

# AGENDA

MEETING OF THE  
**HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on  
**26 August 2024**  
At 5.30pm

In the  
**Council Chamber, Civic Centre**  
**18 Roberts Avenue, HORSHAM**



**COUNCILLORS are respectfully requested to attend the Council Meeting  
of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held on 26 August 2024  
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm**

**Order of Business**

**PRESENT**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

**1. PRAYER**

Almighty God, we pledge ourselves to work in harmony for, the social, cultural and economic well-being of our Rural City. Help us to be wise in our deliberations and fair in our actions, so that prosperity and happiness shall be the lot of our people. AMEN

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT**

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the benefit of the broader community and future generations.

**3. OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as practicable.

**Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline read the following statement:**

My role as Mayor is to ensure the Council meeting is conducted in accordance with the Council's Governance Rules (sub rule 69.2). Members of the public do not have a right to address Council and may only do so with the consent of the Chair or by prior arrangement (sub rule 69.1). It is important for a successful Council meeting that the members of the gallery respect the setting and do not disrupt the meeting, particularly during the debate and discussion on Council items (sub rule 69.3). If required, as Chair, I may order the removal of any person (other than a Councillor) who disrupts the meeting or fails to comply with sub rule 69.2 (rule 70).

**4. APOLOGIES**

**5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS**

## 6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 22 July 2024 be adopted.

## 7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

### Declarations of Interest

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

### Members of Staff

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers or people engaged under contract to the Council providing a report or advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests in the matter, including the type of interest.

**8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION ..... 6**

**9. OFFICERS REPORTS ..... 6**

9.1 HORSHAM AIRPORT MASTER PLAN .....6

9.2 PLAN FOR VICTORIA..... 10

9.3 RESOURCES VICTORIA CRITICAL MINERALS ROADMAP .....13

9.4 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2024.....20

9.5 COUNCILLOR AND STAFF INTERACTION POLICY ..... 23

9.6 DELEGATIONS UPDATE..... 27

9.7 NAMING OF HARNATH ROAD- PIMPINIO ..... 31

9.8 PLOZZAS ROAD SPEED LIMIT..... 35

**REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ..... 38**

9.9 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT .....38

9.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S OPERATIONAL REPORT ..... 47

**10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... 50**

**11. URGENT BUSINESS..... 53**

**12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS ..... 54**

12.1 MAJOR MITCHELL DRIVE STREET TREES PETITION ..... 54

**13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS..... 57**

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS..... 57

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS..... 57

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE..... 57

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES ..... 57

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION..... 58**

**15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS ..... 58**

15.1 LAND ACQUISITION .....  
*Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(a) – Council Business Information*

15.2 PROVISION OF ORGANIC AND HARD WASTE SHREDDING SERVICES .....  
*Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information*

**CLOSE**



SUNIL BHALLA  
 Chief Executive Officer

## REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

### 9. OFFICERS REPORTS

#### 9.1 HORSHAM AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Annie Mintern	<b>Director:</b>	Kevin O'Brien
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Coordinator Investment & Business Development	<b>Directorate:</b>	Communities and Place
<b>Department:</b>	Investment Attraction & Growth	<b>File Number:</b>	F04/A06/000005

#### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

#### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

#### Appendix

Horsham Airport Master Plan (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Submission Table – Horsham Airport Master Plan (**Appendix 9.1B**)

---

#### Purpose

To adopt the Horsham Airport Master Plan.

#### Summary

- The master plan is the second stage of the Horsham Flight Hub Master Plan which comprises a Business Case and Feasibility Study (stage one) and a Master Plan and Detailed Designs (stage two).
- It considers the various requirements for future airline operations at the site, general aviation activities and property development.
- Nine recommendations were identified in the Feasibility Study for the Aerodrome, which have been incorporated into the final Master Plan.

#### Recommendation

That Council adopt the Horsham Airport Master Plan as presented in **Appendix 9.1A**.

## REPORT

### Background

Funding was received via the Regional Development Victoria Investment Fast Track Fund to develop a Master Plan and Detailed Designs for the Horsham Aerodrome. The project was staged as follows:

Stage 1 Business Case and Feasibility Study

Stage 2 Master Plan and Detailed Designs.

Stafford Strategy was engaged as the consultant to complete Stage One and Two of the Horsham Flight Hub Master Plan and Detailed Designs.

### Discussion

The Horsham Airport Master Plan examines the historic airport traffic, current demand, and forecast the aviation activity through to 2044 for the Horsham Airport. The Airport Master Plan also takes a longer-term view of the airport activity and direction to map out the 50 year Airport Master Plan to 2074. Most of the Airport's operational focus and revenue generation is determined by airport land rental. A key opportunity has been identified for the start of revenue passenger services making this exercise a key aspect of the master planning process. The Horsham Airport Master Plan then examines the existing airport infrastructure and identifies what infrastructure would be needed to accommodate the 2044 forecast aviation activity as well as significant developments needed to continue the airport growth to 2074.

The draft Master Plan has been available for community comment for a period of six weeks with two submissions received. The document was also emailed to all directly impacted stakeholders, none of which provided a submission or comment on the Master Plan.

The submissions received have been addressed in **Appendix 9.1B**. This has resulted in no changes to the draft plan as presented.

### Options to Consider

Option 1: Adopt the Horsham Airport Master Plan

Option 2: Do not adopt the Horsham Airport Master Plan

Option 1 is recommended as the development of the master plan is a key piece of strategic work for Council and needs to be finalised to ensure its future development which will provide significant benefits to Horsham and the broader region.

### Sustainability Implications

From an environmental and cultural value perspective, the Horsham Aerodrome is relatively unconstrained land. There are no major impediments to either the day-to-day operation of the facility or to the future growth and development of private aviation-related use, notwithstanding the recognition of the importance of the surrounding land to the owner's farming operation.

There are controls in place aimed at protecting native fauna and flora, protecting the ecological processes necessary for their continued existence, and encouraging the conservation and recovery of native fauna and flora and their habitats, areas of cultural significance and areas of Aboriginal cultural sensitivity.

A review of the mapping shows that none of the Horsham Aerodrome site has any identified biodiversity or cultural significance value. The nearest mapped site relates to sites of plains grassland - none of which would need to be impacted by existing or proposed activities/uses at the Aerodrome site.

Council has also completed extensive flood modelling which shows that no part of the aerodrome site is subject to flooding.

### **Community Engagement**

Extensive community engagement was undertaken via surveys with the business community and separately with residents of Horsham. There were 391 responses from community members and 78 responses from business and industry. The large number of responses highlighted the strong level of interest expressed to support flights, especially to Melbourne.

Stakeholder engagement conducted between March and July 2023 identified the following user groups at the Aerodrome:

- Air Ambulance Services
- Rescue and Emergency Services
- Users with a connection to the local aeronautical support services (aircraft maintenance and painting)
- Flight school and pilot training
- Users associated with the well-established glider operation
- Other General Aviation users (joy flights, agriculture-related, etc.)
- Limited charter services

Stakeholder engagement was also sought in April 2024 by presenting to the aerodrome user groups the final Master Plan.

Feedback on the draft master plan was available from 28 May 2024 to 25 June 2024 through *Have Your Say* on the HRCC website with hard copies available at the Council's Civic Centre. There was a dedicated media release distributed along with promotion in local newspapers, the weekly HRCC and Business newsletter and through social media.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Future aviation activity has been considered in the Master Plan and shows that aeronautical support services as well as the glider operation could be extended. There is sufficient demand to grow all these businesses.

It is the supply side, in particular, labour and, to a lesser degree, hangar space that imposes barriers to growth. A concerted Council strategy to position Horsham as an aeronautical centre of excellence and to improve hangarage at the Aerodrome could bring incremental skilled labour to the area.

A link to a major training institution such as Federation University (with involvement of an out of region skilled aviation service training institution) could generate a number of aviation sector trainees to support general aviation services including maintenance training and related skilled services.



### **Collaboration**

Council is collaborating with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and Wimmera Southern Mallee Development on this project, with both organisations represented on the Project control group for the project.

### **Financial Implications**

Funding was received via the Regional Development Victoria Investment Fast Track Fund to develop a Master Plan and Detailed Designs for the Horsham Aerodrome.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

[Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy 2022](#)

[Grampians Tourism 2022 Investment Prospectus](#)

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 2 Liveability

Theme 3 Sustainability

Theme 4 Accessibility

Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy 2022

Theme 4 Tourism

### **Risk Implications**

A comprehensive Risk Analysis is included in the study.

### **Conclusion**

The objective of The Horsham Flight Hub Master Plan is to:

1. Provide a strategic plan for new growth and development at the Aerodrome over the next 20 to 50-year period.
2. Ensure that the planning covers existing aerodrome facilities as well as areas adjacent to the site that could be affected by any future developments or changes to planning overlays.
3. Reflect consultation with the local community and Aerodrome users, as well as environmental and regulatory obligations.
4. Support the Aerodrome in becoming a leading aviation hub and attractive centre for private and government sector investment of regional significance
5. Ensure critical infrastructure is both planned for and protected
6. Provide a planning framework that recognises and supports the growth of existing and future commercial and recreational aviation activities at the Aerodrome.
7. Provide airport facilities for, and encourage the operation of, economically viable air services to and from Horsham

It is recommended that the Horsham Airport Master Plan is adopted by Council.

