

Minutes

Scheduled Council Meeting
Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 6pm

Great Hall at Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Administrators

Lydia Wilson Chair of Council

Peita Duncan 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 CEO calls the first Council meeting after 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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UNCONFIRMED

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Chair of Council, Lydia Wilson opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 16 July 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 colleague, Administrator Peita Duncan. I would also like to introduce our Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd and ask that he in turn introduce the members of the Executive Leadership Team in attendance today.”

“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

Administrator Christian Zahra AM

1.3 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.”

1.4 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

Administrator Duncan made the following acknowledgements:

NAIDOC Week

Last week our community joined with the rest of the nation to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

With the second largest Aboriginal population in metropolitan Melbourne, NAIDOC Week is a brilliant opportunity to recognise the history, culture and achievements of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The theme this year is “Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud”, which honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture.

The City of Whittlesea held a First Nations-inspired Pop-Up Playgroup last Wednesday at the Whittlesea Library with games, arts and crafts and story time, a great time was held by all.

And later this month, on 25 July from 10.30am to 3pm at the Galada Community Centre in Epping, there will be a variety of activities and workshops featuring Aboriginal creators including t-shirt making, emu egg painting, weaving, wood painting and a whole lot more activities, so I encourage everyone to get down there.

More information about the event is available on our website.

National Tree Day

On 28 July, we are celebrating National Tree Day with a free, fun tree planting day at the Mernda Villages Conservation Reserve. This is a fun event, where you can go back and watch your tree grow over the years.

Increasing the number of trees and green cover across our municipality is a key goal for Council, and we are pleased to support events that help our community get involved in plantings and understand the real importance that trees play in our everyday lives.

We encourage our community to come down to this event and help us plant a range of native trees and wildflowers, while learning about pollinators and chatting with local wildlife rescuers.

There will also be a range of free family-friendly activities, including marshmallow toasting.

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

AILA Awards

At last month's Council meeting, I made note of a number of key awards presented to the City of Whittlesea, recognising the significant contribution of Council and our Officers and I am so proud to mention a further recognition this evening.

The City of Whittlesea together with Aurecon were honoured with the 2024 Victorian Landscape Architecture Award at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards.

This really prestigious recognition highlights our work on the Quarry Hills Future Directions Plan, a visionary document that sets a benchmark for partnering with traditional owners enabling self-determination for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, to return cultural practices on Country.

The award citation commended the project for capturing rich heritage with proud transparency, setting a strong industry precedent for future engagements with diverse and culturally rich communities. The Future Directions Plan celebrates, preserves, and enhances the landscape, fostering increased visitors while embedding Wurundjeri values respectfully.

As a winner of a State Chapter Award, the City of Whittlesea is automatically entered into the 2024 AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards.

Sincere congratulations to all involved in this wonderful project and it is particularly significant to note this award this evening given Item 5.6 on our Agenda regarding naming of Quarry Hills Parkland.

Plastic Free July

This month is Plastic Free July, a global movement to reduce the use of plastic and subsequent plastic waste.

Everyday items, from shopping bags to food wrappers, are a significant part of our daily lives, but they also pose a unique challenge when it comes to recycling and waste management and everyone would have noticed that supermarkets were unable to recycle plastic bags some time ago.

We recently introduced a trial of soft plastics recycling, and residents can now recycle items such as plastic shopping bags, bread bags, cereal box liners and bubble wrap right here in the City of Whittlesea in the dedicated bins at Hanson Landfill in Wollert.

From there the soft plastics are transformed back into oil for the creation of new plastic products.

This is a great way to ensure these soft plastics don't end up in our landfill and we can create a circular economy while also making our community cleaner and greener.

A very sad final acknowledgement this evening:

We were saddened by the recent passing of Denys Noel Potts on 2 July. Denys' work as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Whittlesea RSL has made a big impact on our community.

I had the absolute honour and pleasure of meeting Denys recently, and I will always remember his passion for organising important events like the ANZAC Day memorial service and Remembrance Day service, which brought many in the community together.

Denys had great relationships with many in the Whittlesea community, including schools, football clubs, and playgroups who marched on ANZAC Day. We send our deepest condolences to Denys' family and friends.

He will be greatly missed, and his legacy will continue through the traditions he loved and supported.

