

Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting
Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 6:30 pm

Council Chamber at Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Administrators

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan Administrator

Christian Zahra AM Administrator

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

Senior Officers

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 of Council, Lydia Wilson opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 19 March 2024 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

I am Lydia Wilson, Chair of Council and I would also like to introduce my Panel colleagues, Administrators Peita Duncan and Christian Zahra. I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team in attendance today.”

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd made the following introductions.

“Good evening everyone, we also have with us:

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; and
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.

These members of the Executive Leadership Team will join us during the meeting.”

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson will 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 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.”

1.5 Acknowledgements

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

Youth Council Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor

I am pleased to announce the appointment of the City of Whittlesea's first Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor. We are delighted this evening to have 10 of our Youth Councillors in attendance.

Congratulations to Zachary Melvaine who was elected as Youth Mayor and Kaynat Virk who was elected as Deputy Youth Mayor.

The Youth Council will be providing an important voice to Council on matters that affect young people within our community. Earlier this evening the Youth Council provided us with a presentation showing us what some of their priorities are, ie. health and wellbeing, environment and climate change, employment and education, accessibility and inclusion.

We are delighted to have you all on board and in attendance this evening.

International Women's Day

On 8 March we celebrated International Women's Day with a range of events. International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate the resilience, strength and spirit of women from all walks of life and honour their achievements, contributions and invaluable presence in both the City of Whittlesea and the broader community.

On 6 March, we hosted a community screening of the documentary film Equal the Contest, which celebrated women, girls and gender diverse people and demonstrated determinations, community spirit, joy and courage.

Then on 7 March we hosted an exceptionally successful Women in Business event at the newly opened Five Vineyard in Mernda where 120 local businesswomen gathered to hear inspiring stories of three local women who shared their journeys of navigating the often-challenging path to business success.

Administrator Zahra made the following acknowledgement:

Community Award recipients

At Sunday's Community Festival, we were thrilled to present awards to the five recipients of our 2023 City of Whittlesea Community Awards. We received 38 nominations with winners selected by a community committee which I was honoured to sit on, alongside past winners and independent community members. Our congratulations go to:

Citizen of the Year – Judith Clements, a long-standing local volunteer in Whittlesea township and surrounds.

Senior Citizen of the Year – Christine McDonald, the founder of Doreen Baby Boomers.

Young Citizen of the Year – Kaynat Virk, a dedicated and passionate campaigner on issues facing young people, and also our Youth Deputy Mayor.

Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year – Norma Medawar, the founder of a not-for-profit agency that supports refugee and migrant women.

Sustainable Citizen of the Year – Ben Coleman, a high school teacher focused on environmental sustainability.

The contribution of these people is outstanding, and I thank them for their important contribution to the City of Whittlesea.

Administrator Duncan made the following acknowledgements

Cultural Diversity Week

This week we are excited to be celebrating Cultural Diversity Week.

Here at the City of Whittlesea we are proud to be one of the most culturally diverse municipalities in Australia.

Our residents come from more than 140 countries and almost half our community speaks a language other than English at home.

Cultural Diversity Week is an excellent opportunity to unite individuals, communities and organisations from different backgrounds.

There are several local events to celebrate the week and to showcase stories, performances, art, music, cultural clothing and delicious cuisine.

Acknowledgement of Ray Rosales

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution toward reconciliation in the City of Whittlesea that Ray has made as a long-term member of the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG). Ray has decided to stand down from the WRG after many years of service. I know his knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise in budget management will be missed.

Ray is first to put his hand up to volunteer and consistently represented the WRG at community events. He was also a regular participant in important WRG led events such as the koorie Christmas barbecue and sorry day. His volunteering did not stop there, he is absolutely remarkable.

His work also included the CFA and a board member of Community Connections, he is an outstanding member of our community. I wish Ray and his family a deep felt all the best with future endeavours.

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson added she had the pleasure of working alongside Ray on the Board with Whittlesea Community Connections and acknowledge his enormous contribution.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

- **Scheduled Council Meeting 20 February 2024**

CARRIED

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO read the below question on behalf of Nicholas Brain of Epping

At its last meeting, Council received two petitions. Whilst Council noted both petitions, it did not specifically outline what actions it would take to promote the first goal of its city plan - a connected community in the City of Whittlesea.

What steps will now be taken by the Administrators to engage community sentiment on ways to foster a more connected community beyond existing initiatives?

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council did receive and note two petitions at its meeting last month in relation to specific actions to promote a connected community. Our Connected Community Strategy 2023-2033 was endorsed by Council in December last year.

This strategy outlines Council's commitment to fostering an inclusive, healthy, safe and welcoming place where all of our residents are celebrated and supported.

Informed by extensive research and engagement with the community, the strategy identifies 24 priority areas including advancing gender equality, improving physical and mental wellbeing, providing services for people at all life stages, and creating culturally safe and accessible spaces.

