



WHITEHORSE  
CITY COUNCIL

# Whitehorse City Council

## MINUTES

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### **Council Meeting**

on

**Monday 1 June 2026 at 7:00 PM**

**Held in the  
Council Chamber  
Nunawading Civic Centre**

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cr Kirsten Langford                      Mayor  
                 Cr Kieran Simpson                      Deputy Mayor  
                 Cr Peter Allan  
                 Cr Blair Barker  
                 Cr Prue Cutts  
                 Cr Andrew Davenport  
                 Cr Daniel Griffiths  
                 Cr Jarrod Gunn  
                 Cr Jason Martin  
                 Cr Ben Stennett  
                 Cr Hayley Weller

**Officers:** Simon McMillan                      Chief Executive Officer  
                 Stuart Cann                                      Director Corporate Services  
                 Jeff Green                                         Director City Development  
                 Lisa Letic                                         Director Community Life  
                 Steven White                                     Director Infrastructure and Sustainability  
                 Siobhan Sullivan                                Executive Manager Futures and Technology  
                 Vivien Ferlaino                                 Manager Integrity and Performance  
                 Sarah Candeland                                Coordinator Governance  
                 Alex Wintle                                      Senior Governance Officer

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## 1 Welcome

### Prayer for Council

We give thanks, O God, for the Men and Women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our City.

Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundations they have laid.

Direct our minds that all we plan and determine, is for the wellbeing of our City.

**Amen.**

### Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land we are meeting on and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from communities who may be present today.

## 2 Apologies

Nil

## 3 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Cr Hayley Weller declared a material conflict of interest for Item 10.1 Heritage Review 2024 as a family-owned property is included in the review.

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Council and Confidential Council Meeting 11 May 2026.

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Simpson, Seconded by Cr Weller

That the minutes of the Council and Confidential Council Meeting 11 May 2026 be confirmed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5 Urgent Business

Nil

**6 Requests to Speak****PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Simpson, Seconded by Cr Barker

That Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow all registered speakers to be heard, with each speaker subject to the three-minute time limit.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The following speakers addressed Council on various matters:

- 6.1 Joanne Hart-Parker, Jets Junior Football Club**
- 6.2 Jian Shen, Vermont**
- 6.3 Daniela Migliorati, Vermont**
- 6.4 Pramod Kumar Kapani Gowdana Palya Shivaramaiah, Forest Hill**
- 6.5 Ree Dowling, Forest Hill**
- 6.6 Reverend Nick Martin, Mitcham Baptist Church**
- 6.7 Lecheng Wu, Box Hill North**
- 6.8 Daniel Caroccia, Blackburn**
- 6.9 David Ware, Nunawading**
- 6.10 Helen Harris OAM, Box Hill Historical Society**
- 6.11 Richard Lim, Balwyn North**
- 6.12 Qiang (Leo) Hao, Nunawading**
- 6.13 Susan Barnett, Surrey Hills Historical Society**
- 6.14 Patricia Fisher, Forest Hill**
- 6.15 Nick Elmore, Box Hill North**
- 6.16 Tony Lee, Abbotsford**
- 6.17 Le-Ing Ong, Box Hill North**
- 6.18 Damon Nash, Box Hill**
- 6.19 Sarah Ross, East Burwood**
- 6.20 Megan Hughes, Forest Hill**

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved by Cr Simpson, Seconded by Cr Weller

That Standing Orders be resumed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **7 Public Question Time**

### **7.1 Richard Woodall, Mitcham Baptist Church**

#### **Question 1**

How has Council demonstrated that the proposed overlay on 8-12 Simla Street, Mitcham (Mitcham Baptist Church) delivers a net community benefit, and what measurable indicators were used to balance heritage preservation against constraints on land use, adaptive reuse, and ongoing delivery of community services?

#### **Response**

Council demonstrated net community benefit by following the State Government's heritage assessment guidelines, which requires both a rigorous test of local significance and a strategic planning assessment that balances heritage outcomes with broader land use objectives.

In this case, the proposed overlay is justified where the place meets recognised heritage criteria (such as historical, social and associative value), supported by comparative analysis, intactness and integrity testing, and formalised in a statement of significance identifying what should be conserved.

The balance against constraints will be tested further through the formal planning scheme amendment process, which has not yet commenced. This process will allow the exhibition and Independent Panel consideration. The formal planning scheme amendment process evaluates why the amendment is required, its strategic justification including implementation of the objectives of planning in Victoria, confirms that the overlay complements policy and delivers an overall net community benefit for current and future generations.

### **7.2 Mike Ford, Mitcham Baptist Church**

#### **Question 1**

Methodology & Threshold for Local Significance

Can Council provide the objective criteria, scoring methodology, and threshold bench marks used to determine 'local heritage significance' under Criteria D and E, and specify how Mitcham Baptist Church at 8-12 Simla Street, Mitcham quantitatively meets or exceeds those thresholds compared to other post-war industrial sites assessed in the Heritage Review?

#### **Question 2**

#### **Economic Impact Assessment**

Has Council undertaken a quantifiable economic and community impact assessment of applying a Heritage Overlay to an active community-use property at 8-12 Simla Street, Mitcham (i.e. Mitcham Baptist Church), including projected costs (compliance, maintenance, permit delays) and downstream impacts on community service provision and with consideration to the building's current condition?