UNCONFIRMED

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Liam Wilkinson, Acting Manager Strategic Futures declared a conflict of interest in respect to item 5.2 – 485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>

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

- Scheduled Council Meeting held on 18 June 2024.

CARRIED

4 Public Questions, Petitions and Joint Letters

4.1 Public Question Time

Question from Shaifali Bhatnagar of Epping

The space between north of McDonalds Road Epping and house numbered 16-90 McDonalds Road Epping, looks totally neglected.

Does Council recognise the poor condition of this section and have some plans to improve its condition (and provide a safe access to houses).

Response

Thank you for your question.

The majority of the larger roads in our municipality are managed by the State Government through the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and this is the case for McDonalds Road. The space you refer to between the road and the property boundaries has been set aside to allow for future road widening if and when required, therefore a service road is not feasible.

We are always looking to ways to improve the amenity of our neighbourhoods and we are pleased to advise that following consultation we are now designing a shared path along this section of McDonalds Road for walkers and cyclists. The proposed shared path will be located between the existing footpath and McDonalds Road, with improved vehicle access provided between properties and McDonalds Road.

Minor landscaping works such as tree planting and grassed areas are also proposed along the shared path. These works are proposed to commence in early 2025 and we'll keep residents advised on the progress.

Question from Brenda Durance & Renato Aganetti of South Morang.

We received two like questions relating to agenda item 5.3, Station Road Mernda Development Plan.

How come it is allowed to happen, that a developer business/corporation can add and target any land and properties they don't own and add them into their development plan without consent and submit to the local Council to thus impose on the property owner who's land they target?

Why is it to be considered as part of the "masterplan concept development plan Mernda" and as instigated for the benefit of the Murcator landowner and developer's proposed requirement?

Response

Thank you for your question.

Later in tonight's meeting, Council will consider a development plan for Station Road in Mernda. This plan has been through a comprehensive process over the past two years, which included consultation.

The purpose of a Development Plan is to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to any future development in an area.

These plans are for an area as a whole and generally apply to multiple parcels rather than individual properties. A Development Plan ensures any future development results in a high amenity neighbourhood with a connected street network and coordinated infrastructure provision.

The plan does not necessarily mean development will occur, but it provides a guide for any potential future development. Any development would still be at the discretion of the individual landowners and require future planning permits.

An application for a Development Plan can be lodged by any party for consideration by Council and can affect other properties within the area. When a development plan is prepared for an area, landowners are provided with the opportunity to have their say.

Council undertook non statutory consultation on the Station Road Development Plan in October 2023 which included direct notice being provided to affected landowners and further conversations on issues relating to the draft plan.

Council will take into consideration feedback received during the consultation process, when making a decision on a Development Plan application.

4.2 Petitions

No Petitions

4.3 Joint Letters

4.3.1 Joint Letter - Station Road Mernda Development Plan

A joint letter has been received from three residents in relation to item 5.3 Station Road Mernda Development Plan.

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO confirmed the joint letter was not compliant with the requirements of Council’s Governance Rules however, due to item 5.3 affecting less than 12 properties, the Chief Executive Officer used his discretion to allow the joint letter to be considered for tabling by Council.

Recommendation

THAT Council table the joint letter and note that it will be considered in conjunction with item 5.3 on the agenda paper.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council table the joint letter and note that it will be considered in conjunction with item 5.3 on the agenda paper.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5 Officers' Reports

5.1 Community Grant Guidelines Update

Director/Executive Manager: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Report Author: Grants Coordinator

In Attendance: Unit Manager Corporate Planning
Grants Coordinator

Executive Summary

This report is to seek endorsement of changes to the Community Grant Guidelines for 2024 - 2025 following a period of community consultation.

The updated Guidelines have been re-drafted to meet community needs and feedback. They also ensure governance control measures are in place and aligned to Federal, State and local Government legislation and policies.

There was a total of 16 amendments to the Guidelines which included expanding the following service offerings to community and have included a 'What can be funded' section allowing:

- Venue hire, including Council venue hire; and
- Portable equipment purchases.