In addition, later this evening Council will consider the proposed Community Plan Action Plan for 2024-25 to be released for public consultation. The Plan proposes 59 key actions aligned with the Whittlesea 2040 goals of Connected Community, Liveable Neighbourhoods, Sustainable Environment, Strong Local Economy and High Performing Organisation.

This Plan is the yearly supplement to the Community Plan 2021-2025 which outlines the specific initiatives and actions Council will deliver in addition to our standard services and programs. Specific initiatives to foster a connected community include construction of an Aboriginal Gathering Place, the delivery of the Mernda Social Support Centre, our community leadership program, and our new Community Grants Program.

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO read the below question on behalf of Christine Ledesma of Doreen

Considering the significant role pets play in supporting mental health, especially for vulnerable community members, could the Council consider offering a discount on pet registration fees for health care card holders? This initiative could acknowledge the therapeutic benefits of pet companionship and make pet ownership more accessible for those on limited incomes.

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

While we do understand the importance of pets in people's families it is the Victorian Government who sets the eligibility criteria for Councils when it comes to fee reduction for pet registration.

While Health Care Card holders are unable to receive a discount at this stage, pensioners who have approved concession cards issued by the Department of Social Services and Department of Veterans Affairs are entitled to a reduction in their fees.

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO read the below question on behalf of Dean Hurlston of Council Watch

What amount of waste enforcement costs in the current financial year 2023-24 has the Council included in its waste levies charged to residents? (if any)

Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd

Council's waste charge is calculated on the total costs of delivering the waste service. Currently, Council is significantly subsidising its waste service including the State Government mandated Landfill Levy. Council currently considers waste enforcement costs to be part of a high performing waste service.

Council's Litter Enforcement Team reduces the impact of illegal dumping on neighbourhood amenity. Council follows the polluter pays principle, where possible making the offender remove the material and/or issuing fines, aiming towards a low-cost litter enforcement service. The litter enforcement function reduces the significant cost of removing illegal dumping from the municipality, which ultimately saves the community money from the collection and disposal of illegally dumped waste. The net cost of the litter enforcement service was budgeted at approximately \$150,000 for the 2023-24 financial year.

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

No Joint Letters

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Q2 Community Grants Update

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Manager EPMO & Change

In Attendance: Manager EPMO & Change

Executive Summary

This report is to provide an update on the grant applications in Q2 2023-2024 as part of the community grants program.

Please refer to Attachment 1 which provides an updated report for the:

1. Approved Community Grants; and
2. Funding Agreements issued to date.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note the:

1. Community grants overview of applications which details grants approved for funding, including Funding Agreements issued to date as referred to in Attachment 1.
2. Grant Management Steering Group approved \$200,000 for another round of Community Relief for food and other essential materials (for example, baby needs, sanitation etc).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council note the:

1. **Community grants overview of applications which details grants approved for funding, including Funding Agreements issued to date as referred to in Attachment 1.**
2. **Grant Management Steering Group approved \$200,000 for another round of Community Relief for food and other essential materials (for example, baby needs, sanitation etc).**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

Administrator Peita Duncan

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.2 Proposed discontinuance and sale of road adjoining 370 Vearings Road, Wollert

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Property Advisor

In Attendance: Unit Manager Strategic Property

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to finalise the statutory procedures under the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020* for the discontinuance and sale of a section of road reserve in Kesenay Road, Wollert (Attachment 1).

The section of existing road concerned is labelled 'A' on the proposed model advertising plan (Attachment 2) and is part of existing Road R2 on registered plan of subdivision no. PS 805009U registered in Council's name contained in certificate of title Volume 12329 Folio 842.

Council received a request from the owner of 370B Vearings Road, Wollert to acquire this unconstructed section of road reserve on the south western corner of Kesenay Road and Gazeas Way abutting their property in exchange for a new road reserve shown as the cross-hatched area labelled 'B' on the proposed model advertising plan (Attachment 2), being part of lot S3 on the same registered plan of subdivision PS 805009U, registered in the name of the owner of 370B Vearings Road, Wollert.

The proposed swap of the existing road to be discontinued for the new road reserve will be secured by a binding, unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee in favour of Council that secures payment to Council of the full market value of the existing road to be held until the stage 3 plan of lot S3 has registered and the new road reserve is vested in Council.

Commencement of the statutory procedures for the proposed discontinuance and sale of the section of road reserve was approved by Council's Chief Executive Officer, under delegation on 13 February 2023. The statutory procedures commenced on 16 January 2024 with public notice of the proposal being given in the Whittlesea Review newspaper and on Council's website for the duration of the 28-day submission period.

