

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on

27 May 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 27 May 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 April 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.

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Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information

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Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information

15.4 LAND ACQUISITION
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 COMMITTEE FRAMEWORK POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATE

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F19/A05/000001

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

Committee Framework Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Horsham Rural City Council Committee Structure (**Appendix 9.1B**)

Purpose

To present Council's Committee Framework Policy and Structure review for adoption.

Summary

- When the Committee Framework Policy was adopted, Council requested that a follow-up review of the new Committee structure occur after implementation of the policy.
- This review was undertaken in April 2024
- Recommendations from the review have identified minor changes to the Committees Framework Policy and Structure that reflect current practice and changes that have evolved in the committee structure since 2022.
- A number of operational recommendations have also been identified that will improve the flow of information, compliance with processes and improve the functioning of Advisory Committees and Community Reference Groups.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Committee Framework Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**).
2. Adopt the revised Horsham Rural City Council Committee Structure (**Appendix 9.1B**).
3. Approve the Strategic Planning Expo as part of Council's annual strategic planning process.

REPORT

Background

In 2021, following the implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council officers undertook an extensive review of Council's Committee Structure to ensure it complied with the new Act. The review was conducted over a 12-month period and resulted in the adoption of a new Committee Framework Policy and Committee Structure in December 2021.

Discussion

When the Committee Framework Policy was adopted, Council requested that a follow-up review of the new Committee structure occur post implementation of the policy. This review was undertaken in April 2024 with the following scope:

Included in the scope:

- IAP2 level of engagement – Consult (internal).
- The review focused on Committees established by Council.
- Internal review and reflection of the new committee structure post 2022 implementation with a view to implementing continuous improvement and refinement.
- Consideration of the Annual Strategic Expo outcomes and links to formal committee structure.
- Provide recommendations for changes to the Committee Framework Policy and Structure.
- Update Committee Framework Structure and website post review and approval by Council.

Out of scope:

- The review did not consider Committees established in accordance with government legislation i.e. Community Asset Committees, Delegated Committees and Regulatory Committees.
- Review of current Terms of Reference and templates.

The engagement undertaken as part of the review included the following:

1. Internal survey of Council officers who resource the current Advisory Committees and Community Reference Groups, namely:
 - Aerodrome Advisory Committee
 - Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Advisory Committee
 - Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange Advisory Committee
 - Older Persons Advisory Committee
 - Disability Advisory Committee
 - Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Project Advisory Committee
 - Horsham City Centre Central Activity District (CAD) Community Reference Group.
2. Focus group discussion with Council contact officers for Council owned or managed Recreation Reserves and Halls to assess effectiveness of liaison with community users of Council assets.
3. Review of Merit system and number of requests received from community users of Council assets (preferred method of contact).
4. Review of Strategic Planning Expo – Outcomes report.

The above review identified a number of recommendations to update and improve Council's Committee Framework Policy and Structure. Of the fourteen recommendations, five recommendations require changes to the Community Framework Policy and Structure (recommendations 1,2,4,12 and 13) while the remaining nine are operational in nature.

Recommendations for consideration

Annual Expo

Council's Committee Structure currently includes the annual Strategic Planning Expo (as approved by Council at the 27 June 2022 meeting). An Expo has been held in 2022 and 2023 thus far, engaging with over 450 people annually. The Engagement Report from each Expo has provided input to Council's annual Council Plan development process. A 2024 Expo is currently in the planning phase with the event expected to be held in August.

Recommendation 1. The Expo continues as a recognised element of Council's Annual Strategic Planning process.

Recommendation 2. Remove reference to the Expo in the formal Committee Structure and Committee Framework Policy.

Advisory Committees

Recommendation 3. Aerodrome Advisory Committee to reform following adoption of the Aerodrome Master Plan in 2024. New Terms of Reference to be established.

Recommendation 4. Remove reference to Arts and Culture Advisory Committee. This Committee was not formed following the adoption of the Creative Horsham Strategy which recommended activity/project-based groups to be established as required (in-line with Council's Community Reference Group structure).

Recommendation 5. Council Officers cannot be the Committee Chair as they are ex-officio members of, and provide secretariat support for, the Committee.

Recommendation 6. Consideration be given that the relevant Director be an ex-officio member of an Advisory Committee where appropriate.

Recommendation 7. A formal induction process be provided for all new community members on Advisory Committees.

Recommendation 8. Ensure each Committee's Terms of Reference include reference to a regular review of those Terms.

Recommendation 9. Advisory Committee members to attend a Council briefing – minimum one briefing per year.

Recommendation 10. Improve IT storage solutions for, and access to documents by, Committee members so that Agendas, Minutes and other documentation can be managed electronically.

Recommendation 11. Administrative support to be provided to Committees in relation to governance matters (e.g. ownership of policy, website updates, recruitment of members, compliance with Terms of Reference) which will be facilitated by the Council officer representative with support from the governance team.

Community Reference Groups

The Central Activity District Community Reference Group is the only currently active CRG. There are no recommendations for changes to the Policy in relation to these groups.

Recommendation 12. The Structure diagram be updated to remove non-active Community Reference Groups and add the Horsham City Centre Central Activity District (CAD) Community Reference Group.

Autonomous Community User Groups

The 2021 review changed Recreation Reserve Advisory Committees to autonomous user groups with access to Council Officers for concerns/issues.

Recommendation 13. Remove reference to autonomous community user groups from the Committee Framework Policy and Structure as they are not part of the Council's formal committee structure.

Recommendation 14. Clearer identification of correct contact points in Council for users of Council facilities:

- Facility Development – ROSP – include email and phone number- Maintenance – Customer Request on-line and Customer Service/Building Maintenance Team for urgent requests
- Bookings – specific for each facility
with this information to be provided on updated webpages for each of the Recreation Reserves.

Options to Consider

Council could opt not to accept the recommendations resulting from the review of the Committee Policy and Structure but should note the review was requested when the policy was adopted.

Sustainability Implications

There are no implications regarding sustainability.

Community Engagement

This was an internal review so no community engagement undertaken. The recommended changes to the Committee Framework Policy and Structure will not impact external representatives on Council Advisory Committees or Community Reference Groups

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The review of the Committee Policy and Structure plus associated recommendations demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

Collaboration

The review required direct collaboration with key Council staff.

Financial Implications

The review was undertaken within existing resources.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan:

Goal 1 – Community

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community
- 1.3 A community that is empowered in shaping the future of our region

Goal 5 – Leadership

- 5.1 Good governance through leadership and connection with community
- 5.3 High organisational standards focussing on continuous improvement

Risk Implications

The review reflects the completion of a Council recommendation.

Conclusion

Major changes to Council's Committee structure were implemented with the 2021 review. The proposed changes to the Committee Policy Framework and Structure reflect current practice noting the changes that have evolved since the last Committees Review in 2021.

9.2 RECOMMENDATION FOR INCLUSION ON COUNCIL'S STREET NAME LIST – BLAIR

Author's Name:	Kayla Christian	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Coordinator Rates	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Finance	File Number:	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 inclusion of the name Blair on Council's Street Naming list.

Summary

- Susan Ellis has requested that the name Blair be added to Council's Street Naming list to honour her late father, Thomas (Tom) Blair.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the inclusion of the name Blair on Council's Street Naming list.

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. Any applicant requesting to have a new name placed on Council's Street Naming list must submit an application to Council for approval with substantiating information to support their request. Criteria include significant contributions to the local community; linkages to the history of the locality; and/or significant / notable achievements.

Developers should consult the respective road naming authority when preparing plans of subdivision but can put forward their own preferred street name for consideration and approval. Alternatively, they can choose to use a particular name from the Council Street Naming list. Council currently has over 50 names to choose from on that list.

Discussion

A naming proposal request has been made by a member of the public, Susan Ellis, to include the name Blair on Council's Street Naming list to commemorate her late father, Tom Blair.

Tom moved to Kalkee in 1960 with his wife Heather, where they raised their four children. They continued to expand the family farm by purchasing additional farmland in Kalkee, which is still farmed by the Blair family today.

Tom remained active on the family farm until his death in 2022 and was well known for his sheep work and breeding, often topping the market price for his lambs and consistently getting a good price in his sales at the Burnt Creek Livestock Exchange. It was a frequent occurrence that Tom's lambs would win first prize at the Horsham Agricultural Show.

In addition to his farming commitments Tom was also an active member of the community. He was a member of the Wimmera Field Day's Committee for 50 years, President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, a member of the Peagrowers Co-Op and, a Committee member of the Horsham By-Pass.

Tom was also involved in the Horsham Agricultural Show Committee where he served for 60 years, primarily looking after the Animal Nursery. He was also heavily involved in the Horsham City Bowling Club, where he was a member for 50 years, and would often volunteer at the Horsham fishing competition. He also helped his son Peter to establish the Lentil Company.

Options to Consider

Council can opt not to approve a request for street / road / place naming and may select an appropriate name of their choice after consideration of the requirements of the policy.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Details of how the community can nominate a new name to the street naming list is available on Council's website along with the application form for doing so. This proposal has arisen from a member of the public completing that process.

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 names were provided and the intent for inclusion of the names on Council's Naming list conforms to the naming rules and Council policy which mitigates the risk associated with consideration of their inclusion.

Conclusion

The name Blair conforms to the relevant statutory requirements and Council's relevant policy. The request for the addition of name to the Street Naming list was submitted to and processed by Council's Rate Coordinator as required by that policy. The name is considered appropriate to be added to Council's Street Naming list.

9.3 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 2024

Author's Name:	Sarah Mclvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Project Officer – Corporate Reporting	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	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: January – March 2024 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

To present the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 3: 1 January to 31 March 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 3: 1 January to 31 March 2024. (**Appendix 9.3A**).

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 report also provides Local Government Performance Reporting (LGPRF) data which is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. LGPRF data is listed as "Service Performance Indicators" within the report. The LGPRF data reported in this quarterly report covers the period 1 January to 16 March 2024 as Council migrated to a new shared IT platform and software solution being implemented across three councils involved in the Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration Project which received funding of \$5.0m under the Victorian Government's 'Rural Councils Transformation Program'.

As with the previous reports for the 2023-2024 quarterly reporting, a report on community engagement is included in the report and provides an overview of Council's community consultation on a wide array of projects and initiatives over the course of the financial year.

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 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.

