### 8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

#### 8.1 Administrator Peita Duncan Report

Administrator Peita Duncan's report was provided verbally at the 12 December 2022 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Administrator Peita Duncan attended:

- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group;
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Meetings;
- Northern Council's Alliance meeting with the Mayors and CEOs of the Northern Councils; and
- Site visits of the Whittlesea municipality.

#### 8.2 Administrator Chris Eddy Report

Administrator Chris Eddy's report was provided verbally at the 12 December 2022 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Administrator Chris Eddy attended:

- Business Advisory Panel Meeting;
- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting;
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Meetings; and
- Site visits including the Epping Animal Welfare facility, VR Michael Reserve, Whittlesea Public Gardens



#### 8.3 Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson Report

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson's report was provided verbally at the 12 December 2022 Scheduled Council Meeting. Since the last Council Meeting Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson attended:

- Business Advisory Panel Meeting;
- · Audit and Risk Committee Meeting;
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Meetings;
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board Meeting;
- Site visits including the Epping Animal Welfare facility, VR Michael Reserve,
   Whittlesea Public Gardens, Edlyn Foods, Whittlesea Tech School Innovation Centre;
- Staff Service Awards;
- Staff Question and Answer session;
- Northern Business Achievement Awards;
- Whittlesea Community Connections Celebration;
- Whittlesea Neurodiverse Young People Celebration;
- Carols by Candlelight; and
- Citizenship Ceremonies

#### 8.4 Acting Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Wood Update – 12 December 2022

The Acting Chief Executive Officer's report was provided verbally at the 12 December 2022 Scheduled Council Meeting:

#### Traffic Lights:

I'm pleased to advise pedestrian-operated signals at Mill Park's busy Bush Boulevard were switched on at the start of the month.

The City of Whittlesea installed the signals on Bush Boulevard, between Oleander Drive and McDonalds Road, to give pedestrians peace of mind when crossing the busy road.

Bush Boulevard, which runs from Plenty Road to McDonalds Road, is a popular road for residents accessing the Westfield Plenty Valley shopping centre and Mill Park Bunnings.

The \$300,000 project was fully funded by Council and continues its ongoing commitment to improving the safety of all road users.

#### Carols:

We had a wonderful celebration on Friday night for our Carols by Candlelight which was combined with the final South Morang Farmers and Makers Market. We were blessed with beautiful weather and it was amazing to see so many people out enjoying themselves.



Thank you to the Diamond Valley Brass Band and our Community Carols Choir who have been rehearsing since October. It was just a brilliant night all round and a special shout out and thanks to all the Council teams involved in the event especially Arts Culture and Events and Economic Development.

#### Community Awards:

Nominations are now open for our annual City of Whittlesea Community Awards. These awards celebrate the voluntary or above-and-beyond contributions of nominees who live, work, volunteer or study in the City of Whittlesea. We have 5 different awards that represent different categories including:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- · Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year
- Sustainable Environment Citizen or Group of the Year

Nominations close Tuesday 31 January 2023. The Awards will be presented at our Community Festival in March.

You can lodge a nomination or find out more on our website.

#### Preparing for Summer:

Whilst the weather is still quite variable, now is the time to prepare properly for the upcoming fire danger period. This means clearing your property, cleaning gutters and making sure you have a fire plan in place including what you will do with your pets. There are new fire danger rating levels that have been introduced this year - with the higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions - so please familiarise yourself with the new rating systems and make sure you are well prepared for the warmer weather which will come eventually – you can find out more at emergency.vic.gov.au

#### School holiday program:

With some schools already out, I know parents will be interested in programs to keep kids entertained over the summer. We have a guide to holidaying at home in our latest Local Scoop which has just arrived in letterboxes and for the older kids, our Baseline for young people team have a great range of activities over three action-packed weeks in January including activities at skate parks, Dragon Boat Tug of War at the Whittlesea Swim Centre and immersive gaming workshops.

#### Christmas:

Finally, on behalf of the staff at the City of Whittlesea I just wanted to wish those in our community celebrating Christmas all the very best for the festive season and a safe and happy new year to everyone in 2023.



#### 9 Confidential Business

#### 9.0.0 Close Meeting to the Public

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the Local Government Act 2020.

#### Recommendation

THAT the Chair of Council recommends that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of considering details relating to the following confidential matters in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as detailed.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Administrator Peita Duncan **Seconded:** Administrator Chris Eddy

THAT Council adopt the recommendation for Close Meeting to the Public.

**CARRIED** 

#### 9.1 Confidential Connected Communities

**Nil Reports** 

#### 9.2 Confidential Liveable Neighbourhoods

**Nil Reports** 

#### 9.3 Confidential Strong Local Economy

**Nil Reports** 

#### 9.4 Confidential Sustainable Environment

**Nil Reports** 



#### 9.5 Confidential High Performing Organisation

## 9.5.1 Confirmation of minutes of CEMAC meeting 14 November 2022, CEO Performance, KPI and remuneration review.

This report and attachments have been designated as confidential by the Executive Manager Governance & Strategy, under delegation from the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with Rule 405 of the Governance Rules 2022 and sections 66(5) and 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* on the grounds that they contain personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. In particular the attachments contain information regarding the CEO's employment, performance and remuneration.

#### 9.6 Confidential Notices of Motion

No Confidential Notices of Motion

#### 12 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council closed the open meeting at 8.32pm. Confirmed this 21st day of February 2023.

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council