The notice period ended on 13 February 2024 with no submissions having been received.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note that no submissions were received in response to Council having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the section of road reserve adjoining 370B Vearings Road, Wollert labelled as 'A' on the proposed model advertising plan (Attachment 2).
2. Note that the road reserve is no longer required for road purposes.
3. Resolve to discontinue and sell the road reserve and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette, in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
4. Resolve that the land from the road reserve be sold by private treaty to the owner of 370B Vearings Road Wollert, pursuant to section 206 and clause 3(b) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* in exchange for the new road reserve shown as the cross-hatched area labelled 'B' on the proposed model advertising plan (Attachment 2), there being an equality of exchange. It directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the road reserve by any public authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the road reserve.
5. Note that the owner has agreed to pay all legal costs, disbursements and GST relating to the statutory processes undertaken by Council.
6. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or any such person to whom the Chief Executive Officer sub-delegates, to sign all documents relating to the sale of the land from the discontinued road reserve to the owner of 370B Vearings Road, Wollert and any other action required to affect the proposed land exchange.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note that no submissions were received in response to Council having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the section of road reserve adjoining 370B Vearings Road, Wollert labelled as 'A' on the proposed model advertising plan (Attachment 2).
2. Note that the road reserve is no longer required for road purposes.
3. Resolve to discontinue and sell the road reserve and publish a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette, in accordance with section 206 and clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

4. Resolve that the land from the road reserve be sold by private treaty to the owner of 370B Vearings Road Wollert, pursuant to section 206 and clause 3(b) of Schedule 10 to the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* in exchange for the new road reserve shown as the cross-hatched area labelled 'B' on the proposed model advertising plan (Attachment 2), there being an equality of exchange. It directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the road reserve by any public authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the road reserve.
5. Note that the owner has agreed to pay all legal costs, disbursements and GST relating to the statutory processes undertaken by Council.
6. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer, or any such person to whom the Chief Executive Officer sub-delegates, to sign all documents relating to the sale of the land from the discontinued road reserve to the owner of 370B Vearings Road, Wollert and any other action required to affect the proposed land exchange.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

Administrator Peita Duncan

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.3 Contract 2023-77 - Variation for Salesforce eCRM and Customer Portal Implementation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Manager CX/DX Program

In Attendance: Manager CX/DX Program

Executive Summary

On 7 July 2023, Council officers entered into a contract (2023-77) with Ennovative Pty Ltd (Ennovative) for the provision of a Salesforce eCRM and Customer Portal.

Between July 2023 and November 2023, a proof of concept was undertaken which enabled Ennovative to form a deeper understanding of the complexities of Council's existing technology environment.

To fully realise the benefit to community in terms of simplification, standardisation and efficiency, it is proposed to vary the implementation time from 1 year to over 2 years and vary the contract scope to include:

1. The development of a permit issuing process to support the implementation of new Local Laws on 1 July 2024 and the ability to take upfront payments online;
2. The creation of a Youth Councillor portal (to be added to the already scoped Councillor portal);
3. The development of a module that supports proactive works (not just reactive responses to customer requests/reports/complaints);
4. The development of a debtors and rates module;
5. Some exploratory work into capturing/integrating all outbound customer communications against the customer record in Salesforce; and
6. Some preparatory work exploring whether Generative Artificial Intelligence can provide improved first contact resolution for customers and efficiencies for customer service officers.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to extend contract 2023-77 with Ennovative Pty Ltd for the provision of a Salesforce eCRM and Customer Portal until 30 June 2025 at a cost of \$984,400 (excl. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$2,472,692 (excl. GST).
2. Note the Strategic Technology Reserve accommodates the CX/DX Program costs including this requested variation for the Ennovative contract.
3. Note the executed contract allows for contract extensions to 31 December 2025.
4. Note the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract variation and approve payments to an amount not exceeding the cumulative contract value of \$2,472,692 (excl. GST).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve to extend contract 2023-77 with Ennovative Pty Ltd for the provision of a Salesforce eCRM and Customer Portal until 30 June 2025 at a cost of \$984,400 (excl. GST) bringing the cumulative contract value to \$2,472,692 (excl. GST).**
2. **Note the Strategic Technology Reserve accommodates the CX/DX Program costs including this requested variation for the Ennovative contract.**
3. **Note the executed contract allows for contract extensions to 31 December 2025.**
4. **Note the funding arrangements detailed in the confidential attachment.**
5. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract variation and approve payments to an amount not exceeding the cumulative contract value of \$2,472,692 (excl. GST).**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

- Administrator Peita Duncan*
- Administrator Christian Zahra*
- Chair of Council Lydia Wilson*

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.4 Proposed Budget 2024-25 and Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Unit Manager Financial Strategy & Performance

In Attendance: Chief Financial Officer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the Proposed Budget 2024-25 (the 'Proposed Budget', Attachment 1), and the Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25 (the 'Proposed Action Plan', Attachment 2) which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Proposed Budget and Proposed Action Plan have been developed to align to community priorities identified through consultation and Council's key strategic directions. It is recommended that the proposed budget and yearly action plan be endorsed for community consultation for a two-week period, and a Hearing of Submissions Committee of Council be established to consider submissions from the community.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the:
 - a) Proposed Budget 2024-25 and Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule at Attachment 1.
 - b) Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25 at Attachment 2 to be released for further community consultation on Thursday 21 March 2024 until 5pm Friday 5 April 2024.
2. Note the Proposed Budget, Proposed Action Plan and Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule will be made publicly available for review via the City of Whittlesea's online engagement platform engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au, Council's customer service centres and libraries.
3. Note officers will proactively seek and promote opportunities for public feedback on the Proposed Budget and Proposed Action Plan during the consultation period including community pop up sessions across the municipality.
4. Note in developing the proposed Budget and Action Plan engagement was undertaken in the second half of 2023, and in accordance with Council's engagement policy.