9.4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Author's Name:	Susan SurrIDGE	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	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

Community Engagement Policy (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Purpose

To present the updated Community Engagement Policy.

Summary

- The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to adopt and maintain a Community Engagement Policy with specific requirements relating to community engagement and the content of Council's Engagement Policy outlined at sections 55 and 56.
- The first HRCC Community Engagement Policy was adopted by Council on 22 February 2021, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, and is reviewed and updated when required.
- The Act requires the Council to engage with the community on the Community Engagement Policy.
- Council approved the draft Engagement Policy to go out for a period of public engagement at the 26 February meeting, and the engagement period closed on 27 March 2024.
- The public engagement focused on the Commitments and Principles of the policy and was delivered at the Consult and Involve level on the IAP2 spectrum.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Community Engagement Policy (**Appendix 9.4A**).
2. Include the following statement in any future community engagement processes where submissions are sought:

Where Council receives submissions that breach the Mutual Respect Charter, the submissions will not be considered, with individuals making such submissions notified that their submission has not been accepted. Further, only those elements of the submission relating to the scope of the engagement will be considered.

REPORT

Background

The *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must adopt and maintain a community engagement policy (s55(1)). The Council's current Community Engagement Policy was adopted on 22 February 2021 to comply with that requirement.

The existing policy has been reviewed to take into account any relevant changes in legislation or local government requirements for community engagement.

Discussion

The following changes were proposed for the policy:

1. The policy has been updated to reflect the Local Government Engagement Strategy detailed in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement between the State of Victoria and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.
2. Inclusion of the Community Relations and Advocacy Team as an approval step in the engagement process, in line with the recommendations of the internal audit review in 2023.
3. To note that the policy does not apply to all community engagement processes of local government. Some engagement processes are specifically prescribed in other Victorian legislation i.e. land use planning applications.

At the Council meeting on 26 February, Council approved the release of the updated Community Engagement Policy for a period of four weeks to seek community feedback and comments on the policy.

Only one response was received by the closing date of 27 March 2024 however the response did not constitute a submission as it contained no comments relevant to the policy or the proposed changes to it. The response did provide comments on the engagement process for the policy. Firstly, the feedback was that there was no obvious way for non-computer users to access the engagement (there was an option to call the responsible officer or Council's Customer Service however this option was not advertised). Secondly, the closing date was not stated on the webpage, rather it simply stated the length of the engagement. This feedback was noted and will be used to be improve future engagements.

The nature of the response received also resulted in a further proposed revision to process. Specifically, that the following statement be included in any and all community engagement processes where Council seeks submissions:

Where Council receives submissions that breach the Mutual Respect Charter the submissions will not be considered with individuals making such submissions notified that their submission has not been accepted. Further only those elements of the submission relating to the scope of the engagement will be considered.

Where the submission includes suggestions for process improvements or similar, such as those included in the response to this period of engagement, they will be considered on their individual merits but will not be addressed in the scope specific feedback captured to inform changes to the respective document under review or development.

Options to Consider

Council could opt not to consider the updated policy however that would be in breach of the policy they endorsed in 2021. The updated policy also reflects changes resulting from the recommendations of an audit and ensures Council align with the Local Government Engagement Strategy as detailed in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement referred to in this report.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Engagement on the draft policy was undertaken on Council's *Have Your Say* website, which provided the current policy and details of proposed changes. Information about the public engagement opportunity was also provided in Council's Public Notices page during the engagement period (6, 13, 20, and 27 March), in Council's E-newsletters during the engagement period (1, 8, 15 and 22 March), with the commencement of the engagement also promoted on social media (29 Feb).

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

This Policy is scheduled for review every three (3) years with reviews undertaken earlier as required by changed circumstances including changes to legislation and plans, strategies or policies of HRCC. While the policy was due for its first review there have also been changes to the policy recommended as a result of an audit. Undertaking these reviews therefore contributes to Council's continuous improvement.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The adoption of the policy has no direct financial implications however, individual project budgets will continue to need to include allocations for community engagement activities.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local Government Act 2020

Recognition and Settlement Agreement between the State of Victoria and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 Leadership – Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision making.

HRCC Mutual Respect Charter

Risk Implications

Council's Community Engagement Policy is central to good governance and good decision making by Council. An effective Community Engagement Policy supported by internal procedures that are properly implemented, will reduce the risk of poorly designed projects and reputational risk.

Conclusion

Council is required by legislation to have a Community Engagement Policy. The current policy was due for review with that review process used to address a number of external factors affecting the policy. The updated policy also ensures Council reflects the requirements of the Local Government Engagement Strategy as detailed in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement referred to in this report.

9.5 MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2024-2028

Author's Name:	Louise Kelly	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Youth & Early Years	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Youth & Early Years	File Number:	F08/A04/000001

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

Municipal Early Years Plan 2024-2028 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Municipal Early Years Plan Data Snapshot (**Appendix 9.5B**)

Engagement Report (**Appendix 9.5C**)

Purpose

To present the Municipal Early Years Plan 2024-2028 for adoption.

Summary

- A community consultation period of 5 weeks has taken place after Council resolved to make the draft plan available for community comment.
- One response has been received from community. No changes have been made to the plan in response to the feedback.
- The plan is now finalised for Council endorsement.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Municipal Early Years Plan 2024-2028 (**Appendix 9.5A**).

REPORT

Background

The purpose of the Municipal Early Years Plan is to provide children and their families with the best possible foundation for life success. While not a statutory requirement, Council has supported the Municipal Early Years Plan in the past as a key tool in setting the strategic direction for delivery in the early years sector of Horsham Rural City.

Discussion

Data analysis (**Appendix 9.5B**), Government policy context, stakeholder engagement and community engagement, were used when forming the key themes and actions. The key themes are: Supporting families to thrive; Building blocks for lifelong learning; Strong voices for our community.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Engagement from Community Consultation Period:

After Council resolved to make the draft plan available to the community for a five-week period, one submission was received.

This feedback related to children's advocacy and was best directed to Council's Business, Investment and Attraction and Recreation and Open Spaces area. The Engagement Report will be shared with relevant staff in these areas.

This resulted in no changes made to the draft plan.

Engagement for Draft Plan:

The plan involved several months of community engagement performed using the IAP2 methodology, this included:

Two workshops – one with HRCC staff involved in the service delivery, strategic planning and program delivery of Early Years and one with agencies, schools and organisations working in the Early Years industry.

Two community pop ups – at Up Tempo Café and Kmart Plaza involving 14 parents and 8 children.

Two digital surveys –

- An Adult Survey – which included 19-question survey that received 59 responses and dozens of comments.
- A Child Survey – which was a three-question survey completed by 7 children.

Several on-on-one discussions with key stakeholders as well as individual Council staff.

The Engagement summary is provided refer to **Appendix 9.5C**.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The key stakeholders that were engaged as outlined in the plan will continue to meet (an outcome of one of the actions in the Plan). This will establish the Early Years Network and look to grow over to surrounding LGAs.

Collaboration

Collaboration is key to successful delivery of the Municipal Early Years Plan and the Early Years Stakeholders will continue to meet (an outcome of one of the actions in the Plan).

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Key</i>
National Quality Framework for early Childhood Education and Care	Federal	The National Quality Framework (NQF) supports quality care experiences, environments and relationships.
Preschool Reform Funding Agreement	Federal	Includes funding for kindergarten
Early Childhood Reform Plan	Victorian Government	Aiming to deliver systematic change targeted at supporting the children who need it most. Help prepare children for kinder, school and life.
Kindergarten for Every 3-year-old Building Blocks for 3-Y-O kindergarten	Victorian Government	From now until 2029 extra hours of subsidised kindergarten will be progressively introduced. A new kindergarten has been built and Hub will be used for long day care.
Maternal and Child Health Memorandum of Understanding	Victorian Government	Free services available to all families with a child aged birth to six
Roadmap to Reform	Victorian Government	Aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable children
Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan	Victorian Government	Outlines public health strategic directions.
Local Government Policy	Local	Councils, state and Federal governments have a joint responsibility to ensure locally accessible family and children's services are available to support families in care, protection, health, development and education of children.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan	Theme 1: Community Theme 2: Liveability Theme 4: Accessibility
Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2024	Health and Wellbeing Plan priorities include: Support gender equity initiatives in the prevention of family violence. Enhance the inclusivity, accessibility and safety of our places and spaces. Support the communication process to increase knowledge of local health and community services available to the public; Create engaging spaces and

	places for social connection and wellbeing to build community resilience; Advocate for educational opportunities, delivered locally, to support and encourage lifelong learning; Respond to key community needs, ensuring our municipality is child and youth friendly and encourages positive aging; Advocate and support the establishment and growth of integrated health services and facilities that meet the needs of all community members; Promote recreational and social environments for people to enjoy (open spaces, waterways etc); Planning for places and spaces to provide connectedness and social inclusion.
Play Space Strategy	Current being developed: - Increase the percentage of urban population within 400 m of a fully developed open space.
Social Infrastructure Plan	The Social Infrastructure Framework identifies and assesses existing social infrastructure provision focusing predominantly on Council owned facilities.
Community Inclusion Plan	Plan to help HRCC fulfil its vision as an inclusive place for people with disability, so they can participate, thrive and reach their full potential.
Child Safe Policy	Eleven Standards, reflecting the National Principles for a Child Safe Organisation developed following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Betrayal of Trust Enquiry).
Gender Equality Plan 2021-2025	Ensuring fairness for all people, so that everyone in HRCC and in the Horsham community can enjoy the same opportunities, rights and respect, regardless of their gender.
Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006	Human rights are essential in a democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity, equality and freedom and belong to all people without discrimination, and the diversity of the people of Victoria enhances our community.

Risk Implications

Over the past few months, we have actively listened to the community. Many of the solutions to issues raised lie with council, within the community and in advocacy to change the way services and funding is delivered to our region. This plan aims to begin the process of bringing stakeholders and community together to tackle these issues on behalf of our children. We need to be clear to the community on what Council can and will deliver and on where we all need to work together across the municipality, the Wimmera and potentially the state to collectively bring about changes that will help our children all lead their best life.

Conclusion

Now that the community consultation process has been completed, the Municipal Early Years Plan is presented to Councillors for endorsement.

9.6 HORSHAM AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

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

Draft Horsham Airport Master Plan (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Purpose

To present the draft Horsham Airport Master Plan and to make it available to the community for comment.