**Response to both**

Post-war industrial development is a significant theme of the City of Whitehorse's cultural history, however there are currently no post- WW2 factories with heritage protection in Whitehorse. The 2024 Review includes three factory buildings recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay.

This building is significant for its representation of a steel-framed production building with a concealed saw-tooth roof, and flat-roofed office building. Its significant elements also include the block like expression of the buildings, face brickwork and bays of aluminium-framed curtain walling, and the window bays of the office block (amongst other elements). This building has been selected above other properties which were considered to be less representative of this element of our history.

As these questions require a detailed response, a further written response will be provided after this meeting.

**7.3 David Ware, Nunawading****Question 1**

Whitehorse City Council publicly states that it is committed to good governance, which is supported by the core values of "Collaboration, Respect, Excellence, Accountability and Trust."

Can Council explain how accepting the key findings of the June 2024 draft Heritage report; will help foster the values to which they are committed; particularly when the ratepayers who will be most impacted, were only advised of a prospective heritage overlay on their properties, 3 weeks ago?

**Response**

Council's role tonight is not to make a final decision on permanent heritage controls, but to decide whether to commence the statutory amendment process. That process was deliberately deferred in March until owners had been notified, which occurred by letter on 6 May 2026. If Council proceeds, affected owners and occupiers will have a formal opportunity to review the material, make submissions and be heard through the public exhibition and, if required, panel process. Council considers that this approach supports transparency, accountability and respect by relying on an expert evidence base, notifying affected parties before a decision and providing further opportunities for community participation before any final outcome is reached.

**Question 2**

Tonight's Council Meeting Agenda states that "preparation of the Heritage Review 2024 comprised two stages" with stage 2 involving "detailed site inspections". (pg 12)

The term "detailed site inspections", strongly raises the possibility of Council officers coming onto private land without the owners' knowledge or consent.

Therefore, in the interests of public transparency and reassurance, can Council clearly outline what specific steps and actions have been undertaken as part of these "detailed site inspections?"

**Response**

The term 'detailed site inspections' refers to heritage assessment work undertaken from the street and other public vantage points. The methodology in the draft City of Whitehorse Heritage Review 2024 states that shortlisted places were visited and photographed from the street or other public vantage points, field notes were taken and, importantly, private property was not encroached upon. The broader assessment process also included desktop review, virtual inspection using sources such as historic aerial photography, archival research, comparative analysis and preparation of heritage citations.

**7.4 Kathleen Cummings, Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association****Question 1**

How much of Eram Park was included in the original planned scope of works? How much more of Eram Park area has been taken by the State Government NE Link Authority and what is the justification for this? How many trees are to be removed? How many of these trees being removed were planted as compensation for the Surrey Hills Mont Albert Rail LXP?

**Response**

It is estimated around 60 % of Eram Park has been allocated for the NELP construction compound area and the area accommodating the freeway widening (north side of the freeway).

NELP have not released the exact number of trees to be removed as part of the North-East Link project activities. It is estimated by Council that approximately 3500 trees will be removed in Whitehorse.

None of the trees being removed were planted as compensation for the Surrey Hills/Mont Albert LXP.

**7.5 Carolyn Hall, Box Hill North****Question 1**

Given that the Box Hill Community Shed already operates on Council land, appears to have adjacent space that could accommodate expansion, and is the municipality's only community shed open to all adults regardless of age, gender, disability, NDIS status or aged-care funding, has Council assessed the feasibility and indicative cost of expanding the existing facility before proposing \$60,000 for broader investigations, and if not, why not? If expansion is found to be feasible, will Council consider directing some or all of the \$60,000 funding toward improvements that increase participation and workshop capacity?

**Response**

The proposed \$60,000 investment in investigations into the potential establishment of a dedicated Community/Mens Shed includes investigation into the Box Hill Community Arts Centre location. These investigations will consider minor expansion through to the establishment of a fit for purpose facility.

Officers will provide a report to Council on the outcome of the investigations and for consideration as part of a future capital works program.

**Question 2**

The report proposes an indicative allocation of \$60,000 for investigations into future Community/Men's Shed facilities. Can Council detail exactly what work this funding would cover, including what components would be undertaken by Council officers, what components would be outsourced to consultants, and why this expenditure is necessary given Council's existing knowledge of its land holdings, facilities and planning constraints?

**Response**

The following investigations are necessary to inform Council of the likely costs and considerations if Council was to consider further investment in the creation of Community Sheds. It considers two sites that are currently hosting sheds and appear to have potential land available for future expansion. Investigations will consider:

- High-level feasibility report including high level concept designs/functional brief that considers relationship with all existing service provision and compatibility at these locations as well as potential future use and management arrangements for shared use and inclusive operations.
- Site/servicing assessment– technical investigations such as soil testing, land surveys, geotechnical assessments, service location and capacity assessment and planning assessment to confirm site conditions and constraints.
- Cost estimates - The work will be undertaken by Council Officers and consultants where technical advice is required.