5. Resolve to establish a Hearing of Submissions Committee comprising of Chair Administrator Wilson and Administrator Zahra for the purpose of hearing two minute verbal submissions from community members relating to the Proposed Budget and/or Proposed Action Plan on 6 May 2024 at 6pm in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.
6. Note the Hearing of Submissions Committee will provide recommendations, based on written and verbal submissions, to Council at its Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

Extension of Speaking Time

Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson exercised her discretion to extend speaking time for a further two minutes in accordance with Governance Rule 35.5.

MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the:
 - a) Proposed Budget 2024-25 and Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule at Attachment 1.
 - b) Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25 at Attachment 2.
to be released for further community consultation on Thursday 21 March 2024 until 5pm Friday 5 April 2024.
2. Note the Proposed Budget, Proposed Action Plan and Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule will be made publicly available for review via the City of Whittlesea's online engagement platform engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au, Council's customer service centres and libraries.
3. Note officers will proactively seek and promote opportunities for public feedback on the Proposed Budget and Proposed Action Plan during the consultation period including community pop up sessions across the municipality.
4. Note in developing the proposed Budget and Action Plan engagement was undertaken in the second half of 2023, and in accordance with Council's engagement policy.
5. Resolve to establish a Hearing of Submissions Committee comprising all Administrators for the purpose of hearing verbal submissions from community members relating to the Proposed Budget and/or Proposed Action Plan on 6 May 2024 at 6pm in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.
6. Note the Hearing of Submissions Committee will provide recommendations, based on written and verbal submissions, to Council at its Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the:
 - a) Proposed Budget 2024-25 and Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule at Attachment 1.
 - b) Proposed Community Plan Action Plan 2024-25 at Attachment 2. to be released for further community consultation on Thursday 21 March 2024 until 5pm Friday 5 April 2024.
2. Note the Proposed Budget, Proposed Action Plan and Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule will be made publicly available for review via the City of Whittlesea’s online engagement platform engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au, Council’s customer service centres and libraries.
3. Note officers will proactively seek and promote opportunities for public feedback on the Proposed Budget and Proposed Action Plan during the consultation period including community pop up sessions across the municipality.
4. Note in developing the proposed Budget and Action Plan engagement was undertaken in the second half of 2023, and in accordance with Council’s engagement policy.
5. Resolve to establish a Hearing of Submissions Committee comprising all Administrators for the purpose of hearing verbal submissions from community members relating to the Proposed Budget and/or Proposed Action Plan on 6 May 2024 at 6pm in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.
6. Note the Hearing of Submissions Committee will provide recommendations, based on written and verbal submissions, to Council at its Scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

Administrator Peita Duncan

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.5 Ageing Well Service Opportunities

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Manager Ageing Well

In Attendance: Manager Ageing Well

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for Council to become an approved provider of the Commonwealth Government's Home Care Packages Program for older people.

Council currently delivers the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) which provides basic, entry level services. The Home Care Packages Program provides tailored support for older people with more complex needs than those receiving support through CHSP.

It is prudent and timely for Council to become a Home Care Package (HCP) provider to:

1. Offer continuity of care for clients who currently need to change providers once they require a higher level of care than that provided by CHSP delivered by Council.
2. Meet the higher care needs of existing clients who have refused a HCP because they prefer to remain with Council as their preferred provider.
3. Expand Council's ability to deliver enhanced and innovative service offerings for older residents in the municipality by July 2025 in line with commencement of the updated Support at Home Program.
4. Receive enhanced levels of support from the Commonwealth Government to adapt and evolve Council's services in response to aged care reforms.

If Council becomes a HCP provider, the CHSP program will continue to be delivered. Together with the HCP program (until its transition to the Support at Home Program) it will enable Council to provide a comprehensive suite of in-home care and services to support older adults to remain independent for as long as possible.

Local government authorities are exempt from being assessed by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission for suitability to become a HCP approved provider. Council will only be required to submit a notification of the intention to provide HCP.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the submission of a notification to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission for Council to become an approved provider of Home Care Packages for older adults.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council endorse the submission of a notification to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission for Council to become an approved provider of Home Care Packages for older adults.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

- Administrator Peita Duncan*
- Administrator Christian Zahra*
- Chair of Council Lydia Wilson*

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.6 Sport Fair Access Policy

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Coordinator West Community Hubs

In Attendance: Acting Manager Active & Creative Communities

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council endorsement to release the draft City of Whittlesea Fair Access Policy (the Policy) for stakeholder and community consultation.