Summary

- This master plan is the second stage of the Horsham Airport 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 receive and note the Draft Horsham Airport Master Plan (**Appendix 9.6A**) and make it available to the community for comment from 28 May to 25 June 2024.

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 Airport Master Plan and Detailed Designs.

Discussion

Stage One of this planning was the development of a Business Case and Feasibility Study to inform Stage Two, being the overarching Master Plan and Detailed Designs.

The Business Case and Feasibility Study identified nine recommendations as follows:

1. Introduction of RPT Service (Regular Public Transport)
2. Apron Upgrades
3. Expanded Maintenance Hub
4. Expanded Flight Training
5. Expanded Hangarage Space
6. Expanded Events for Gliders and Glider Training
7. Lighting Upgrades
8. Runway Upgrades
9. Aerial Firefighting Support Base

A Financial and Economic Appraisal was undertaken, along with a Risk Analysis which were both further investigated in Stage Two of the Master Plan.

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.

Options to Consider

Option 1: Make available for community comment the Horsham Airport Master Plan

Option 2: Not make available for community comment the Horsham Airport Master Plan

Option 1 is recommended as all the necessary work has been carried out in relation to developing the master plan and is now ready for broader community feedback. 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 draft Master Plan.

Feedback on the draft master plan will be available through *Have Your Say* on the HRCC website with hard copies are available at the Council's Civic Centre. There will be publicity via a dedicated media release, radio promotion, local newspapers, the weekly HRCC & 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 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 Tourism and Wimmera Southern Mallee Development on this project, with both organisations represented on the Project control group for the project.

Financial Implications

The total cost of the aerodrome redevelopment is estimated to be \$14 million (refer to page 86 of the master plan). It is to be noted that the master plan timeframe implementation is 50 years, however this expenditure would occur in the next 15-20 years. External grants will be applied for to assist in funding the implementation of the plan.

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 Airport 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 of 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 draft master plan is made available for community comment for a period of 4 weeks.

9.7 GRAMPIANS TOURISM DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AND HORSHAM RURAL CITY TOURISM DESTINATION LOCAL AREA ACTION PLAN

Author's Name:	Annie Mintern	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Investment & Business Development	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction & Growth	File Number:	F15/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

Grampians Destination Management Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**)

Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan (**Appendix 9.7B**)

Purpose

To present the Grampians Destination Management Plan and Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan.

Summary

- The Grampians Destination Management Plan (DMP) has been developed to guide the visitor economy for the region.
- It also sits as the umbrella document over the four Local Area Action Plans (LAAPs) that were developed concurrently with the DMP.
- Stafford Strategy were contracted to prepare these plans to establish a shared vision and goals for the region's visitor economy to ensure long-term strength, success and sustainability.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Grampians Destination Management Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**) and the Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan (**Appendix 9.7B**).

REPORT

Background

In February 2023, Grampians Tourism contracted a consultant to develop a new Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the Grampians region to provide direction for the sustainable development of our visitor economy which supports the attraction of investment across the region and to ensure the Grampians remains a leading nature-based tourism destination and is both compelling for visitors and sustainable for local communities.

In addition to a new Grampians DMP, the four local government funding partners of Grampians Tourism required a Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) specific to their region and that aligns with the Grampians DMP.

The four LAAP set out the vision and aspirations for the visitor economy of each LGA and surrounds over the next five years. Preparation of the action plan is an essential step to ultimately grow the visitor offering. The action plan will enable Council to engage with the community to strengthen the visitor economy, further develop their visitor offering and in turn build the resilience needed to mitigate economic vulnerability.

The action plan saw the development of a resilience needs assessment to identify the challenges and opportunities facing the destination and to establish achievable and affordable tourism priorities. Implementation of the action plan will build the competitiveness of each LGA and surrounds as a visitor destination and enable strong destination marketing.

Discussion

The following strategic framework guided the development of the Grampians DMP and Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination LAAP:

Vision: The Grampians will be recognised as Australia's premier nature-based and First Nations tourism destination to experience abundant nature and rich culture that is supported by a connected and thriving industry.

Strategic Objectives:

1. Facilitate investment in the visitor economy that positions the Grampians as an attractive place to live, work, visit and play.
2. Support First Nations-led product development and delivery of tourism experiences.
3. Achieve sustainable visitation patterns by growing visitor dispersal and off-peak visitation to support business sustainability.
4. Increase visitor yield by growing visitor dwell time and growing overnight visitation.
5. Generate investment in supporting infrastructure that will enable visitor economy growth.
6. Support a cohesive, integrated, and supported industry and community.

Targets: The following performance targets have been identified for the Grampians and Horsham:

- 20% Growth in overnight visitors to the Grampians and Horsham by 2030
- 25% Increase in visitor expenditure in the Grampians and Horsham by 2030
- 25% Growth in the average length of stay in the Grampians and Horsham by 2030

Themes: Key themes to guide future investment in the Grampians and Horsham have been identified. These have been selected in response to strategic consideration and objectives for tourism development and to align with the broader State VEMP:

1. Arts and Culture
2. First Peoples
3. Food and Drink
4. Identity, Marketing and Placemaking
5. Industry Development and Collaboration
6. Nature and Recreation
7. Regional accommodation
8. Supporting Infrastructure

Options to Consider

Both the DMP and Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan include a number of priority recommendations identified in response to the strategic investment themes, vision and objectives outlined. The priority recommendations are ones that will either deliver the greatest economic benefit for the region, will support the positioning of the Grampians and Horsham as a leading visitor destination and or are considered important building blocks for the sustainability of the Grampians and Horsham as visitor destination.

Options for Council to consider are as follows:

1. Endorse the Grampians Destination Management Plan and support Grampians Tourism with its implementation
2. Do not endorse the Grampians Destination Management Plan and do not support Grampians Tourism with its implementation
3. Endorse the Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan and implement the recommendations contained within this document with support from Grampians Tourism
4. Do not endorse the Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan and do not implement the recommendations contained within this document

Sustainability Implications

The purpose of the development of a DMP for the Grampians region and a Tourism Destination LAAP for Horsham Rural City is to provide direction for the sustainable development of our visitor economy. This also supports the attraction of investment across the region and to ensure the Grampians and Horsham Rural City remain a leading nature-based tourism destination and are both compelling for visitors and sustainable for local communities.

Community Engagement

A survey was distributed over two months to the community and industry throughout the Grampians region. The survey received 200 responses in total.

Overall, the sample size for the total survey was robust, achieving a 95 per cent confidence level and a 7 per cent margin of error.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

A wide variety of recommendations have been identified through the consultation, research and analysis for the DMP and Tourism Destination LAAP. These recommendations have been categorised according to whether they are Development Projects or Strategic Initiatives.

Projects have also been identified using priority levels and have been given the following timeframes:

- Short-term: 1-2 years
- Medium-term: 3-5 years
- Long-term: 6 years and beyond.

This methodology gives us a realistic framework for implementation of the recommendations to allow us to continuously improve our visitor economy.

Collaboration

Grampians Tourism encompasses for local government areas of Ararat Rural City, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire, and Southern Grampians Shire. These plans were developed in collaboration with Grampians Tourism and all four councils, along with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development, Wimmera Mallee Tourism, tourism operators and the community.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

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

Not Applicable

Conclusion

The Grampians Destination Management Plan and Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan provide important tools to enable Council to increase our capacity within the visitor economy. The recommendations provide realistic actions and timeframes that give us an opportunity to develop and improve our tourism offerings.

Endorsement of the recommendations within the Grampians DMP and Horsham Rural City Tourism Destination LAAP is important to improve and increase economic activity within the region.

9.8 NATIMUK ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLAN TERMS OF REFERENCE

Author's Name:	Annie Mintern	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Investment & Business Development	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction & Growth	File Number:	F15/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

Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Draft Terms of Reference (**Appendix 9.8A**)

Purpose

To present the updated Terms of Reference for the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee.

Summary

Following the establishment of the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee, the group has reviewed the current Terms of Reference and made recommendations regarding some key changes required.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the updated Terms of Reference for the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee (**Appendix 9.8A**).

REPORT

Background

The Terms of Reference for the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee were developed with advice from the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Community Reference Group who were involved in the development of the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan.

Discussion

The newly formed Project Advisory Committee was not in favour of the existing Terms of Reference which include a community voting process which was outside Council's normal process for selecting committees. This was due to members of the previous Community Reference Group wanting a voting process. The previous process is not the way the current Advisory Committee would like to select members of the group.

Options to Consider

1. Council adopt the updated Terms of Reference and the committee will be formed in line with all Councils advisory committees
2. Council does not adopt the updated Terms of Reference and we will continue to elect members via a community vote if there is more than one nominee for a particular position

Option 1 is recommended; this would bring the Terms of Reference for the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee in line with other Council committees.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Engagement has occurred with the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Project Advisory Committee and feedback has been received from the wider Natimuk community following the previous voting process.

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

Natimuk Economic and Social Plan

Risk Implications

There is risk that the previous Community Reference Group members will be opposed to this change, however the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee were given the task to review the current Terms of Reference.

Conclusion

The Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Project Advisory Committee recommend that the selection process for the committee is in line with Council's process for all Advisory Committees.

9.9 HORSHAM BICYCLE AND SHARED PATH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2024 - 2034

Author's Name:	Dale Schmid	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Recreation & Open Space Planning Officer	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Arts, Culture & Recreation	File Number:	F10/A01/000006

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 Bicycle and Shared Path Infrastructure Plan 2024-2034 (**Appendix 9.9A**)

Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Plan Public Engagement Report (**Appendix 9.9B**)

Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Plan Gender Impact Assessment (**Appendix 9.9C**)

Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Plan Engagement Summary (**Appendix 9.9D**)

Purpose

To present the Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024-2034

Summary

- The Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024 - 2034 has been developed with input from key internal and external stakeholders as well as the broader public.
- The Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024 - 2034 embeds national safety expectations, (*Austroads Safe System Principles*) provides a prioritised infrastructure plan for the implementation of works and a prioritisation tool to guide the implementation of future works.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the final Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024-2034 (**Appendix 9.9A**).

REPORT

Background

The Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012-2016 (2012 Plan) is the current strategic document informing the implementation of cycling infrastructure across the municipality. The 2012 Plan provides a framework for improvements to the cycling and shared path network. Although the 2012 Plan contains a prioritisation tool, the list of actions within the document is extensive, will take many years to implement and does not reflect contemporary expectations regarding safety and an active transport network.