In addition, to ensure ongoing accountability and transparency, the proposed changes to the Guidelines explicitly exclude Council staff, Councillors and members of their household or immediate family from applying for grants.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to adopt the updated Community Grant Guidelines at Attachment 1.
2. Note the appointment of an independent Community member to the Grant Management Steering Committee will be subject to the incoming Council's consideration and future resolution.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Resolve to adopt the updated Community Grant Guidelines at Attachment 1.**
2. **Note the appointment of an independent Community member to the Grant Management Steering Committee will be subject to the incoming Council’s consideration and future resolution.**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

Administrator Peita Duncan

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

Liam Wilkinson, Acting Manager Strategic Futures declared a conflict of interest. The nature of the conflict is his partner works as a planning consultant and has been engaged by the landowner to provide planning advice in respect to planning permit applications on the subject site.

Liam left the meeting at 6:27pm.

5.2 485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Coordinator Strategic Land Use Planning

In Attendance: Strategic Planner

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to discuss the assessment and exhibition outcomes of the *485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan (the Development Plan)*. The *Development Plan* affects a greenfield site that includes a section of Merri Creek that will form part of the *marram baba* Parklands.

The proponent for the *Development Plan* is GPT Group, a property trust that proposes to develop the site for industrial purposes.

The assessment of the *Development Plan* has required consideration of flora and fauna, Aboriginal cultural heritage, geotechnical issues including land contamination, the interface to and incorporation of *marram baba* Parklands, stormwater management, and a landscape strategy for the site which includes tree retention and the incorporation of existing natural features.

One of the significant challenges in assessing the *Development Plan* arose from the proponent's intention to develop large floor-plate warehouses on a site that has significant conservation values, including patches of ecological communities protected by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)*.

The non-statutory exhibition of the *Development Plan* in March-April 2024 resulted in submissions from both the Department of Environment Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) and Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) stating that the proposal has not adequately explored opportunities to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation and the habitat of threatened species.

The exhibited *Development Plan* demonstrated a significant impact to ecological communities, with both agencies recommending that retention of a patch of the critically endangered Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain in the south-eastern corner of the site (Patch A) as a congruous area with *galada tamboore* Grasslands would improve the response to avoidance.

Following exhibition, extensive negotiation with the proponent resulted in changes to the *Development Plan* to achieve better alignment with the requirements of Clause 43.04 Schedule 33 of the Development Plan Overlay (Cooper Street Southwest Employment Area) and Victoria's regulations for the Removal and Lopping of Native Vegetation.

These changes are reflected in the version of the *Development Plan* at *Attachment 1*, and achieve the following:

- additional native vegetation (Patch A - Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain) retained at the interface with *galada tamboore* Grasslands;
- strengthened design guidance in relation to the interface with Merri Creek and the retention of native vegetation in the Merri Creek corridor (*marram baba*);
- removal of development staging numbers from the Development Plan at Figure 5 of the *Development Plan* report; and
- key recommendations of the background documents summarised in the *Development Plan* report to assist future planning permit assessment.

As such, the officer recommendation is that Council approve the *485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan* as detailed at *Attachment 1*.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the *485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan* as detailed in Attachment 1, and the exhibition outcomes detailed in this report.
2. Approve the *485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan* as detailed in Attachment 1.
3. Notify the proponent and submitters of Council's decision.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the *485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan* as detailed in Attachment 1, and the exhibition outcomes detailed in this report.
2. Approve the *485 Cooper Street Epping Development Plan* as detailed in Attachment 1.
3. Notify the proponent and submitters of Council’s decision.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

Liam returned to the meeting at 6:31pm.

5.3 Station Road, Mernda Development Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Acting Manager Strategic Futures

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the *Station Road Development Plan (Development Plan)*, prepared by Whiteman Property and Associates on behalf of Mercator Development Pty Ltd. The *Development Plan* affects all seven properties in the precinct which is bound by Plenty Road to the west, Station Road to the east and Station Lane to the south (1470 Plenty Road, 1480 Plenty Road, 1490 Plenty Road, 1500 Plenty Road, 2 Station Road, 4 Station Road, and 10 Station Road, Mernda).

The proposed *Development Plan (refer Attachment 1)* has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 5 to the Development Plan Overlay (DPO5) at Clause 43.04 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme and the *Mernda Strategy Plan 2016 (MSP)*. The objective of the proposed Development Plan is to guide development of the precinct for residential purposes, in accordance with the key objectives set out in the MSP.