The draft Policy responds to the Fair Access in Sport Policy Roadmap developed by the Victorian Office for Women in Sport and Recreation to support gender equitable access and utilisation of community sports infrastructure in Victoria.

The Roadmap directive is that from 1 July 2024, all Victorian councils will need to have endorsed gender equitable access and use policies to be considered eligible to receive Victorian Government sporting infrastructure funding.

The draft Policy applies to community sports facilities where Council is the owner, land manager and/or operator of the facility.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Fair Access Policy at Attachment 1 to be released for stakeholder and community consultation for the period 20 March 2024 to 30 April 2024.
2. Resolve to refer the draft Fair Access Policy to the Youth Council for feedback prior to the final Policy coming back to Council for adoption.
3. Note that to meet the Victorian Government's community sporting infrastructure funding eligibility timeframe of 1 July 2024, the Fair Access Policy will be presented to Council for formal adoption at its 18 June 2024 Council meeting.
4. Note a Fair Access Roadmap and Action Plan will be developed over the coming months in consultation with key stakeholders to operationalise the Fair Access Policy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Fair Access Policy at Attachment 1 to be released for stakeholder and community consultation for the period 20 March 2024 to 30 April 2024.
2. Resolve to refer the draft Fair Access Policy to the Youth Council for feedback prior to the final Policy coming back to Council for adoption.
3. Note that to meet the Victorian Government’s community sporting infrastructure funding eligibility timeframe of 1 July 2024, the Fair Access Policy will be presented to Council for formal adoption at its 18 June 2024 Council meeting.
4. Note a Fair Access Roadmap and Action Plan will be developed over the coming months in consultation with key stakeholders to operationalise the Fair Access Policy.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

Administrator Peita Duncan

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.7 Award of Tender - 2023-73 Management and Operation of Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Coordinator Leisure Contracts

In Attendance: Acting Manager Active & Creative Communities,

Executive Summary

This report presents the evaluation of two tender submissions received for Contract 2023-73, Management and Operation of Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre.

The tender evaluation panel advises that:

- Two tenders were received.
- The recommended tender was the highest ranked.
- Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it relates to a unique need for the City of Whittlesea.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award the following contract to Belgravia Leisure:
Number: 2023-73
Title: Management and Operation of Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre
Cost: A net guaranteed sum return of \$6,349,479 (excluding GST)
Term: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029
2. Confer delegation on the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council, and to authorise optional contract extensions, subject to satisfactory performance of Belgravia Leisure, on behalf of Council subject to the following conditions:
 - a) The contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.
 - b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
3. Approve the financial arrangements for contract 2023-73 Management and Operation of Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre detailed in Confidential Attachment 1.

4. Endorse the establishment of a new ‘Aquatic and Leisure Centre Capital Improvement Reserve’. The Reserve will comprise Council’s share of any operational surplus received from Contract 2023-73 and will be used to fund capital expenditure at Council’s aquatic and leisure facilities.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve to award the following contract to Belgravia Leisure:**
Number: 2023-73
Title: Management and Operation of Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre
Cost: A net guaranteed sum return of \$6,349,479 (excluding GST)
Term: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029
2. **Confer delegation on the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council, and to authorise optional contract extensions, subject to satisfactory performance of Belgravia Leisure, on behalf of Council subject to the following conditions:**
 - a) **The contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.**
 - b) **Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.**
3. **Approve the financial arrangements for contract 2023-73 Management and Operation of Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre detailed in Confidential Attachment 1.**
4. **Endorse the establishment of a new ‘Aquatic and Leisure Centre Capital Improvement Reserve’. The Reserve will comprise Council’s share of any operational surplus received from Contract 2023-73 and will be used to fund capital expenditure at Council’s aquatic and leisure facilities.**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.8 Regional Sports Precinct - Stadium and Outdoor Netball Courts

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Manager Priority Projects/Active & Creative Communities

In Attendance: Manager Priority Projects/Active & Creative Communities

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the concept design for the Regional Sports Precinct at Mernda for endorsement and outline the proposed approach for delivery and funding of the stadium and outdoor netball courts precinct.