## 9.2 PLAN FOR VICTORIA

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Jasmine Butler/Joel Hastings	<b>Director:</b>	Kevin O'Brien
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Co-ordinator Strategic Planning/Co-ordinator Statutory Planning & Building Services	<b>Directorate:</b>	Communities & Place
<b>Department:</b>	Investment Attraction and Growth	<b>File Number:</b>	F06/A13/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Appendix

Horsham Rural City Council Submission to Plan for Victoria (August 2024) (**Appendix 9.2A**)  
Big Ideas for Victoria's future (**Appendix 9.2B**)

### Purpose

To present the Horsham Rural City Council Submission to Plan for Victoria (August 2024).

### Summary

- The State Government are seeking feedback on their draft housing targets and 'Big Ideas' for the Plan for Victoria.
- A submission outlining Council's response and advocacy priorities is presented for endorsement.
- Making a submission is an important opportunity for Council to provide support for regional growth and advocate for Council's priorities.

### Recommendation

That Council endorse the Horsham Rural City Council Submission to Plan for Victoria (August 2024) as included at **Appendix 9.2A**.

## REPORT

### Background

A new *Plan for Victoria* is being developed which will be a blueprint to guide how Victoria grows and develops as a state, replacing the current metropolitan and regional growth plans. For our region this is the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan 2014*.

Regional growth plans provide broad direction for land use and development, as well as more detailed planning frameworks for key regional centres. The *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan 2014* covers Horsham as well as the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. At the time, the plan was endorsed by each of the five Wimmera Southern Mallee region councils, following consultation with the community.

### Discussion

Community and stakeholder engagement undertaken to date for the *Plan for Victoria* has identified four broad themes as follows:

1. Affordable housing and choice;
2. Equity and jobs;
3. Thriving and liveable suburbs and towns; and
4. Sustainable environments and climate action.

A number of 'Big Ideas' for each of the themes is now being presented for feedback, along with questions about how they can be achieved (**Appendix 9.2B**).

Additionally, draft housing targets for all local government areas have been released for comment. The draft Housing target for Horsham Rural City Council is 3,100 new dwellings by 2051.

The *Horsham Rural City Council Submission to Plan for Victoria (August 2024)* provides a response to the 'Big Idea' questions, as well as the draft housing targets (**Appendix 9.2A**).

### Options to Consider

There are three options to consider:

*Option 1 - That Council endorse the Horsham Rural City Council Submission to Plan for Victoria (August 2024) (Appendix 9.2A), as recommended by this report.*

There are no negative implications for this action. Making a submission provides Council with an opportunity to present our adopted advocacy priorities, as well as local insights into how to achieve the state's vision, including the imperative need for infrastructure planning and funding.

*Option 2 - That changes are made to the submission.*

Any changes to the submission will need to be made before the submission closing date of 30 August 2024.

*Option 3 - That Council does not endorse the submission.*

This is not recommended as it would be a missed opportunity to provide feedback on the draft housing targets and 'Big Ideas'.

### **Sustainability Implications**

The Plan for Victoria currently includes the theme of Sustainable environments and climate action.

### **Community Engagement**

The State Government are leading the community engagement for the Plan for Victoria.

### **Collaboration**

The submission has been prepared by Council officers in the strategic and statutory planning teams, in collaboration with Councillors who were provided with an opportunity to review the draft submission at a Councillor briefing on Monday 12 August 2024.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for endorsing the submission.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The Plan for Victoria will be a new plan to guide how the State grows and develops.

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

Not applicable

### **Risk Implications**

Not applicable

### **Conclusion**

Providing a submission to Plan for Victoria is an opportunity to present Council's advocacy priorities, feedback on the 'Big Ideas', commentary on the housing targets.

### 9.3 RESOURCES VICTORIA CRITICAL MINERALS ROADMAP

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Fiona Gormann	<b>Director:</b>	Kevin O'Brien
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	<b>Directorate:</b>	Communities & Place
<b>Department:</b>	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	<b>File Number:</b>	F15/A07/000024

#### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

#### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

#### Appendix

Nil

#### Purpose

To present the Horsham Rural City Council submission to the Draft Critical Minerals Roadmap – Community Benefit Sharing (Resources Victoria).

#### Summary

Feedback on the *Community Benefit Sharing*

1. Should a more formalised approach be established for community benefits sharing in areas hosting critical minerals projects?
2. What type of initiatives or projects would council like to see supported?
3. What criteria should there be regarding projects eligibility for funding?
4. What type of initiatives and projects should not be eligible for funding?
5. How should funding decisions be made?

#### Recommendation

That Council make a submission to the State Government on the Draft Critical Minerals Roadmap – Community Benefit Sharing (Resources Victoria) 2024 as per the contents contained in Table 1 of the discussion section of this report.

## REPORT

### Background

Since the Gold Rush of the 1850s, the resources sector has been a vital part of Victoria's economy. They ensure the state has the raw materials to power our homes and industries. They support Victoria's quarry sector so the state has enough building materials for our infrastructure boom.

Resources Victoria sits within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, it includes the Earth Resources Regulator and Geological Survey of Victoria.

Resources play a key role in:

- Regulating the resources industry to effectively manage the risks to the environment and community
- Managing access to Victoria's resources for current and future
- Policy development and regulatory reform
- Regulatory approval coordination
- Regional geoscientific investigation and data provision

Through the delivery of geoscience, policy and regulation, they enable industry to responsibly and sustainably develop Victoria's resources. They work with industry to build community knowledge and confidence in the social, environmental and economic performance of the resources sector.

To help them do their work they partner with a range of other government agencies and industry organisations.

Mineral sands in the northwest Victoria – mineral sand deposits contain concentrated amounts of economically important minerals known as 'heavy minerals' which are much heavier than common sand materials such as quartz.

Deposits typically comprise the following minerals of economic interest.

- Zircon
- Rutile
- Leucoxene
- Ilmenite
- Monazite
- Xenotime

Victoria's mineral sands deposit occur a long way from the modern coastline. Their locations reflect the present of former inland seas and associated coastal processes that occurred tens of million of years ago.

Victoria has twenty-two per cent of Australia's ilmenite and seven per cent of global economically demonstrated resource. Victoria has fifty-one per cent of Australia's rutile and thirty-two percent of global economically demonstrated resource. Victoria has thirty-nine per cent of Australia's zircon and twenty-seven per cent of global economically demonstrated resource.

Targeted commodities are titanium found in ilmenite and rutile, zirconium found in zircon and rare earth elements are found in monazite and xenotime in Victoria’s mineral sand deposits.

**Discussion**

To unlock their potential, Victoria critical mineral resources need;

- Greater geoscientific investigations
- Further exploration
- A certain path for mineral development and processing, and
- increased community confidence.

The draft Critical Minerals Sands Roadmap seeks to align the interest of communities, the resources sector and government to create a community shared benefit.

The roadmap’s architecture draws together five themes with a range of commitments;

1. Identify and promote new opportunities
2. A clear and certain pathway for development
3. Transparent and predictable regulation
4. Critical minerals production and processing in Victoria
5. Share the benefit with all Australians

Council’s submission relates to theme five around community benefit sharing and five key questions;

1. Should a more formalised approach be established for community benefits sharing in areas hosting critical minerals projects?
2. What type of initiatives or projects would council like to see supported?
3. What criteria should there be regarding projects eligibility for funding?
4. What type of initiatives and projects should not be eligible for funding?
5. How should funding decisions be made?

**Proposed submission**

The following points are recommended for inclusion in a submission to Resources Victoria regarding their Draft Critical Minerals Roadmap 2024.

*Table 1: Council’s feedback to the Draft Critical Minerals Roadmap 2024*

<p>1. Should a more formalised approach be established for community benefits sharing in areas hosting critical minerals projects?</p>	<p>Council supports the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Landowner rights need to be made easier to find on the Resource Victoria website.</li> <li>1.2 Value adding locally as a result of processing</li> <li>1.3 Resource Councils to be involved in the EES process</li> <li>1.4 Approval times for EES and Ministers making decisions needs to be quicker, the longer it takes the</li> </ul>
--	--

	<p>more unease there is within the communities.</p> <p>1.5 Look at other examples that are working well i.e. Western Australia.</p> <p>1.6 The development of a community benefit scheme that returns value and opportunity to hosting communities.</p> <p>1.7 Rate increases and or royalties back to the region (Royalties for Region – State 25% and at least 75% for communities in the region).</p> <p>1.8 The application processes for the Community Benefits Fund should be designed to ensure there is minimal burden on applicants and the focus is on best outcomes for the region, such as grant categories in the program guidelines ensure that the administration requirements are proportionate to the grant amount.</p> <p>1.9 Flexibility in the fund, that allows for funding accruals and/or bring forward future years funding to support significant projects that are deemed a priority and require substantial investment.</p> <p>1.10 The option of pooling of funds in applications that can demonstrate wider community benefit.</p>	
<p>2. What type of initiatives or projects would council like to see supported?</p>	<p>2.1 Key strategic planning documents, such as the Regional Economic Development Strategies and Council strategic plans, should be required as a reference for decision-making in the allocation of funds. These documents represent significant consultation with communities and articulation of regional priorities.</p> <p>2.2 Projects that support environment sustainability i.e water flows.</p> <p>2.3 Projects that support environment benefits i.e biodiversity</p> <p>2.4 Community Benefit Grants - Two Grant Streams 1. Informal up to \$5,000 and Formal to fund community infrastructure projects such as sporting facilities.</p> <p>2.5 Regional and Local roads.</p> <p>2.6 Education opportunities.</p>	