## 8 Petitions

### 8.1 Community Objection To Proposed Heritage Overlay

#### SUMMARY

A petition has been received requesting that Council consider a Community Objection to Proposed Heritage Overlay in relation to the current inclusion of Kingsclere Street, Vermont and surrounding properties.

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, the petition is presented to Council for formal receipt and referral to the organisation for consideration and response.

*"We call on Council to reconsider this proposal and to engage meaningfully with affected residents before proceeding further. We respectfully request that the proposed Heritage Overlay affecting Kingsclere Street, Vermont, and surrounding properties be reconsidered and removed"*

#### KEY MATTERS

- The petition contains 17 signatures.
- The petition requests that Council
  - Reconsider the proposed heritage overlay affecting Kingsclere Street, Vermont and surrounding properties.
  - Provide fair opportunity for residents to be heard prior to any decisions being made.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Barker, Seconded by Cr Griffiths

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the petition listed, and refers the matter to the relevant Director for appropriate consideration;
2. Notifies the Lead Petitioner of the outcome of this resolution and any subsequent investigation; and
3. Receives an update following the completion of investigations into the matter raised in the Petition.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Barker (1)

## 8.2 Use of the Heatherdale Reserve

### SUMMARY

A petition has been received requesting that Council consider reviewing the allocation of the Heatherdale Reserve to implement the immediate realignment of Jets Junior Football Club to its appropriate senior club Heathmont Football Netball Club.

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, the petition is presented to Council for formal receipt and referral to the organisation for consideration and response

*"We, the undersigned request that Council: Petition Whitehorse City Council to urgently review Heatherdale Reserve, Mitcham allocation arrangements and to implement the immediate realignment of Jets Junior Football Club ('JJFC') to its appropriate senior club Heathmont Football Netball Club ('HFNC') at HE Parker Reserve, Heathmont, in line with arrangements applied to other Whitehorse Community sporting clubs."*

### KEY MATTERS

- The petition contains 20 signatures.
- The petition requests that Council
  - Review the allocation of the Heatherdale Reserve

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Cutts, Seconded by Cr Gunn

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the petition listed, and refers the matter to the relevant Director for appropriate consideration;
2. Notifies the Lead Petitioner of the outcome of this resolution and any subsequent investigation; and
3. Receives an update following the completion of investigations into the matter raised in the Petition.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Gunn (1)

## Late Agenda Items

### 8.3 Opposition to the Proposed Heritage Overlay for Andrew Street, Menin Road & Shady Grove, Forest Hill (Citation P04)

#### SUMMARY

A petition has been received requesting that Council consider residents strong and collective opposition to the application of a Heritage Overlay on their properties. Following assessment, the petition does not meet the requirements of Council's Governance Rules to be recognised as a formal petition.

The petition only includes 11 signatories, with only 10 signatures. In accordance with Governance Rule 59.10, Council may admit and consider a petition which is not fully compliant, subject to a resolution of Council. If successful the petition will then be referred to the organisation for consideration and response.

*'By signing below, we formally register our objection and certify that we stand united as the Andrew Street, Menin Road & Shady Grove Resident Action Group.'*

#### KEY MATTERS

- The petition contains 10 signatures.
- The petition requests that Council
  - Reject or not apply the proposed Heritage Overlay to the affected properties.
  - This is based on their concerns about accuracy, appropriateness, and financial impact.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Martin, Seconded by Cr Griffiths

That Council:

1. Considers and accepts the correspondence as a formal Petition in accordance with Rule 59.10 of the Governance Rules;
2. Refers the matter to the relevant Director for appropriate consideration and response;
3. Request officers to
  - a. Notify the Lead Petitioner of the outcome of this resolution and any subsequent investigation; and
  - b. Provide an update to Councillors at an informal briefing, following the completion of investigations into the matter raised in the Petition.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Martin (1)

## 8.4 Opposition to the Proposed Heritage Overlay for Mitcham Baptist Church

### SUMMARY

A petition has been received requesting that Council consider oppose the proposed application of a Heritage Overlay to the premises of Mitcham Baptist Church (MBC). In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, the petition is presented to Council for formal receipt and referral to the organisation for consideration and response.

*'Petition Opposition to the Proposed Heritage Overlay for Mitcham Baptist Church, 8-12 Simla Street, Mitcham'*

### KEY MATTERS

- The petition contains 184 signatures.
- The petition requests that Council
  - oppose the proposed application of a Heritage Overlay to the premises of Mitcham Baptist Church (MBC).

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Stennett, Seconded by Cr Cutts

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the petition listed, and refers the matter to the relevant Director for appropriate consideration;
2. Notifies the Lead Petitioner of the outcome of this resolution and any subsequent investigation; and
3. Receives an update following the completion of investigations into the matter raised in the Petition.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Stennett, Cr Cutts (2)

## 9 Notices of Motion

Nil

## 10 Council Reports

### Attendance

Cr Hayley Weller left the meeting at 8.26pm having earlier declared a material conflict of interest for Item 10.1 Heritage Review 2024.

**Attendance**

Cr Martin left the Chamber at 8.27pm

**Attendance**

Cr Martin returned to the Chamber at 8.28pm and was present for the vote.