In December 2020, Council officers commenced an audit of existing cycle and shared paths and began the development of a prioritisation tool that reflected the road hierarchy, Victorian Movement and Place concepts and Austroads Safe System Principles.

In November 2021, Safe System Solutions was engaged to lead the development of an updated municipal bicycle and shared paths infrastructure plan. Safe System Solutions has extensive experience in the development of bicycle and shared path plans in other regional contexts including: City of Greater Bendigo, Baw Baw Shire and Mildura Rural City Council. Safe System Solutions has also contributed to several technical publications for VicRoads.

Extensive consultation has occurred within the organisation throughout the development of the 2024 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan (2024 Plan) with staff providing feedback and advice into the development of the draft Plan. A Community Reference Group (CRG) informed priorities and provided significant input regarding current cycle routes and future network options. A four-week period of public engagement occurred from Wednesday 24 January to Friday 16 February 2024.

Discussion

Despite the development of the 2012 Municipal Bicycle and Shared Paths Plan and an annual budget allocation of approximately \$100,000 for cycling infrastructure, cycling activity in Horsham is low and declining. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data revealed that in 2006, 174 people cycled to work on Census Day, with the number reducing in 2011 to 121 and further reducing in 2021 to 94.

There are many reasons why people choose not to walk or cycle to their destination. Investigation of the barriers and motivations was not the focus of this project; the focus was to audit existing cycle and shared paths against Austroads Safe System Principles, develop a list of priority infrastructure projects and a prioritisation tool to assist with the allocation of future works.

The audit identified two significant findings:

1. Except in limited circumstances (such as the provision of off-road pathways), current cycle and shared path infrastructure throughout Horsham does not reflect Safe System Principles
2. There is no connected network of cycling infrastructure throughout the Horsham and Haven areas that meets Safe System Principles.

A network involves continuous routes – across intersections and along different levels of the road hierarchy. It is possible that a combination of both perceptions of risk, and variable infrastructure treatments across the urban area have contributed to low cycling numbers identified in consecutive Census results.

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been completed for this project (**Appendix 9.9C**). The GIA revealed that commuter cycling to school or work, is primarily undertaken by boys and men. The GIA revealed that the 2024 Plan will not significantly or directly increase cycling participation outcomes for girls and women. However, the introduction of a connected network of pathways separating bicycles from vehicles, with associated improvements to streetscapes (lighting, seating, shade) will provide essential prerequisites to increase cycling participation. Importantly, connected active transport networks and supporting infrastructure are also elements that encourage walking, an activity favoured by women and girls.

The 2024 Plan embeds Austroads Safe System Principles recognising that motorists, pedestrians and cyclists make mistakes and that wherever possible and unless traffic speeds are reduced to 30-40km/h vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians should be separated. Nationally endorsed Safe System Principles are reflected in Vic Roads technical manuals and Transport Accident Commission (TAC) funding guidelines for planning and infrastructure improvements.

The 2024 Plan contains a list of priority projects. Priority projects reflect planning undertaken by Department of Transport and Planning and the identification of a road hierarchy. The road hierarchy influences the selection of safety treatments. High volume, high speed (50-60km/h) roads are associated with arterial and collector roads and require protected or separated cycling treatments. Access and Link roads throughout residential areas generally reflect reduced traffic volumes and speed. Traffic calming measures throughout residential areas are required (**Appendix 9.9D**).

Safe System Principles have been embedded in the development of a localised prioritisation tool that can be used to assess emerging infrastructure priorities and guide annual infrastructure planning.

A network of cycle and shared pathways provides opportunities for increased active transport options for many people within our community. Active transport and physical activity are clearly aligned with improved health outcomes. To increase participation, clear messaging is required that safety is paramount. Messaging may be achieved via a variety of safety treatments: separating cyclists and cars, traffic calming measures, road colours, road surface treatments and signage. There can be no moments of indecision between cars and cyclists. Messaging can also occur through the provision of street furniture and improved street amenity: shade, seating, lighting.

The 2024 Plan has been developed to guide the creation of a connected cycling and walking network providing safe active transport options for our community. The 2024 Plan embeds nationally endorsed Safe System Principles. A prioritisation tool has been developed to identify the sequencing of works (subject to internal and external funding opportunities) and to assess and prioritise requests for new cycle and shared pathways.

Options to Consider

The following options are available:

- 1 Endorse the Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024 - 2034
- 2 Note the 2024 Plan but do not endorse and continue to implement the works program as described in the 2012 Plan.

Option 1 is recommended, as it provides a plan to strategically develop Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure.

Sustainability Implications

Active transport (walking and cycling) is a climate friendly transport option. Providing more suitable and connected cycling and shared path infrastructure will encourage more people to choose active transport options and may reduce dependence on motor vehicles.

Community Engagement

A Community Reference Group (CRG) was established in 2021 to provide advice and feedback regarding the current bicycle and shared path network with Horsham and to identify priorities relating to the 2024 Plan. The CRG met three times to provide input into the plan and review the draft plan.

During 24-29 June 2021, a Community Expo provided an initial opportunity to receive public feedback about the priorities of a cycling and walking network. Key areas of concern identified from the Expo included the need for connectivity, accessibility (including maintenance) and signage.

A 4 week period of public engagement occurred from Wednesday 24 January to Friday 16 February 2024.

A Public Engagement Report accompanies this report (**Appendix 9.9B**), along with a Public Engagement Summary (**Appendix 9.9C**).

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Implementation of the 2024 Plan will result in the consistent application of the Austroads Safe System Principles. Application of the Safe System Principles will create both the perception and the reality of a connected, continuous network of shared cycle and walking paths that link neighbourhoods to key destinations throughout the Horsham urban environment and Haven.

Collaboration

The City of Ballarat recently updated their Cycling Action Plan 2017-2025 and staff from the City of Ballarat were consulted through the initial stages of the development of the 2024 Plan to provide advice and learnings from the process they followed.

Financial Implications

The 2024 Plan will inform bicycle and shared path infrastructure works. The Plan includes estimated costs and a priority list of works designed to strategically develop a connected network of paths.

Funding for these works will be from a range of sources including Council's annual budget and Long Term Capex Plan, and from external grants.

Implementation of the 2024 Plan will also occur in conjunction with the implementation of other projects such as the Central Activity District (CAD) Revitalisation and Greening Greater Horsham. Traffic calming (slowing traffic speeds to 30-40kmh) and the creation of shaded streetscapes support the creation of a welcoming and safe cycling and pedestrian environment.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active Victoria 2022-2026

Strategic Framework:

- Establishing thriving places and communities that are safe, fair and inclusive
- Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1: Community

An inclusive, accessible, connected and safe community

Theme 2: Liveability

1. A destination to live, work, explore and visit
4. Diverse and connected open spaces
5. Quality opportunities and facilities that meet the health and wellbeing needs and interests of all ages, abilities and backgrounds

Theme 4: Accessibility

Improved and connected transport services and networks in and around the region

2. An integrated, strategic and needs based approach to investing in our places and spaces

Council plans and strategies relevant to the development of the 2023 Plan include:

- Horsham Open Space Strategy 2019
- Horsham South Structure Plan 2020
- Horsham Urban Transport Plan 2020
- Horsham North Local Area Plan 2023
- Central Activity District (CAD) Revitalisation Plan 2023

Risk Implications

There are two areas of risk associated with the 2024 Plan.

1. That the Austroads Safe System Principles are not consistently applied according to the road hierarchy. This would result in a patchwork of cycle and shared paths and a continuation of current practice,
2. That the prioritisation tool is not applied to guide the allocation of annual budgets (and the Long Term Capital Expenditure Plan). There may be some requirement for flexibility as alternate, external funding options become available, but generally, the prioritisation tool should guide the implementation of works.

Conclusion

The 2024 Plan has been developed with the support and input from an industry consultant, a Community Reference Group and council officers. Feedback has been provided by the public through a formal period of engagement.

The 2024 Plan provides a framework for the staged implementation of a connected network of shared pathways that reflect Austroads Safe System Principles and engineering design standards.

When implemented, a connected network of shared cycle and walking paths will enable residents and visitors to choose active transport to travel to and through the centre of Horsham and to key destinations within Horsham and the developing area of Haven.

9.10 INTENTION TO SELL LAND AT THE WIMMERA AGRICULTURE LOGISTICS HUB

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F04/A06/000007

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 provide an update on the activities within the Wimmera Agriculture Logistics Hub (WAL Hub) and to seek Council approval to give notice of Council's intent to sell land at the WAL Hub located at Dooen by private treaty.

Summary

- The recent Council developed subdivision on Burgin Drive which is part of the WAL Hub precinct at Dooen has had positive outcomes since it was released for sale in 2021.
- There were 9 lots that made up Burgin Drive, Subdivision Stages 1 and 2 of which three have been sold and one is under contract.
- To align with the *Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 Development Plan*, it will be advisable for Council to hold a minimum of 10ha for future rail logistics growth.
- The original public notice to sell the land at WAL Hub in Stages 1 and 2 was issued in 2021 and has become stale. It is proposed to issue another public notice for remaining land in Stage 2, and the land occupied by Lots 10 and 11.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the progress report in relation to the sale of lots within Stages 2 and 3 of the Wimmera Agriculture Logistics Hub (WAL Hub).
2. Is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances justifying Council forgoing the benefits of a public process of sale in favour of private treaty negotiations with interested parties, for the reasons identified in the report to Council.
3. Give notice of its intention to sell the land known as Lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Stage 2 and Lots 10 and 11, Stage 3, WAL Hub, Dooen, on its website, having regard to the proposed key terms of sale identified in the report to Council.
4. Undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its community engagement policy by seeking written submissions in relation to the proposal and providing an opportunity for submitters to appear in person or online to speak to their submissions if they so request.
5. Obtain a valuation of each lot in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which is not more than six-month-old at the time of sale.
6. Request Council officers to report back to Council in relation to any submissions received as part of the community engagement process, provide Council officer assessment in respect of those submissions and the proposal as a whole, and submit a recommendation in relation to the same.