	<p>2.7 Community facilities. 2.8 Community infrastructure. 2.9 Projects that support local and regional jobs. 2.10 Projects that protect the environment</p>	
<p>3. What criteria should there be regarding projects eligibility for funding?</p>	<p>3.1 Eligible projects must deliver strategic, long-term/ intergenerational benefits for host communities that support greater equity and the sustainable growth of communities.</p> <p>3.2 To ensure maximum benefit for host communities, eligibility for funding must be broad and only to include priorities deemed to have the most strategic importance by the host community.</p> <p>3.3 The definition of hosting communities should be expanded to include communities where mineral sand workers will be based. An influx of residents to host communities will have implications for community infrastructure, housing availability, demand on support services including childcare, health and community services. (people/families not to be forced out of housing who are on lower incomes).</p> <p>3.4 Local Government Authorities should be explicitly included as an eligible organisation, recognising their place as the service provider, maintainer and delivery agent for many community assets and services in rural and regional communities. An overwhelming majority of critical community assets are owned or managed by Local Government including open spaces, playgrounds, recreation facilities, halls, libraries, senior citizen facilities, kindergartens as well as waste and sustainability activities and Local Government exclusion would be to the wider community's detriment.</p>	

	<p>3.5 Local Government Authorities should be eligible to act as auspice organisations for volunteer, community and not for profit groups with limited project delivery experience and expertise.</p> <p>3.6 Major funding back to the communities most impacted.</p> <p>3.7 Consultation with the communities about the projects being funded (including the farming communities who are impacted by projects).</p> <p>3.8 Projects that support multiple agencies working together to benefit the community.</p> <p>3.9 Long-term projects.</p> <p>3.10 Well scoped projects with case studies.</p> <p>3.11 The three C's. (Consultation, Cooperation and Coordination)</p>	
<p>4. How should funding decisions be made?</p>	<p>4.1 The use of place-based decision making. Council considers that local communities are best placed to determine projects that are of regional and local strategic importance.</p> <p>4.2 Consideration in the decision-making process needs to be given to the administration of these funds – the critical resources areas need to align with any existing local or regional boundaries. If they don't it could complicate the distribution of funds as reference groups are made up from organisations such as the Regional Partnerships who follow boundary alignments.</p> <p>4.3 Independent panel.</p> <p>4.4 Formalised approach with land owners and independent from mineral sand projects.</p>	
<p>5. What type of initiatives and projects should not be eligible for funding</p>	<p>5.1 Investment in community infrastructure under the Critical Mineral Sands Roadmap should not be used to replace existing State and Federal Government funding responsibilities.</p> <p>5.2 Projects that benefit individuals.</p>	

**Options to Consider**

Option 1: Make a submission as proposed in this report

Option 2: Not make a submission

**Sustainability Implications**

Community benefits are an acknowledgement by government that new infrastructure from mineral sands projects result in changes to communities and local amenity. Community benefits include delivering opportunities for sustained and inclusive social, economic or environmental improvements that are tailored to the needs of local communities and the region. Community benefits initiatives aim to establish and maintain positive long-term connections between new mineral sands projects and local communities by contributing to the future vitality of the regions where projects are located.

**Community Engagement**

Due to the timeframe when the draft Critical Minerals Roadmap was presented to Council on 5 August 2024, no community engagement has occurred as part of developing the Council submission.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not applicable

**Collaboration**

Not applicable

**Financial Implications**

Not applicable

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not applicable

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

20021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 3 - Sustainability - Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategy 2: A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive.

Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards

**Risk Implications**

Not applicable

**Conclusion**

The draft Critical Minerals Roadmap will establish how the Victorian Government will allocate funds from mineral sands projects, to deliver lasting benefits to the region and communities. It is important that feedback is provided on the draft Critical Minerals Roadmap, so it provides maximum benefits to the community and the broader region.

## 9.4 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2024

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Sarah Mclvor	<b>Director:</b>	Kim Hargreaves
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Governance Coordinator	<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Department:</b>	Governance and Information	<b>File Number:</b>	F18/A10/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

## Appendix

Quarterly Performance Report: April – June 2024 (**Appendix 9.4A**)

### Purpose

To present the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 4: 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024.

### Summary

- The Quarterly Performance Report is a key component of our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency and accountability back to Council and the community.
- The Quarterly Performance Report brings together a range of reports including:
  - Quarterly Finance Report
  - Progress against Annual Action Plan deliverables
  - Service Performance Indicators
  - Councillor Expenses
  - Progress against Major Projects and Capital Works
  - Customer Service Performance
  - Consolidated data on Community Engagement

### Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 4, 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024. (**Appendix 9.4A**).

## REPORT

### Background

Council's operations are large and complex, with over 80 different broad service delivery areas from road maintenance and construction, waste collection, parks, building and planning, to early years, visual and performing arts. This diversity in services creates challenges in many facets of Council's operations, which then create challenges in reporting on these to Council and the broader community.

The Quarterly Performance Report encapsulates a quarterly budget report, progress against the Annual Action Plan, the tracking of any major initiatives, Council expenses and key data relating to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. It also encompasses a report on Council's community engagement activities for the quarter, which is subject to ongoing review and development in future quarterly reports.

To further support our reporting, Council has a Financial and Performance Reporting Framework in place that provides guidance on reporting processes. It states the following:

*"Councillors take ultimate responsibility for the performance of Council and are accountable to the ratepayers and community of the municipality. As Councillors are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Council, they rely on policies, procedures and internal controls to provide assurance about the information reported to them and in turn reported to the community and other stakeholders."*

The provision of relevant information on a regular basis is an important part of that internal control process and is necessary for the various levels of Council to carry out their responsibilities and obligations to the community in the management of Council business.

Central to Council's Quarterly Reporting Framework, are the following objectives:

- Council is committed to providing accurate, correct and quality information to the community relating to its performance;
- Council is committed to providing high quality relevant internal and external reporting, in a timely manner;
- Council is committed to providing regular targeted reporting to Management, its Audit and Risk Committee, Councillors and the community;
- Council is committed to sound governance through the alignment of performance reporting with its strategic direction; and
- Performance reporting is integral to better understanding of how Council is performing in its delivery of key strategies and operations from the Council Plan.

### Discussion

As a part of Council's continual improvement process, this report provides Councillors and the community with updates on progress against the Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 and other key strategic items.

The quarterly report usually also provides the Local Government Performance Reporting (LGPRF) data, a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. This data will instead be reported in the Annual Report 2023-2024 to allow time for data validation to occur noting some of the current data is still unavailable at time of preparation of the report.

Other sections of the Quarterly Report also refer readers to the Annual Report 2023-2024 such as financial performance indicators in the finance report as well as Councillor Expenses for the full financial year (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024). The information will be reported in the Annual Report rather than in this current report as the annual report provides a full account of council's operations of the previous financial year and contains a report of operations, audited financial statements and an audited performance statement.

### **Options to Consider**

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

### **Sustainability Implications**

Not applicable other than any reporting included in the report on Council's environmental and sustainability goals.

### **Community Engagement**

The Quarterly Performance report is prepared through cross-departmental consultation within Council. Following executive management team's endorsement, it will progress to a Council Briefing before formal endorsement at a Council Meeting.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Ongoing refinements are made to ensure the report provides clear and concise reporting on key strategic items.

### **Collaboration**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

This report is prepared using existing staff resources.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not applicable

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan – all aspects

### **Risk Implications**

Provision of good quality, regular reporting of financial and non-financial information to the community mitigates against the risk of poor financial governance and possible financial mismanagement. The Municipal Association of Victoria's Good Governance Guide provides that *"the Council is ultimately accountable for the financial management...it should not have a hands-on role... but it needs to ensure that it has sufficient information to be satisfied that finances are in order and that the budgetary and financial planning goals are being met"*.

### **Conclusion**

The Quarterly Performance Report provides a regular and succinct report for Council and the community to assess Council's performance against a number of key measures.

## 9.5 COUNCILLOR AND STAFF INTERACTION POLICY

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Andrea Coxon	<b>Director:</b>	Kim Hargreaves
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Governance Officer	<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporates Services
<b>Department:</b>	Governance & Information	<b>File Number:</b>	F19/A10/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

## Appendix

Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy 2024 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

### Purpose

To present the updated Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy

### Summary

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is required to have in place policies, practices and protocols that support arrangements for interaction between Councillors and members of Council staff.
- The Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy supports the Councillor Code of Conduct and Staff Code of Conduct and provides guidance and support for Councillors and Council staff in the performance of their duties as established by the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

### Recommendation

That Council note the change to the approval process, and commit to the updated Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy (**Appendix 9.5A**).

## REPORT

### Background

Section 46(3)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* outlines that the CEO has responsibility for managing interactions between members of Council staff and Councillors and ensuring that policies, practices and protocols that support arrangements for interaction between members of Council staff and Councillors are developed and implemented. Historically, HRCC has opted for Council to formally adopt the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy at any cycle of review.

The Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) review policies from councils across Victoria during their governance examinations. Where they identify policies that enable other councils to self-assess their own documentation, they provide such examples with the permission of the relevant councils as benchmark policies. The five policies provided by the LGI in relation to councillor-staff interaction all provide for the CEO as the owner of the policy as well as the authorising entity (refer <https://www.lgi.vic.gov.au/best-practice-council-policies>). In addition to the five policies recommended by the LGI a further five sector policies were reviewed with the same practices recorded at those Council's (i.e. that the policy was a CEO-endorsed policy).

### Discussion

The Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy is a critical document that guides the conduct and communication between Councillors and Council staff. It ensures effective governance, clarity, and mutual respect within the organisation.

The *Local Government Act 2020* provides guidelines for policy adoption, including provisions under section 46(3)(c), which permits certain policies to be endorsed by the CEO instead of requiring formal Council adoption. The Local Government Inspectorate also recommends best practices for policy management, emphasising efficiency and clarity.

Interaction between the Councillors, CEO and Council staff is critical to achieve a high performing and functioning Council. This ensures that Councillors are provided with timely and accurate information to enable good decision making when representing the interests of the community.

To obtain the appropriate information in a timely manner, the Councillors are required to communicate with not only the CEO, but members of the Executive (Directors) as well.

Rationale for policy being endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) rather than going to the Council for adoption:

**1. Legal and Best Practice Alignment:**

- Section 46(3)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides the flexibility for certain policies to be endorsed by the CEO. This legal provision is intended to streamline administrative processes and enable more responsive policy management.
- Recommendations from the Local Government Inspectorate emphasise the importance of utilising efficient processes for policy updates, ensuring they are reflective of current needs and best practices without unnecessary delays.



2. *Expertise and Operational Understanding:*

- The EMT, consisting of senior management, brings a deep understanding of organisational operations and the practical implications of policy changes. Their expertise is invaluable in ensuring that policy updates are comprehensive and operationally sound.
- The CEO's endorsement represents a high level of accountability and ensures consistency in the application of the policy across the organisation.

3. *Efficiency and Responsiveness:*

- By allowing policy updates to be reviewed by the EMT and endorsed by the CEO, the organisation can adapt more swiftly to changing circumstances or emerging issues. This process reduces the time lag associated with formal Council adoption.
- Streamlined policy endorsement processes contribute to more agile governance and decision-making, enabling the organisation to respond effectively to the needs of Councillors, staff, and the community.

4. *Strategic Focus:*

- The Council can maintain its focus on strategic priorities and community outcomes by delegating endorsing administrative (operational) policy to the CEO. This division of responsibilities enhances the Council's ability to address broader governance issues.

By specifying acceptable interactions, the policy helps mitigate risks related to conflicts of interest, favouritism, or inappropriate influence, contributing to a fair and transparent governance process. The following updates to the policy have been informed by sector policies provided by Local Government Inspectorate.

*4.1 Allowable Interactions*

Clearly defined types of interactions that are permitted, the policy helps both Councillors and staff understand their roles and responsibilities, reducing the potential for misunderstandings or overstepping of boundaries.

*4.4 Councillor requests from the community*

Improved clarity regarding community requests/complaints issued via a Councillor. By specifying the appropriate channels and methods for communication, the policy facilitates more efficient and productive interactions. This approach minimises delays and ensures that information is communicated effectively.

*4.4.1 Councillor requests from anonymous community members*

New section to provide information on limitations to council staff when anonymous requests are provided and Councillor responsibilities

Minor administrative inclusions that do not have any material consequences on the policy have also been made.

### **Options to Consider**

Council may prefer that the policy remain as a Council-adopted policy rather than become an administrative policy. The *Local Government Act 2020* does however state that the CEO has responsibility for managing interactions between members of Council staff and Councillors and ensuring that policies, practices and protocols that support arrangements for interaction between members of Council staff and Councillors are developed and implemented. It is also common practice across councils and is reflected in the best practice policies provided by the LGI, that the CEO adopts this policy.

### **Sustainability Implications**

Nil

### **Community Engagement**

Not applicable

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

This policy will ensure that Councillors have access to specific key members of Council Staff to ensure that they have the information required to inform their decision-making, while at the same time establishing suitable protocols to reduce the likelihood of a Councillor breaching sections 123(3)(c) or 124 of the Act.

### **Collaboration**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report of the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not applicable

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

- Councillor Code of Conduct
- Staff Code of Conduct
- 2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 5 Leadership: 4. Accountable and transparent decision making

### **Risk Implications**

There is a risk that the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* will be breached where there is inappropriate Councillor and Council staff interaction. This Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy is designed to mitigate this risk.

### **Conclusion**

Amending the process for adoption of the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy is consistent with both legislative provisions and recommended best practice. This approach supports efficient governance, accountability, and effective policy implementation.

## 9.6 DELEGATIONS UPDATE

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Andrea Coxon	<b>Director:</b>	Kim Hargreaves
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Governance Officer	<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Department:</b>	Governance	<b>File Number:</b>	F19/A12/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

## Appendix

S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (**Appendix 9.6A**)

### Purpose

To approve the updated S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff.

### Summary

- Updates have been made to the Instrument of Delegation (the Instrument) to members of Council staff to reflect several legislative changes.
- This update takes into account legislative changes which were assented to or made from 1 January 2024 to 21 July 2024.

### Recommendation

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation (**Appendix 9.6A**), Horsham Rural City Council (Council) resolves that -

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in, or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council's Chief Executive Officer.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

## REPORT

### Background

A Council is a statutory entity and as such it is only able to do those things which it is authorised by statute to do. The sources of Council authority can be summarised as:

- Power to do things which a “natural person” can do – in particular, the power to enter into contracts
- Powers conferred by provisions of Acts and regulations, such as the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- Powers conferred by other forms of statutory instrument

Formal delegation of legislated powers, duties, and functions through instruments of delegation and consistent policies allows Council staff to perform day-to-day duties and make decisions that would otherwise require Council resolution. An instrument of delegation specifies what powers and functions are delegated and to which positions within the Council. This empowers employees to make binding decisions on behalf of Council.

Council last reviewed and adopted by resolution of Council S6 Instrument of Delegation, to members of Council staff on 25 March 2024.

### Discussion

This update amends the S6 Instrument of Delegation administered by Council, with the changes outlined below.

#### 1. Legislative changes to the S6 Instrument of Delegation to members of Council staff (S6)

##### Road Management Act 2004

- 1.1. Removal of sections 12(2), 12(4)-(7) of the *Road management Act 2004*, as it is recommended that Councils use the powers under the *Local Government Act 1989* instead to discontinue a road.

*Officer comment: No further action is needed beyond noting the information. These powers under the Local Government Act 1989 to discontinue a road are already established and sit within the S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation of CEO, this authority is delegated to the Director of Infrastructure.*

##### Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2020

- 1.2. Deletion of the *Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2020*, as they have been revoked pursuant to regulation 4(a) of the *Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2024*. Those new regulations commenced on 29 June 2024 and have been included.

*Officer comment: These regulations introduce updated standards that reflect current industry practices and safety requirements. The 2024 regulations incorporate revised safety, health and amenity standards, enhanced registration processes and criteria for caravan parks and movable dwellings. These provisions should remain delegated to Council's Co-Ordinator Environment Health and Environmental Health Officer as shown in the Instrument (Appendix 9.6A).*

Food Act 1984

1.3 The Food Act 1984 was amended pursuant to the *Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2024*, which commenced on 6 March 2024, the day after it received Royal Assent. As a result, the following inclusions apply:

- 1.3.1 Included 19(4)(a)(ia) and 19(4)(a)(ib), and amended 19(4)(a)(ii), which relates to Council's power to direct that a copy of an order be affixed, displayed or published.
- 1.3.2 Included section 19FA(1), which relates to Council's power to direct a proprietor of a food premises to revise the foods safety program for the premises or comply with any requirements specified in the food safety program.
- 1.3.3 Included section 19FA(3)(a), which relates to Council's power to refuse to approve an application for registration or renewal of premises, where a proprietor of a food premises fails to comply with a direction given under section 19FA(1). Please note that, adopting a conservative approach, a comment has been inserted in the Conditions & Limitations column of the Instrument that this is subject to ratification in accordance with s 58A(2).
- 1.3.4 Included section 19FA(3)(b), which relates to Council's power to revoke a registration granted in respect of premises, where a proprietor of a food premises fails to comply with a direction given under section 19FA(1).

1.4 Included section 19FA(3)(c) which relates to Council's power to suspend a registration of premises, where a proprietor of a food premises fails to comply with a direction given under section 19FA(1)

*Officer comment: These amendments significantly enhance Council's regulatory powers and responsibilities concerning food safety and compliance in relation to temporary food premises or mobile food premises. These provisions should be delegated to Council's Co-Ordinator Environment Health and Environmental Health Officer as shown in the Instrument (**Appendix 9.6A**).*

All updates are shown in the Instrument (**Appendix 9.6A**) as 'track changes'. Once the Instrument has been approved, a 'clean' version will be signed by the CEO and published to Council's website in accordance with Council's obligations under the Act and the Public Transparency Policy.