## 10.1 Heritage Review 2024

**Department** City Planning and Development  
Director City Development

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Attachment

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### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Whitehorse Planning Scheme. The proposed amendment seeks to apply the Heritage Overlay to 42 of the individual properties and 3 of the precincts identified as having heritage significance in Volumes 1 and 2 of the draft *City of Whitehorse Heritage Review 2024* (the Heritage Review), prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd. Council first considered this matter at its meeting on 23 February 2026. The resolution from that meeting was later subject to a Notice of Rescission, which Council considered at its meeting on 16 March 2026.

At the March meeting, Council deferred a decision on whether to seek authorisation to prepare and exhibit the amendment. Council also resolved that the decision would not be made until landowners of places listed in the Heritage Review had been notified that their properties were included.

Owners and occupiers of properties listed in the Heritage Review have been notified. This occurred by way of letter dated 6 May 2026.

Since the letters were posted, Council has received a request for demolition under regulation 29A of the *Building Act 1993* for one of the places identified in the Heritage Review. To reduce the risk of demolition or inappropriate works occurring before permanent heritage controls are progressed, it is recommended that Council also request the Minister for Planning, pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, to apply an interim Heritage Overlay to the land the subject of recommendation 2.

It is noted that since the March Council meeting, officers have identified an inconsistency between the agenda report considered by Council on 23 February 2026 and the list of properties in attachment 3 to the agenda. Specifically, recommendation 2 of the February agenda report, which recommends exclusion of several properties and groups from the amendment, does not include the following properties in the Small Homes Services Houses group which were identified in attachment 3 as having been demolished:

- 18 Goodwin Street, Blackburn
- 7 Ross Street, Mitcham

The recommendation of this report has been updated accordingly.

Further, it has been brought to officer's attention that the house at 2 Lexton Road, Box Hill North, which is also part of the Small Homes Service Houses group has also been demolished. The recommendation of this report has been updated accordingly.

The request for Ministerial authorisation to prepare and exhibit the amendment is the first statutory step in implementing the findings of the Heritage Review. If authorisation is granted, affected property owners, occupiers, and relevant State agencies will be formally notified and invited to make submissions during a public exhibition period.

The Heritage Review was commissioned to address gaps in heritage protection and ensure compliance with Council's statutory obligations under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The review involved a rigorous two-stage process: (1) a desktop assessment and (2) detailed site inspections and preparation of citations for individual places and precincts. Each citation includes a Statement of Significance prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Note 1 and the Burra Charter principles, ensuring a robust and defensible basis for heritage controls.

Council has three options:

- **Proceed with the amendment process**, strengthening heritage protection and providing certainty for property owners and the community; or
- **Not Endorse the Recommendation**, which would leave identified heritage places unprotected, expose Council to criticism for not meeting statutory obligations, and risk ongoing loss of heritage significance and future inefficiencies.
- **Defer or limit action**, which risks the loss of heritage assets and inconsistency with Council's adopted Heritage Framework Plan.

The recommended approach to proceed with the amendment process will reinforce Council's commitment to conserving places of cultural and historical significance, align with strategic objectives and meet statutory responsibilities.

*Cr Cutts moved a motion that differed from the recommendation as printed in the Agenda.*

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Cutts, Seconded by Cr Davenport

That Council:

1. Adopt Volumes 1 and 2 of the draft *City of Whitehorse Heritage Review 2024*, shown in Attachment 1.
2. As Planning Authority, seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning (the Minister) under section 16F (1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Whitehorse Planning Scheme to apply the Heritage Overlay to

42 of the individual properties and 3 of the precincts cited in Volumes 1 and 2 of the draft *City of Whitehorse Heritage Review 2024*, excluding the following places and groups:

- a) 20 Naughton Grove, Blackburn (demolished)
- b) 2 Peter Avenue, Blackburn North (demolished)
- c) 355–357 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
- d) 18 Gilmour Street, Burwood
- e) 27-29 Carrington Court, Burwood East (Former Tally Ho Boys' Village Chapel)
- f) Orana Peace Memorial Home group, comprising 14-18, 17 and 27 Livingstone Close, Burwood
- g) Blue Flame Project group, comprising 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 Shalimar Court, 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Parkleigh Court, and 3 and 5 Fortescue Grove, Vermont South.
- h) 18 Goodwin Street, Blackburn (demolished; part of Small Homes Services Houses group)
- i) 7 Ross Street, Mitcham (demolished; part of Small Homes Services Houses group)
- j) 2 Lexton Road, Box Hill North (demolished; part of Small Homes Services Houses group)
- k) 17-19 Grandview Road, Box Hill South
- l) 2 Roberts Avenue, Box Hill South
- m) 213 Highbury Road, Burwood
- n) 7 Streeton Court, Mont Albert
- o) 9 Streeton Court, Mont Albert
- p) 5 Heather Grove, Nunawading
- q) 8-12 Simla Street, Mitcham (Mitcham Baptist Church)
- r) 5 Ireland Street, Burwood
- s) 2 Kingsclere Street, Vermont (part of the Small Homes Service Houses group)
- t) 26 Loddon Street, Box Hill North (part of the Small Homes Service Houses group)
- u) 62 Owen Street, Mitcham (part of the Small Homes Service Houses group)
- v) 5 Ronald Street, Box Hill North (part of the Small Homes Service Houses group)
- w) 270 Springfield Road, Nunawading (part of the Small Homes Service Houses group)