In line with the July 2022 Council report, a staged delivery of the Regional Sports Precinct is proposed to maximise external funding opportunities; reduce the financial and delivery impact on Council's operating environment; and better position Council to ensure it can continue to invest in capital projects across the municipality.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the progress of the Regional Sports Precinct design of the stadium and netball courts since Council's adoption of the business case at its meeting of 18 July 2022.
2. Approve the Regional Sports Precinct stadium and outdoor netball court concept design (Attachment 1), which proposes to deliver, four indoor multipurpose courts, up to eight outdoor netball courts (pending the outcome of a future tender process), car parking, landscaping, wetland and associated infrastructure.
3. Acknowledge Netball Victoria and Basketball Victoria in contributing to the development of the Regional Sports Precinct stadium and netball courts concept design.
4. Note officers will commence a public tender process for an early works package including the benching of site, removal of rock, retaining walls, construction of car park and earth berming to the southern corner to form the wetlands water retention zone.
5. Note in accordance with Council's resolution of 18 July 2022, a community stakeholder group has been established to test our design operationally as we progress to detailed design.
6. Note the Request for Tender process and Officer recommendation for the early works construction contract award, will be presented to Council at its scheduled August 2024 meeting for approval.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the progress of the Regional Sports Precinct design of the stadium and netball courts since Council’s adoption of the business case at its meeting of 18 July 2022.
2. Approve the Regional Sports Precinct stadium and outdoor netball court concept design (Attachment 1), which proposes to deliver, four indoor multipurpose courts, up to eight outdoor netball courts (pending the outcome of a future tender process), car parking, landscaping, wetland and associated infrastructure.
3. Acknowledge Netball Victoria and Basketball Victoria in contributing to the development of the Regional Sports Precinct stadium and netball courts concept design.
4. Note officers will commence a public tender process for an early works package including the benching of site, removal of rock, retaining walls, construction of car park and earth berming to the southern corner to form the wetlands water retention zone.
5. Note in accordance with Council’s resolution of 18 July 2022, a community stakeholder group has been established to test our design operationally as we progress to detailed design.
6. Note the Request for Tender process and Officer recommendation for the early works construction contract award, will be presented to Council at its scheduled August 2024 meeting for approval.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Peita Duncan

Administrator Christian Zahra

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.9 2023-139 Construction of Patterson Drive Community Centre Tender Evaluation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Coordinator New Works

In Attendance: Unit Manager Community Infrastructure Delivery

Executive Summary

This report summaries the evaluation of the tender submissions received for the award of Contract Number 2023-139 for the construction of Patterson Drive Community Centre at 183 Olivine Boulevard, Donnybrook.

The tender evaluation panel advises that:

- Six tender submissions were received.
- The recommended tender was the highest ranked and is considered best value as they demonstrated the ability to deliver this project in accordance with Council's specified requirements.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award the following contract to Melbcon Pty Ltd:
Number: 2023-139
Title: Construction of Patterson Drive Community Centre
Cost: A lump sum of \$10,455,044.00 (excluding GST)
subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.
 - b) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
2. Approve the funding arrangements for the Construction of Patterson Drive Community Centre as detailed in the confidential attachment.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council and to authorise any contract variations, subject to satisfactory performance.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve to award the following contract to Melbcon Pty Ltd:**
Number: 2023-139
Title: Construction of Patterson Drive Community Centre
Cost: A lump sum of \$10,455,044.00 (excluding GST)
subject to the following conditions:
 - a) **Contractor providing contract security and proof of currency for insurance cover as required in the tender documents.**
 - b) **Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.**
2. **Approve the funding arrangements for the Construction of Patterson Drive Community Centre as detailed in the confidential attachment.**
3. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council and to authorise any contract variations, subject to satisfactory performance.**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.10 Planning Scheme Amendment c272 - Wollert Waste and Recovery Hub - Authorisation

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Senior Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Senior Strategic Planner

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment. The amendment would rezone an area of approximately 310 Hectares of land at 45 - 135 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert from Green Wedge Zone to Special Use Zone Schedule 12, to facilitate the use of the land for waste and resource recovery purposes and extend the existing use of the land for extractive industry (quarry) and landfill.

The site is identified as a state significant waste and resource recovery hub in the *State-wide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan 2018* (SWRRIP). Extending the use of the land from a landfill and quarry site to include a waste and resource recovery centre would divert and repurpose recyclable materials, ensuring that valuable landfill airspace is preserved, and delivering services that prioritise the efficient use of resources.

The amendment will ensure that the planning controls reflect the current and planned use of the site. Key environmental and amenity issues have been addressed by technical reports and information submitted to support amendment. Further, the draft planning controls ensure that detailed assessments will occur at the planning permit stage of the process.

Should the Minister for Planning grant authorisation, the planning scheme amendment will be publicly exhibited to owners and occupiers surrounding the site, prescribed Ministers and relevant government agencies. The outcomes of the exhibition will be reported to Council.

Although the site is located within the green wedge, the amendment does not have the effect of repurposing green wedge land from its primary environmental, landscape, recreational, and agricultural function. In terms of the subject site, this has already occurred due to the utilisation of stone resources and consequent conversion of parts of the site to landfill operations. The current Green Wedge Zone does not adequately reflect the existing and historic quarry and landfill uses that operate on the site. Rezoning part of the land to Special Use Zone would have the effect of consolidating the existing landfill and quarry uses, and the future resource recovery use, within the boundaries of the site.