The *Development Plan* envisages a residential neighbourhood for approximately 500 future residents living in walkable distance to a range of services including shops, public transport and open space. The dwelling stock will predominantly be medium density (townhouses) with a small amount of conventional density (single detached dwellings). A connected street network will provide access to homes and link into the established road network. The existing site features, including heritage sites, indigenous trees and native vegetation, will provide amenity and a sense of place for the future neighbourhood.

The draft *Development Plan (refer Attachment 2)* and supporting documents were placed on non-statutory exhibition in October 2023. Landowners within the precinct, neighbouring properties, and relevant agencies were notified and provided the opportunity to comment on the proposal. A total of 13 submissions were received from affected and adjacent landowners/residents as well as agencies. In response to submissions, officers recommended a number of changes be made to the exhibited documents which have generally been incorporated into the current *Development Plan (refer Attachment 1)*. There are seven additional changes which Council Officers recommend relating to road reservation width, open space network, density of housing, native vegetation and a pedestrian connection.

The *Development Plan*, with the recommended changes, meets the relevant statutory requirements and satisfactorily responds to the existing site features and constraints. The

Development Plan provides logical connections to the external road network, retention of native vegetation, conventional and medium density residential areas and protection of heritage places. As such, it is recommended that the plan be noted by Council in its current form and that Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the *Station Road Development Plan* upon the recommended changes being made to the Development Plan documents.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the *Station Road Development Plan* at Attachment 1 and non-statutory exhibition outcomes as detailed in this report and Attachments 4 and 5.
2. Endorse the following recommended changes to the proposed *Station Road Development Plan*:
 - a. All local road reserves to be 16 metres in width to accommodate a footpath on both sides of the road reserve.
 - b. A minimum 10 metre wide reserve must be provided between the bioretention basin reserve and the east-west local road within Property 7.
 - c. The south-west corner of Property 7, between the north south local road and heritage dwelling within Property 6 depicted as 'conventional density'.
 - d. The east-west green link within Property 3 is defined as a pedestrian link in the *Station Road Development Plan* and Traffic Engineering Report.
 - e. The following text is included at Section 7.2.6: *The River Red Gums, including juvenile River Red Gums will be maximised throughout the Development Plan area as part of the detailed subdivision design prepared at the planning permit stage.*
 - f. The following text is included in the *Station Road Development Plan: In relation to the Station Lane widening, the adjoining Mernda Town Centre North East Development Plan states the following: Development of the Development Plan may potentially require its reservation to be widened to 20m to allow for a bus service to operate. Should Station Lane not be required to accommodate a bus service the ultimate reservation can be re-negotiated at the planning permit application stage.*
 - g. The 4m wide paper road adjoining the western side of Station Road is extended along 10 Station Road.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the *Station Road Development Plan*, once the changes outlined in point 2 (a-g) are made into an updated version of the *Development Plan*.
4. Note that Council Officers will notify the proponent, submitters and all landowners within the precinct of Council's decision.
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to appoint officers to represent Council and instruct any legal representation at any Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

hearing or pre-hearing practice days including compulsory conferences, conducted in respect to the Development Plan.

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson moved the following motion which become the Council Resolution.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. Note the Station Road Development Plan at Attachment 1 and non-statutory exhibition outcomes as detailed in this report and Attachments 4 and 5.
2. Endorse the following recommended changes to the proposed Station Road Development Plan:
 - a. All local road reserves to be 16 metres in width to accommodate a footpath on both sides of the road reserve.
 - b. A minimum 10 metre wide reserve must be provided between the bioretention basin reserve and the east-west local road within Property 7.
 - c. The south-west corner of Property 7, between the north south local road and heritage dwelling within Property 6 depicted as 'conventional density'.
 - d. The east-west green link within Property 3 is defined as a pedestrian link in the Station Road Development Plan and Traffic Engineering Report.
 - e. The following text is included at Section 7.2.6: The River Red Gums, including juvenile River Red Gums will be maximised throughout the Development Plan area as part of the detailed subdivision design prepared at the planning permit stage.
 - f. The following text is included in the Station Road Development Plan: In relation to the Station Lane widening, the adjoining Mernda Town Centre North East Development Plan states the following: Development of the Development Plan may potentially require its reservation to be widened to 20m to allow for a bus service to operate. Should Station Lane not be required to accommodate a bus service the ultimate reservation can be re-negotiated at the planning permit application stage.
 - g. The 4m wide paper road adjoining the western side of Station Road is extended along 10 Station Road.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the final Station Road Development Plan (Plan), subject to points 2(a)-(g) being included in the Plan within 28 days of this resolution. Any approval beyond the 28 days will require Council approval.
4. Note Council Officers will notify the proponent of this resolution.

