

Media Release

The Hon Nick Staikos MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Local Government



Tuesday, 14 October 2025

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO WHITTLESEA CITY COUNCIL

Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos today tabled in the Victorian Parliament the final report from the Commission of Inquiry into Whittlesea City Council.

The inquiry launched in May this year, with the Minister determining that an inquiry with broad powers was necessary to address potentially serious and systemic governance issues within the council and identify necessary improvements to ensure it could function effectively.

The Chair of the Commission Prue Digby and Commissioner Jim Gifford have recommended a range of reforms to improve governance at the council and across the local government sector.

Of the 17 recommendations, 4 are directed to the council and 13 to government across 4 key areas:

- the performance of the mayor and deputy mayor
- the performance of the councillors
- the performance of the CEO and administration
- the legislative framework.

On the Commission of Inquiry's recommendation, Mr Steven Kingshott has been appointed as Municipal Monitor to Whittlesea City Council from 15 October 2025 to 31 December 2026. Mr Kingshott will support the council in addressing the inquiry's findings and recommendations.

The Government will consider the remaining recommendations and respond in due course.

Further information about the report and the terms of reference for the monitor are available at localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos

"We thank Prue Digby and Jim Gifford for the Commission of Inquiry's report and for their work."

"The events at Whittlesea City Council are serious and culminated in a unanimous vote of no confidence in the Mayor by Whittlesea's ten other councillors. It is clear that a municipal monitor is needed to assist the council's administration."

"I expect the City of Whittlesea will use this opportunity to rectify the issues raised in the report – to reset and build a good governance framework that better serves ratepayers."