REPORT

Background

The WAL Hub is located approximately 8.5 kilometres north-east of the Horsham CBD. As Council is aware, the south-western portion of the WAL Hub, bound by the Henty Highway, Freight Terminal Road and the rail-line is Council owned which equates to approximately 83 hectares of the 470-hectare site. Council has prepared a Structure Plan for the Wal Hub (formally known as the WIFT) with bespoke Planning Scheme controls providing the mechanism for controlling the development outcomes. Except for the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT), the development of Freight Terminal Road, Burgin Drive, Johnson Asahi Hay Processing and Viterra Grain Receival the site is still largely undeveloped.

In April 2021, Council resolved to note a report which included information regarding the subdivision, scope of works for internal road construction and recent interest to purchase land within the estate and to publicly advertise Council’s intent to sell land at the Dooen Industrial Estate. At this Council meeting, Council also resolved that the name for the Dooen Industrial Estate site be changed to WAL Hub.

In June 2021, Council resolved having received no submissions, to proceed with the intended advertising and sale of land as outlined in the proposal to sell industrial zoned land at Henty Highway Dooen. Council authorised that the CEO to enter in contracts to sell the land at the Wal Hub Henty Highway Dooen at no less than the current market valuation.

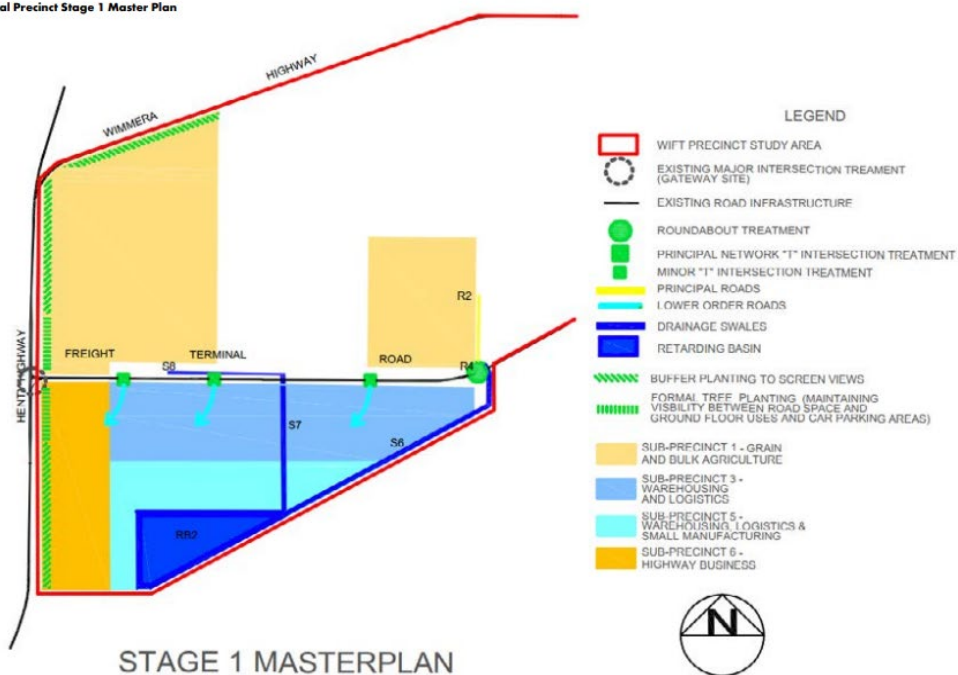
Illustrated below in Figure 1 is the development plan identified for the WAL Hub (formerly called the WIFT Precinct). This has further been modified with the Burgin Drive Subdivision. (See Figure 2)

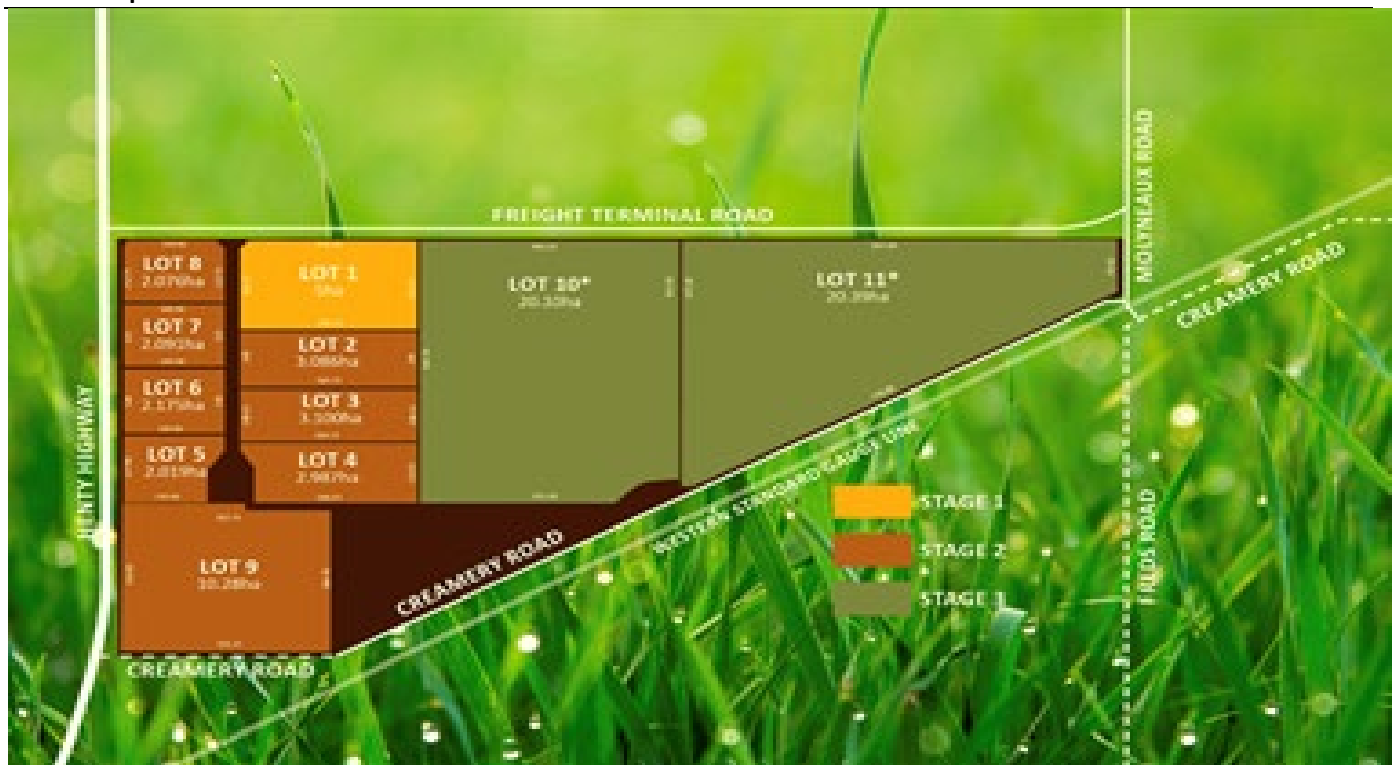
WIFT Precinct Development Plan

Burgin Drive Subdivision

Figure 1 Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 Development Master Plan, below, identifies the following elements of the development of the WIFT Precinct:

Figure 1: Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 Master Plan





Discussion

To date, Lot 1 (Stage 1) and Lots 8 and 9 (Stage 2) have been sold and settled. Lot 2 (Stage 2) has been sold, but settlement is still to occur.

In respect of the remaining Lots 3 to 7 (inclusive) in Stage 2 and Lots 10 and 11 in Stage 3, Council cannot sell any of these lots unless Council initiates a fresh statutory process pursuant to section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires the following:

- Council must give notice of its intention to sell on its website at least four weeks prior to the sale;
- Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy; and
- Council must obtain a valuation of the land which is not more than six months old at the time of sale.

A fresh statutory process is necessary for the following reasons:

- any parties currently interested in purchasing lots within Stages 2 and 3, WAL Hub, have been identified by a marketing process that is unrelated to the original process undertaken by Council in 2021; and
- the 2021 statutory process, including the public notice of intention to sell land published in May 2021 is now out-of-date and stale.

It is best practice for Council to sell land by means of a public competitive process of sale, such as an auction, request for expressions of interest or request for tenders. This is regarded as a particularly effective means of testing the market as to the degree of market interest in the sale of land and for securing a sale on the most favourable terms. Council officers are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances in this case justifying the abandonment of the benefits of a public competitive process of sale in favour of private treaty negotiations for the following reasons:

- The Land at the Doon WAL Hub has some unique Planning and Zoning requirements (Industrial Special Use) that can only be catered for via a substantial amount of due diligence from both the Purchaser and Vendor (HRCC) in most cases.

- Purchasers require a price to commence their due diligence, so they do not waste their time or Council.
- When purchasers are seeking finance, they normally require a firm figure to work with.
- Generally speaking, the land component is the small part of the equation regarding the total cost of the project.

Tender/Expression of Interest

Normally utilised where it is expected that there are strong multiple parties interested in a particular property and is hard to ascertain the value of a unique property. Not suitable for the WAL Hub as the Purchaser may not meet the criteria to purchase. In the last 3 years, only 3 blocks have been sold.

Auction

Used where transparency is required and where strong competition is expected, or a result is required on the day. (i.e. Mortgagee Sales) as a purchaser is required to enter an unconditional Contract, Council is unable to ascertain suitability. Not suitable for the WAL Hub as the Purchaser may not meet the criteria to purchase. Again, only 3 blocks have been sold in the last 3 years.

Private Sale

Industrial Land Subdivisions are normally priced which allows buyers to perform their due diligence prior to Signing a Contract. Ideal In the case of the WAL HUB where a buyer needs to meet the Special Use Zone criteria prior to entering into a formal Contract of Sale. It allows Council staff to have pre purchase meetings and discussions as to who may qualify for the land available at the time. Eliminates investors looking to landbank. It also allows the Agent to conduct some industry background checks prior to the relevant meetings/discussions.

Since June 2021, Council has finalised the Burgin Drive Subdivision and the lots have been publicly advertised for sale by our appointed Real Estate agent. There are 9 lots that make up Burgin Drive (Subdivision Stages 1 and 2) of which three have been sold, one is under contract, three are on hold pending due diligence and two lots remain on the market.