- 5. Note Council Officers will notify the submitters and all landowners within the precinct of the outcome once the Station Road Development Plan has been approved.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

5.4 Precinct 2A Doreen (part) Development Plan

Director/Executive Manager: Director Planning & Development

Report Author: Strategic Planner

In Attendance: Strategic Planner

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the *Mernda Precinct 2A (part) Development Plan* (the *Development Plan*) which affects 45 individual properties in Doreen. The properties within the precinct are each approximately 1 hectare in size and bounded by Cookes Road to the north, Yan Yean Road to the east, Bridge Inn Road to the south and existing residential development to the west. The *Development Plan* was prepared by Spiire on behalf of the Bridge Cookes Landowners Group Inc. (the proponent), a consortium of landowners within the precinct.

The *Development Plan* has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 5 to the Development Plan Overlay (DPO5) at Clause 43.04 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme and the Mernda Strategy Plan (MSP).

The *Development Plan* envisages a residential neighbourhood for approximately 2000 future residents living close to range of services including schools, shops and open space. The development of the precinct will include standard (detached houses) and medium density residential (i.e. townhouses) housing, a local street network to support the development and numerous tree reserves protecting a significant amount of native vegetation in the precinct. Noting the number of lots and individual landowners within the precinct, the development plan layout aims to support the fair and orderly development of the precinct.

The draft *Development Plan* (refer *Attachment 1*) was publicly exhibited in April and May 2023. All landowners within the precinct, neighbouring landowners and potentially affected agencies were notified.

In total, 23 submissions were received from a mixture of landowners within the precinct, surrounding landowners, a statutory agency and a community member. In response to the issues raised by submissions, Council officers requested the proponent make a number of changes to the *Development Plan*.

All the changes, except one, were made by the proponent. The requested change which the proponent did not make and subsequently advise they do not agree to, is the identification of a tree reserve at 811 Bridge Inn Road. The reserve was intended to protect two medium and large (respectively) river red gums of moderate arboricultural value. These trees were subsequently removed, on behalf of the landowner, following the request for the tree reserve to be created.

Council officers do not support the tree removal and loss of the tree reserve. Officers have made the requested change to show the tree reserve of approximately 1,500sqm on all relevant plans within the *Development Plan* (included at Attachment 2), noted it is to be revegetated, and updated the Land Budget tables in the document to reflect the change.

The *Development Plan*, with the inclusion of the tree reserve, satisfactorily responds to the existing site features and constraints, overarching strategic documents, and Council policies, and will enable the coherent, orderly and fair development of the precinct. As such it is considered that the *Development Plan* meets the relevant statutory requirements, and it is recommended that the plan and exhibition outcomes be noted, and that Council approve the *Mernda Precinct 2A (part) Development Plan*.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the *Mernda Precinct 2A (part) Precinct 2A Development Plan* at Attachment 2.
2. Note the non-statutory exhibition outcomes detailed in this report and Attachment 4.
3. Note that Council Officers will notify the proponent, submitters and all landowners within the precinct of Council's decision.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to appoint officers to represent Council and instruct any legal representation at any Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing or pre-hearing practice days including compulsory conferences conducted in respect to the Development Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council:

1. Approve the *Mernda Precinct 2A (part) Precinct 2A Development Plan* at Attachment 2.
2. Note the non-statutory exhibition outcomes detailed in this report and Attachment 4.
3. Note that Council Officers will notify the proponent, submitters and all landowners within the precinct of Council’s decision.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to appoint officers to represent Council and instruct any legal representation at any Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing or pre-hearing practice days including compulsory conferences conducted in respect to the Development Plan.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Peita Duncan

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.5 Integrated Transport Plan - Council Endorsement

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Senior Transport Planner

In Attendance: Acting Manager Urban Design & Transport
Senior Transport Planner

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present and seek the endorsement of the Integrated Transport Plan 2024-2034 (ITP) following community consultation on the draft document.

The ITP sets out a high level vision for transport planning in the municipality over the next ten years. It will allow Council to strategically plan for, and respond to, future challenges and opportunities, inform advocacy for our transport needs and guide the development and expansion of the transport network in Whittlesea.