**Options to Consider**

Council may reject the recommendations and resolve not to delegate the powers, duties, and functions as recommended. This would be contrary to advice from Maddocks and the officers' recommendations. Not adopting the S6 Instrument would require all decisions related to the provisions in the instrument to be made by Council resolution.

**Sustainability Implications**

Nil

**Community Engagement**

The attached delegations have been updated using the Maddocks Lawyers delegation service and in consultation with relevant Council Officers.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Council uses the subscribed service by Maddocks Lawyers as part of our commitment to continuous improvement as a cost effective and efficient means to ensure our delegations continue to align with legislative and other regulatory changes.

**Collaboration**

Maddocks Lawyers delegation service and consultation with the relevant internal departments to ensure that appropriate officers are appointed to exercise the powers granted.

**Financial Implications**

The financial impact of the review of delegations is limited to staff time, the cost of Maddocks Lawyers delegation service which includes access to all materials relating to delegations and authorisations and bi-annual updates and Council's subscription to the RelianSys Delegations+ system. These costs have been budgeted for within the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 budgets. No additional resourcing is required to give effect to these functions.

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Nil

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 – Community

Theme 5 – Leadership

Delegations and Authorisations to Members of Council Staff Guidelines

- These guidelines were last updated and adopted by EMT 9 August 2022

**Risk Implications**

Ensuring that instruments of delegation remain current is essential to empower staff appropriately and maintain legislative compliance for Horsham Rural City Council.

**Conclusion**

Delegations facilitate the success of good governance for the community by empowering appropriate members of staff to make decisions on behalf of Council.

## 9.7 NAMING OF HARNATH ROAD- PIMPINIO

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Kayla Christian	<b>Director:</b>	Kim Hargreaves
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Coordinator Rates	<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Department:</b>	Finance	<b>File Number:</b>	F27/A15/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Appendix

Nil

### Purpose

To seek approval to the naming of an unnamed road in Pimpinio.

### Summary

- Roger Thamm has requested that an unnamed road in Pimpinio be named Harnath Road to honour his late Grandfather, Johann Frederick (Fred) Harnath and Great-Grandfather, Johann Harnath.
- The unnamed road is located between Reinheimers Road, Pimpinio and Drendels Road, Pimpinio and borders the Harnath property.
- The proposed name conforms with the Naming Rules.
- Community Consultation has been undertaken on the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the Naming Rules.

### Recommendation

That Council rename the unnamed road, located between Reinheimers Road, Pimpinio and Drendels Road, Pimpinio as Harnath Road.

## REPORT

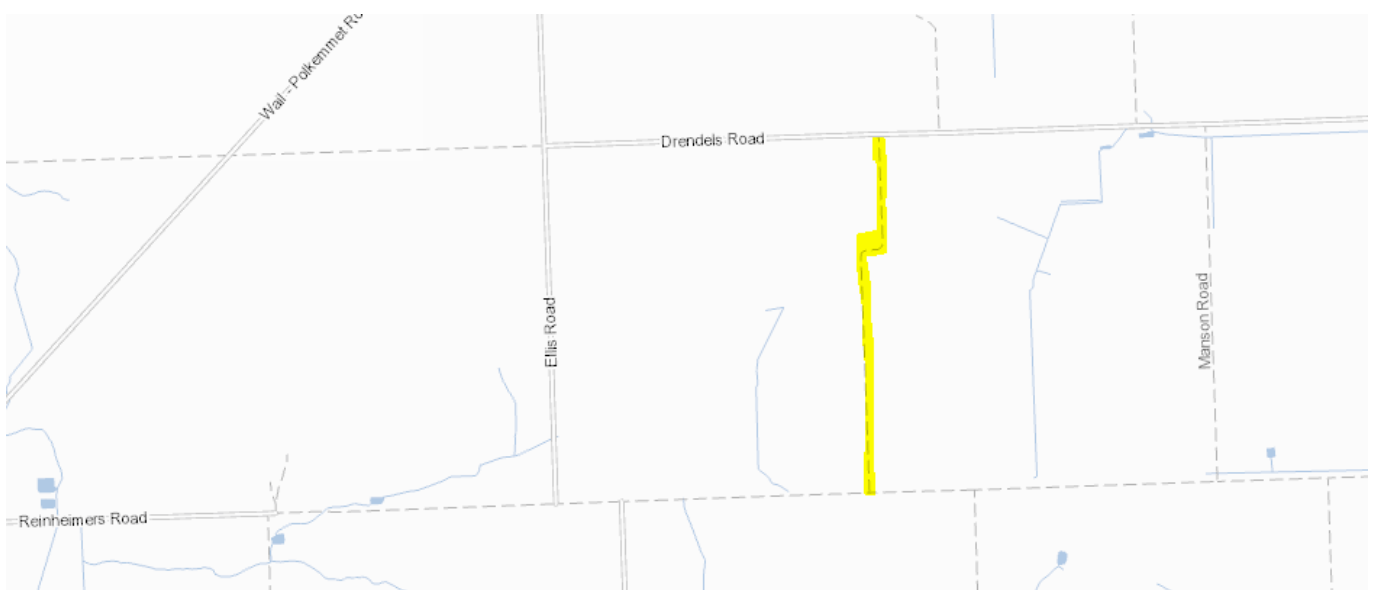
### Background

The *Naming rules for places in Victoria* – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022 (the naming rules) have replaced the 2016 naming rules. They are the statutory guidelines provided for under section 5 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*; and are mandatory for all naming authorities in Victoria – councils, government departments and emergency response and public service providers – and include all government-owned or administered roads, features (natural or otherwise) and localities. Based on national standards and policies, they provide a strong basis for standardised and clear naming procedures across the state.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the naming process in Victoria by proposing a name, initiating a proposal or responding to a relevant naming authority regarding a naming proposal. An application must be submitted to Council for consideration along with substantiating information to support their request. Criteria for eligibility include significant contributions to the local community; linkages to the history of the locality; and/or significant / notable achievements. Members of the public can also propose a change to an existing name.

### Discussion

A naming proposal request was made by Roger Thamm, to name an unnamed road Harnath Road. The unnamed road proposed for renaming is the road marked in yellow below that runs between Reinheimers Road and Drendels Road, Pimpinio.



Council acknowledged the request to rename the above unnamed road at the Council meeting on 27 May 2024. At that time Council also authorised officers to undertake a consultation process with the residents of Pimpinio in relation to the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the Naming Rules.

Section 7.2 of the 'Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities 2022' requires consultation with the immediate and/or extended community occur for a minimum of 30 days. Consultation was undertaken over a 30-day period from late June 2024 to late July 2024.



Noting the requirement for the immediate and/or extended community to be consulted, Council officers wrote to owners/rate payers of some 25 properties in close proximity to the unnamed road. Noting the small number of immediate properties, Council also provided an online survey on the 'Have Your Say' page of the Horsham Rural City Council website. Both the letters and the website invited and encouraged the immediate community to provide feedback on the proposal as a means to comply with the consultation process outlined in the Naming Rules.

The Naming Rules state "If the community was consulted on one name or boundary amendment, the proposal by the naming authority has the support of the community and any objections have been addressed, then the proposal can be considered by the naming authority". Noting that where the 'community has been notified that, dependant on community support, the proposed name will be sent to the naming authority for endorsement, the naming authority can then consider the community informed of its decision'. As no responses were received from the community in relation to the consultation the proposal to rename the unnamed road can now be considered by Council as the naming authority. Once there is a decision the Naming Rules require that we inform the community of the naming authority's (Council's) decision (as per 7.2.6 of the Rules).

#### **Options to Consider**

Council can either approve the recommended name for the unnamed road or select a name of their choice after consideration of the requirements of the policy. It is recommended that the proposed name be adopted noting the consultation undertaken for that purpose.

#### **Sustainability Implications**

Nil

#### **Community Engagement**

As outlined above, Community Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines under Section 7.2 of the 'Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities 2022'.

#### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not applicable

#### **Collaboration**

Not applicable

#### **Financial Implications**

This proposal has no financial implications.

#### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

*Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities 2022*

#### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan

Horsham Rural City Council Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy

**Risk Implications**

The process by which the name was provided for consideration of was done in accordance with the Naming Rules and Council policy which mitigates the risk associated with consideration of the renaming of the proposed road. Undertaking the consultation process in accordance with the requirements of the Naming Rules further mitigates risk to Council as the naming authority.

**Conclusion**

The name Harnath conforms to the relevant statutory requirements and Council's relevant policy. The consultation process was undertaken by Council's Rates Coordinator as required by that policy and no responses were received during the consultation period. The lack of community feedback received indicates that Council should proceed to name the unnamed road in Pimpinio, Harnath Road.

## 9.8 PLOZZAS ROAD SPEED LIMIT

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Akshay Rajput	<b>Director:</b>	John Martin
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Co-ordinator Engineering	<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure
<b>Department:</b>	Asset and Engineering	<b>File Number:</b>	F02/A08/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

Nil

### Appendix

Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

Nil

### Purpose

To present the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Plozzas Road, Haven to 60 km/h.