Options to Consider

1. Council may choose to give notice of its intention to sell land now within the WAL Hub Stage 2 and Stage 3 located at Dooen.
2. Council may choose not to give notice of its intention to sell land at this point in time.
Having regard to the exceptional circumstances identified in this report, it is recommended that Council gives notice of its intention to sell one or more of Lots 3 to 7 (inclusive), Stage 2, and Lots 10 and 11, Stage 3, within the WAL Hub at Dooen by private treaty on the following proposed key terms:
 - to purchasers who are engaged in one or more of the manufacture, processing, packaging, storage, transport, distribution and export of primary produce, raw materials or food products, service industries and ancillary uses;
 - for market value; and
 - in consideration for commitments from purchasers for prompt development of the relevant lots.
For Lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, there are existing titles so settlement can be as soon as preferred by the purchaser. For Lots 10 and 11, these sales will be conditional upon registration of a plan of subdivision for Stage 3 with settlement to follow plan registration.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

It is a legislative requirement of section 114(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* that Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Nil

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Nil

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) - Regional Victoria is a driving force behind our State's economic growth and prosperity. The Victoria's Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) identify strategic directions to further drive growth and prosperity in regional Victoria.

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

Conclusion

Information in this report is provided to support Council to make informed decisions on the WAL Hub precinct located at Dooen. This is a multifaceted agricultural hub and needs to be supported by Council to enable investment and job growth within the municipality which also has significant benefits for the broader region.

9.11 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2024-2025

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Coordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F20/A01/000016

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason:

At all levels of the assessment process, those on the assessment panels and at briefings have been requested to declare any conflict of interest and to not discuss or vote on any particular applications where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest. Details of conflict of interest declarations made by Officers and others involved in the process is attached to **Appendix 9.11C**.

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Community Donations 2024-2025 (**Appendix 9.11A**)

Community Development Grants 2024-2025 (**Appendix 9.11B**)

Community Grants and Donations Conflict of Interest Declarations (**Appendix 9.11C**)

Community Development Grants Application Form (**Appendix 9.11D**)

Community Grants Guidelines 2024-2025 (**Appendix 9.11E**)

Purpose

To present the Community Grants and Community Donations proposed for inclusion in the 2024-2025 budget.

Summary

This report details community grant allocations and community donations recommended for approval in the 2024-2025 budget.

- Grant allocation to increase in line with the rates cap (2.75%) thereby bringing the total allocation for donations and grants for the 2024-2025 budget to \$422,579.
- A total of 57 Community Development grant applications were received this year, two less than 2023-2024.
- The total Community Development grant funds requested was \$213,827, a 17% decrease from 2023-2024.
- Some 64% of the total dollar amount grant requests have been funded (compared to 69% in 2023-2024).
- A total of \$190,695 to be allocated for Community Donations.
- A total of \$137,548 to be allocated for Community Development Grants.

- A total of \$73,000 to be allocated to Community Events Grants distributed over two rounds commencing 1 May and 1 November 2024.
- A total of \$10,000 to be allocated to Youth grants available from July 2024.
- A total of \$11,336 to be allocated to Quick Response grants available from July 2024.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Allocate funding of \$422,579 in the 2024-2025 Budget for approved community grants and donations across the following categories:

- Community donations	\$190,695
- Community development grants	\$137,548
- Events grants	\$ 73,000
- Youth grants	\$ 10,000
- Quick response grants	\$ 11,336
2. Approve the Community Donations as detailed in **Appendix 9.11A**
3. Approve the Community Development Grants as detailed in **Appendix 9.11B**
4. Advise all successful and unsuccessful community development grant applicants of the outcome of their applications by the end of May 2024.

REPORT

Background

Council has allocated funding to support community and sporting groups in the municipality as part of its annual budget process. These funds cover both recurrent 'Donations' (in accordance with Council's Donations policy) for recreation reserves, halls, kindergartens, and service groups to assist them with their operations as well as 'Community Grants' for specific projects (in accordance with Council's Community Grants Policy).

Council approved a revised Community Grants Policy on 18 December 2023 that split the community grants program into four streams:

1. Community Development Grants - annual program open in February each year
2. Community Events Grants – open in May and November each year
3. Youth Grants – open continuously from 1 July each year until funding is exhausted
4. Quick Response Small Grants - open continuously from 1 July each year until funding is exhausted.

Council also approved a revised Community Donations Policy on 29 January 2024.

Discussion

In accordance with these two policies, applications for the 2024-2025 Community Development Grants Program were invited in February 2024. This Report includes recommendations for the Community Development Grants Program and annual Community Donations for inclusion in the 2024-2025 budget.

Following the closing date, applications have been considered by:

- an interdepartmental working group of Council Officers to consider matters of compliance and land owner consent;
- an internal assessment panel as detailed in the Community Development Grants Policy,
- the Executive Management Team (9 April 2024); and
- at a Council Briefing meeting (15 April 2024 and 6 May 2024).

This year, Council received 57 applications requesting a total of \$213,827 in community grants. Unlike previous years this does not include event applications. The events funding rounds will open on 1 May and 1 November 2024 respectively.

The ranking system used in previous years has been used again in the assessment of the applications for 2024-25 and reflects the assessment criteria in the grant guidelines. The objective of the ranking system is to provide general guidance for assessors and greater transparency in the assessment process. The grant application form (**Appendix 9.11D**) and the grant guidelines (**Appendix 9.11E**) outline the assessment criteria applied.

A final list of proposed Community Development Grants (**Appendix 9.11A**) and Community Donations (**Appendix 9.11B**) has been developed for the consideration and approval of Council.

It is proposed that groups be advised of the outcome of their grant application as soon as practicable following the adoption of the Community Development Grants and Donations for 2024-2025. This will assist them in preparing for the implementation of their projects and budgets for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Options to Consider

That Council accept the recommendations of the assessment panel and endorse the allocation of funds as per the amounts specified in the report.

Alternatively, Council may decide not to increase the grant allocation from previous years thereby reducing the total allocation for donations and grants for the 2024-2025 budget from the \$422,579 proposed.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Community Grant Information Sessions were held prior to the Community Grants closing date. These were held in both Horsham and Natimuk.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The restructuring of the Community Grants Program into four streams has streamlined the community grants process and will provide greater opportunities for the community to access grant funding throughout the financial year.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Proposed allocations are \$190,695 to Community Donations, \$137,548 to Community Development Grants, \$73,000 to Events Grants, \$10,000 to Youth Grants and \$11,336 to Quick Response Grants. The total Community Grant Allocation represents 64% of grant funds requested.

The proposed total allocation of represents of \$422,579 represents a 2.75% increase (rates cap) on the previous year's allocation. This allocation has been included in Council's Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

- 2021-2025 Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan)
- Community Inclusion Plan
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- Youth Strategy
- Age-Friendly Communities Implementation Plan
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026

Risk Implications

This is an established Council Program. There is a low level of risk in advising organisations that they are successful with a Community Development Grant before Council's Draft Budget is adopted.

Conclusion

The 2024-2025 Community Grants and Donations program will release over \$400,000 into the local community and economy. The local expenditure resulting from this Council support will provide an important stimulus to our not-for-profit sector.

9.12 PROPOSAL FOR NAME OF UNNAMED ROAD- HARNATH

Author's Name:	Kayla Christian	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Coordinator Rates	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Finance	File Number:	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 present a proposal to rename 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.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the request to rename the unnamed road, Harnath Road.
2. Authorise 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.

REPORT

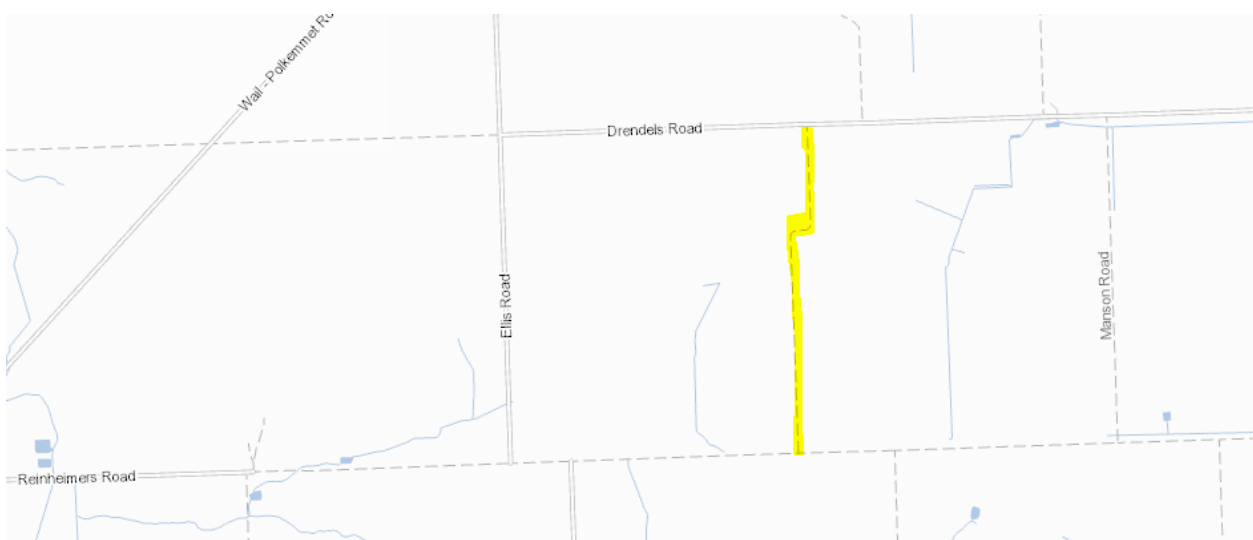
Background

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 has been made by a member of the public, Roger Thamm, to name the 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.



It should be noted that Harnath is already included on the Council's Subsidiary Street Name List as a previous submission was made to honour John Graham Harnath. That submission did not comply with Principle I of the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria*, as the rules do not permit the naming of a place after a living person. The current submission has been made to commemorate the applicant's late Grandfather, Johann Frederick (Fred) Harnath and also acknowledge his late Great-Grandfather, Johann Harnath.

Johann Harnath was born 17 March 1845 and travelled to Vectis East from Lake Linlithgow in the Western District with his brother Martin Harnath. The brothers were pioneer settlers and purchased land in Vectis East during 1872-1873. Martin eventually surrendered his entitlement of the land to his brother Johann, with Johann having full ownership. After passing away in 1887 Johann's wife remarried and continued

farming the Vectis East property with the help of their son Fred Harnath. Fred was the only Harnath family member to remain in the area.

In 1905, Fred began working at May & Milar Foundry where he was the head striker for two years, before returning to the family farm. Fred later sold his inheritance of the Vectis East farm and purchased farmland at Greenland Dam, now Dooen. This property is still owned by the Harnath family.

Fred contributed to the Greenland Dam community where possible, often attending social events and following his Christian Faith in helping others. Notably, Fred helped to arrange a meeting between the district families to discuss the installation of telephone lines in the area. Fred was secretary of this venture and travelled to Ararat to learn how to connect lines and install phones to homes. During the First World War, Fred performed the Violin at 'Send offs' and 'Welcome homes' for the service men and women.

Fred married in 1933 and later welcomed a son John Graham Harnath. John continued to extend the Harnath farms by purchasing land in Pimpinio. The properties in Pimpinio and Dooen remain in the Harnath name and are still farmed by John and his stepsons.

As the naming authority, Council can decide whether or not they accept the proposal for the unnamed road and if so that they authorise officers to develop a consultation strategy on the proposal for naming the road as required under the Naming Rules (section 7.2). The six steps of the consultation process are outlined below:

1. Prepare a naming proposal (complete)
2. Develop a consultation strategy
3. Determine who should be consulted
4. Build awareness of the proposal and invite feedback
5. Compile and analyse feedback from the community
6. Inform the community of the naming authority's decision

It is noted that consultation on proposed names with the immediate and/or extended community should only occur once the naming authority (Council) is certain that the proposed name conforms to the naming rules. As a result of the application made, the proposed name has been assessed and conforms with the Naming Rules. Where a proposal is for a road to be named after a person, then there is a requirement that consent be required from the person's family members. In this instance the application was made by the family member of the person after whom the road would be named so that requirement is also met.

Options to Consider

Council can opt not to approve officers to undertake a consultation process in relation to the proposal and instead select a name of their choice after consideration of the requirements of the policy.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Details of how the community can nominate a new name to the street naming list is available on Council's website along with the application form for doing so. This proposal has arisen from a member of the public completing that process.

As the request refers to the renaming of a specific road then there will be a period of community consultation with the immediate and/or extended community in Pimpinio for a minimum of 30 days in line with the requirements of the Naming Rules (section 7.2).

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 names were provided and the intent for inclusion of the names on Council's Naming list conforms to the Naming Rules and Council policy which mitigates the risk associated with consideration of their inclusion. Undertaking a consultation process aligned 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 request for the unnamed road to be named Harnath Road was submitted to and processed by Council's Rates Coordinator as required by that policy. The name is considered appropriate to be used as a road name in the Horsham Rural City Council Municipality. It is therefore recommended that Council acknowledge the request to rename the road and authorise officers to undertake a consultation process in relation to the proposal in line with the requirements of the Naming Rules.

9.13 FEES AND CHARGES 2024-2025

Author's Name:	Belinda Johnson	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Chief Financial Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Finance	File Number:	F18/A14/000001

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 Register of Fees and Charges 2024-2025 (**Appendix 9.13A**)

Purpose

To present the Horsham Rural City Council Register of Fees and Charges 2024-2025 for adoption.

Summary

- It is considered best practice and good governance to set user fees and charges as part of the budget process.
- The fees and charges that will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the 2024-2025 financial year are provided for adoption.
- The document presented includes both statutory and non-statutory fees and charges as well as GST applicability.
- The fees and charges provided are based on information available at the time of publishing and may vary during the financial year subject to any changes in Council's policy or legislation.
- Council may update the Register by returning individual schedules to Council for revision throughout the year.
- The Register promotes openness and transparency to the community around the prices of services and the rationale behind increases.

Recommendation

That Council adopt Horsham Rural City Council Register of Fees and Charges for 2024-2025.

REPORT

Background

The disclosure of fees and charges to be levied for various goods and services provided during the year is optional and not required by legislation. However, it is considered best practice and good governance to consider the setting of user fees and charges as part of the budget process. The process also promotes transparency to the community around the pricing of services provided to them.

Discussion

Council has previously presented a schedule of fees and charges as part of the draft budget for consideration by the community in May before the formal adoption of the budget in June. This year there was a change introduced in the community consultation process with the community engagement period to inform the budget undertaken over a 4-week period during late February to March 2024.

This engagement was undertaken in relation to the 2024-2025 Budget via the Annual Action Plan Year 3: 2024-2025 and the project initiatives review which links to the achievement of the Council Plan. The opportunity to provide feedback occurred in relation to the request for community input on the Plan and proposed initiatives with that information then used to inform the development of elements of the budget. The rationale for that process was provided in the report to Council in February 2024 with the Council recommendation endorsed at that meeting.

It is proposed to present the Register of Fees and Charges for 2024-2025 separately from the budget. The reason for doing so is two-fold. Firstly, the provision of information at this time ensures the community and customers are aware of the changes to fees in advance of those changes being made. Secondly, having the Register presented as a document separate to the budget means it is easier to present any changes required during the year for consideration by Council, noting that the fees and charges are based on information available at the time of publishing and may vary during the financial year subject to any changes in Council's policy or legislation.

It should be noted that Environment Protection Authority Waste Levies have increased in the State Budget released earlier in the month and Council is still calculating some of the associated fees. Updated waste fees will be presented with the 2024-2025 Budget.

Green waste continues to be very costly to process. Whilst Council aims to move pricing towards a cost neutral position, the increase for the coming year has been capped at a 50% increase.

Other service areas which have been impacted by COVID are also subject to gradual increases to reduce operating deficits whilst some services are not subject to increases to assist with stimulating participation rates. Reference to Council's Revenue and Rating Plan which sets out the various pricing basis have been taken into consideration in pricing decisions.

It should be noted that the 2024-2025 Budget will be presented to Council at the June Meeting.

Options to Consider

Council has the option not to disclose fees and charges they intend to levy for various goods and services. Even though the information is not required by legislation, the provision of such information is considered best practice and good governance. It is therefore recommended that Council opt to adopt the Register presented and disclose the fees and charges.

Sustainability Implications

There are statutory fees and other charges that Council must apply. Council also sets fees and charges that are non-statutory in nature and represent user fees. The fees and charges register identifies which fees are statutory and those which are non-statutory and provides explanation for any variance greater than 10% from previous years.

Council sets out the rationale for the pricing of services in its adopted Revenue and Rating Plan which cites the following basis for the setting of fees and charges:

1. Market Price – where Council sets prices based on the benchmarked competitive prices of alternate suppliers. Market prices will be used when other providers exist in the given market and Council needs to meet its obligations under the government’s Competitive Neutrality Policy.
2. Full Cost Recovery – where Council aims to recover all direct and indirect costs incurred by Council. This pricing is used where a service benefits individual customers specifically.
3. Subsidised Price – where Council may receive alternative revenue to offset the cost or service or provides the service to the customer with a reduced price to promote inclusiveness or some other intangible benefit.

Community Engagement

The fees and charges were discussed with Councillors in a Briefing on 20 May. Council has opted to provide the schedule in advance of the adoption of the budget. The reason for doing so is to inform the community and customers of Council of the changes in advance of those changes occurring.

Financial Implications

The fees and charges directly affect the 2024-2025 Budget as they represent both statutory and user fees. On that basis they represent a form of revenue within the budget. Council’s methodology for fees and charges pricing is set out in the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The fees and charges have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Better Practice Guide which accompanies the Local Government Model Budget provided by Local Government Victoria. Relevant statutory charges set by other levels of government and collected by Council have been included in the Register to assist the community in navigating this complex area.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The fees and charges have been prepared with reference to previous years’ charges and in line with key Council documentation such as Community Vision 2041, the 2021-2025 Council Plan, Annual Action Plan Year 3: 2024-25 and Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024.

Risk Implications

While there is no legislative requirement to disclose fees and charges it is considered best practice to do so. Adopting best practice principles helps to reduce risk to Council and ensures we are being transparent in the application of such fees.

Conclusion

The 2024-2025 Register of Fees and Charges, both statutory and non-statutory, have been prepared as part of the budget development. They are presented to Council for adoption in advance of the formal adoption of the Budget 2024-2025 to ensure community and customers are aware of the changes to those fees and charges in advance of any changes being implemented and will be incorporated into revenue calculations for the 2024-25 Budget.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.14 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	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 March 2024 (data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry)
(Appendix 9.14A)

Purpose

To present the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for March 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 March 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 March 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 - 2024-2025
- Year 5+ 2025+
- 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. 3/10 meetings held to date in 2024.
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	The draft Master Plan draft was presented to the Flight Hub Project Control Group in March. Feedback has been received and a few minor changes will be made prior to presenting the draft to Council for community feedback.
(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 March which included a presentation from Fed Uni about Wimmera Energy Demand Mapping

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	The Horsham Fishing Competition was held in March and heavily supported by Council. This event brings a lot of visitors from outside the region.
3.2.1 (ongoing)	Work with local business leaders throughout the municipality to develop business confidence and growth	Two business forums held annually	The Town Strategy Masterclass has begun with members from local councils and key communities groups coming together to develop their planning and business skills. The classes run until October.
(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 Tourism Industry Forum was held in Horsham in March and included several guest speakers. There was also an official announcement that the Wimmera Mallee Councils will now be part of Grampians Tourism which will now be known as Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.
(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 1,283 business contacts on 22 March 24 with 370 opens (35.1%) and 31 clicks.
(ongoing)	Advocate for value-add opportunities with existing and future farmers through innovative practices such as smart farming practices, planting native perennial vegetation and implementing renewable energy sources on farms	Attend the Horsham Field Days to host conversations with farmers.	The Business Team attended the Wimmera Field Days in March to promote the Agritourism Toolkit that has been developed to assist agricultural operators to incorporate tourism into their businesses.

SPENDMAPP

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

The biggest spending night of the month of March 2024 was Thursday 28 March with Total Local Spend of \$0.4M. This was made up of \$0.1M in Dining and Entertainment spending and \$0.3M spending in all other categories. This was the day before Good Friday public holiday which may have contributed to an increase in spending.

M = Million	March 2024	February 2024	% Change Previous Month	% Change Previous Year
Total Local Spend	\$38.50 M	\$34.00 M	13.2% increase	0.67% increase
Resident Local Spend	\$24.30 M	\$22.50 M	8.0% increase	2.64% increase
Visitor Local Spend	\$14.20 M	\$11.60 M	22.4% increase	1.39% increase
Resident Escape Spend	\$11.00 M	\$9.78 M	12.5% increase	4.81% increase
Resident Online Spend	\$12.20 M	\$11.90 M	2.5% increase	5.2% decrease

Tourism & Business Development

Business Visits

Council revisited the operators in Dadswell’s Bridge area, simply to touch base on how they are currently managing following the February bush fires.

It was good to be informed that businesses are operating strongly with higher visitation numbers than expected by visiting tourists to the region.

The Grampians Edge Caravan Park was fully booked out over the Easter period along with good booking numbers for Olde Dadswell Town and Dadswell’s Bridge Hotel Motel facilities.

Their only request they are seeking from Council is for small tree seedlings for revegetation planting due to burnt out trees. They were advised that Council will be advertising their annual revegetation program soon.

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism - News

Marc Sleeman CEO of Grampians Tourism announced the amalgamation with our neighbouring Mallee Councils. Grampians Tourism to be now known as *Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism*. Marc informed industry leaders at a forum held on March 14 at Maydale Reserve in Horsham, that Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism is the peak industry body for tourism in the Grampians and Mallee region. It encompasses and is directly supported by Ararat Rural City, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire, Southern Grampians and now includes our neighbouring Councils of Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh and West Wimmera.



One of the guest speakers at the forum was Ryan Smith. Ryan is a qualified access consultant, a wheelchair user and a member of the Access Consultants Association. He has 20 plus years working in strategic design and is an award-winning communication specialist.

Ryan spoke on Accessible Tourism without barriers. The principle is that tourism services and products should be open to everyone. In terms of access means ramps, toilets and parking. But more so it means providing accessible information so people can make informed decisions. Enabling a holistic customer experience that welcome everyone no matter of their ability.

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
Total	51	35	45	131

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	February 2024 Businesses Occupied	March 2024 Businesses Occupied	March 2024 Businesses Vacant	March 2024 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	43	0	100%
Firebrace St - 99	80	92	7	93%
Hamilton St - 17	16	17	0	100%
Wilson St – 34	29	27	7	79%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	24	26	2	92%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	24	25	2	92%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	24	24	0	100%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	248/272	254/272	18	93%

(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 March 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	MARCH 2024		MARCH 2023	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	4	2,008,000	4	2,072,839
Industrial/Commercial	3	273,400	3	2,241,000
Subdivisions	-	-	3 (112 lots)	600,000
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	7	2,281,400	10	4,913,839

(*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 31 March 2024 is 59 compared to 109 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 65 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024 compared to 290 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of March 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	-	-	2	475,204
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	-	-	3	68,160
Removal/Demolish	1	76,430	1	7,000
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	1	26,125
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	1	76,430	7	576,489

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

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	13	6,569,823	4	1,661,725
Alterations to Dwellings	2	246,904	3	75,735
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	9	964,187	13	367,220
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	6	11,891,537	8	3,325,961
Signs	-	-	-	-
_Sub Total	30	19,672,451	28	5,430,641

A total of **22** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$3,920,182** from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024 compared to **32** Building Permits at a total value of **\$2,728,990** in 2022-2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **158** Building Permits at a total value of **\$81,879,206** from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024 compared to **181** at a total value of **\$39,905,854** in 2022-2023.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.3	Develop a subdivision design and open space local planning policy.	Policy adopted by Council and Horsham Planning Scheme amended.	Draft Landscape guidelines prepared by Open Space and Recreation, Infrastructure and Planning Teams.
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.	A consultant has commenced background work required for a mandatory public open space development contribution rate for inclusion in the planning scheme.
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	Council resolved to commence a Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) to implement the heritage studies in March and are now preparing the PSA.
2.10.1	Implement the Horsham planning scheme and monitor land use and demand	Investment Attraction and Growth Monthly Report	Corrections amendment completed. Flood amendment has been adopted by Council and approved by the Minister for Planning and will be gazetted (by the State government) in due course.
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	The first two stages of the project are now complete, with a Background report and Discussion Paper prepared. Community consultation will commence in April.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Submissions that were made during the community consultation on the Future Urban

			Structure (FUS) are being considered and responses to submitters are being prepared. Background technical reports are being finalised to inform the development of the Draft Structure Plan.
(2 years)	Complete a Planning Scheme Review as a vehicle for specifying desired outcomes across the municipality	Planning Scheme Review Completed and suggested changes implemented	The Planning Scheme Review report is now complete. It has identified the key future strategic planning priorities. A Council report recommending to adopt the review and commence a planning scheme amendment is being prepared.

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.

9.15 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	File Number:	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 May 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 May 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

Joint State/Local Government Monthly CEO Forum: The CEO attended the forum on 1 May 2024 via Teams. Discussions included the Local Government Reforms 2024 and a Local Government Victoria (LGV) update.

Quarterly Wimmera Regional Mayor & CEO Meeting: The Mayors and CEOs from Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Buloke, Northern Grampians and Hindmarsh had their quarterly meeting on Thursday 9 May. Representatives from the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation presented to the group on the Sons and Daughters of the West program, a 10 week health program facilitated by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation in partnership with local councils and community health services across Victoria.

Regional Cities Victoria Meeting: The CEO attended the meeting via Teams on 16 May. MAV CEO spoke to the group about developing housing targets across Victoria and key housing capacity issues.

MAV State Council Meeting: The Mayor and CEO attended the MAV State Council meeting on Friday 17 May 2024 at the Melbourne Town Hall. Discussions included the upcoming council elections, voting on a number of MAV motions, and an update about the work happening within MAV.

Wesley Fundraising Campaign: The Mayor and CEO attended the official launch of Wesley Fundraising Campaign on Wednesday 24 April 2024 at the council offices. The fundraising campaign will take place until August 2024 to raise funds to refurbish the building, which will be known as "The Wesley". The campaign will reopen the facility for community use, providing a modern, multi-purpose venue that meets all safety standards and is accessible.

Funding Opportunities:

HRCC Cat Desexing Program (Reducing unwanted litters in the community) DEECA \$25,000

B. Community Engagement

Councillors Tour: Councillors went on a tour of the municipality on Tuesday 30 April 2024 covering areas of interest including The Station (landscaping), Aquatic Centre Change Rooms, Wimmera Business Centre, City Oval Netball Courts, City Oval Events Stage, Hocking Street, Container Deposit Scheme at Axis Worx and Park Drive, Rail Corridor (landscape plan), Kalkee Road Children's Hub (long day care arrangements), Telangatuk (gravel road conditions) and a tour of Fulham Homestead at Kanagulk. The councillors were able to gain insights into the different aspects of the municipality and give them a better understanding of local matters.

Dadswells Bridge Community Meeting: Staff and Councillors attended a community meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at Old Dadswell Town to provide support to residents impacted by the recent fire.

C. Projects and Events

Community Leadership Program: The first Community Leadership Program workshop was held on Saturday 4 May. The CEO gave a presentation to the participants about local government and Horsham municipality.

D. Staff Matters

Shine the Light: On Saturday 4 May, staff took part in a candlelight vigil walk from Ward St lawn area from 6pm to the Soundshell, where there was a short ceremony and sausage sizzle. May each year, the Wimmera Committee Against Family Violence (WCAFV) marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month to raise awareness in the community. In the year 2023 there were 635 Family Violence incidents in Horsham alone. Victorian statistics taken from crimestatistics.vic.gov.au show that for the calendar year 2023 there were 92,296 recorded Family Violence incidents.

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 May 2024.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)

Committee Representation	
17/05/2024	MAV State Council at Melbourn Town Hall
Other Council Activities	
23/04/2024	ABC Wimmera Radio interview
23/04/2024	Chaired Wesley fundraising committee meeting
24/04/2024	Wesley fundraising launch
25/04/2024	Anzac Day Dawn and Commemorative Services
26/04/2024	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
26/04/2024	Holy Trinity Lutheran College Deb Ball
02/05/2024	LGV Mayoral Forum with Minister Horne (virtual)
03/05/2024	"Shrek. The Musical"
04/05/2024	"Shine the Light" Walk
07/05/2024	Chaired Wesley fundraising committee meeting
09/05/2024	Chaired Wimmera Southern Mallee Mayors and CEO meeting
12/05/2024	Mother's Day Classic at Soundshell
12/05/2024	"Love Your Mum" fundraiser at Horsham Town Hall
14/05/2024	Chaired Wesley fundraising committee meeting
16/05/2024	Presented the HRCC scholarship at Federation University Foundation Scholarship Awards
16/05/2024	Grampians Tourism Visitor Partnership Webinar
18/05/2024	Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal Concert and Auction
22/05/2024	Wimmera Women Connect Breakfast with Leila McDougall

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
22/05/2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting – Online
Other Council Activities	
23/04/2024	Gendered Violence Research Interview PHD Student - Line
24/04/2024	Wesley Fundraising Campaign Official Launch – Council Chambers
25/04/2024	ANZAC Day – Horsham War Memorial Cenotaph – Dawn Service

30/04/2024	Councillor Tour – Various Locations within the Municipality
04/05/2024	Grampians Grape Escape – Halls Gap
05/05/2024	Horsham Arts Council Production – Shrek the Musical! – Horsham Town Hall
09/05/2024	Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Inc. – AGM – Federation University Horsham
09/05/2024	Impact professional and social entrepreneur: Josh Jones – Federation University
12/05/2024	Mother’s Day High Tea Fundraiser – Horsham Town Hall
14/05/2024	Community Meeting with Dadswells Bridge residents – Old Dadswell Town
17/05/2024	Wimmera Pride Project IDAHoBIT Breakfast – May Park
17/05/2024	Last Drinks: Know My Name – Horsham Regional Art Gallery

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
22/05/2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting – Online
Other Council Activities	
24/04/2024	Official launch of the Wesley Fundraising Campaign – Council Reception
25/04/2024	ANZAC Day
30/04/2024	Councillor Tour
08/05/2024	Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) & Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Global Executive Panel - Affordable & Sustainable Housing - online
13/05/2024	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
14/05/2024	Community meeting at Dadswells Bridge
20/05/2024	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Councillor Tour held on Tuesday 30 April 2024 at 8:30am
- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024 at 5:00pm
- Community Meeting held at Old Dadswell Town on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 5:30pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 20 May 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

- Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Project Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 May 2024
- Horsham Regional Livestock Association Board meeting held on 11 April 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