The ITP will demonstrate Council's leadership and commitment to improving transport outcomes in the municipality. It is also envisaged to guide and influence future investment decisions.

The ITP will support the Whittlesea 2040 vision as an action item in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy Action Plan and will become a Level 3 document within the Integrated Planning Framework. It will supersede the existing Integrated Transport Strategy 2014 (ITS).

Community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken on the Draft ITP between 22 April and 19 May 2024. The consultation sought to ensure that the Draft ITP aligned with community and stakeholder feedback. The consultation was undertaken in the form of an online survey on the engage page and community pop ups which were promoted to the community through social media, existing community contacts and key stakeholders.

The feedback reflected the following priorities:

- a diverse range of opinions and priorities among residents, with support for the Draft ITP's guiding principles, whilst balancing the need for car-friendly infrastructure with the desire for improved public transport and safer, more accessible sustainable transport options.
- a community that is invested in the practicalities and requirements of daily commuting, immediate transport needs and transport infrastructure investment.

- a community concerned with the financial feasibility of proposed investments, congestion around schools, improved parking management and the balance between car-centric and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Part of the feedback received indicated a preference towards prioritising road improvements rather than investing in sustainable transport. There were also some concerns expressed about the staging, funding and monitoring of the action plan.

In response to this feedback, Council’s position is that the ITP aims to improve convenient transport choices for our residents, including walking and cycling, which can help relieve some of the costs associated to car ownership and provide better options to those without a car. However, Council will continue to advocate for investment in targeted road infrastructure where it is warranted, acknowledging an ongoing level of car dependency. The ITP’s action plan will be reviewed every two years, with an appropriate staging of actions, is funded through existing operating budgets and will be monitored using outcome indicators linked to Council’s Integrated Planning Framework.

Council support is sought to present the ITP to Council Meeting, in seeking formal Council endorsement to give effect to its implementation.

Officers’ Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the engagement summary from the community consultation undertaken between 22 April – 19 May 2024 for the Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 at Attachment 1.
2. Endorse the Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 at Attachment 2.
3. Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the Integrated Transport Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Note the engagement summary from the community consultation undertaken between 22 April – 19 May 2024 for the Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 at Attachment 1.**
2. **Endorse the Integrated Transport Plan 2024 – 2034 at Attachment 2.**
3. **Acknowledge and thank the community and stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the Integrated Transport Plan.**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

5.6 Quarry Hills Parkland Naming

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Open Space Planner

In Attendance: Acting Manager Urban Design & Transport
Open Space Planner

Executive Summary

Quarry Hills Parkland is the defining open space in the City of Whittlesea; a stunning natural landscape with breathtaking views and rich biodiversity. It's rich and unique cultural heritage with unparalleled connection to country make it the ideal location for the Aboriginal Gathering Place which is currently being constructed on the site. This report seeks to recognise the significant cultural heritage of the parkland through the formal endorsement of a traditional Woi-wurrung language name.

The Quarry Hills Parkland Future Directions Plan, endorsed by Council on 15 August 2023, included an action to adopt a name for the site that uses 'bunjil nganga' which means 'eagle view' to honour Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung custodianship of the land and help to inform the community of the significant cultural heritage of the site. This action was a recommendation from the Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study, which identified the parklands as the bunjil nganga cultural landscape. In accordance with Aboriginal Naming Rules, the name "bunjil nganga Parkland" was chosen and supported by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC).

"bunjil nganga (Eagle View) is situated in Narm (Melbourne) rising to over 200 meters above sea level. The western ridgeline of the parkland provides panoramic views across the landscape, reaching out to the west, to the Melbourne CBD in the south, and east beyond the Henderson's Creek Wetlands. It lies within the suburbs of Epping and South Morang. Morang is a Woi-wurrung word that in some records is interpreted as 'sky' – and this is a place well situated for an eagle's eye view across Wurundjeri Country"

Quotation from bunjil nganga Woi-wurrung Cultural Values Study' prepared by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Renaming the parkland holds significant social and cultural implications. It acknowledges and demonstrates respect for the rich Aboriginal heritage of the site, contributes to reconciliation efforts and fosters a sense of belonging for Aboriginal communities and promotes cultural diversity and inclusivity within the broader community.

