02.01
23/10/2025
C249wsea

CONTEXT

The City of Whittlesea is located on Melbourne's metropolitan fringe, approximately 20 kilometres north of the CBD. Covering 490 square kilometres, the municipality contains established urban, newly-developing and rural areas including the major rural centre of Whittlesea and a range of smaller rural localities in the north. The adjoining municipalities are the Shire of Nillumbik to the east, the City of Hume to the west, the Cities of Banyule and Darebin to the south and the Shires of Murrindindi and Mitchell to the north.

The City of Whittlesea is characterised by an abundance of natural features that contribute greatly to the attractiveness and amenity of the region. The northern parts of the municipality are contained in one of Melbourne's green wedge areas and comprise state forests, national parks, grasslands, woodlands and wetlands of national significance, recreation areas, water catchments, extensive rural areas, red gum woodlands, elevated landscapes and a network of rivers, creeks and drainage lines which extend into the urban areas.

Whittlesea has a wide range of urban and rural land uses including significant employment areas, activity centres, residential communities, farming activities, township communities, educational and other community uses. Industrial land has an important role in the municipality. The City of Whittlesea has one state significant industrial precinct in Thomastown and two state-significant waste and resource recovery hubs being the Cooper Street Precinct and the Hanson Landfill and Quarry.

The Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung people were the original inhabitants of the area and are the traditional owners of this land. Today the City of Whittlesea has the fourth highest Aboriginal population in metropolitan Melbourne.

Whittlesea is the fourth largest municipality and the fifth fastest growing in Victoria between 2016-2021. It has been endorsed by the Victorian Government as a growth area of metropolitan significance.

The three highest industry sector employers in the municipality are manufacturing, retail, trade, health care and social assistance. However, over 50 per cent of local residents work outside Whittlesea.

The municipality's access to major transportation corridors (such as the Hume Freeway, Metropolitan Ring Road) and convenient access to central Melbourne and other employment centres provides significant employment, infrastructure and transport opportunities for Whittlesea.

Proximity to Melbourne Airport, the main gateway to Victoria also provides access to air freight and other growth opportunities.