### Summary

- Multiple concerns have been expressed by the local community around Plozzas Rd about the retention of the 80 km/h speed limit with the growing number of households on both sides of the road.
- Traffic count data has showed that even at the higher 80 km/h speed limit, 17% vehicles were observed speeding.
- This is a key road connecting Haven Community to the Golf Club and children are using this road to access swim school. The absence of a bike/shared path increases the potential risk for pedestrian and bike users in this vicinity.

### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the proposal for speed limit change from 80 km/h to 60 km/h in Plozzas Road Haven, and seek community views on the proposed change.
2. Consider community feedback at the 16 September 2024 Council meeting.

## REPORT

### Background

Council has received multiple requests from members of community regarding road safety risks for the growing population along Plozzas Rd, this population includes many children. These requests have been received since 2021 and the latest request was received in November 2023.

The adjoining section of Henty Highway is an 80 km/h speed zone.

A traffic count was conducted which found that 17.4% of vehicles were observed to have been travelling at speeds of more than 80 km/h. The heavy vehicle percentage on Plozzas road is 28.41%.

### Discussion

Factors relevant to this review of the speed limit in Plozzas Rd include:

- Plozzas road has seen increasing development in recent years, with around 17 new lots directly facing Plozzas Rd, and many more linked to it through new roads, such as Lock Road, and adjoining developments.
- Many of the new houses on these lots have young families.
- Plozzas Rd is a key service road linking to the Golf Course, Haven Primary School and the Recreation Reserve which hosts many activities including the regular Haven Market and Tennis Club.
- There is a relatively high percentage of heavy vehicle traffic on this road, as it provides a link from Three Bridges Rd through to the Henty Highway.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has established Speed Zoning Technical Guidelines which enables assessment of a range of factors, including housing density and the presence of other facilities, to determine the appropriate speed limit for a road segment. This guideline has been used to assess the appropriate speed limit in Plozzas Rd, resulting in a recommendation for a change to 60 km/h.

This information was used as a basis to discuss options for improved road safety in Plozzas Rd with the local community. They have indicated their support for the speed limit change.

Liaison with DTP has also occurred, and they have indicated their approval-in-principle for a change of speed limit.

Council's standard process for speed limit changes is that after these initial consultation steps, broader community consultation would be undertaken to ascertain support for the change. It is now proposed that this broader consultation occur.

### Options to Consider

The risk of excessive speed to the Plozzas Rd community can be reduced with the following options: -

- 1) Using speed calming devices – this is effective but involves higher cost.
- 2) Changing speed Limit – this is a relatively cheaper option.

Option 2 is proposed.

### Sustainability Implications

Nil

**Community Engagement**

Initial local community engagement with the residents of Plozzas Rd was carried out on Sunday 2 June 2024 at Haven Hall by the Engineering Coordinator. About 15 residents of Plozzas Rd attended this meeting. The local community welcomed the proposed speed change and is in support of Council to expedite the change.

Broader consultation is now proposed. This is proposed to be conducted for a two-week period so that the feedback can be presented to Council at its 16 September 2024 meeting.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not applicable

**Collaboration**

Council has collaborated with DTP in assessing the appropriate speed limit for Plozzas Rd.

**Financial Implications**

The cost of signage is estimated to be less than \$2000. Funding for this is available within the current signage budget.

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The proposed speed limit change has been assessed in accordance with DTP guidelines.

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

The reduced speed is consistent with strategies in the Horsham Urban Transport Plan.

**Risk Implications**

The proposed reduction in speed limit is aimed at reducing community risk associated with vehicle traffic on a road that is seeing increased residential development.

**Conclusion**

The proposed change of speed limit is one more step towards making our community safer for vulnerable road users.

## REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

### 9.9 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Fiona Gormann	<b>Director:</b>	Kevin O'Brien
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	<b>Directorate:</b>	Communities and Place
<b>Department:</b>	Communities and Place	<b>File Number:</b>	F15/A06/000001

#### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

#### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

#### Appendix

Spendmapp Report June 2024 (data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry)  
**(Appendix 9.9A)**

#### Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for June 2024.

#### Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report provides the progress and outcomes achieved through the delivery of the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan during the reporting period.

#### Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for June 2024.

## REPORT

### Background

An Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report is tabled monthly at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

### Discussion

The work undertaken across Investment Attraction and Growth Department includes Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Building Services, Business Development and Tourism.

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan progress and key achievements for the month of June are articulated in the information and tables, as follow.

Actions are measured by goals and set timelines. The timelines are indicated by years which relate to financial years.

Year 1 - 2022-2023

Year 2 - 2023-2024

Year 3 - 2024-2025

Year 4 - 2025-2026

Year 5+ 2026+

Ongoing – life of plan

The teams will focus on delivering actions with in the current financial year whilst carrying out the necessary planning to ensure targets are meet in sequential years.

## INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.10 (Ongoing)	Undertake regular meetings between Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities	10 forums held per year	Meetings held on a regular basis. Outcomes relate to business development opportunities that benefit the region overall. 6/10 meetings held to date in 2024.
(1-2 years)	Council support and advocate for renewable energy projects of all scales	Begin discussions with smaller townships for community scale solar	The Investment Attraction Team attended a GNET meeting in June. The GNET group has submitted feedback relating to the VicGrid Victorian Transmission Investment Framework – REZ Community Benefits Plan. Council has also submitted feedback relating to this.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
2.6.1 (ongoing)	Promote recreational activities in our natural environment to increase destination tourism and visitation	Activities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Filming for the TV show Postcards occurred on Tuesday 18 June at Grampians Olive Co and Meringa Springs in the Wartook Valley in partnership with GWM Tourism to promote our region as a tourism destination.
(ongoing)	Host seasonal workshop sessions with Grampians Tourism and Wimmera Mallee Tourism to organise and update our businesses and tourism operators about relevant information for the region	Four industry workshops have been hosted	The Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Industry Forum was held on June 21 and had a focus on attracting travellers in the 60+ age bracket.
(ongoing)	Ensure constant communication through e-mails and business newsletters with tourism operators and local businesses regarding what is happening in the region	A minimum of 10 business newsletters distributed annually 4 business forums are held annually	Monthly newsletter was sent to 1,032 business contacts on 14 June with 689 opens and 174 clicks.
(ongoing)	Encourage homebased and start-up businesses to expand through the Wimmera Business Centre	Having two start-up businesses per year gain support through the WBC.	Two new tenants occupied offices at the Wimmera Business Centre during June. One start-up business and one commercial business. All offices are once again occupied.

**SPENDMAPP**

Please see below summary of spending for the month of June.

The biggest spending night of the month of June 2024 was Saturday 15 June with Total Local Spend of \$0.2M. This was made up of \$0.1M in Dining and Entertainment spending and \$0.1M spending in all other categories.

There were no events on this night, however as in the previous month the football and netball season in the Winter months provides an opportunity for more Saturday night spending.

M = Million	June 2024	May 2024	% Change Previous Month	% Change Previous Year
<b>Total Local Spend</b>	\$34.20 M	\$36.70 M	6.8% decrease	5.24% decrease
<b>Resident Local Spend</b>	\$22.80 M	\$24.80 M	8.1% increase	5.15% decrease
<b>Visitor Local Spend</b>	\$11.40 M	\$11.90 M	4.2% decrease	5.21% decrease
<b>Resident Escape Spend</b>	\$10.60 M	\$9.80 M	8.2% increase	0.83% increase
<b>Resident Online Spend</b>	\$12.70 M	\$12.90 M	1.6% decrease	6.71% decrease



## Tourism and Business Development

A huge marketing campaign was undertaken during June with two National TV Shows: Postcards 9Now and Sunrise 7News

The Council's Tourism and Business Development team worked in partnership with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and welcomed Madeline Spark and her team from Postcards TV Show. Filming was undertaken across the Wimmera area.

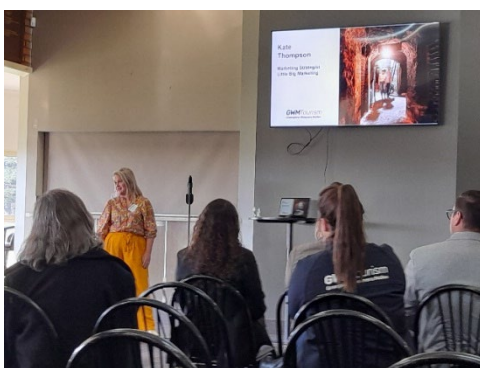


Filming occurred on Tuesday 18 June at Grampians Olive Co with owner Grey Matthews. The olive plantation was home to the historic Toscana Olive first established in 1943 and Meringa Spring with owner Bea Sykes of the Small Luxury Lodge, Restaurant and Bar. This beautiful resort located on the sunny side of the mountains in the Wartook Valley area is a perfect getaway to the Grampians National Park.

Postcards airtime is expected to be late July early August 2024

Whilst Sunrise 7News Morning Show Weather presenter Sam Mac, launched its weather segment on Thursday 20 June from Dadswells Bridge.

What an amazing moment for the residence of Dadswells Bridge to feature on national TV. Involved were operators from the Giant Koala Café, Grampians Edge Caravan Park, Deutscher Turkey including a local sheep producer Elly McDonald with her Hopea Suffolk lambs.



### Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism – Industry Forum

Tourism and Business Development team attended the GWM Tourism forum, held on Friday 21 June in Stawell with additional networking at the Stawell Gift Hall of Fame.