The traditional name is proposed to be used in conjunction with 'Quarry Hills' for a period of up to five years as we support the community to transition to the new name. The traditional name is always to be given precedence in use for example:

bunjil nganga Parkland

Quarry Hills

The Council Naming for Features Committee, at the 24 July 2023 and 23 May 2024, meetings, supported progressing with formally naming the site bunjil nganga Parkland and the supported the transition approach.

Community consultation to commence the formal naming process was undertaken in early 2024.

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide an update on the outcomes of the community consultation for Quarry Hills Parkland naming
- seek Council endorsement of the proposed name and the transition approach.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Approve the formal naming process of the Quarry Hills Parkland, to be known as 'bunjil nganga Parkland,' with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) in accordance with the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.
2. Note the formal application process with Geographic Names Victoria, and associated audit, gazettal and notification period, is estimated to take one to two months.
3. Approve the new name, 'bunjil nganga Parkland' to take effect upon the name being formally approved following the process outlined in point 2 above.
4. Thank community members for their contributions, and the support of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for nominating the preferred name 'bunjil nganga Parkland'.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council:

1. Approve the formal naming process of the Quarry Hills Parkland, to be known as 'bunjil nganga Parkland,' with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) in accordance with the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.
2. Note the formal application process with Geographic Names Victoria, and associated audit, gazettal and notification period, is estimated to take one to two months.
3. Approve the new name, 'bunjil nganga Parkland' to take effect upon the name being formally approved following the process outlined in point 2 above.
4. Thank community members for their contributions, and the support of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation for nominating the preferred name 'bunjil nganga Parkland'.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Peita Duncan

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

5.7 Draft Mill Park Place Framework

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Senior Urban Designer

In Attendance: Acting Manager Urban Design and Transport
Senior Urban Designer

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement to undertake community consultation between the period 22 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the draft Mill Park Place Framework at Attachment 1 to go out for community consultation between the period 22 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.
2. Note as part of the community consultation process, officers will also seek feedback from the Youth Council.
3. Note following community consultation, a subsequent report will be presented back to Council seeking approval for the adoption of the Mill Park Place Framework.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council:

1. **Endorse the draft Mill Park Place Framework at Attachment 1 to go out for community consultation between the period 22 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.**
2. **Note as part of the community consultation process, officers will also seek feedback from the Youth Council.**
3. **Note following community consultation, a subsequent report will be presented back to Council seeking approval for the adoption of the Mill Park Place Framework.**

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

5.8 Tender 2024-3 Construction of a Signalised Intersection at Findon Rd and Williamsons Rd, South Morang

Director/Executive Manager: Director Infrastructure & Environment

Report Author: Senior Engineering Project Manager

In Attendance: Manager Capital Delivery
Unit Manager Engineering Design & Construction

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.

Executive Summary

It is proposed that contract number 2024-3 for Construction of a Signalised Intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road, South Morang is awarded to BMD Constructions Pty Ltd for the lump price of \$2,554,918.25 (excluding GST).

The Tender Evaluation Panel advises that:

- Five tenders were received.
- The recommended tenderer is the highest ranked and has demonstrated the required capability, capacity, qualification.
- Collaborative tendering was not undertaken in relation to this procurement because it is not listed in the Northern Councils Alliance consolidated contract register and this contract relates to a unique need for the City of Whittlesea.
- this contract commits capital budget in the 2025-25 Council Budget.

This contract was publicly tendered on 20 January 2024 and tenders closed on 20 February 2024.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award the following contract to BMD Constructions Pty Ltd:
 - Number: 2024-3
 - Title: Construction of a Signalised intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road, South Morang
 - Cost: A lump sum of \$2,554,918.25 (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 tender documents.
 - c) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
- 2 Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3 Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>
Seconded:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>

THAT Council:

1. Resolve to award the following contract to BMD Constructions Pty Ltd:
 - Number: 2024-3
 - Title: Construction of a Signalised intersection at Findon Road and Williamsons Road, South Morang
 - Cost: A lump sum of \$2,554,918.25 (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 tender documents.
 - c) Price variations to be in accordance with the provisions as set out in the conditions of contract.
- 2 Approve the funding arrangements as detailed in the confidential attachment.
- 3 Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute the contract on behalf of Council.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Administrator Peita Duncan

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

5.9 Councillor Expense and Support Policy

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

Report Author: EA to Council

In Attendance: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

On 26 June 2024, the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024 (LGA Act)* came into operation. The purpose of this new Act was to make amendments to the Principal Act; namely the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)*.