- x) 47 Somers Street, Mitcham (part of the Small Homes Service Houses group)
- y) 29 Menin Road, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- z) 35 Menin Road, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- aa) 42 Menin Road, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- bb) 46 Menin Road, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- cc) 49 Menin Road, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- dd) 68 Shady Grove, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- ee) 68a Shady Grove, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- ff) 5 Andrew Street, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- gg) 6 Andrew Street, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- hh) 9 Andrew Street, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- ii) 16 Andrew Street, Forest Hill (part of the Post-WW2 Modernist houses)
- jj) 19 Francesca Street, Mont Albert North
- kk) 15 Charlotte Street, Blackburn South (small homes etc.)
- ll) 132 Burwood Highway Burwood East
- mm) 15 Elm Street, Blackburn (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- nn) 7 Somers Street Mitcham
- oo) 38 Adele Street Vermont
- pp) 19 Acacia Street, Blackburn (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- qq) 37 Bridgeford Avenue, Blackburn (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- rr) 164 Central Road, Nunawading (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- ss) 13 Essex Street, Blackburn North (part of Small Homes Service Houses)

- tt) 10 Florence Street, Blackburn (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- uu) 8 Hamilton Avenue, Blackburn (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- vv) 714 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham (part of Small Homes Service Houses)
- ww) 29 Leonard Street, Burwood
- xx) 26 Saxton Street, Box Hill North

3. Notes that, should the threat of demolition arise in relation to any of the places that are the subject of recommendation 2 before the amendment to seek a permanent Heritage Overlay has concluded, that the request to the Minister for Planning to prepare, adopt and approve an amendment pursuant to section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to apply an interim Heritage Overlay to the place/s will be the subject of a separate report to Council.
4. Authorise the Director City Development to update the amendment and supporting documents to meet any conditions of authorisation from the Minister and to make minor changes, provided these are consistent with the intent of the amendment, prior to submitting the amendment to the Minister for exhibition.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Allan, Cr Griffiths, Cr Gunn, Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett, Cr Cutts, Cr Martin (9)

### **Attendance**

Cr Weller returned to the Chamber at 9.06pm following the conclusion of debate and the vote on item 10.3.

### **Adjournment**

The Mayor called a ten-minute adjournment at 9.06pm as the meeting had been going for more than two hours.

The meeting resumed at 9.16pm following the adjournment, with all Councillors present.

## 10.2 Open Space Strategy Implementation Update

**Department** Active Whitehorse  
Director City Development

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Attachment

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### SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy 2025 (WOSS) and responds to the Council resolution of 28 July 2025:

*“Seek a further council report to consider:*

- A. Developing an Open Space Acquisition Plan which should outline proactive and responsive (e.g. time-sensitive) land acquisition approaches, and set performance targets on the following:
  - i. Number of potential acquisitions for open space presented to council annually.*
  - ii. Upper and Lower limits on Open Space Fund reserve balance (limits to be noted in future annual Budgets)*
  - iii. Quantity or percentage of Open Space Fund spending on acquisition.**
- B. Identifying at least five potential acquisitions for public open space during 25/26 financial year for consideration by council.*
- C. A future budget allocation for:
  - i. Key destination facilities at Kalang Park and Blackburn Creeklands before projects commence.*
  - ii. The replacement of unsealed gravel tracks, trails and walkways with proposed alternatives (in the Open Space Strategy) in creeklands and reserves before projects commence.”**

In response, this report outlines a structured approach to land acquisition, incorporating both proactive (planned and prioritised) and responsive (time-sensitive and opportunity-based) acquisition pathways. It also establishes the foundation for performance monitoring, including:

- the number of potential acquisition opportunities presented to Council annually;
- the approach to managing upper and lower limits of the Open Space Reserve (OSR); and
- the allocation of OSR funding towards land acquisition.

## 10.2 (cont)

The report focuses on four key areas:

- Open Space Acquisition Plan
- the management approach for the Open Space Reserve (OSR)
- the advancement of the Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) to implement revised public open space contribution rates.
- the approach to future planning and funding of improvements at Kalang Park and Blackburn Creeklands.

<i>Cr Barker moved a motion that differed from the recommendation as printed in the Agenda.</i>
<i>Cr Weller foreshadowed during debate that, should the motion fail, they intend to move the recommendation as printed in the agenda.</i>
<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>Moved by Cr Barker, Seconded by Cr Davenport</p> <p>That Council abandons the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy as adopted in July 2025.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>LOST</b></p>
<b>Voted FOR Item:</b> Cr Barker, Cr Davenport (2)
<b>Voted AGAINST Item:</b> Cr Simpson, Cr Weller, Cr Stennett, Cr Griffiths, Cr Martin, Cr Gunn, Cr Allan, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts (9)
<i>Cr Weller moved the foreshadowed motion.</i>
<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Martin</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorses the Open Space Acquisition Plan, including the Open Space Acquisition Priority Sites Assessment Framework (the Framework) and the proposed priority sites set out in the confidential attachment.</li> <li>2. Endorses Option 2, which provides for the following principles to guide the management of the Open Space Reserve Fund: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a minimum reserve balance of \$10 million is to be maintained to support future strategic land acquisition and open space improvement opportunities; and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

## 10.2 (cont)

- b. no fixed upper limit is to be applied to the Reserve balance, recognising the variable nature of land availability, acquisition costs and future open space delivery requirements.
- 3. Adopt the Public Open Space Contributions Report shown in Attachment 3 that is needed to support the Planning Scheme Amendment and the adopted open space contribution rates.