The current zoning of the land applies a prohibitive condition which prevents the operation of a waste and resource recovery centre on the site. The proposed amendment will provide bespoke planning controls to facilitate the use and development of a waste and resource recovery centre. The waste and resource recovery centre will result in a net decrease of waste being sent to landfill, which is consistent with the principles of a circular economy.

Importantly, planning permits are required for any future use of the site, allowing a detailed and proposal-specific assessment of any use at the planning permit stage. This will ensure that the impacts of any proposal are managed appropriately. Part of the land which contains conservation values will be retained in the Green Wedge Zone.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C272 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme affecting land at 45-135 Bridge Inn Road Wollert to facilitate the use and development of expanded resource recovery and recycling activities at the site complimentary to the existing landfill and extractive industry uses. The amendment proposes to:
 - a. Rezone approximately 310 Hectares of land at 45 – 135 Bridge Inn Road Wollert from Green Wedge Zone to the Special Use Zone Schedule 12, as shown in Attachment 2 (note that part of the land protected for conservation purposes is to remain Green Wedge Zone).
 - b. Remove the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 1 and Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 5 from the part of the land that has been used as a quarry and landfill at 45-135 Bridge Inn Rd, Wollert, as shown in Attachment 2 (note that the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 5 is to be retained on part of the land with identified conservation values).
 - c. Include 'Schedule 12 to the Special Use Zone- Wollert Resource and Recovery Hub' in the Schedule to Clause 51.02- Metropolitan Green Wedge Land: Core Planning Provision.
2. Note that should the Minister for Planning authorise Council to exhibit the amendment, any submissions received during the exhibition period will be reported to Council for consideration at a future Council meeting.
3. Advise the landowner at 45-135 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert of Council's decision.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C272 to the Whittlesea Planning Scheme affecting land at 45-135 Bridge Inn Road Wollert to facilitate the use and development of expanded resource recovery and recycling activities at the site complimentary to the existing landfill and extractive industry uses. The amendment proposes to:
 - a. Rezone approximately 310 hectares of land at 45–135 Bridge Inn Road Wollert from Green Wedge Zone to the Special Use Zone Schedule 12, as shown in Attachment 2 (note that part of the land protected for conservation purposes is to remain Green Wedge Zone).
 - b. Remove the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 1 and Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 5 from the part of the land that has been used as a quarry and landfill at 45-135 Bridge Inn Rd, Wollert, as shown in Attachment 2 (note that the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 5 is to be retained on part of the land with identified conservation values).
 - c. Include ‘Schedule 12 to the Special Use Zone- Wollert Resource and Recovery Hub’ in the Schedule to Clause 51.02- Metropolitan Green Wedge Land: Core Planning Provision.
2. Note that should the Minister for Planning authorise Council to exhibit the amendment, any submissions received during the exhibition period will be reported to Council for consideration at a future Council meeting.
3. Advise the landowner at 45-135 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert of Council’s decision.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING			
UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.11 Unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Unit Manager Governance

Executive Summary

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), an independent advisory committee of Council, held their scheduled quarterly meeting on 13 February 2024 and the following matters were considered:

- The quarterly Risk Management Report including the revised Risk Management Framework seeking ARC’s feedback and results of the business continuity live exercises.
- The quarterly Corporate Performance Report including a summary of Council’s progress in completing Community Plan actions, good governance actions, 2023-2024 capital works program items and Council’s financial performance to 31 December 2023.
- Progress of the Internal Audit program including completed audit reports, audit scopes and actions arising from previous audits.
- The draft external audit strategy for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.
- Compliance and governance matters as detailed in the ARC annual work plan.

To provide transparency and to comply with the requirements of the ARC Charter, the unconfirmed meeting minutes is provided at Attachment 1 for the noting of Council.

Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council note the 13 February 2024 unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 1 to this report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council note the 13 February 2024 unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee at Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.12 Informal Meetings of Administrators

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Coordinator Governance Administration

Executive Summary

Chapter 5 of the Council Governance Rules requires a summary of the matters discussed at a meeting of Councillors (Administrators) that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors (Administrators);
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting or Delegated Committee meeting.

The summary of matters discussed at the meeting must be:

- tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The record of Informal Meetings of Councillors (Administrators) at Attachment 1 is reported to Council in accordance with this requirement.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council note the record of Informal Meetings of Administrators at Attachment 1.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council note the record of Informal Meetings of Administrators at Attachment 1.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

6 Notices of Motion

6.1 Change to Council Meeting Time

Administrator: Christian Zahra

NoM No: 2024/01

Please take notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Scheduled Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 6:30pm:

Motion

THAT Council resolve:

1. That all future Council Meetings and Unscheduled Council Meetings commence at 6:00pm.
2. A notice is to be published on the City of Whittlesea Council website page 'Meetings – Agendas and Minutes' advising the public of the amended Council Meeting commencement time.

Notice Received: 7 March 2024

Notice Given to Administrators: 7 March 2024

Date of Meeting: 19 March 2024

PREAMBLE

In accordance with clause 9 of Council's Governance Rules, Council may alter the date, time or place of any Council meeting which has been fixed by it and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public.