The main purposes of the LGA Act are to:

- provide for ongoing mandatory Councillor training;
- improve the Councillor Conduct framework;
- provide for the suspension and disqualification of individual Councillors in certain circumstances;
- provide further powers to the Chief Municipal Inspector;
- other miscellaneous amendments to the *Local Government Act 1989* and Act; and
- minor administrative changes

This report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Councillor Expense and Support Policy which takes into consideration at a high level, some of the amendments made to the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the Councillor Expense and Support Policy at Attachment 1.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Chair of Council Lydia Wilson</i>
Seconded:	<i>Administrator Peita Duncan</i>

THAT Council endorse the Councillor Expense and Support Policy at Attachment 1.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Chair of Council Lydia Wilson

VOTING

UNANIMOUS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
YES			

UNCONFIRMED

6 Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion

7 Urgent Business

No Urgent Business

8 Reports from Council Representatives and CEO Update

8.1 Administrator Peita Duncan's Report

- Plenty Valley FM - Drive Program on 20 June 2024.
- Council Briefing on 2 July 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting on 16 July 2024.

8.2 Chair of Council Lydia Wilson's Report

- Internal Event: Refugee Week on 20 June 2024.
- Business Advisory Panel on 20 June 2024.
- Yarra Plenty Regional Library Ordinary Board Meeting on 27 June 2024.
- Council Briefing on 2 July 2024.
- Plenty Valley FM - Drive Program on 11 July 2024.
- Scheduled Council Meeting on 16 July 2024.

UNCONFIRMED

8.3 Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd Update

Whittlesea Public Gardens

We are pleased to announce the new skate park and youth area is now open at the Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor. The main feature of the \$2 million project is a 100-metre-long street-style skate park suitable for skaters of all ages and abilities.

The upgrade has also delivered half-court basketball and netball courts, a rock-climbing wall, a kick-about space with soccer goals and an eye-catching mural.

The Whittlesea Public Gardens redevelopment is funded by Council and contributions from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

The community is invited to the official opening of the skate park and urban zone on Saturday, 27 July from 2pm where there will be skateboard and roller skate workshops, a DJ and food trucks.

Aboriginal Gathering Place

I am delighted to say that construction of one of our key projects, the Aboriginal Gathering Place is anticipated to commence next week.

The Aboriginal Gathering Place, located at bunjil nganga Parkland, Quarry Hills, as was determined earlier in the meeting, marks a significant step forward in our community's journey towards reconciliation.

When complete, the Aboriginal Gathering Place will be a welcoming, inclusive and culturally safe space where Aboriginal people can enjoy a sense of belonging.

I want to thank members of the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group and the Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group for their commitment in making this vision a reality.

Capital Works program

In recent weeks we have reached milestones in a number of other significant Capital Works projects.

- The community pavilion at HR Uren Recreation Reserve in Thomastown was finished.

Host club Lalor United Sloga Football Club and the wider community will benefit from the pavilion's social space, kitchen, office, storage and viewing area.

The project also included an extension to the car park and a range of improved amenities for the comfort and convenience of users.

- A new roundabout that will improve safety along a busy stretch of Barry Road near the Whittlesea Public Gardens has been completed.
- We have also embarked on a program to upgrade the cat shelters at the wat djerring Animal Facility in Epping.
- A project to refurbish the Janefield Wetlands Boardwalk in Bundoora has also been completed recently.

Candidate Information Sessions

Finally, Local Government elections are set to take place in October this year where our community will elect a new group of Councillors to represent them and act as their decision-makers.

I'd like to encourage those in our community who are passionate about making a difference, to consider standing for Council.

If you are considering nominating as a candidate, please come along to one of our upcoming information sessions where you can have your questions answered.

This week, there's a north-west region information session hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria at the Broadmeadows Town Hall, on Thursday, 18 July, from 6:30pm.

And next week, we have our City of Whittlesea Candidate Information Session, on Thursday 25 July, from 2pm to 4pm.

9 Confidential Business

No confidential items.

10 Closure

There being no further business the Chair of Council formally closed the meeting at 7:13pm.

Confirmed this 20th day of August 2024.

Lydia Wilson
Chair of Council

UNCONFIRMED