*Cr Griffiths proposed an amendment to add point 4 which was accepted by the mover but was not accepted by the seconder.*

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Griffiths, Seconded by Cr Barker

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the Open Space Acquisition Plan, including the Open Space Acquisition Priority Sites Assessment Framework (the Framework) and the proposed priority sites set out in the confidential attachment.
- 2. Endorses Option 2, which provides for the following principles to guide the management of the Open Space Reserve Fund:
  - a. a minimum reserve balance of \$10 million is to be maintained to support future strategic land acquisition and open space improvement opportunities; and
  - b. no fixed upper limit is to be applied to the Reserve balance, recognising the variable nature of land availability, acquisition costs and future open space delivery requirements.
- 3. Adopt the Public Open Space Contributions Report shown in Attachment 3 that is needed to support the Planning Scheme Amendment and the adopted open space contribution rates.
- 4. Seeks officer reports identifying potential sites for strategic open space acquisition, with three sites to be considered each year until 2029.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Cr Davenport proposed an amendment to remove point 2 which was not accepted by the mover or the seconder.*

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Davenport, Seconded by Cr Barker

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the Open Space Acquisition Plan, including the Open Space Acquisition Priority Sites Assessment Framework (the Framework) and the proposed priority sites set out in the confidential attachment.

## 10.2 (cont)

2. Adopt the Public Open Space Contributions Report shown in Attachment 3 that is needed to support the Planning Scheme Amendment and the adopted open space contribution rates.
3. Seeks officer reports identifying potential sites for strategic open space acquisition, with three sites to be considered each year until 2029.

**CARRIED**

**Voted FOR Item:** Cr Simpson, Cr Stennett, Cr Griffiths, Cr Gunn, Cr Allan, Cr Barker, Cr Davenport, Cr Cutts (7)

**Voted AGAINST Item:** Cr Weller, Cr Langford, Cr Martin (3)

*Cr Stennett proposed an amendment to add the words 'at least' to point 3. The mover and seconder accepted and it was incorporated into the motion.*

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Martin

That Council:

1. Endorses the Open Space Acquisition Plan, including the Open Space Acquisition Priority Sites Assessment Framework (the Framework) and the proposed priority sites set out in the confidential attachment.
2. Adopt the Public Open Space Contributions Report shown in Attachment 3 that is needed to support the Planning Scheme Amendment and the adopted open space contribution rates.
3. Seeks officer reports identifying potential sites for strategic open space acquisition, with at least three sites to be considered each year until 2029.

**CARRIED**

**Voted FOR Item:** Cr Simpson, Cr Weller, Cr Stennett, Cr Griffiths, Cr Martin, Cr Gunn, Cr Allan, Cr Langford, Cr Davenport, Cr Cutts (10)

**Voted AGAINST Item:** Cr Barker (1)

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Barker, Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Weller, Cr Stennett, Cr Griffiths, Cr Martin, Cr Gunn, Cr Allan, Cr Cutts (10)

### 10.3 Soft Plastics Recycling Service

**Department** City Services  
Director Infrastructure & Sustainability

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#### **SUMMARY**

This report is in response to a resolution from the Council Meeting on 2 February 2026, item 9.1:

*“That Council receives a report into the establishment of a soft plastics recycling service including:*

- 1. Options and costs for collection and recycling, and;*
- 2. Options for collection points, including at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre.”*

Soft plastics recycling in Australia has undergone significant disruption following the collapse of the supermarket-based collection REDcycle program in 2022. Since that time, a combination of temporary supermarket trials, limited initiatives in some council areas, and emerging industry stewardship schemes have attempted to fill the gap.

Seven Woolworths supermarkets currently collect soft plastics within Whitehorse. The resolution from 2 February 2026 seeks consideration of a collection service at Council facilities including at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre (WRWC). Other options include a ‘bag-in-bin’ kerbside collection service.

This report outlines the current state of soft plastics recycling, emerging national initiatives such as Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia (SPSA), future soft plastic recycling legislation, benchmarking with other councils, and the cost, resource requirements, opportunities and risks associated with a Council service.

The recommended approach is to continue to encourage residents to use existing and future supermarket collection points, while the SPSA scheme and the Victorian Household Service Standards for kerbside bin collections are still being developed.

#### **Attendance**

Cr Cutts left the Chamber at 10.20pm.

#### **Attendance**

Cr Cutts returned to the Chamber at 10.22pm.

#### **Attendance**

Cr Barker left the Chamber at 10.23pm.