Commencing Council meetings at 6.00pm rather than 6.30pm is sensible from an administrative perspective when Administrators and officers are ready to commence earlier. Further, it reduces the wait time for officers who are presenting reports listed on the Council meeting agenda.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council resolve:

1. That all future Council Meetings and Unscheduled Council Meetings commence at 6:00pm.
2. A notice is to be published on the City of Whittlesea Council website page 'Meetings – Agendas and Minutes' advising the public of the amended Council Meeting commencement time.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Christian Zahra

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

8.1 Administrator Peita Duncan's Report

- MAV Local Government Reform Session and Delegate Induction held on 23 February 2024.
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee held on 5 March 2024.
- Council Briefing held on 5 March 2024.
- Whittlesea Reconciliation Group held on 7 March 2024.
- Meet & Greet with Youth Council held on 19 March 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024.

8.2 Administrator Christian Zahra's Report

- Community Awards Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2024.
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee held on 5 March 2024.
- Council Briefing held on 5 March 2024.
- Special Council Briefing held on 12 March 2024.
- Meet & Greet with Youth Council held on 19 March 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024.

8.3 Chair of Council Lydia Wilson's Report

- Two Citizenship Ceremonies with a total 140 conferees held on 22 February 2024.
- MAV Metro North Regional Meeting held on 23 February 2024.
- City of Whittlesea and NBN Node Artwork Launch held on 27 February 2024.
- Interface Council 2024 Advocacy Approach Discussion held on 28 February 2024.
- Coffee with Council at Mernda held on 29 February 2024.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Board Meeting held on 29 February 2024.
- Whittlesea Garden Expo held on 2 March 2024.
- CEO Employment Matters Advisory Committee held on 5 March 2024.
- Council Briefing held on 5 March 2024.
- Internal Event: Women in Business Networking held on 7 March 2024.
- CEO Employment Matters Sub Committee held on 12 March 2024.
- Special Council Briefing held on 12 March 2024.
- Community Festival including the presentation of Community Awards held on 17 March 2024.
- Meet & Greet with Youth Council held on 19 March 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 19 March 2024.

8.4 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd's Update

Community Festival

On Sunday, we held our annual Community Festival here on the Civic Centre lawns.

We had spectacular weather and a fantastic crowd in attendance enjoying the wide variety of free entertainment, cooking workshops, theatre shows, markets, and much more. We also had a new local food discovery area to showcase the huge variety of local produce made by businesses and manufacturers across the City of Whittlesea.

The popular Pet Expo and Sustainability Lane were back again this year and we even had a special treat of having Australian Idol finalist Jake Carlson perform in the Youth Zone.

I would like to thank and congratulate the large team of Council staff who have been working for months to bring this event to life. It was a huge success so congratulations to everyone involved.

Peter Hopper Lake Revitalisation

I am pleased to report that work is well underway on a significant project to return Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park to good health.

The water quality at Peter Hopper Lake has been an ongoing issue and Council has worked hard to find a long-term solution.

The revitalisation project includes desilting the lake to remove excess sediment and debris. That process commenced last month and is expected to continue until early May. The desilting will be followed by dewatering of the lake. This will allow for the installation of a sediment basin, raingarden, circulation pump and other measures to improve water quality.

This part of the project is expected to start in mid-2024 and continue until early 2025.

Murnong Kinder Opening

Last week I was joined by the Honourable Lizzie Blandthorn, Minister for Children and Disability to officially open the Murnong Kindergarten in Donnybrook.

The Murnong Kindergarten is a one-room kindergarten facility developed through the Kindergarten on School Sites program by the Victorian School Building Authority. City of Whittlesea staff worked closely with the Victorian School Building Authority, contractors and the Donnybrook Primary School on this project, and Council carried out the final fit-out of furniture and equipment.

This close cooperation enabled the kindergarten and its 33 new places open in time for Term 1 this year.

Looking forward, the Murnong Community Centre, which will be built on the adjacent land, will provide an additional two kindergarten rooms and 66 places when it is complete in 2025.

This means that eventually we will have three kindergarten rooms and 99 approved places, which will help meet the growing demand for kindergarten services here in Donnybrook.

Donnybrook Repair Corner

On Saturday 2 March we celebrated the launch of our second repair cafe, Donnybrook Repair Corner. Run by a team of skilled volunteers on the first Saturday of every month, the repair cafe promotes sustainability, reduces waste and provides cost savings for residents. We're excited to support this initiative as part of our Rethinking Waste Plan, helping us to become a low-waste City.

9 Confidential Business

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.

9.1 Special Rates and Charges Scheme Audit Report Findings and Recommendations

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Christian Zahra</i>

THAT Council adopt the recommendation to close the meeting to the public.

CARRIED

10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council formally closed the meeting at 8:25 pm

Confirmed this 16th day of April 2024.

Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council