Guest speaker, Bronwyn White, from New Young Consulting spoke about attracting travellers 60+age group. Bronwyn shared her new research and provided strategies to engage this market.

Bronwyn has over 25 years of experience researching traveller behaviour and has worked with Tourism Australia, Google, Scenic Tours and Intrepid Travel.

Karma Rennie from Little Big Marketing presented a refresh insight and tips on how to use social media for your business by utilising platforms to their full potential.

Cr. Murray Emerson, Chair of the Stawell Gift Event Management Group addressed the forum on sustaining the Stawell Gift into the future, he said "the gift is an iconic international event which brings people together and back to the region.

Monthly Business Visitations for 2024

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality / Accommodation & General Tourism visits	Event contacts	Over all contacts for the month
January	8	6	20	34
February	20	13	18	51
March	23	16	7	46
April	10	14	4	28
May	30	10	20	60
June	20	15	10	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>264</b>

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	May 2024 Businesses Occupied	June 2024 Businesses Occupied	June 2024 Businesses Vacant	June 2024 Percentage Businesses Occupied
<b>Darlot St – 43</b> car wash and businesses operating from a house included	42	42	1	97%
<b>Firebrace St - 99</b>	92	92	7	90%
<b>Hamilton St - 17</b>	17	17	0	100%
<b>Wilson St – 34</b>	27	28	6	80%
<b>Pynsent St – 28</b> Cinema included	26	26	2	92%
<b>Roberts Ave – 27</b> Coles included	25	24	3	88%
<b>McLachlan St – 24</b> CFA & GWM included	24	24	0	100%
<b>Total 272</b> Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	<b>253/272</b>	<b>253/272</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>93%</b>

(Businesses are determined by whether they are 1. A premises, 2. Have customers 3. Exchange money; i.e Centre Link and the Cinema are included, and the Public Library is excluded). There are four known shops that are not suitable for occupancy as they require major renovations or are being used as a secondary business not requiring a retail front. These shops are reflected in the vacant shop numbers and unfortunately reduce the percentage of occupied businesses.

**STATUTORY PLANNING**

**Planning Applications Determined**

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of June 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	JUNE 2024		JUNE 2023	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	1	40,000	2	2,999,000
Industrial/Commercial	2	2,025,000	4	4,184,000
Subdivisions	1 (2 lots)	-	1 (26 lots)	4,700,000
Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,065,000</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11,883,000</b>

(\*Please note: Not all applications have a \$ figure)

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 is 75 compared to 129 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 87 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 compared to 338 in the same period in 2022-2023.

**Building Services**

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of **June 2024** and a comparison with the same period last year.

**Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality**

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	650,000	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings			-	-
Dwelling resitings			-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	40,900	-	-
Removal/Demolish			3	108,080
Industrial/Commercial	1	133,247	1	250,000
Signs			-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>824,147</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>358,080</b>

Permits issued by other Private Building Surveyors for this Municipality or by Government Departments:

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	3	1,173,883	4	1,583,702
Alterations to Dwellings	4	1,037,685	1	40,480
Dwelling resittings			-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	4	136,162	7	241,752
Removal/Demolish			-	-
Industrial/Commercial	3	512,123	2	571,773
Signs			-	-
<b>_Sub Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,859,853</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,437,707</b>

A total of 32 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$4,857,010 from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 compared to 43 Building Permits at a total value of \$4,051,677 in 2022-2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 212 Building Permits at a total value of \$93,606,147 from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 compared to 232 at a total value of \$51,308,772 in 2022-2023.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.4	Develop an open space contribution rate(s) and a new local Public Open Space Contribution Policy.	Policy adopted by Council and Horsham Planning Scheme amended.	The Project Control Group has reviewed the Draft Open Space Strategy Review report and the project consultant is now finalising the report. The findings will be considered and integrated into the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy.
1.6.4 (2 years)	Implement the Horsham Heritage Study to protect buildings and places of historic cultural heritage to reinforce a 'sense of place' and celebrate Horsham's character and distinctiveness	Horsham Planning Scheme amended	Officers are working through a further information request that was made by the Department of Transport and Planning in order to proceed with a Planning Scheme Amendment. Council officers have submitted a funding application to assist with the additional work that

			required from a specialist heritage advisor.
(4 years)	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Cinema	Management plan endorsed by Council	The Final Conservation Management Plan was reviewed by the Project Control Group. Feedback is now being prepared for the project consultant to finalise the report.
2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy and complete an amendment to the planning scheme	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	Community consultation on the Discussion Paper commenced on 23 April and will continue until 21 June. Community drop-in sessions have taken place and a webinar was recorded and put onto the project webpage.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Final versions of transport and bushfire risk reports have been provided to the Project Control Group for review. The project consultants are also preparing an assessment of land supply implications, to ensure the structure plan aligns with the findings of the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy.
3.1.1 (2 to 4 years)	Prepare and implement a Commercial & Industrial Land and include in the Planning Scheme	Plan developed & Strategy adopted by Council	The consultant has been engaged and will finalise a background report prior to presenting to Council on initial findings.

**Options to Consider**

Not applicable – no decision required

**Sustainability Implications**

Report provides overview of the development and business activity across the region with no direct sustainability implications.

**Community Engagement**

Report has been prepared in consultation with range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSM), West Vic Business, and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and on Council’s website.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Report provides overview of activity and assists with continuous improvement.

**Collaboration**

Report has been prepared in collaboration with Council officers across Planning, Building and Business Development and Tourism Support.

**Financial Implications**

Nil

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not applicable – no direct relationship or requirements

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 3 - Sustainability - Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategy 2: A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive.

Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards.

**Risk Implications**

Not applicable – no decision required

**Conclusion**

The monthly Investment Attraction and Growth Department report provides the opportunity to give Council and the community an insight into the projects being undertaken to grow our municipality and Horsham as a regional city.

## 9.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

<b>Author's Name:</b>	Sunil Bhalla	<b>Director:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Chief Executive Officer	<b>Directorate:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Department:</b>	Chief Executive Office	<b>File Number:</b>	F06/A01/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

### Appendix

Nil

### Purpose

To present the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for August 2024.

### Summary

The Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance and matters which may not be subject of Council reports or briefings.

### Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for August 2024.

## REPORT

### Background

At the 24 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council, it was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer provide an operational report to Council.

### Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are summarised below.

#### **A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements**

**Wimmera Southern Mallee Development:** The Mayor and CEO attended the post Surat Basin Tour workshop on 24 July 2024 to review emerging opportunities and develop a long term vision for the region.

**Joint State/Local Government Monthly Meeting:** The CEO attended the meeting on 7 August 2024 via Teams. Discussions were held on the Foreign Arrangements Scheme, violence and aggression towards council workers, and an update from LGV.

**Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Annual Forum:** The Mayor and CEO attended the RCV annual forum and function at the Parliament House in Melbourne on 14 August 2024. Guest speakers included Victorian Chief Commissioner Shane Patton; Jeroen Weimar, DPC Deputy Secretary, The Hon Jacinta Allan, Premier; The Hon Gayle Tierney, Minister for Regional Development, The Hon Sonya Kilkenny, Minister for Planning and Peter Walsh, Deputy Leader of the Coalition and Leader of the Nationals.

**Quarterly Wimmera Regional Mayor & CEO Meeting:** The Mayor's and CEOs from Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Buloke, Northern Grampians and Hindmarsh had their quarterly meeting on Thursday 8 August 2024. The group discussed Early Years Vision for Wimmera Southern Mallee, Renewable Energy and Mining, and received a presentation on ICN Gateway.

**VLGA Governance Advisory Network Meeting:** The CEO attended the network meeting on 16 August 2024 via Teams. The group discussed various governance topics relating to the recent reforms to the Local Government Act 2020.

**MAV CEO Meeting:** The CEO attended the MAV CEO meeting on 19 August 2024. Discussion included presentation on MAVlab and Housing Statement Implementation update by DPC Deputy Secretary Jeroen Weimar.

#### **Funding Opportunities:**

Nil

#### **B. Community Engagement**

**Horsham Rural City Talks Expo:** The expo was held at the Town Hall on 9 and 10 August 2024. This is Council's major community engagement for the year, which also included a tour of the Art Gallery and the Back-of-house Theatre as part of the Expo.

#### **C. Projects and Events**

**Community Leadership Program Graduation:** The Mayor, Councillors, CEO and the Directors attended the graduation ceremony on Wednesday 24 July 2024 at the Civic Centre. The program ran from May to July 2024 and was designed to create a proactive and diverse pool of potential candidates for the upcoming 2024 council elections and to build general civic leadership in the community.



**Commemoration Service:** Council hosted a commemoration service for the late Cr Bob Redden on Friday 16 August 2024 in the Civic Centre.

**Installation of New Irrigation System:** The Turf Care team has undertaken the installation of a new irrigation system at the Bodey Court reserve. The work involved digging new irrigation channels, which will feed the reserve's new automatic sprinklers. This will allow the park to have green grass all year round to provide a more appealing play space for kids and provide a boost to the area.

**Lighting Riverfront Pathway:** Contractors started work last week to install lighting along the Riverfront shared path through the Showgrounds Reserve. This 750m section of pathway has seen increased usage since the opening of the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge. Installation of lighting will enable pedestrians and cyclists to feel more comfortable using this section of the riverfront loops earlier in the day and later in the evening. Installation is expected to take approximately 2 weeks, with the work being funded by TAC.

