

Enquiries: Craig Lloyd, Chief Executive Officer

File reference:

25 July 2025

Parliamentary Inquiry  
Fraud & Corruption in Local Government

Dear Members,

### **INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT – CITY OF WHITTLESEA**

The City of Whittlesea welcomes the opportunity to present to this Inquiry.

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*.

The City of Whittlesea is located in Melbourne's northern suburbs, about 20 kilometres from the CBD of Melbourne. It is one of Melbourne's largest municipalities, covering a land area of approximately 490 square kilometres. A city in its own right, with a thriving and growing economic base, it includes rural areas to the north, the emerging neighbourhoods and suburbs in the greenfield areas and the established suburbs to the south.

The majority of the City of Whittlesea population live in urban areas. This is split across the major established suburbs of Bundoora, Epping, Lalor, Mill Park and Thomastown, the current growth areas of Mernda, Doreen, South Morang, Epping North and Wollert, and the rural areas of Donnybrook and Whittlesea township and surrounds. Significant future growth is projected for Wollert and Donnybrook. The rural areas of the municipality, known as the Green Wedge, are characterised by farming, forested areas and historic township communities including Whittlesea.

The City of Whittlesea has a population of 257,000 in 2025, projected to be 355,000 by 2040– a 38% increase. Our community is diverse with 37.6% of residents born overseas, and 45% use a language other than English at home. Residents come from 114 countries, speak more than 93 languages and follow more than 40 faiths.

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#### **Council Offices**

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Free telephone interpreter service

 **131 450**

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At the City of Whittlesea we take governance seriously. We invest in our people, and support our Council to be highly effective. We work closely with our highly experienced independent Audit and Risk Committee to ensure that our policies, procedures, systems and reporting is of a high standard, and in recent years introduced an additional meeting to the schedule and increased membership from 3 to 4 independent members.

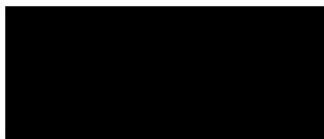
In recent years we have implemented new Community Grants processes which include enhanced oversight of applications, simplified application processes for our community, separation of Councillors from the assessment and approval of grants, and public reporting of awarded grants and expenditure of public funds.

Officers undertake self-assessments of relevant audits and reports across the sector to ensure we continue to improve our governance arrangements, and learn the lessons of others, as well as investing in an extensive internal audit program, and our own internal assurance program.

We look forward to discussing our efforts to prevent fraud and corruption with the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this additional submission.

Kind regards,



**Craig Lloyd**  
Chief Executive Officer

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