10.3 (cont)

**Attendance**

Cr Barker returned the Chamber at 10.24pm

*All Councillors were present for the vote.*

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Simpson, Seconded by Cr Stennett

That Council:

1. Not implement a soft plastics recycling collection program from a Council facility recognising the purpose of Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia (SPSA) and the pending Victorian Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards.
2. Notes there are seven existing supermarket locations in Whitehorse where soft plastics are collected for recycling and continue to encourage residents to use supermarket soft plastic collection points.
3. Notes the additional costs required, and risks associated with Council providing a soft plastics recycling collection service.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Simpson, Cr Stennett, Cr Weller, Cr Martin, Cr Cutts (5)

## 10.4 Update on Community/Men's Sheds

**Department** Creative Whitehorse  
Director Community Life

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### **SUMMARY**

This report provides an overview of Community / Men's Sheds, their role and value, and the current status of the four sheds operating within the City of Whitehorse. It identifies key challenges, including accommodation constraints and increasing demand, and outlines an opportunity for Council to undertake investigations into the potential establishment of a dedicated Community / Men's Shed facility at Warrawong Annexe (Community Hall) or Box Hill Community Arts Centre (BHCAC).

The report also recognises the alignment with broader strategic planning processes, including the Walker Park Master Plan and the Strathdon (Davy Lane) Master Plan, that consider current or future shed facilities to ensure any planned provision is integrated within a coordinated network of community infrastructure.

An indicative allocation of \$60,000 is proposed for inclusion in the 2026/2027 operating budget to support feasibility investigations, including site assessments and the development of preliminary cost estimates. A further report will be provided to Council outlining the outcomes of these investigations, including management options and any future capital works considerations.

This report provides consideration of interim support for the Vermont Men's Shed who are currently seeking accommodation.

### **Attendance**

Cr Davenport & Cr Simpson left the Chamber at 10.32pm.

### **Attendance**

Cr Simpson returned to the Chamber at 10.33pm and was present for the vote.

### **Attendance**

Cr Davenport returned the Chamber at 10.36pm and was present for the vote.

## 10.4 (cont.)

**MOTION**

Moved by Cr Cutts, Seconded by Cr Griffiths

That Council:

1. Requests that officers undertake investigations into the potential establishment of a dedicated Community / Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe or Box Hill Community Arts Centre, including indicative costings, usage options, planning considerations, and management.
2. Considers the inclusion of an indicative allocation of \$60,000 in the Proposed 2026/2027 budget to be presented to Council for adoption in June 2026, to fund the investigations outlined in point 1.
3. Supports, where appropriate, the provision of accommodation for the Vermont Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe while investigations are undertaken.
4. Requests a further report to Council outlining the outcomes of the investigations for consideration as part of a future capital works program.

*Cr Allan proposed an amendment to add point 5 which was accepted by the mover but not accepted by the seconder.*

**AMENDMENT**

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Barker

That Council:

1. Requests that officers undertake investigations into the potential establishment of a dedicated Community / Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe or Box Hill Community Arts Centre, including indicative costings, usage options, planning considerations, and management.
2. Considers the inclusion of an indicative allocation of \$60,000 in the Proposed 2026/2027 budget to be presented to Council for adoption in June 2026, to fund the investigations outlined in point 1.
3. Supports, where appropriate, the provision of accommodation for the Vermont Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe while investigations are undertaken.
4. Requests a further report to Council outlining the outcomes of the investigations for consideration as part of a future capital works program.
5. Install the equivalent of a 3x3m shed with a concrete floor to accommodate the storage needs of Community Shed users at Box Hill Community Arts Centre; and that the estimated \$6,000 be

## 10.4 (cont.)

<p>funded from Council's 2026/27 building projects capital works program, subject to a suitable site being agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>LOST</b></p>
<p><b>Voted FOR Item:</b> Cr Allan, Cr Barker (2)</p>
<p><b>Voted AGAINST Item:</b> Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Weller, Cr Stennett, Cr Griffiths, Cr Martin, Cr Gunn, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts (9)</p>
<p><i>Cr Stennett proposed an amendment to add point 5 which was not accepted by the mover or the seconder.</i></p>
<p><b>AMENDMENT</b></p> <p>Moved by Cr Stennett, Seconded by Cr Allan</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requests that officers undertake investigations into the potential establishment of a dedicated Community / Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe or Box Hill Community Arts Centre, including indicative costings, usage options, planning considerations, and management.</li> <li>2. Considers the inclusion of an indicative allocation of \$60,000 in the Proposed 2026/2027 budget to be presented to Council for adoption in June 2026, to fund the investigations outlined in point 1.</li> <li>3. Supports, where appropriate, the provision of accommodation for the Vermont Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe while investigations are undertaken.</li> <li>4. Requests a further report to Council outlining the outcomes of the investigations for consideration as part of a future capital works program.</li> <li>5. Consider to install the equivalent of a 3x3m shed with a concrete floor to accommodate the storage needs of Community Shed users at Box Hill Community Arts Centre; and consider for funding from Council's 2026/27 budget, subject to a suitable site being agreed.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>LOST</b></p>
<p><b>Voted FOR Item:</b> Cr Allan, Cr Simpson, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett (4)</p>
<p><b>Voted AGAINST Item:</b> Cr Davenport, Cr Weller, Cr Griffiths, Cr Martin, Cr Gunn, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts (7)</p>
<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p><i>Councillor Allan left the Chamber at 11.02pm and was not present for the final vote.</i></p>

## 10.4 (cont.)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Cutts, Seconded by Cr Griffiths

That Council:

1. Requests that officers undertake investigations into the potential establishment of a dedicated Community / Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe or Box Hill Community Arts Centre, including indicative costings, usage options, planning considerations, and management.
2. Considers the inclusion of an indicative allocation of \$60,000 in the Proposed 2026/2027 budget to be presented to Council for adoption in June 2026, to fund the investigations outlined in point 1.
3. Supports, where appropriate, the provision of accommodation for the Vermont Men's Shed at Warrawong Annexe while investigations are undertaken.
4. Requests a further report to Council outlining the outcomes of the investigations for consideration as part of a future capital works program.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Cutts, Cr Griffiths, Cr Simpson, Cr Allan, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett, Cr Davenport, Cr Gunn (8)

## 10.5 2025/26 Q3 Quarterly Performance Report

**Department** Integrity & Performance  
Director Corporate Services

Attachment

### SUMMARY

This report provides information on Council's progress on the Integrated Council Plan (ICP) 2025-2029 (the plan), Council's strategic roadmap for the four-year term, covering the period January – March 2026.

The ICP fulfils the core planning requirements of section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and marks a significant new direction for Whitehorse.

For the first time, it incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP), as permitted under section 27 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)*. This integration ensures that community health and wellbeing are embedded across all Council priorities and decision-making.

The ICP sets out five Strategic Directions: Community, Built, Economy, Natural, and Governance.

Progress against the plan is reported to the community through the Whitehorse Quarterly Performance Report (QPR). The Q1 and Q3 QPRs provide a high-level status update on Integrated Council Plan actions, while the more detailed Q2 and Q4 (Annual Report) includes all actions, supporting commentary, and results for both Strategic Indicators and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) indicators.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Weller, Seconded by Cr Simpson

That Council notes the 2025/26 Quarter 3 Quarterly Performance Report in accordance with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, including capital works budget forecast changes.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Spoke to Item:** Cr Weller, Cr Simpson (2)

## 10.6 Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors

**Department** Integrity and Performance  
Director Corporate Services

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Attachment

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### SUMMARY

This report presents the Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors held since the last Council Meeting. In line with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules, noting these Records promotes transparency, supports informed decision-making and ensures any conflicts of interest are publicly disclosed.

Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors are non-decision-making briefings used to share information and discuss matters that may later come before Council. Reporting these Records is standard governance practice and forms part of Council's public accountability framework.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Simpson, Seconded by Cr Gunn

That Council notes the Records of Informal Meetings of Councillors attached to the report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Attendance

Cr Allan returned the Chamber at 11.07pm, after the vote.

**11 Councillor Delegate and Conference / Seminar Reports****11.1 Reports by Delegates and Reports on Conferences / Seminars Attendance**

**Department** Integrity and Performance  
Director Corporate Services

Verbal reports from Councillors appointed as delegates to community organisations/committees/groups and attendance at conferences and seminars related to Council Business.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved by Cr Cutts, Seconded by Cr Gunn

That Council receives and notes the:

1. Reports from delegates, and;
2. Reports on conferences/seminars attendance.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Organisation/ Committee/Group</b>	<b>Date of Attendance</b>
Deputy Mayor Cr Simpson	MAV State Council Meeting	29 May 2026
Cr Davenport	Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting	27 May 2026
	Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action Committee Meeting	21 May 2026
	Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation Meeting	13 May 2026
Cr Gunn	Audit and Risk Advisory Committee	20 May 2026
	Whitehorse Reconciliation Advisory Committee	20 May 2026
Cr Griffiths	Audit and Risk Advisory Committee	20 May 2026
	Whitehorse Reconciliation Advisory Committee	20 May 2026
Cr Weller	Disability Advisory Group Committee Meeting	1 June 2026

## 11.1 (cont)

	Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation Meeting	13 May 2026
Cr Cutts	Community Safety Committee Meeting	12 May 2026
Mayor Cr Langford	MAV State Council Meeting	29 May 2026
	Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting	27 May 2026

## CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

### 12 Confidential Reports

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Gunn, Seconded by Cr Weller

That in accordance with Section 61(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council closes the Meeting to members of the public and adjourns for five minutes to consider the following items:

#### 12.1 Potential Acquisition of Land - Strategic Sites

This report is designated as Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released. This ground applies because the matter concerns Council business information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

#### 12.2 Civic Awards 2026

This report is designated as Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. This ground applies because the matter concerns personal information of nominees.

**CARRIED**

**Voted FOR Item:** Cr Allan, Cr Weller, Cr Gunn, Cr Davenport, Cr Simpson, Cr Langford, Cr Cutts, Cr Martin (8)

**Voted AGAINST Item:** Cr Griffiths, Cr Barker, Cr Stennett (3)

### 13 Close Meeting

The open Council Meeting was closed at 11.13pm and did not reopen to the public.

The confidential section of the Council Meeting opened at 11.18pm in order to deal with item 12.1 and 12.2. The meeting closed at 11.26pm.

*These minutes are circulated subject to confirmation by Council at the next Council Meeting to be held on 22 June 2026.*