**New Street Trees:** Council is planting 500 trees as part of a plan to ensure every house has a tree on its nature strip. Crews will be planting in the Southbank area of Horsham west of Stawell Road while also backfilling nature strips that are without a tree across the city. The initiative is a key deliverable in the [Greening Greater Horsham Municipal Tree Strategy](#) adopted in 2021. New street trees are established by HRCC's tree management team with two years of watering and ongoing formative pruning.

#### **D. Staff Matters**

**Dooen Landfill:** The CEO attended a morning tea at the Dooen Landfill on 22 August 2024 and presented the Quarterly Reward and Recognition Values Award to Greg Hill for practical demonstration of the organisational values.

#### **Financial Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 5 - Leadership

#### **Consultation/Communication**

Not applicable

#### **Risk Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Environmental Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Human Rights Implications**

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

#### **Conclusion**

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for August 2024.

## 10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)

<b>Committee Representation</b>	
30/07/24	Attended Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Board Meeting (virtual)
05/08/24	Attended Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Board Meeting (virtual)
14/08/24	Attended Regional Cities Victoria – Annual Forum and Networking Event at Parliament House
16/08/24	Attended Wimmera Southern Mallee Development GNR Committee Meeting (virtual)
23/08/24	Attended MAV State Council in Melbourne
26/08/24	Chaired Aboriginal Community Roundtable
<b>Other Council Activities</b>	
23/07/24	ABC Wimmera Radio interview (phone)
23/07/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
24/07/24	Post Surat Basin Tour Discussion
24/07/24	Presented certificates to participants of Community Leadership Program
26/07/24	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter (phone)
26/07/24	VAGO - Reporting on local government performance: follow-up (virtual)
30/07/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
31/07/24	Horsham Youth Council meeting to celebrate the end of the Young Mayor's program
01/08/24	Attended 4 <sup>th</sup> Horsham Scouts Annual Reporting Event
06/08/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
08/08/24	Chaired Quarterly Wimmera Mallee CEO and Mayor's meeting
09/08/24	Radio Interview on 3WM to open Horsham Talks Expo 2024
09-10/08/24	Attended Horsham Talks Expo 2024 at Horsham Town Hall
16/08/24	Commemorative Service for Cr Bob Redden
16/08/24	Attended Horsham College Production of Snow White at Horsham Town Hall
18/08/24	Vietnam Veteran's Day service at Cenotaph
20/08/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
24/08/24	Volunteer at Horsham Park Run 6 <sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Cr David Bowe**

<b>Committee Representation</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
14/08/24	Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands MAV Regional Meeting - online
<b>Other Council Activities</b>	
24/07/24	Community Leadership Program Graduation - Council Reception
31/07/24	Youth Council Meeting - Council Reception
05/08/24	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
09/08/24	Horsham Rural City Talks Expo 2024 – Horsham Town Hall attended 10am-12.15pm & 1.30pm-4.30pm
10/08/24	Horsham Rural City Talks Expo 2024 – Horsham Town Hall attended 10am-1pm
12/08/24	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
16/08/24	Commemoration Service for Cr Bob Redden - Council Reception
19/08/24	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
22/08/24	Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) & Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Global Executive Panel -The Changing Nature of Elections - online

**Cr Penny Flynn**

<b>Committee Representation</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
14/08/24	ALGWA Vic Finance Subcommittee Meeting – Online
<b>Other Council Activities</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
31/07/24	Youth Council Gathering – Council Office
14/08/24	Australian In Retirement Horsham Branch AGM – Horsham RSL
16/08/24	Commemoration Service for Cr Bob Redden – Council Offices
17/08/24	Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – Horsham College Production – Horsham Town Hall

Cr Claudia Haenel

<b>Other Council Activities</b>	
29/07/24	IBAC online Forum - Corruption risks in local government
29/07/24	Community Leadership Program Graduation
26/07/24	Women on Tools – Horsham Neighbourhood House
31/07/24	Youth Council Meeting – Council reception
31/07/24	ISO Integrated Management System Auditing training online
31/07/24	Member professional support network - Institute Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand
01/08/24	Mentoring other leaders Mentorloop - Institute Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand
05/08/24	Council Briefing
06/08/24	Creating a great culture in a remote workforce - Institute Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand
08/08/24	Right to disconnect workshop - Institute Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand
09/08/24 – 10/08/24	Horsham Rural City Talks Expo 2024
12/08/24	Council Briefing
13/08/24	Mentoring other leaders Mentorloop - Institute Managers and Leaders Australia and New Zealand
16/08/24	Commemorative service for Cr. Robert Redden
19/08/24	Council Briefing
26/08/24	Council Meeting

**11. URGENT BUSINESS**

## 12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

### 12.1 MAJOR MITCHELL DRIVE STREET TREES PETITION

<b>Author's Name:</b>	John Martin	<b>Director:</b>	John Martin
<b>Author's Title:</b>	Director Infrastructure	<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure
<b>Department:</b>	Infrastructure	<b>File Number:</b>	F14/A09/000001

#### Officer Conflict of Interest

Officer disclosure in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 – Section 130:

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

#### Status

Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 – Section 3(1):

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

#### Appendix

Petition as received (**Appendix 12.1A**)

---

#### Purpose

To present a petition received from the community in relation to their request for trees not to be planted in the nature strip on the southern side of Major Mitchell Drive.

#### Summary

- As part of its Greening Greater Horsham Strategy, Council has a program of planting street trees where there are none on nature strips.
- Major Mitchell Drive is one of a number of streets where gaps in nature strip trees have been identified and was planned to be planted this year.
- About 46 residents of Major Mitchell Drive have signed the petition as included in **Appendix 12.1A**.
- An initial meeting was held with residents on 13 August 2024 to determine if an early agreement could be achieved on the planting of the trees.
- The residents raised an extensive number of issues which will require closer consideration, and which will be the subject of a subsequent report to Council.

#### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Petition by residents of Major Mitchell Drive requesting that trees not be planted on the south side of that street.
2. Note that a further report on the matter will be presented after the concerns raised in the petition have been fully considered.

## REPORT

### Background

Council's Greening Greater Horsham Strategy calls on the increased planting of street trees for a range of reasons, including increased amenity (shade) for pedestrians on footpaths and to enhance the local micro-climate to assist in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Council received a presentation on progress with this Strategy at its 5 August 2024 meeting, at which it heard that a recent inventory identified that there were 2389 vacant nature strips (i.e. no tree in them) across urban Horsham. In 2023 about 630 trees were planted in these nature strips, and a further approx. 350 trees have been planned to be planted this year.

Major Mitchell Drive is one of the many streets scheduled for this year's plantings.

Following initial notification of residents of the plans to plant these trees, a number of customer requests were received, which identified concerns relating to potential impacts on houses and gardens amongst other matters.

Subsequently, the petition as included as **Appendix 12.1A** was received by Council which summarised their combined concerns. Note that individuals' details are redacted to for privacy reasons.

### Discussion

A preliminary meeting was held with residents on 13 August 2024 to hear more from them about their concerns and determine if an agreed way forward could be resolved. The meeting was attended by about 40 residents, with some appointed representatives discussing the range of issues that had been identified by the community. These issues expand on those presented in the petition.

It was determined that detailed consideration would be required to be given to the matters raised by the community, and that would require subsequent discussions. It is likely that these matters may not be able to be resolved in time for the 16 September 2024 meeting. This would be later than desired to plant the trees this season, should that be the decision.

A commitment was given that no planting activities would proceed on the residents' nature strips until these matters had been properly considered. This could possibly be early 2025.

Council's Governance Rules state the following regarding petitions:

#### **57. Petitions and Joint Letters**

- 57.1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next fixed *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.

Given the nature of the matters raised by the community, a final report on this matter is not able to be presented at this stage – further investigation and consideration is required.

### Options to Consider

A subsequent report to Council will be prepared to present the full range of matters raised by the community and options to address these.

**Sustainability Implications**

The planting of street trees is considered to assist in mitigating the impacts of climate change as part of Council's broader goal of increasing tree canopy coverage.

**Community Engagement**

An initial meeting has been held with the petitioners. Further discussions / meetings are planned with a sub-group of the petitioners to advance this matter.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not applicable

**Collaboration**

Not applicable

**Financial Implications**

The street tree planting program is part of Council's current budgeted operation. Any changes to the plans to plant trees in the nature strips on the south side of Major Mitchell Drive, as a result of the petition will be presented in the subsequent report.

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not applicable

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

The Greening Greater Horsham strategy has an objective to increase Horsham's tree canopy cover over our urban and rural road reserves from 20% to 25%.

**Risk Implications**

Residents have identified potential risks to their properties which need to be considered.

**Conclusion**

A further report will be presented to Council to consider the matters raised in the Major Mitchell Drive street tree petition.



## **13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

### **13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS**

- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 5 August 2024 at 5:00pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 12 August 2024 at 5:00pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 19 August 2024 at 5:00pm

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

### **13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Nil

### **13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

### **13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange Board Meeting held on 15 August 2024

Refer to **Appendix 13.4A**

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings of Councillors – Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Sealing of Documents
- 13.3 Inward Correspondence
- 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION**