

AGENDA

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on
25 November 2019

At 5.30pm

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



Horsham Rural City
Council urban rural balance

**COUNCILLORS are respectfully requested to attend the Ordinary Meeting
of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held on 25 November 2019
in the Municipal 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

The Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali 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

Welcome to distinguished guests or persons in the public gallery. The public are advised that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

4. APOLOGIES

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 28 October 2019 and the Statutory Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 7 November 2019 be adopted.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Disclosure of Interest and Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest and is attending the Council meeting must make a full disclosure of that interest.

(a) by either –

- (i) advising the Council at the meeting of the details required under paragraphs (b) and (c) immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting; or
- (ii) advising the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the details required under paragraphs (b) and (c) before the meeting; and

(b) classifying the type of interest that has given rise to the conflict as either –

- (i) a direct interest under 77B; or
- (ii) an indirect interest and specifying the particular kind of indirect interest under:
Section 78 – close association
Section 78A – financial interest
Section 78B – conflicting duties
Section 78C – receipt of an applicable gift
Section 78D – consequence of becoming an interested party
Section 78E – impact on residential amenity; and

(c) describing the nature of the interest; and

(d) if the Councillor advised the Chief Executive Officer of the details under paragraph (a)(ii), the Councillor must make a disclosure of the class of interest only to the meeting immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting.

Members of Staff

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, officers or people engaged under contract to the Council providing a report or advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests in the matter, including the type of interest.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

9. OFFICERS REPORTS	6
9.1 CITY TO RIVER DRAFT MASTERPLAN	6
9.2 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY	18
9.3 DOGS IN HORSHAM BOTANIC GARDENS	21
9.4 HORSHAM WORKS DEPOT GROUNDWATER / SOIL CONTAMINATION RESOLUTION	24
9.5 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF REPLACEMENT GRADER – CONTRACT 20/010	29
9.6 WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL (WIFT) PRECINCT STAGE 1 - WATER SUPPLY – CONTRACT 20/007 ..	32
9.7 ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF ANIMAL RENEWAL NOTICES	36
9.8 DRAFT CORELLA MANAGEMENT PLAN	39
9.9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT	42
9.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S OPERATIONAL REPORT	47
10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	50
11. URGENT BUSINESS	51
12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	52
12.1 PETITION NOT TO CLOSE MCBRYDE STREET, HORSHAM	52
13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS	53
13.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS	53
<i>Council Briefing held on Monday 4 November 2019 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Council Briefing held on Monday 11 November 2019 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Governance Workshop held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 5.30pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham ..</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan Workshop held on Wednesday 13 November 2019 in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Community Consultation Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2019 at 5.45pm at the Mitre Hall</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>City to River Workshop held on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham ..</i>	<i>53</i>
13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS	53
13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE	53
13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES	53
14. NOTICE OF MOTION	54
15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS	55
15.1 HORSHAM WORKS DEPOT GROUNDWATER/SOIL CONTAMINATION RESOLUTION	55
<i>Section 89(2)(h) of the Local Government Act 1989 – any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person</i>	
15.2 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF REPLACEMENT GRADER – CONTRACT 20/010	56
<i>Section 89(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1989 – contractual matters</i>	
15.3 WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL (WIFT) PRECINCT STAGE 1 – WATER SUPPLY – CONTRACT 20/007 ..	57
<i>Section 89(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1989 – contractual matters</i>	
15.4 HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE	58
<i>Section 89(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989 – personnel matters</i>	
15.5 SALE OF VACANT LAND TO RECOVER UNPAID RATES AND CHARGES	60
<i>Section 89(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989 – personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer</i>	

CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 CITY TO RIVER DRAFT MASTERPLAN

Author's Name:	Justine Kingan	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Coordinator Strategic Planning	Directorate:	Director Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/067/000017

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Phase 2 Engagement Report, What we Heard, Draft City to River Masterplan – October 2019 (**Appendix “9.1A”**)

Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report – May 2019 (**Appendix “9.1B”**)

Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Technical Report – May 2019 (**Appendix “9.1C”**)

Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Study – May 2019 (**Appendix “9.1D”**)

Horsham Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Vision and Masterplan – June 2019 (**Appendix “9.1E”**)

Purpose

To endorse amendments and actions on the Draft City to River Masterplan and associated reports.

Summary

Following the eight-week public engagement process, commencing on 4 July and closing on 30 August 2019, 740 written submissions were received by Council. The Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents propose a suite of transformative projects aimed at enhancing and revitalising Horsham's Central Activity District (CAD), Wimmera Riverfront and Showgrounds Precinct, making Horsham a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

The engagement process revealed what fundamental ideas were largely supported (pending further design work) and what ideas were largely unsupported. In making recommendations, Council Officers have considered how the feedback can be incorporated to the greatest extent possible whilst balancing and aligning with the objectives of the project, State Policy and State Sporting Association Strategies, and future financial and social implications, in addition to further targeted engagement.

A review of submissions found that a considerable amount of feedback was provided on design detail considerations. To enable further community and stakeholder engagement, as well as a timely, well co-ordinated and sequenced transformation over a 20-year period, it is recommended that the City to River Masterplan be divided into sub-precincts.

Concept and schematic design at a sub-precinct level will allow Council to:

- Engage with the community and other stakeholders on individual projects to refine details presented in the Masterplan
- Progress strongly supported ideas and capitalise on funding opportunities as they become available
- Confirm the location of the multi-purpose regional sporting facility and ultimately secure funding.

It is also recommended that individual projects be subject to Council endorsement, allowing for changes to the detail shown on the Masterplan to be made based on the concept and schematic design stage, including stakeholder and wider community engagement.

Among the findings of the engagement process, was that the idea of relocating the Lawn Tennis and Horsham Croquet Club were among the top five ideas people didn't like about the plan. Considerations relating to sporting facilities, how capital and operational costs would be funded and issues relating to movement, including parking and road closures emerged in the top five areas of concern. The most strongly supported idea was the idea of a masterplan itself. The idea of a café on the riverfront, other riverfront improvement, considerations relating to sporting facilities, movement linkages and family friendly elements were also in the top five things people liked.

The project aligns closely with many directions in the Council Plan as well as existing Council Strategies and Plans. Risk and financial implications associated with the implementation of the Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledge and thank all groups and individuals who made a formal submission to the Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents.
2. Note key concerns and support highlighted through the Draft City to River Masterplan public engagement process (**Appendix "9.1A"**).
3. Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to divide into sub-precincts to facilitate implementation through targeted community and stakeholder engagement.
4. Note that a large proportion of the feedback is relevant to the detailed concept and design stage and will be considered as part of the engagement for each project at a sub-precinct level.
5. Endorse the Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Assessment (May 2019) subject to the following amendment:
 - Recognition of Horsham Croquet as a Regional Facility and Lawn Tennis as a local facility in the Botanic Gardens sub-precinct.
6. Endorse the Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activity District Background Report, May 2019 (**Appendix "9.1B"**) subject to the following amendment:
 - Recognition of the regional role of Horsham Greyhound Racing Club.
7. Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show that individual projects on the Masterplan are subject to Council endorsement and may change based on detailed concept and schematic design and stakeholder and wider community engagement.
8. Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show that individual projects in the Masterplan are subject to prioritisation and funding as part of Council budget planning process and availability of funds from other sources, be it government or private.

9. Endorse the following amendments and actions to the Draft City to River Masterplan:
 - 9.1 **Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct** - Amend the Draft Masterplan to show the Horsham Croquet Club in the Botanic Gardens with enhanced integration and connectivity (including removal of permanent fencing), as a regional facility, noting that a number of the lawn tennis courts are used to support regional tournaments.
 - 9.2 **Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to show lawn tennis courts with enhanced integration and connectivity (including removal of permanent fencing), and work with the Lawn Tennis Club, Tennis Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to review future needs and demand for lawn tennis in the broader context of other tennis facilities and proposed regional tennis facility in Horsham, noting that the current footprint is to remain pending the aforementioned review.
 - 9.3 **Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to remove the proposed lake.
 - 9.4 **Riverfront Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to acknowledge the role of miniature railway in activation of the riverfront sub-precinct and work with the Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society to explore design options and a viable operating model as part of the design process.
 - 9.5 **Riverfront Sub-Precinct** – Commence implementation of concept and schematic design for the riverfront improvements, including the splash park and site selection for the café/restaurant.
 - 9.6 **Riverfront Sub-Precinct** – Undertake a market sounding and expression of interest process for the development/operation of the café/restaurant.
 - 9.7 **City Oval and Sawyer Park Sub-Precinct** – Commence concept and schematic design process for City Oval and Sawyer Park area which considers options for the configuration of City Oval and Sawyer Park layout.
 - 9.8 **Showgrounds Freehold Sub-Precinct** – Work with the Horsham Agricultural Society to advance the precinct planning and assist in the development of the site, which aligns with their operating model.
 - 9.9 **Key Connection Sub-Precinct** – Commence schematic designs for the key connection along Firebrace Street.
 - 9.10 **CAD Renewal Sub-Precinct** – Encourage and support the private sector in urban renewal including preparation of a development plan for the concrete batching plant site.
 - 9.11 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Commence schematic and detailed designs.
 - 9.12 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Note that the planning for the GovHub will be subject to further engagement with State Government Agencies.
 - 9.13 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Note that there are no plans to change the existing angle parking arrangements in the CAD and any reconfiguration will be subject to further consultation with business and other stakeholders as part of the schematic and detailed design stage.
 - 9.14 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show a series of meeting places in the CAD.

10. Seek grant funding for projects in the Draft City to River Masterplan as the funding opportunities arise.

That Council:

11. Endorse the following amendments and actions to the Draft City to River Masterplan:

11.1 **Showgrounds Crown Land Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show the development of a regional outdoor sporting precinct subject to a feasibility study which considers the Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site) noting that the study will:

- Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional outdoor multi-purpose sports facility
- Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs
- Involve stakeholder engagement including with the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria in determining cost associated with relocation.

That Council:

12. Endorse the following amendments and actions to the Draft City to River Masterplan:

12.1 **Showgrounds Crown Land Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to show the development of a regional indoor sporting facility subject to a feasibility study which considers the Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue Site) noting that the study will:

- Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional indoor multi-purpose sports facility
- Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs.

REPORT

Background

On 24 June 2019, Council resolved to receive and note the City to River - Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District (CAD) Background Report (May 2019) (**Appendix "9.1B"**), Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Technical Report (**Appendix "9.1C"**), Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019) (**Appendix "9.1D"**) and Horsham Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham CAD Vision and Masterplan (June 2019) (**Appendix "9.1E"**) and exhibit to the community for 28 days and invite comment.

On 22 July 2019, Council resolved to extend the public exhibition and public submission period of the City to River reports (Wimmera River Precinct, CAD Vision and Masterplan) to Friday 30 August 2019. Following the eight-week public engagement process, commencing on 4 July and closing on 30 August 2019, 740 written submissions were received by Council. Between 30 August and 4 October 2019 Council Officers read and summarised all submissions and presented a Draft Engagement Report to Councillors at the 7 October 2019 Council Briefing. On the 23 October the engagement report was made available to the public via Council's website and office (**Appendix "9.1A"**). On 4 November 2019 and 19 November 2019, Councillors participated in workshops to consider Council's response to feedback on the Draft City to River Masterplan.

The Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents propose a suite of transformative projects aimed at enhancing and revitalising Horsham's Central Activity District (CAD), Wimmera Riverfront and Showgrounds Precinct, making Horsham a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. The project seeks to deliver a 20-year Vision and Masterplan identifying a suite of "game changing" projects for the City to River area. The final Masterplan will allow Council to take a leadership role in attracting public and private sector interest and investment. Other key project drivers include the need to grow Horsham as the key population and employment centre for the region and attract and retain residents, and grow tourism.

Discussion

In making recommendations, Council Officers have incorporated feedback to the greatest extent possible whilst balancing and aligning with:

1. The objectives of the project
2. State Policy and State Sporting Association Strategies
3. Future financial and social implications.

Objectives of the Project

- **Wimmera River Precinct** - Activate, connect and add value to the Wimmera Riverfront Precinct to establish an iconic community, recreation and tourist destination.
- **Horsham's CAD** - Improve the amenity of the CAD and the diversity of land uses to strengthen the existing business environment, attract more visitors and accommodate greater housing, hospitality, open space and events.
- **Transport and Connectivity** - Better integrate and improve the connection between the CAD and the riverfront and improve access to, and connectivity within the study area.
- **Sport and Recreation** - Adopt a long term strategic approach to developing sporting infrastructure that meets contemporary standards, promotes participation, accommodates regional events, makes efficient use of public land and integrates with urban and river areas.

In addition to assessment feedback against the objectives of the project, further engagement with the Horsham Croquet Club, Croquet Victoria, Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, Tennis Victoria, Sport and Recreation Victoria and the Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society was undertaken. This engagement further informed Council Officers' recommendations.

The engagement process revealed what fundamental ideas are largely supported (pending further design work) and what ideas are largely unsupported. Fundamental ideas are considered overarching ideas, or big strategic moves. The process also showed what functional, technical, practical and financial considerations are required to plan and design for the delivery of the fundamental ideas. Feedback largely fell into these two categories.

The engagement process showed that the idea of relocating the Lawn Tennis and Horsham Croquet Clubs were among the top five ideas people didn't like about the plan. Considerations relating to sporting facilities, how capital and operational costs would be funded and issues relating to movement, including parking and road closures emerged in the top five areas of concern.

The most strongly support idea, was the idea of a masterplan itself. The idea of a café on the riverfront, other riverfront improvement, considerations relating to sporting facilities, movement linkages and family friendly elements were also in the top five things people liked.

Project Wide Feedback Themes

A review of submissions found that a considerable amount of feedback was provided on design detail considerations. This feedback is considered valuable input into the preparation of concept and schematic designs at a sub-precinct level. To enable further community and stakeholder engagement, action to be taken on strongly supported ideas, as well as a timely, well co-ordinated and sequenced transformation over a 20-year period, it is recommended that the City to River Masterplan be divided into sub-precincts as per Figure 1 below.

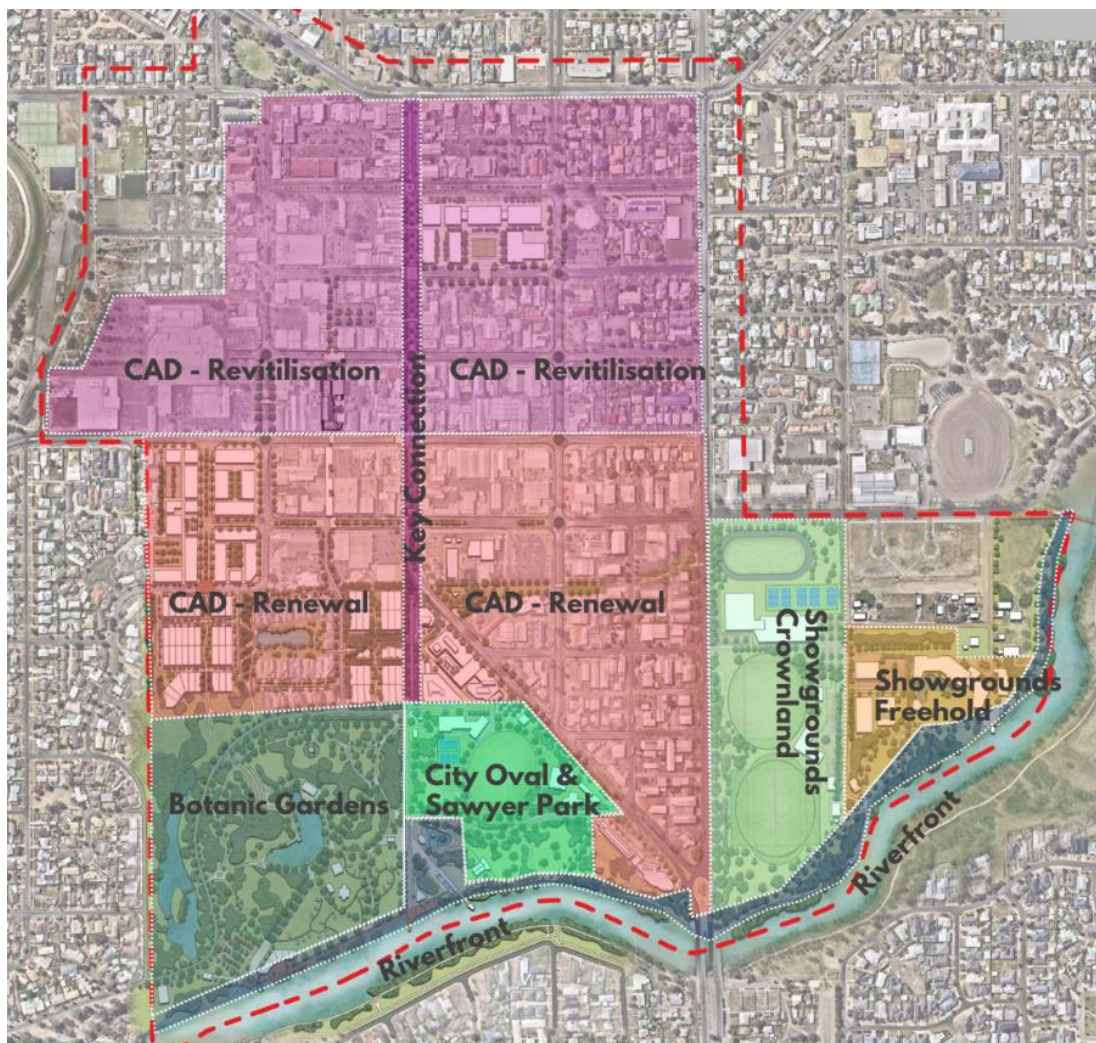


Figure 1: City to River Sub-precinct

It is recommended that the City to River Masterplan be divided into sub-precincts to enable:

- Further community and stakeholder engagement to refine details presented in the Masterplan
- Action to be taken on strongly supported ideas
- A timely, well co-ordinated and sequenced transformation over a 20-year period
- Council to capitalise on funding opportunities as they become available
- The location of multi-purpose sporting precinct to be confirmed and ultimately funded.

It is also recommended that individual projects be subject to Council endorsement, allowing changes to detail shown on the Masterplan to be made at the concept and schematic design stage.

Preparing concept and schematic designs at a sub-precinct level (including further stakeholder and community engagement) and ensuring that individual projects are subject to Council endorsement and the annual budget planning process is recommended in response to concerns raised including:

- Community consultation
- Implementation time and scope
- Funding and rate impacts
- Impacts on existing residence and business
- Transport and connectivity.

Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct

As noted, the engagement process showed that the idea of relocating the Horsham Lawn Tennis and Croquet Clubs is among the top five ideas people didn't like about the plan.

It is recommended that the Horsham Croquet Club be retained in the Botanic Gardens with enhanced integration and connectivity (including removal of permanent fencing), and recognising croquet as a regional facility and noting that some of the lawn tennis courts are used to support regional tournaments. Croquet Victoria recognise the Horsham Croquet Club as a regional facility, with the use of a number of lawn tennis courts. Connectivity objectives can be achieved in the Botanic Gardens through infrastructure or design changes.

Tennis Victoria support the future development of a regional tennis facility as part of a regional outdoor sporting facility, but do not support the retention of 24 lawn tennis courts. It is recommended that Council work with the Lawn Tennis Club to achieve enhanced integration and connectivity (including removal of permanent fencing) with the Croquet Club, the Botanic Gardens and riverfront. It is also recommended that Council work with the Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, Tennis Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to assess and review future needs and demand of lawn tennis in the broader context of other tennis facilities and proposed regional tennis facility in Horsham. It is recommended that the current footprint remains, subject to the aforementioned review.

The proposed lake is not considered critical to activating and adding value to the riverfront and with the retention of croquet and some lawn tennis courts should be removed.

Riverfront Sub-Precinct

Acknowledgement of the role the Miniature Railway plays in activating the riverfront, exploring design options and a viable operating model as part of the design process was identified as an opportunity to enhance riverfront activation.

The need to enhance, improve and activate the riverfront emerged as one of the most strongly supported ideas in the draft Masterplan, including the idea of a riverfront Café/restaurant and family friendly elements such as the splash park, with a range of suggestions regarding design considerations. In response to the multi-choice question regarding the riverfront transformation the greatest percentage of responses were positive regarding greater use of the riverfront should the transformation happen. Direct comments also revealed strong support as summarised in the Engagement Report.

In response, it is recommended that Council commence implementation of concept and schematic design for the café and riverfront improvements, including the splash park as a priority.

City Oval and Sawyer Park Sub-Precinct

In total, 16% (120) of all submissions referred to the idea of upgrading the City Oval. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 8% (58) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 6% (43) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under "Further Comments" in the feedback form, 4% (28) of submissions made reference to upgrading of the City Oval, being a mix of comments. Feedback was largely related to design considerations.

In response, it is recommended that Council commence concept and schematic design process for City Oval and Sawyer Park area, which considers the reconfiguration of the oval and Sawyer Park layout.

Showgrounds Freehold Sub-Precinct

Given the tenure of the land, it is recommended that Council work with the Horsham Agricultural Society to advance the precinct and assist in the development of the site, which aligns with their operating model.

Key Connection Sub-Precinct

Much of the feedback related to design considerations, particularly associated with car parking and traffic flow, therefore it is recommended that Council commence schematic designs for the key connection. It is noted that any changes to parking will be subject to further engagement with the business and other stakeholders as part of the schematic design process.

CAD Urban Renewal Sub-Precinct

Given the tenure of the land, it is recommended that Council encourage and support the private sector in urban renewal including preparation of a development plan for the concrete batching plant site.

CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct

Much of the feedback related to design considerations, particularly associated with car parking and traffic flow, therefore it is recommended that Council commence with schematic designs for the CAD revitalisation sub-precinct. It is noted that any changes to parking will be subject to further engagement with the business and other stakeholders as part of the schematic design process.

CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct

Limited feedback was received regarding the idea of a GovHub and given the depth of further engagement required at a State Government level, it is recommended that Council note the GovHub will be subject to further engagement with State Government agencies.

CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct

The idea of a town square as part of the GovHub was questioned by some submitters. The Background Report suggested showing a series of meeting places in the CAD, so it is recommended that Council amend the masterplan to show a series of meeting places in the CAD.

Showgrounds Crown Land Sub-Precinct

Feedback confirmed that, in general, providing modern, regional level sporting facilities, as part of a multi-purpose complex continues to be a key issue for the community. The location emerged as a key issue, with relatively equal levels of support for the proposed location and an alternative location. In addition to submissions from individual members of the community, local, regional and Victorian level sporting associations contributed.

A joint submission was made by the below mentioned Victoria Sporting Associations specifically in relation to the outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct proposal:

- Tennis Victoria
- Croquet Victoria
- Hockey Victoria
- Football Victoria
- Little Athletics Victoria.

The joint submission cover letter, prepared by Tennis Victoria was supported by individual letters from each of the associations along with a concept plan outline a number of shared options that will accommodate the following on the Crown Land known as the showgrounds site:

- Regional tennis facility
- Regional croquet facility
- Regional athletics track and field events space
- Regional hockey facility
- Local football (soccer) pitch
- Local rugby/multipurpose pitch.

Each of the associations provided commentary around their specific needs and how inclusion in the sport precinct would enable participation, promote community wellbeing and enhance liveability.

All six State Sporting Associations support the principle of a multi-purpose sport facility as a vision for the future of sport in the Wimmera and welcomed further consultation and input.

Other agencies also commented.

Consistent with other themes, much of the feedback related to the proposed location, being design considerations and the suitability of the site in terms of its capacity to deliver maximum benefits to the community.

In response, it is recommended that Council develop a regional indoor and outdoor sporting precinct subject to a feasibility study which considers the Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue Site). A feasibility Study is recommended so that the technical issues (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs for both options can be determined and used to help inform Council's final decision on the location and ultimately secure funding. The study would involve stakeholder engagement including the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria in determining cost associated with relocation.

Next Steps

Amendments will be made to Draft City to River Masterplan. Council will be presented with the revised Masterplan and final endorsement of the City to River Masterplan will be sought.

Financial Implications

Following endorsement of the Masterplan, further work will be undertaken to identify potential projects, their associated scope and estimated costs. The projects will be subject to prioritisation and consideration by Council as part of its annual and long-term capital works planning and budget allocation.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development: Develop Horsham and the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community
- 1.2 Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation
- 1.3 Contribute to cultural activities that enhance our community
- 1.4 Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities

We'll track progress in terms of:

- Securing funding for CBD Revitalisation Project Stage 1 - improved urban design
- Develop plans for a Town Square by December 2018

Four-Year Priorities:

- 1.2.09 Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation)
- 1.2.10 Plan and progressively construct shared cycling and walking track paths along the Wimmera River – from Riverside Bridge to Horsham Weir – both sides, including improvements to lighting and other facilities
- 1.2.12 Encourage the development of a riverside café
- 1.2.13 Support planning for review of use of the Riverside Recreation Hub precinct as part of the Wimmera River strategy

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy: Lead in sustainable growth and economic development

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 2.2 Cultivate opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development
- 2.3 Support initiatives for improved transport services in and around the municipality
- 2.4 Increase visitors to the municipality
- 2.5 Promote Horsham as a regional city

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

- Encourage linkages with local business and tourism associations to assist growth and prosperity of the retail, commercial and tourism sectors
- Facilitate the attraction of major sporting events
- Promote and encourage safe bicycle use as a sustainable alternate mode of transport, including provision of bicycle parking facilities

Goal 3 – Asset Management: Meet community and service needs through provision and maintenance of infrastructure

Four-Year Priorities:

3.1.09 Identify and develop new off street parking areas on CBD fringe

3.1.10 Develop a master plan of streetscape themes and service levels for existing streets and new developments

3.2.02 Confirm and undertake design and planning for the relocation of the municipal depot including potential co-location of Tech Services planning and delivery staff

3.4.05 Develop improved entrances to all towns (street signage and landscapes)

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

- Continue the Horsham central business district upgrade of streetscaping

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence: Excel in communication, consultation, governance, leadership and responsible use of resources

Four-Year Outcomes:

4.1 Continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective consultation

The City to River Project links to the following Council Plans and Strategies:

- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017–2021
- Horsham Municipal Strategic Statement
- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013–2018
- Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy 2017
- Horsham CAD Strategy 2013
- Imagine Horsham, Community and Stakeholder Engagement – Key Findings Summary 2016
- Tourism Master Plan 2016 – 2020, 2018 review
- Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017–2021
- Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012–2016
- Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy 2017
- Horsham CBD Urban Design Framework
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design 2017
- Horsham Growth Management Framework 2012

Consultation/Communication

Council made a strong commitment as part preparing the Draft City to River Masterplan to deliver a genuine and thorough engagement process. This included using the results of earlier engagement activities undertaken in the study area and incorporating ideas already identified by the community.

The engagement process has been broken up into a number of phases as described below, with the subject of this report being phase 2.

Engagement Phases

- Phase 1: Gather
Gather existing ideas from previous engagement activities and undertake targeted engagement with key groups.
- Phase 2: Test
Test ideas with the wider community by asking for feedback.

- Phase 3: Refine
Targeted engagement to refine ideas based on responses to community feedback.
- Phase 4: Design
Engagement through the detailed design phase for individual projects.

Phase 2: Test

From 4 July to 30 August 2019, the community were invited to comment on ideas gathered in phase 1 of the engagement process. Ideas gathered as part of phase 1 were presented in the Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents. A range of tools and methods were used to elicit as much feedback as possible and summarised in the Engagement Report (**Appendix "9.1A"**).

The objective of phase 2 of the engagement process was to:

- Provide the wider the community with the opportunity to have their say
- Test ideas generated from the first phase of the engagement process with the general community
- Identify how, to the greatest extend possible the plan could be modified in response to community feedback, whilst remaining true to the objectives of the project.

The Draft City to River Masterplan received 740 written submissions from individual members of the community, local, regional and state sporting groups, local special interest groups and State Government Agencies. A number of submissions were made on behalf of a group, with the majority being individual submissions. participating group.

All submissions were reviewed and are summarised in the Draft City to River Masterplan: Engagement Report, What We Heard (October 2019).

Risk Implications

Risks associated with the implementation of the City to River Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Environmental Implications

Environmental implications associated with the implementation of the City to River Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The proposed amendments and actions to the Draft City to River Masterplan are intended to respond to key concerns on fundamental ideas and design detail considerations raised through the community engagement process. The amended Masterplan will be presented to Council for final endorsement.

9.2 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Author's Name:	Stefanie Jones	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Recreation & Open Space Planning	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Arts, Culture & Recreation	File Number:	F27/A11/000007

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Open Space Strategy – Public Comment Feedback (**Appendix “9.2A”**)

Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy (**Appendix “9.2B”**)

Purpose

- To adopt the Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Open Space Strategy.

Summary

- Council, at its meeting on 24 June 2019, resolved to advertise the draft HRCC Open Space Strategy for public comment. This report provides a summary of the submissions received and the updated HRCC Draft Open Space Strategy.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy as presented.

REPORT

Background

The HRCC Open Space Strategy was developed by external consultants, Sport Business Partners (SBP) throughout 2019. The purpose of the strategy was to provide Council with strategic directions to determine priorities for the planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality. Council has not previously had an Open Space Strategy.

The following methodology was used:

1. Desktop audit and analysis
2. Council staff strategy workshop
3. Community engagement survey (4 weeks)
4. Stakeholder 1:1 interviews
5. Community workshops
6. Draft HRCC Open Space Strategy
7. Council staff feedback
8. Draft HRCC Open Space Strategy presentation to Council
9. Public comment on Draft HRCC Open Space Strategy (65 days)
10. Final HRCC Open Space Strategy developed
11. Presentation of revised HRCC Open Space Strategy to the Project Control Group and Executive Management Team.

Discussion

Following the most recent public comment period involving community, stakeholder and Council Officer responses and feedback, the HRCC Open Space Strategy has now been finalised for adoption by Council. All responses were assessed against the Open Space Strategy principles and original brief to determine whether changes to the document should be made. These changes included the amalgamation of a number of recommendations in the Action Plan in order to provide a succinct set of actions which would be supported and achievable by Council.

The final document provides a detailed outline and analysis of the existing provision of open space across the municipality. It includes an action plan to guide the provision and quality of open space assets for Council's short, medium and long term planning, based upon 10 key principles: equity, accessibility, health and wellbeing, participation, sustainability, safety, adaptability, efficiency, environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and design and place-making. These principles, and the strategic guidelines that underpin them, will guide future planning for the Recreation and Open Space Planning team and other Council departments.

Financial Implications

Implementation of many of the key findings and recommendations will have financial implications. These will need to be prioritised and taken into account in future budget deliberations and decision-making.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Priority 1.2 – Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation

2017-2021 Health and Wellbeing Plan
2018 Youth Strategy
2019 Early Years Plan
2019 Age Friendly Communities Plan
Community Plans (various)
2019 Community Inclusion Plan (draft)
2015 Haven Community Precinct Plan
2016 Railway Corridor Master Plan
Community Engagement Policy
Asset Management Policy
Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham Central Activities District Project

Consultation/Communication

The PCG was made up of relevant Council Officers who were engaged throughout the duration of the development of the HRCC Open Space Strategy.

Most recently, a public comment period was held from 25 June to 30 August 2019 to provide comment of the Draft HRCC Open Space Strategy. Council received the following:

- Eight community individual responses, five group responses, and one workshop response, totalling 304 public comments across the whole document
- Council Officer review.

Risk 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

Following an extensive external and internal review process, it is recommended that the HRCC Open Space Strategy be adopted by Council.

9.3 DOGS IN HORSHAM BOTANIC GARDENS

Author's Name:	Stefanie Jones	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Recreation & Open Space Planning	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Arts, Culture & Recreation	File Number:	F25/A15/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* –
Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance
with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Letter from Mike Coffey (Community Representative) on behalf of Domestic Animal Management Advisory Group (**Appendix "9.3A"**)

Dogs in the Botanic Gardens Report – Benchmarking (**Appendix "9.3B"**)

Purpose

To seek community feedback for consideration of dog access in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

Summary

- The Domestic Animal Management Advisory Group have requested that the No Dogs Policy in the Horsham Botanic Gardens be re-assessed.
- Benchmarking shows that most Councils and Shires allow for dogs on-lead within their Botanic Gardens.
- Maintenance and upkeep would become a key issue if dogs are allowed on-lead in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

Recommendation

That Council conduct a 28-day survey in February 2020 to the wider public to gauge desire for dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

REPORT

Background

Horsham Botanic Gardens has traditionally been a “No Dogs Permitted” area. Signage was replaced in 2016, resulting in further community interest to re-assess the policy. After weighing up the pros and cons, a Council resolution was passed on 4 April 2016 to retain the “No Dogs” status in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

A recent letter from Mike Coffey (community representative), on behalf of the Domestic Animal Management Advisory Group, requests that Council re-assess the No Dogs Policy and consider allowing dogs within the Horsham Botanic Gardens, provided that the dog is on a lead and it remains on existing pathways (**Appendix “9.3A”**).

Discussion

2015 Survey: Over the 2015 Christmas period, the Wimmera Mail-Times ran a survey about whether dogs should be allowed in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. At that time, 57.1% were opposed, 41.8% in favour, and 1.1% unsure about dogs in the botanic gardens. There were 66 responses, which does not truly reflect the views of the whole community.

Issues raised in the comments on this site included:

- Opposition to dogs in the park for reasons of cleanliness and minimising grass damage
- Children who were scared of dogs
- The desire for there to be one location where there were no dogs, so children can play and picnic freely.

Botanic Gardens Association of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Survey: A 10-day survey was conducted by the BGANZ around 2015. The survey was sent to the botanic gardens network. There were 81 responses, with 50.6% allowing pets in their botanic gardens, 45.6% not allowing pets and 3.7% indicating “other”.

Following further benchmarking with a number of local Councils who allow dogs in their botanic gardens, it is clear there are fewer issues for allowing dogs than staff may anticipate. These botanic gardens have almost always been dog-friendly, however, and thus cannot clearly or easily compare the added maintenance, resources, and/or cost requirements for changing their gardens from “No Dogs” to dog-friendly (**Appendix “9.3B”**).

Parks and Gardens and Community Safety Unit staff are not in favour of allowing dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. The botanic gardens is used for special events, children’s birthday parties, fitness groups, picnics and weddings. These often take place on the grassed areas, and ensuring a well-maintained and clean grassed area is a priority for these activities. Furthermore, it would be difficult to police and ensure dogs remain on existing pathways, given their typical preference to excrete on grass.

The Horsham Botanic Gardens has an unfenced playground. May Park, which is Horsham’s regional park, allows dogs on-lead and has an unfenced play space.

In addition to the many on-lead walking trails across Horsham, Council also has designated off-leash dog areas at the following locations for visitors and residents:

- Weir Park
- Central Park
- Lions Park
- Jenkinson Reserve
- Langlands Park

Consultation / Engagement

Consultation has occurred with relevant Horsham Rural City Council staff and other Councils.

Financial Implications

Trial: The implementation of a trial will require Council to install at least two litter receptacles at \$200 each. Signage and litter bags for all entrances will also be required at a cost to Council.

The Community Safety Unit currently has one staff member rostered each weekend to patrol parks and car parking around Horsham over Saturday and Sunday. They believe additional resources would be required to adequately patrol and police the Horsham Botanic Gardens as, given it is a fenced area, it will require staff to walk through the gardens.

It is also noted that trialling dogs in the botanic gardens would need to be implemented at a time when staff have the capacity. It is therefore suggested that spring (when many events are held) and summer (during peak fire season and visitors) would not be ideal seasons for a trial.

Survey: Staff resources will be required to monitor and evaluate survey responses.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019 – 2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Risk Implications

There has been some cultural change within the community over recent years to encourage dog owners to be responsible and keep their dogs on leads in public spaces (outside of designated off-leash areas). There are still frequent dog attacks across Horsham, indicating this change is still in progress.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

In-depth benchmarking and engagement with internal staff has occurred since this request was raised by the Domestic Animal Management Advisory Group. This is one view of one advisory committee – initially raised in 2015/16. It is evident a greater understanding of broader community views is required before a change to the current arrangements can be considered further.

9.4 HORSHAM WORKS DEPOT GROUNDWATER / SOIL CONTAMINATION RESOLUTION

Author's Name:	Mazen Aldaghstani	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Manager Engineering Services	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Engineering Department	File Number:	99/01/05874

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

To receive and note the report on soil contamination at the Council depot at 26 Selkirk Drive, Horsham, and to establish a budget for the required remediation works.

Summary

- Council has been investigating moving from its depot facility at 26 Selkirk Drive due to the outgrown depot operation and the incompatibility of heavy fleet movements through the Central Business District.
- The depot site is under an Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO), which requires a Section 53X Environmental Audit if a change in land use, for example, to residential, is to occur.
- Council engaged Greencap Pty Ltd to undertake a detailed site investigation to facilitate the environmental audit needed. An environmental auditor was also required to be appointed to review the consultant's work, in this case, Australian Environmental Auditors.
- An early phase of the investigation flagged a potential fuel tank leak, and a subsequent tank integrity test identified that the underground petroleum and one of the diesel storage systems at the site had been leaking.
- The investigation then included further detailed monitoring to determine the extent and nature of the contamination.
- A project meeting was held in July 2019 to discuss the end land use requirements and logistics to remove and undertake remediation of the underground storage tanks being the primary source of the site contamination.
- The environmental auditor reviewed the investigation report, provided comments on works undertaken to date and asserted the need to develop a work program around undertaking remediation during the summer of 2019/20.
- Greencap prepared an "End to End" remediation plan. The plan has been reviewed and agreed to by the environmental auditor. Remediation is estimated to cost from \$703,500 - \$1,582,000.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report on soil contamination at the Council depot at 26 Selkirk Drive, Horsham.
2. Proceed with the Remedial Action Plan at the Council depot as a priority.
3. Revise the 2019/20 budget with an allocation of \$250,000 for works and monitoring this financial year, to be sourced from the Plant Reserve, so that remediation works can commence as soon as possible.
4. Consider a further allocation for the works as part of the 2020/21 budget preparation process.

REPORT

Background

The depot site has an area of approximately 2.6 hectares, and has operated as such since 1987. The depot contains fuel storage (three underground storage tanks), bowsers, truck parking, a truck wash, mechanics workshop and chemical storage.

Council is considering moving from the site for a number of reasons. An Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) exists over the site, requiring a Section 53X Environmental Audit before an alternative land use can occur on the site.

Council engaged Greencap Pty Ltd to undertake a detailed site investigation to facilitate the environmental audit. The executive summary of the investigation report including relevant diagrams is included as an appendix to the confidential report on this subject (**Appendix "15.1A"**).

A tank integrity test identified that two of the underground storage tanks at the site had been leaking. While the primary onsite potential contaminant sources were considered to be the fuel and chemical storage, including from the underground tanks, the truck/vehicle wash and some former vehicle maintenance practices have potentially also contributed to the contamination.

A diagram in the summary report shows that the extent of contamination is confined to the depot site, and has not extended into the adjoining Wotonga Basin area.

A project meeting was held in July 2019 with the consultant and auditor to discuss the end land-use requirements and logistics to remove and undertake remediation of the underground storage tanks, being the primary source of the site contamination.

Greencap prepared an "End to End" plan to decontaminate the site. This plan has been reviewed and agreed to by the Auditor with identified key project milestones between now and project closure. The cost estimate included in the report can be used for budgeting. Key elements of this project budget include:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • The removal of the fuel tanks and contaminated soil | \$370,000 |
| • Ongoing groundwater monitoring, assessment and reporting | \$303,000 |
| • Liaising with EPA | \$ 18,500 |
| • Project Management | \$ 12,000 |

There is a significant degree of uncertainty in these estimates, due to the contamination being underground and difficult to measure. An upper bound on these works and monitoring has been estimated to cost perhaps \$1.6 million. Greater certainty in this estimate will be forthcoming as the works progress.

Discussion

An Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) was originally placed on the site due to the depot use and/or fuel storage at the site. Both of these items trigger the need for an assessment under EPA guidelines.

A mix of petrol and diesel has been observed, perched on top of the water table. As a result, the EPA needs to see that appropriate actions are being undertaken to clean this up. The auditor has also advised that the tanks should be removed as soon as possible, with February considered the best time of year to undertake works, given the reduced probability of rain. So, some form of remediation is considered necessary to reduce the risk of this contamination.

The timeframe for the full remediation plan is not precise, but is nominally within around 4-5 years. The tank removal is recommended to commence as soon as possible as the soil around the tank provides a point source of ongoing contamination, creating potential for the contamination to spread (possibly offsite), intensifying the issue and increasing the costs of full remediation at a later date. While the recent awarding of the fuel procurement contract means that the fuel tanks will no longer be required, the historic accumulation of fuel in the soil surrounding the tanks will lead to a spread in the extent of contamination until removed.

Greencap and the auditor highly recommend the removal of tanks and adjacent secondary point source (immediately surrounding contaminated soils) as soon as practicable.

Financial Implications

Based on the consultant's advice, the estimated cost of remediation of the depot site is as follows:

	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	Totals
Most Likely Cost	250,000	448,000	5,500	\$703,500
Worst Case Cost	895,000	520,000	167,000	\$1,582,000

As indicated earlier in the report, there is a significant degree of uncertainty in the costing of these works.

It is proposed that initially, these works will be funded from the Plant Reserve. The link with the Plant Reserve is that the source of contamination is fuel used by vehicles, which is funded from the Plant Reserve. Operation of Council's fleet includes cost recovery to provide for future replacement and servicing.

There are also likely to be costs in changing the use of the depot site. Some plant and machinery is likely to be based at the Stack Site in Golf Course Road, which could lead to a requirement to increase security and/or shedding at that site. A provision of \$100,000 had been made in this year's budget for depot works, however, that expenditure may need to be directed to the Golf Course Road site pending a full understanding of how the decontamination works would proceed. Detailed planning for the depot changes is underway.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Guiding Principle:

Respect and protect our natural environment

These works are required before the contamination moves off-site, potentially impacting on the Wotonga Basin extension of the Wimmera River.

Consultation/Communication

To date, there has been no community consultation regarding the site contamination.

Associated with the tank and contaminated soil removal in early 2020, will be a need to advise neighbours, as there will likely be a fuel odour associated with the works.

Prior to the work commencing, there will need to be detailed site planning on how the depot will operate while the tanks are removed, as there will be a large removal in an area that has much traffic. This planning has commenced.

Risk Implications

Informal advice from the consultant and auditor is that now the extent of the contamination is known, it is significant in potential impact and is slowly heading towards a waterway, that if Council does not proceed with the decontamination works urgently, the EPA may direct Council to do so.

During works, there will be vapour issues, these can be reduced through a number of methods such as suppression sprays around the works area and appropriate soil storage and coverage. Once completed risks would be highly mitigated and potentially removed.

Environmental Implications

Ceasing supply to the underground storage tanks means that there will not be additional contamination of the site. The risk remains that the longer the tanks stay and the initial point source removal takes to occur, the more contamination could potentially spread. Advice to date is that the sooner we remove the tanks and fuel saturated soil, the easier it will be to address this risk. The dissolved phase fuel contaminant that is moving away from the point source naturally breaks down in the soil – if the point source (tanks and saturated soil) is removed, the input is gone and the site can naturally remediate.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Council is obliged to action the remediation plan proposed by Greencap Consulting, starting with removal of the main source of contamination being the three fuel tanks and surrounding fuel saturated soil in February 2020. Delaying the tank removal increases the likelihood that the contamination will spread.

It is proposed that the decontamination works proceed, initially funded from the Plant Reserve, with expenditure beyond this financial year to be incorporated in planning of the 2020/21 budget.

9.5 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF REPLACEMENT GRADER – CONTRACT 20/010

Author's Name:	John Martin	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Director Infrastructure	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	20/010

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

To award Contract 20/010 for the replacement of a road construction grader.

Summary

- Council's road construction grader, plant number 1115, was purchased in 2010 and is due for replacement.
- This grader is one of two higher-powered graders used for road construction. Council also has three lesser-powered graders used primarily for general road grading.
- The tender was advertised through the normal processes, with three companies providing responses.
- The tender evaluation recommended replacement of the grader with a John Deere 772GP grader, which is the same model as the current grader being replaced.
- The replacement cost is within the allocated budget.

Recommendation

That Council accept the tender submitted by RDO Equipment Pty Ltd for the sum of \$314,000 ex GST for Contract 20/010 – Supply and Delivery of a John Deere 772GP Grader.

REPORT

Background

Council's grader, plant number 1115, was purchased in 2010 and is due for replacement, and was included in the 2019/20 plant replacement program. This grader is one of two higher-powered graders used for road construction being a John Deere model 772 GP grader. Council also has three lesser-powered graders used primarily for general road grading.

The tender process occurred according to Council's normal process including advertising on the Council website in the Wimmera Mail-Times, Weekly Advertiser and The Age newspapers.

Discussion

A detailed tender evaluation is provided in the appendix to the confidential report on this subject (**Appendix "15.2A"**). Key aspects of the report include:

- Three companies submitted tenders.
- Two of the companies each submitted three options for the grader.
- Several of the tenders were for lower-powered graders, less than that sought in the specification. While this may have been seen as being a non-conformance, this lower power rating was addressed in the scoring of tenders.
- The evaluation of tenders was based on the criteria as presented in the evaluation report.
- Tenders were assessed on the basis of best value to Council, and conformance with required specifications rather than the cheapest price.

Tender returns were received from the following three companies:

- RDO Equipment – John Deere brand
- William Adams – Caterpillar (Cat) brand
- OneTrak – Hidromek brand.

The RDO Equipment tender for a John Deere 772GP grader has been assessed as the best value to Council due to its conformance with the tender specifications and its capability. This tender was not the cheapest tender; the four cheapest tenders being under the required specifications and ranked lower in the overall assessment.

Financial Implications

The recommended tender is priced at \$314,000, which is within the available changeover allocation of \$320,000.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 3 – Asset Management

Four-Year Outcome 3.4 – Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long-term sustainability, amenity and safety

This road construction grader is required to deliver Council's road re-construction program.

Consultation/Communication

Plant operators participated in demonstration of relevant graders prior to the tender process. The results of those demonstrations were conveyed to the Tender Evaluation Panel by the Team Leader Construction, who participated on the panel.

Risk Implications

All tenderers included risk assessments related to the use of the graders as part of the information submitted with their tenders.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The tender evaluation process has assessed that the preferred replacement grader is the same model John Deere 772GP grader, as offered by RDO Equipment Pty Ltd.

9.6 WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL (WIFT) PRECINCT STAGE 1 - WATER SUPPLY – CONTRACT 20/007

Author's Name:	Mazen Aldaghstani	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Manager Engineering Services	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Engineering Services	File Number:	20/007

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 89(2)(d):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

To award Contract 20/007 for the WIFT Stage 1 - Water Supply component.

Summary

- The contract for the road and drainage components for Stage 1 of the WIFT Precinct development was awarded by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 23 September 2019.
- Tenders were called for the water supply component, and three conforming tenders were received.
- The cheapest tender was received from CHS Group for \$331,500, which was assessed as being the best overall tender submission, with CHS Group being nominated as the preferred tenderer.
- The initial budget allocation for this component of the WIFT project was \$250,000, however, additional funding is available for these works, as the cost of moving earth from the WIFT Precinct Road Drainage Works Contract to Dooen Landfill will be funded from the Landfill Reserve.
- Details of the tender evaluation are presented in the evaluation report, attached as an appendix to the confidential report on this subject (**Appendix "15.3A"**).

Recommendation

That Council award Contract 20/007 for the Water Supply Works at the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 to CHS Group of Horsham for a contract sum of \$331,500 ex GST.

REPORT

Background

This contract is to provide adequate water supply to the WIFT through the supply and installation of an underground poly pipeline and fittings. Works include the installation of air valves, a scour valve and 14 fireplugs, along with the 3,300 lineal metres of 225 mm diameter piping.

The diagram below shows the location of the pipeline in blue, noting the following key points:

- Point A – connection to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline trunk main
- Point B – Henty Highway bored crossing
- Point C – extent of pipeline through to eastern end of Freight Terminal Road.



Council has budgeted for the development of the whole precinct of WIFT Stage 1 being for the following components:

- Road and drainage works
- Retardation basin
- Power supply
- Water supply.

The cost of moving earth from the WIFT Precinct Road Drainage Works Contract to Dooen Landfill will be funded from the Landfill Reserve. This alternative funding potentially enables up to \$500,000 additional funding to be directed to other aspects of the WIFT project. The pipeline works as tendered include installation of suitable connections for a subsequent pump booster station should that be required to maintain the desired pressures in the pipeline.

Discussion

Key aspects of the tender evaluation were:

- Three tenders were received and the assessment of tenders was based on the criteria as presented in the tender documents.
- After the evaluation process, CHS Group scored the highest at (91.3%) followed by HGP Civil at (80.3%) then Negri contractors at (74.5%).
- The cheapest tender being \$331,500 received from CHS Group was assessed as having the best overall tender submission, with the applicant nominated as the preferred tenderer.

CHS Group is well known to Council, having completed a range of projects for Council.

Financial Implications

As outlined above, the initial budget allocation for the water supply component of the WIFT Precinct development was \$250,000. This was part of a nominal allocation of \$450,000 for power and water. The cost of the power supply works awarded to PowerCor, was \$171,500, leaving a balance of some \$278,500 for the water supply pipeline works.

The cheapest tender exceeds this amount, but the decision to fund the haulage of earth won from the drainage and retarding basin works from the Landfill Reserve will enable this contract to be awarded within the overall budget for the WIFT Precinct development.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Four-Year Priority 2.1.01 – Progress implementation of the WIFT Precinct Plan and encourage opportunities for the establishment of associated industries including the mining sector

Consultation/Communication

The key communication aspect with these works will be the interaction between the appointed contractors, Council's project supervisor, GWMWater and the affected landowners.

Council has been liaising with the relevant landowners for many months, and it is planned to conduct the works after the current grain harvest to reduce impacts on their operations.

The design standards for these works have been based on those used by GWMWater as it is intended that the pipeline would become a GWMWater asset when completed satisfactorily. To support this, it is also planned to seek GWMWater's assistance in supervision of the works.

Risk Implications

Standard construction risks will apply. Supervision of works will be conducted by Council Officers to manage these risks. Support from GWMWater will also be sought to utilise their expertise in relation to water supply works.

Environmental Implications

The pipeline works will be conducted on land that has a history of cropping, with no remnant native vegetation issues.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The preferred tender of CHS Group will provide the best value to Council for installation of a water supply pipeline to the WIFT Precinct.

9.7 ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF ANIMAL RENEWAL NOTICES

Author's Name:	Teagan Harvey	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Revenue	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Finance	File Number:	F27/A10/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* –
Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance
with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the upcoming promotional campaign, costs and benefits associated with the electronic delivery of animal renewal notices.

Summary

- Council currently only mail out animal renewal notices through the regular postal system (there is no option to email).
- Some ratepayers are already registered for “eNotices” for the electronic delivery of rate notices via email, so the setup for animals will be relatively easy.
- eNotices provide an easy solution for customers to receive and manage their animal registration renewals.
- eNotices will make it easier to follow up unregistered animals.
- eNotices will assist with proposed future electronic payment options.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the plan, timelines and promotional campaign in relation to the electronic delivery of animal renewal notices.

REPORT

Background

eNotices is a product of Formsexpress, which Council utilise for the electronic delivery of rate notices, including annual rate notices, instalment notices, final notices and supplementary notices. As this is already set up for the use of electronic delivery of rate notices, it will be quick and easy to set up for animal notices and have a low cost to implement.

Discussion

It is the intention, where the email address matches, to automatically enrol all ratepayers receiving rate notices via email, to also receive their animal renewal notices via email. An email will be sent to these customers informing them that they will now also receive their animal notices via email from 2020 onwards, unless they choose to unsubscribe to this method. This will enrol approximately 600 customers before the next animal notice run in February/March 2020.

Additionally, once Council's payment gateway is set up, a "pay now" link on the emailed notices will be included to facilitate easy payment. This will make the payment process easier for customers and ensure that payments are made to the correct account. This is currently in the testing phase, and expected to be in place before the next animal notices are issued.

In order to promote registration for electronic notices, a campaign will be run to encourage additional registrations. A prize will be offered of a \$100 Horsham Town Hall voucher to two subscribers from a random draw. This was done with the electronic rate notices when they were first initiated and almost doubled registrations.

Financial Implications

Currently, the fee for each animal renewal notice is \$1.37 and via e-Notices the variable costs will reduce to \$0.45. There are, however, fixed costs from the supplier Formsexpress, that will need to be covered, so approximately 700 animal notices will need to be received via email for this to be cost neutral.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan
Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

Council will run an email, Facebook and public notices campaign to maximise the number of electronic registrations prior to the animal notices being sent out in February/March 2020.

Council will also include promotional material in the renewal notices that are mailed, to encourage electronic registration and promote the competition.

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

Customers expect electronic service options to be available and e-Notices for animals will provide this solution.

9.8 DRAFT CORELLA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Author's Name:	Lauren Coman	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Manager Regulatory Services	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Regulatory Services	File Number:	F01/A01/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Draft Corella Management Plan (**Appendix “9.8A”**)

Purpose

To exhibit and invite wider community comment on the draft Corella Management Plan – November 2019 (Draft Plan) (**Appendix “9.8A”**).

Summary

- Recent expert advice received in October 2019, has resulted in a changed approach to the development of the Draft Corella Management Plan.
- Damage caused by Corellas is the primary measure as to success or otherwise of the Draft Corella Management Plan.
- Expert advice proposes the Corella Management Plan be a “living document”.
- The Draft Corella Management Plan is now designed to be adaptive and updated as trends emerge and novel Corella management techniques are developed.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Draft Corella Management Plan, exhibit to the community for the length of the upcoming Corella season (December to February/March) and invite comment.

REPORT

Background

Corellas have been part of the Wimmera landscape for many years, with numbers fluctuating at different times of the year depending on the weather conditions, food availability and season. Historically, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) have played a role in direct program delivery of management and control of Corellas, however, the State Government's role has shifted to provision of information and advice, and not direct service delivery or direct ongoing control of problem wildlife.

Responsibility for management of Corellas has been left to Local Government to facilitate, without resources from the State Government to support the program.

Council, at its meeting on 3 April 2018, resolved to prepare a Corella Management Plan for the municipality.

Rivertech Consulting was engaged to prepare a Corella Management Plan on behalf of Council. Over the last 12 months, consultation with key stakeholders has taken place, as has food minimisation trials on Council owned property.

Meanwhile in mid-2018, DELWP published "Guidelines for Reducing Cockatoo Damage" which includes Corellas. This best practice guideline states that it is DELWP policy that non-lethal control options are to be tried before lethal control options.

Recently, a Wildlife Management Consultant, Ian Temby, who specialises in human-wildlife conflict resolution and is a Corella expert, was engaged by Rivertech to assist with the Draft Corella Management Plan.

Discussion

Rivertech Consulting and Ian Temby met on 24 October 2019. The insights and direction given by Ian Temby have usefully informed Rivertech's Draft Plan.

In preparation of the Draft Plan, and on consulting with Ian Temby, it became evident to Rivertech Consulting that there are gaps in documented information relating to Corella damage and specific behaviours of the Corellas that reside in Horsham City and surrounds.

The ability to benchmark damage caused by Corellas is key. Damage will be the measure as to whether management techniques are effective. Ian Temby is prepared to work with us to tailor and refine our Plan through the upcoming Corella season, likely to start in late November or December, depending on seasonal conditions.

If it is accepted that the Plan is a "living document" and the development of the Plan iterative, the Draft Plan could be adopted by Council in its current form. The Draft Plan is currently designed to be adaptive and be updated as learnings and trends emerge and novel Corella management techniques are developed.

Financial Implications

Current funding for this work is from the Vermin (Rabbits, Corella) Control budget, which for FY 2019/20 is \$5,000.

The Corella Management Program which has been developed (Appendix C of the Draft Plan) will require two community meetings where a wildlife expert, such as Ian Temby, is present to educate stakeholders and facilitate management of Corella control planning in Horsham. It is anticipated that this will be approximately \$3,000 for the two attendances, plus some preparation time. Some funding will be required for trials, but this is likely to be minimal.

At the community and key stakeholder meeting proposed as part of the Corella Management Program in December 2019, initiatives for Corella management and control are raised with Council. If these initiatives align with State policy on Corella management, there is an opportunity to put forward initiatives as part of Council's budget planning process that same month.

Consultation/Communication

Consultation undertaken in the development of the Draft Plan is detailed in Rivertech's Draft Plan (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

It is recommended that if the Draft Plan go to Council, it remain open for consultation for the duration of the Corella Management Season which is typically late November/early December to February/March, depending on seasonal conditions.

Risk Implications

Environmental and animal welfare risks need to be balanced as part of developing the plan. Some residents consider Corellas a pest, others enjoy their presence.

Environmental Implications

Proposed management solutions need to be balanced between averting damage likely to be caused and acknowledgement that Corellas are part of our natural environment.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

- Recent expert advice received in October 2019, has resulted in a changed approach to the development of the Draft Corella Management Plan.
- Damage caused by Corellas is the primary measure as to success or otherwise of the Draft Corella Management Plan.
- Expert advice proposes the Corella Management Plan be a "living document".
- The Draft Corella Management Plan is now designed to be adaptive and be updated as trends emerge and novel Corella management techniques are developed.

9.9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Author's Name:	Stephen Pykett	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Manager Economic Development	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* –
Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance
with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Economic Development Report for October 2019.

Summary

The Economic Development Report provides a summary of economic development activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for October 2019.

REPORT

Background

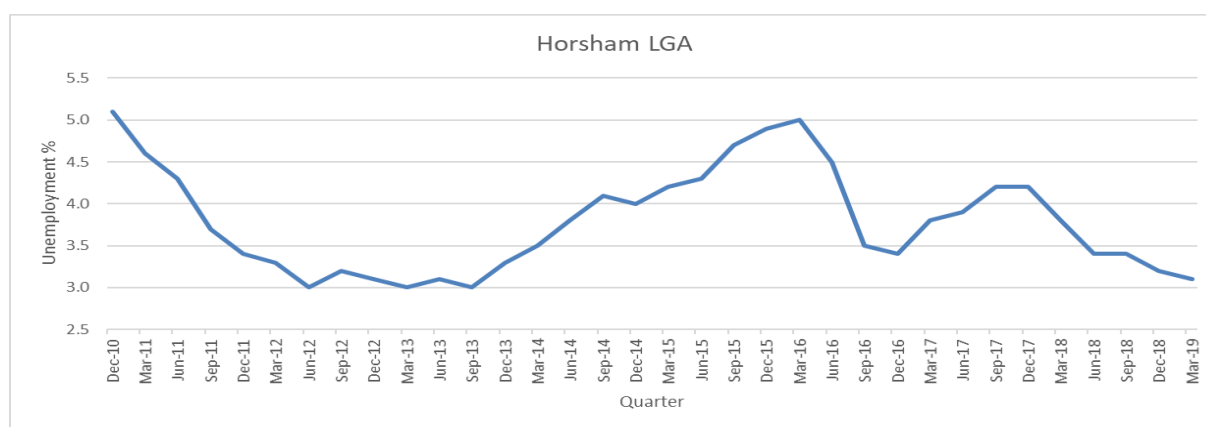
At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 August 2019, it was resolved that a regular Economic Development Report be tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

Discussion

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

Economic Benchmarks and Data

Unemployment



Region	Unemployment
Australia	5.2%
Victoria	4.8%
Horsham (LGA)	3.1%

Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Businesses; Small Area Labour Markets – March quarter 2019

Planning Applications Determined

	Number	Cost	YTD	YTD cost of development
October 2019	15	\$734,681	57	\$7,842,958
October 2018	9	\$394,901	36	\$8,214,837
Change	+6	+\$339,780	+21	-\$371,879

Building Permits Issued

	Number	Total cost of development	YTD	YTD cost of development
Council	14	\$417,417	38	\$2,723,601
Private surveyors	16	\$4,643,852	68	\$21,363,642
Total	30	\$5,061,269	116	\$24,087,243

Summary of building permits issued YTD

	Number	Total Value	Commercial		Domestic	
			No	Value	No	Value
Council	38	\$2,723,601	8	\$1,238,833	30	\$1,484,768
Private Surveyor	68	\$21,363,642	19	\$9,167,812	49	\$12,195,830
Total	116	\$24,087,243	27	\$10,406,645	79	\$13,680,598

Business Engagement

Direct business engagement

	Number	YTD
General business	22	80
New or expanding business	6	18
Event organisers	18	27
Total	46	125

Networking and business event breakdown

	Number	YTD
Networking & business events	1	15

Networking attended	Attendees	Details
Better Approvals Launch	24	Public launch of the Horsham Better Approvals project
Total	24	

Facilitated business events	Attendees	Details
Social Media training	7	ASBAS facilitated training
Total	7	

Tourism and Events

	Number	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event applications	11	43
Visitor information Centre visits	1998	5005
Visithorsham.com web visits	3822	13,285

Strategic Planning

Horsham South Structure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is needed in order to ensure that South Horsham develops in a co-ordinated way, ensuring infrastructure needs such as traffic and transport connectivity, sewer, water and drainage to be developed in a sequenced way, avoiding land use conflicts and development limitations in the future. Horsham South Key Strategic Directions Report is currently under review by the PCG, in preparation for targeted landholder engagement.
Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has appointed a consultant to begin development of the Horsham Aerodrome Masterplan. An assessment of both the previous Aerodrome Business Plan and Aerodrome Masterplan has been undertaken along with stakeholder engagement. On 20 June 2019 further engagement took place with the Aerodrome user group to discuss the draft findings. More consultation is planned for 13 November 2019.
City to River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider community engagement process commenced 4 July and closed 30 August. All submissions were summarised further targeted engagement is planned.

Infrastructure Development

Enhanced Broadband Project (Connecting Regional Communities Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of \$1.7million has been announced to install high speed broadband at one gigabit per second in both directions in the Horsham Rural City Council area. This proposed fixed wireless service will be available to businesses in Horsham, Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct, Aerodrome and Horsham Enterprise Park. Spirit Telecom has been awarded the tender to deliver this "state of the art" internet access through fixed wireless. Construction has begun and services are expected to be available for businesses in the second half of 2019. Spirit Telecom has begun advertising services to businesses.
Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange roofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has successfully received funding under the Building Better Regions Fund to roof the Livestock Exchange for \$1.49million towards a total project of \$3.03million to improve animal and human welfare, value of sheep from improved shelter conditions, water savings and efficiencies in cleaning the facility. A tender process has been completed and construction planning is underway.

Projects and Programs

Environmental Upgrade agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has agreed to offer Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's) that assist businesses and commercial property owners in Horsham by providing access to Environmental Upgrade Finance. This scheme gives access to finance for energy and environmental efficiency upgrades to buildings with repayments made through council's rates system. Initial interest has been positive with applications progressing through the system. Community interest remains positive and further agreements are expected.
Wimmera Business Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the centre and its operations is being undertaken to look at the current offerings from the Business Centre, review practices in other centres and to identify start up trends. Engagement through this process has quantified a level of interest in a co-working space in Horsham. Further workshops with small and home based businesses are being arranged.
Horsham Visitor Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VIC review is continuing in association with Grampians Tourism who are undertaking a Grampians-wide Visitor Servicing review. The final report has now been received and is being evaluated.

Business Development, Tourism and Events

Major Sporting Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Horsham will be hosting a double header series of National motocross championships over one weekend in May 2020. This events is estimated to be worth close to \$500,000 in income to Horsham and the region.
Localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Localised project aims to raise awareness of local businesses, prevent spending leakage from the region and facilitate business to business communication. This has been a major business engagement tool with currently 82 profiles across the Wimmera.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visit Victoria tourism review is looking at revising the number of regional tourism boards across Victoria.
Australian Small Business Advisory Service (Online social media training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Horsham is hosting a series of targeted workshop aimed at small business during October and November.The Wartook Valley will host one of the workshops on the topic of Instagram in November 2019.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

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

The Economic Development report for October 2019 is provided for the information of Councillors.

9.10 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 Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* –
Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance
with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for November 2019.

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 November 2019.

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

Regional Development Victoria (RDV): Horsham Rural City Council Executive Management Team met with RDV Regional Management Team on Tuesday 19 November 2019 to discuss current and future strategic projects. Focus is on current funding available by application to the Regional Infrastructure Fund due 18 December 2019.

Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange: The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Agriculture, Regional Development and Resources launched the Horsham Saleyard and Sheep EID video on Wednesday 20 November 2019. The Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange provides great example of efficiencies and greater data integrity from the introduction of electronic sheep and goat identification.

Horsham Enhanced Broadband Network: The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Resources launched the Enhanced Broadband Network (5G) on Thursday 21 November 2019.

Regional Tourism Review: Justin Burney, Project Director, Regional Tourism Review, met with Council staff to discuss the Regional Tourism Review.

B. Community Engagement

Community Conversations at Mitre Hall: Councillors and senior staff met with more than 20 Mitre locals on Monday 18 November 2019 at the Mitre Hall. This was an opportunity for people in the Mitre district to raise issues with Council.

Small Business Victoria: Small Business Victoria Commissioner Judy O'Connell met with the Chief Executive Officer to introduce the Small Business Friendly Council initiative developed by the Victorian Small Business Commission in partnership with local councils to provide small businesses the support they need to run their business. So far, 29 councils have signed up to the initiative.

C. Projects and Events

Regional Cities Victoria Meeting: The Mayor attended the Regional Cities Victoria meeting on Tuesday 19 November 2019. An update on the Regional Tourism Review was provided by Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Cabinet Secretary, Special Adviser, Regional Tourism Review along with Justin Burney, Project Director, Regional Tourism.

Workforce Planning Session: The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Workforce Deep Dive meeting was held on Wednesday 20 November 2019. Minister Symes and Minister Pakula attended the meeting. The Deep Dive discussion explored the issues affecting workforce attraction and retention in the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

D. Staff Matters

Gender Equity Training: Women's Health Grampians delivered gender equity training on Monday 18 November 2019. Staff working with committees, projects and community engagement were given the opportunity to undertake this training. The Gender Equity in Community Engagement is supported by the Victorian Government through the *Free from Violence* Local Government Grants program.

Organisational Planning: The Chief Executive Officer, Directors and Managers participated in a leadership group planning day at the Horsham Golf Club on Friday 22 November 2019 to set priorities for the next 12 months.

Wimmera River Corporate Challenge: A number of Community Wellbeing staff enjoyed their time at the Wimmera River Corporate Challenge at Dimboola on Friday 15 November 2019. It was an opportunity for staff to gather with a range of other agencies and spend time with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The event was organised by Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative.

White Ribbon March: Staff participated in a street walk on Friday 22 November 2019 to raise awareness, promote healthy respectful relationships and help eradicate violence against women. The event was organised by Grampians Community Health.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan
Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

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 November 2019.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor

- 25 October 2019 – Rotary Club of Horsham Polio Night
- 26 October 2019 – Tidy Towns Awards in Dimboola
- 28 October 2019 – Citizenship Ceremony
- 28 October 2019 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 29 October 2019 – Letter of Congratulations to Paul Preusker (Melbourne Cup Horse)
- 1 November 2019 – Letter of appreciation to SCT (Freight Terminal)
- 1 November 2019 – Regional Mayor’s Gathering at Warracknabeal
- 1 November 2019 – Natimuk Fringe Festival Opening (Climbing Museum Opening too)
- 3 November 2019 – Natimuk Fringe Festival after-dark performance at the school oval
- 4 November 2019 – City to River Workshop
- 7 November 2019 – Meeting with Nia Harrison (school project)
- 7 November 2019 – Meeting with Andrea Cross about the Showgrounds
- 7 November 2019 – Statutory Meeting
- 11 November 2019 – Remembrance Day Service at 11.00am
- 11 November 2019 – Research on some war history at the RSL
- 11 November 2019 - Sunset Remembrance Day Service on the Pedestrian Bridge
- 12 November 2019 – Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting
- 12 November 2019 – Letter of encouragement to Glenn Innes Council re Bushfires
- 12 November 2019 – Governance Workshop
- 13 November 2019 – Meeting with Simon Dandy re Carols By Candlelight
- 13 November 2019 – Wishing Tree Launch at Kmart
- 13 November 2019 – Visit HCPro in relation to 5G
- 13 November 2019 – Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan Workshop
- 18 November 2019 – Meeting with Regional Roads Victoria
- 18 November 2019 – Community Conversations at Mitre
- 19 November 2019 – Regional Cities Meeting in Melbourne
- 19 November 2019 – City to River Workshop
- 19 November 2019 – Haven Recreation Reserve Meeting
- 20 November 2019 – Regional Livestock Exchange with Minister Symes
- 21 November 2019 – Unveiling of the Urquhart Street, Street-Art Project
- 21 November 2019 – Launch of “Horsham Smart Farm” with Minister Symes
- 21 November 2019 – Launch of the 5G Enhanced Broadband Network with the Minister
- 21 November 2019 – Audit Committee Meeting
- 21 November 2019 – Horsham South Structure Plan Workshop

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

12.1 PETITION NOT TO CLOSE McBRYDE STREET, HORSHAM

Author's Name:	John Martin	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Director Infrastructure	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	88/01/01140

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To present a petition submitted to Council in relation to keeping McBryde Street in Horsham open.

Summary

- At its Ordinary Meeting on 3 July 2017, Council resolved that any new indoor sports stadium would be located in McBryde Street, Horsham.
- Part of that resolution included engagement with the community regarding the closure.
- That engagement has not proceeded, as Council has now included in its 2019-23 Council Plan the following action – “3.4.07 Investigate other options for the Wimmera Sports Stadium”.
- The petition was submitted on 25 October 2019, signed by approximately 580 people.
- According to Council’s By-Law, a petition is required to lay on the table until the following meeting.
- A report on the petition will be prepared for the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 16 December 2019.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the submission of the petition to keep McBryde Street in Horsham open.
2. Note that a report on this matter will be presented at a future Council meeting.

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Briefing held on Monday 4 November 2019 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Council Briefing held on Monday 11 November 2019 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Governance Workshop held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 5.30pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham

Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan Workshop held on Wednesday 13 November 2019 in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham

Community Consultation Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2019 at 5.45pm at the Mitre Hall

City to River Workshop held on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

Phase 2 Engagement **Report**
What we heard
Draft City to River Masterplan



October 2019

Acknowledgement

The Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali 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.

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) acknowledges and thanks all groups and individuals who gave their time to review and comment on the City to River Draft Masterplan and all supporting documents.

Definitions

Submissions	Feedback received on the City to River Masterplan and associated documents between 4 July and 30 August 2019 via the Council feedback form (both hard and electronic versions), emails and letters.
Participants	Individuals, groups and organisations who made submissions
GovHub	A building that places a range of government departments and agencies in one building. "GovHubs are considered a new, centralised way of doing business in regional Victoria that focus on enhancing customer service. GovHubs also help to revitalise city centres and deliver a range of economic benefits during construction and ongoing operation, particularly to neighboring retail and hospitality businesses" (Frequently Asked Questions – Bendigo GovHub)

Abbreviations

Central Activity District	CAD
Horsham Rural City Council	HRCC
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	WCMA
Greyhound Racing Victoria	GRV
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	GWM
Government Hub	GovHub

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible Word format or another format, please contact reception on 03 5392 9777 or email council@hrcc.vic.gov.au

If you require an interpreter service, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to contact Horsham Rural City Council on 03 5382 9777.

1 Contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1. Purpose of this report.....	4
1.2. About City to River	5
1.3. The engagement process.....	5
1.4. Phase 1 Engagement:.....	6
2. How we engaged: phase 2	8
2.1. Engagement objectives	8
2.2. Engagement approach	9
3. Who engaged in phase 2	9
3.1. Engagement response and who engaged	9
4. What we heard	11
4.1. What people liked and disliked	11
4.2. How themes are grouped	15
4.3. Project wide themes	15
4.3.1. Planning for the future	15
4.3.2. Community consultation.....	16
4.3.3. Increase in the number of people using an area.....	16
4.3.4. Impacts on existing business and community.....	17
4.3.5. Implementation time and scope.....	18
4.3.6. Politics	18
4.3.7. Funding and rate impacts	19
4.3.8. Transport and connectivity	19
4.3.9. Tourism, arts and culture	21
4.4. City to River Sub Precincts	23
4.4.1. Showgrounds precinct	24
4.4.1.1. Showgrounds and Greyhound Racing.....	24
4.4.1.2. Sport and the multipurpose sporting precinct.....	26
4.4.2. Central Activity District.....	31
4.4.2.1. Central Activity District.....	31
4.4.2.2. Accommodation and housing	32
4.4.2.3. GovHub.....	33
4.4.3. City Oval and Sawyer Park	35
4.4.4. Botanic Gardens and Caravan Park.....	38
4.4.4.1. Botanic Gardens	38
4.4.4.2. Lawn Tennis and Croquet	39
4.4.4.3. Caravan Park	45
4.4.5. Riverfront and Firebrace Street connection.....	47
4.4.5.1. Riverfront improvements and activation	47

4.4.5.2. Riverfront environment.....	49
4.4.5.3. Café	49
4.4.5.4. Miniature Railway	50
4.4.5.5. Splash park and family friendly attractions	51
5. Next steps	52
5.1. Formulate recommendations	52
5.2. City to River timeline	53
6. Appendix	54
6.1. Tables	54

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this report

This report summarises key messages heard from phase 2 of the engagement process for the Draft City to River Masterplan and associated documents. The analysis has been structured around written feedback received via the HRCC City to River feedback form, plus letter and email submissions between 4 July and 30 August 2019. This report does not provide any recommended responses, but simply summarises what the community and other stakeholders told us.

Next steps will include delivering a report outlining Council's response to feedback. Feedback received from the community and other key stakeholders through phase 2 will help inform the Final City to River Masterplan.

However, this is just the start of the conversation. As part of refining the ideas and the detailed planning and design process for individual projects, Council will undertake further engagement activities.



Engagement phases

Gather

Phase 1:

Gather existing ideas from previous engagement activities & undertake targeted engagement with key groups

Test

Phase 2:

Test ideas with the wider community by asking for feedback

Refine

Phase 3:

Targeted engagement to refine ideas based on response to community feedback

Design

Phase 4:

Engagement through the detailed design phase for individual projects



1.2. About City to River

The Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents proposes a suite of transformative projects aimed at enhancing and revitalising Horsham's Central Activity District (CAD), Wimmera Riverfront and Showgrounds Precinct, making Horsham a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

The project seeks to deliver a 20 year Vision and Masterplan identifying a suite of 'game changing' projects for the City to River area.

The final Masterplan will allow Council to take a leadership role in attracting public and private sector interest and investment.

Other key project drivers include:

- The need to grow Horsham as the key population and employment centre for the region
- Attract and retain residents, and grow tourism

1.3. The engagement process

Council made a strong commitment as part of this project to deliver a genuine and thorough engagement process. This included using the results of earlier engagement activities undertaken in the study area and incorporating ideas already identified by the community.

The engagement process has been broken up into a number of phases as described in the adjacent figure 'Engagement phases'. The objectives of phases 1 and 2 are listed below, with phase 2 being the subject of this report.

Number and activity type	Stakeholder	Attendees
3 briefings	Council Briefings	7
1 visioning workshop	Councilor Workshop	5
3 visioning workshops	Community groups	38
16 meetings	Sporting associations & Clubs	16
1 survey (membership data, trends, facilities, demand and user needs)	Sporting associations & Clubs	28
1 workshop	Council Officers	11
1 workshop 4 meetings	State Government Agencies	13
7 meetings	Business and Tourism reps.	11
1 workshop/debrief	Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium	13
8 meetings	Adjoining Wimmera River Landowners	11
10 meetings	Key user groups	11

Table 1: Phase 1 targeted engagement summary

1.4. Phase 1 Engagement: January - May 2019

Ideas put forward in the Draft City to River Masterplan were identified through an initial phase of engagement, the results of previous engagement activity with the community, existing Council plans and strategies, new research, analysis and site visits.

In January 2019, Phase 1 of the engagement process was delivered, involving over 70 people and 164 engagements (refer Table 1). The process involved workshops, interviews and a survey.

Over 160 invitations were sent to sporting groups, special interest groups, agencies and community and business representatives for the three visioning workshops.



The objectives of Phase 1 were to:

- test ideas gathered through earlier Council projects on the CAD and Riverfront
- identify new ideas
- understand future development plans or opportunities and current constraints to growth or development
- sport survey membership data, trends, facilities, demand and user needs

Table 1 provides a summary of Phase 1 engagement.

The first phase involved discussions with a range of groups including:

- sporting and leisure associations
- community groups
- sporting clubs
- government agencies
- statutory authorities



2. How we engaged: phase 2

2.1. Engagement objectives

From 4 July – 30 August 2019 the community were invited to comment on ideas gathered in phase 1 of the engagement process. Ideas gathered as part of phase 1 were presented in the Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents.

The objectives of phase 2 of the engagement process was to:

- provide the wider community with the opportunity to have their say
- test ideas generated from the 1st phase of the engagement process with the general community
- identify how, to the greatest extent possible, the plan could be modified in response to community feedback, whilst remaining true to the objectives of the project.

Engagement activities were aimed at providing an opportunity for as many people as possible to have their say on the Draft Masterplan, across:

- a broad demographic
- all ages and stages of life
- passive, active and organised users
- the Horsham municipality and across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region



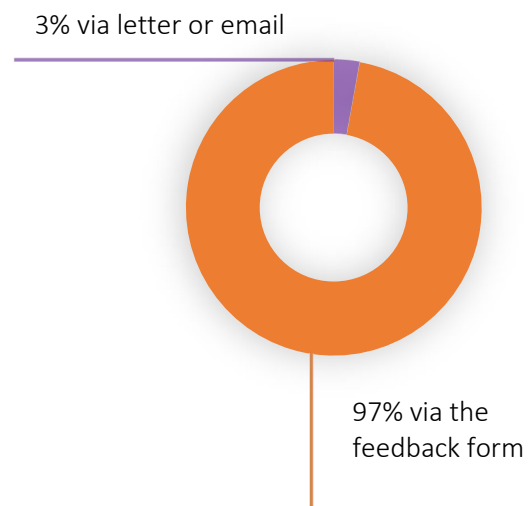
2.2. Engagement approach

A range of tools and methods were used to during phase 2 to elicit as much feedback as possible including:

- Council's 'Have your Say' website
- A feedback form that could be received electronically, by text or by hard copy
- Static displays in: Council Reception Room (staffed), Kalkee Road Children's Hub, Town Hall, Library, Aquatic Centre and 43 Firebrace St.
- Pop-up displays and listening posts: Plaza (two sessions), Riverfront (Park Run), Natimuk Post Office and Haven market.
- Direct email-outs to key stakeholders involved in phase 1
- Digital and Print Media
- Community Information Sessions
- Invitation to attend group or association meetings (to answer questions)
- Invitation to all schools in the municipality to see a presentation of the plan

summarised in this report. HRCC's commitment to engagement is about sharing information, listening and considering everyone's views. The process was not compulsory and whilst HRCC's engagement process was extensive, we acknowledge that the results of engagement reflect the views of those who made their voices heard, either as individuals or organisations. HRCC thanks all of those who took the time to express their views and believe that the process will result in a stronger plan for the future of the City to River area.

Participant breakdown



3. Who engaged in phase 2

3.1. Engagement response and who engaged

The Draft Masterplan received 740 written submissions from individual members of the community, local, regional and state sporting groups, local special interest groups and State Government Agencies. A number of submissions were made on behalf of a group, with the majority being individual submissions.

A total of 719 feedback forms were completed and 21 letter or emails were received from a range of ages and genders, with females between 41 and 65 being the largest participating group.

All submissions have been reviewed and are

Figure 1: participant breakdown



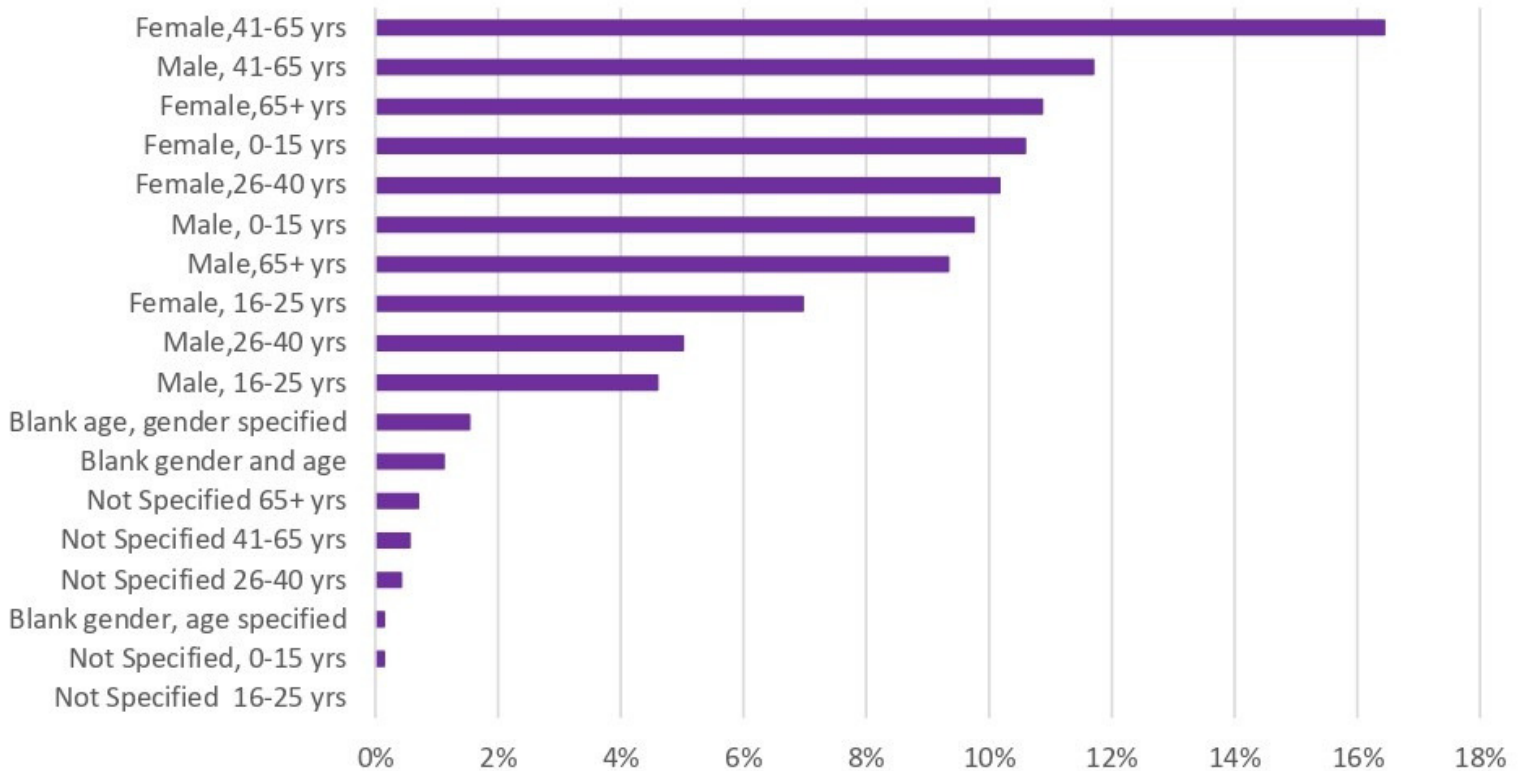


740

Written Submissions

702 Individuals

- 15** Local Sporting Clubs
- 4** Government Agencies
- 8** Community Organisations
- 7** Victorian Sporting Associations
- 2** Regional Sporting Associations
- 1** Business
- 1** School



4. What we heard

4.1. What people liked and disliked

Participants were asked to complete a series of questions relating to how a transformation as suggested in the draft masterplan would change their level of use of the Riverfront and CAD, how closely the ideas aligned with what they would like to see on the Riverfront and if they thought the ideas would improve Horsham as a destination.

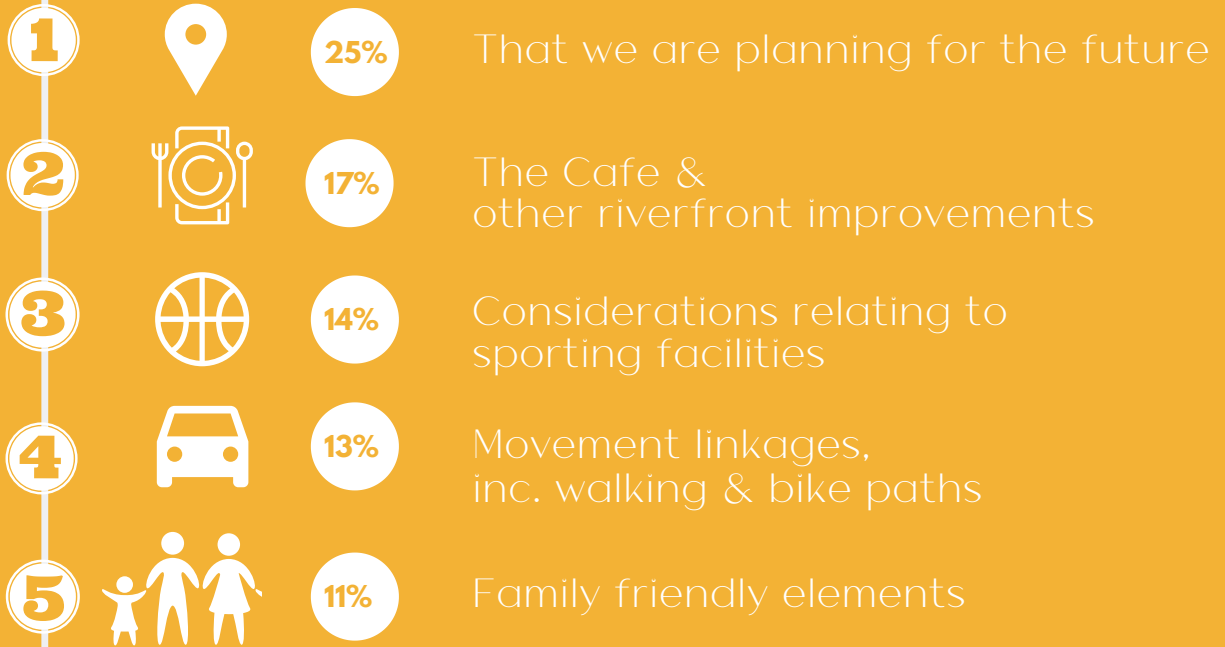




Top 5

Things people liked about the Draft City to River Masterplan

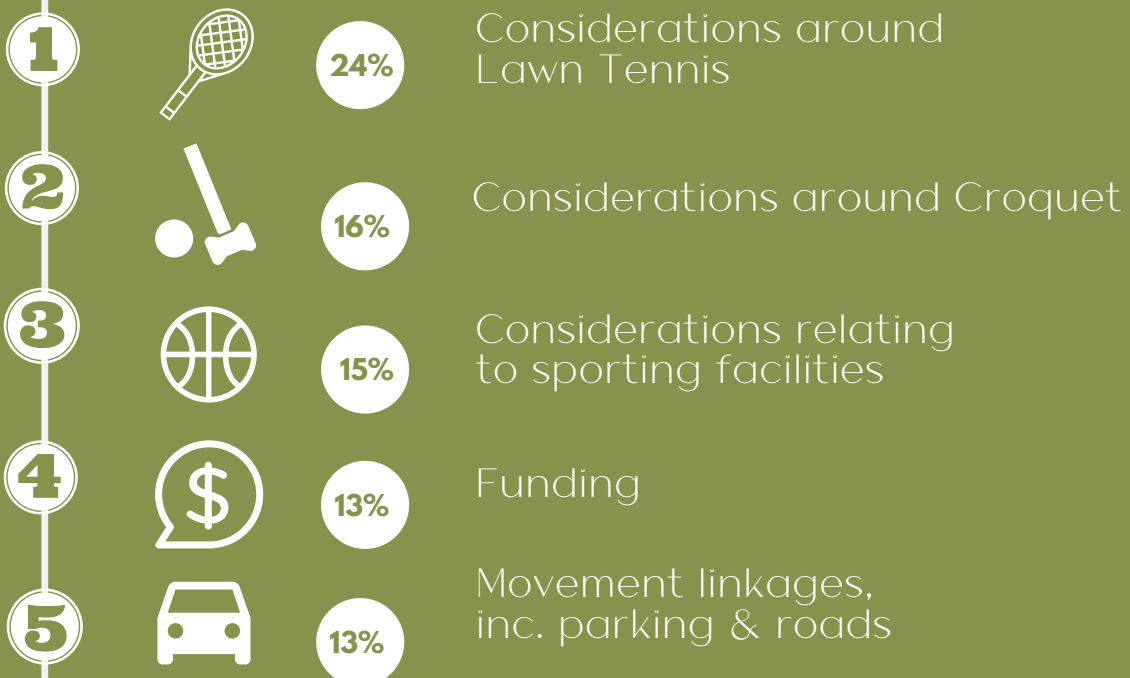
% of all responses that made positive comments about the theme



Top 5

Things people felt concerned about the Draft City to River Masterplan

% of all responses that said they disliked an idea, raised concerns alternative ideas on that theme

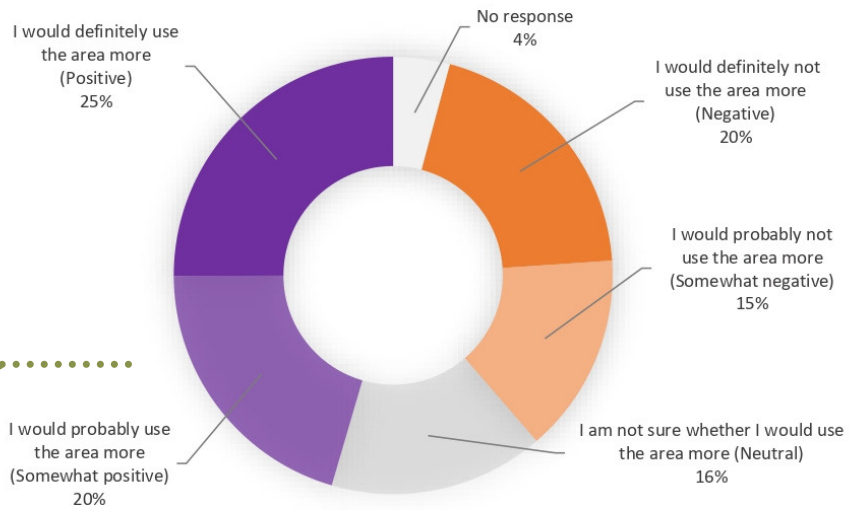


General feelings about...

97% of submitters responded to key questions and this is what they said

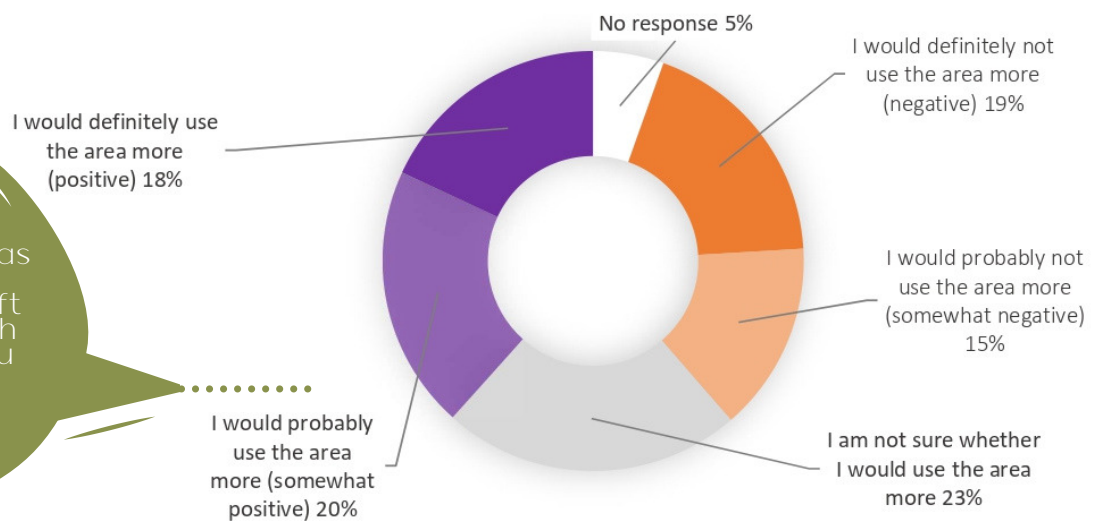
Using the Riverfront

"If the riverfront area (including the Botanic Gardens, City Oval and Showgrounds) was transformed as shown in the Draft Masterplan, which phrase would you most identify with?"



Using the CAD

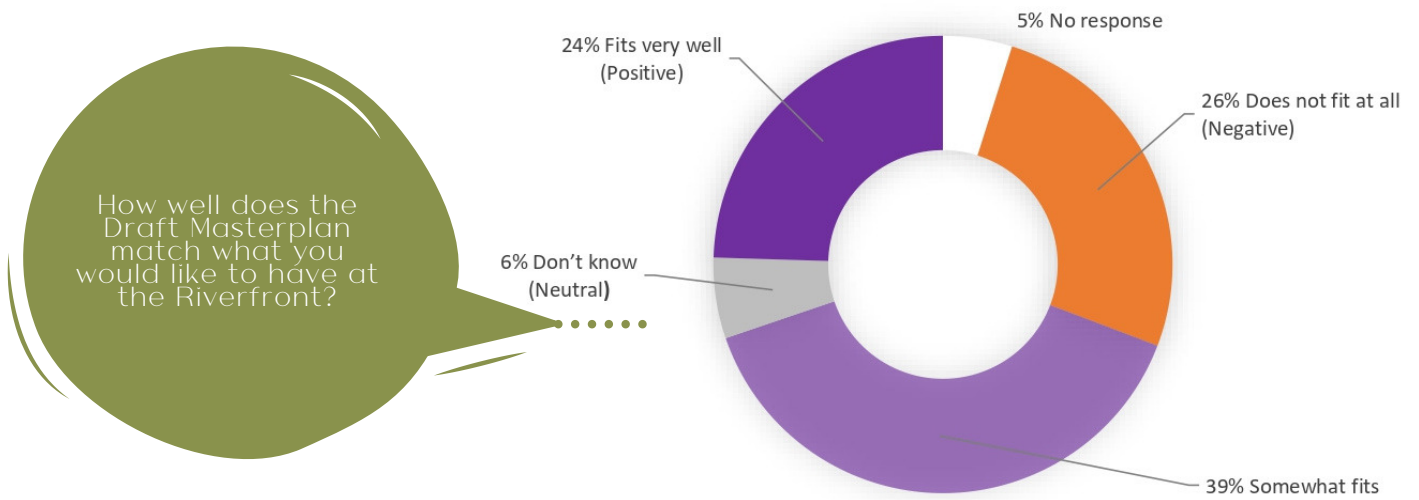
If the Central Activity District was transformed as shown in the Draft Masterplan, which phrase would you most identify with?"



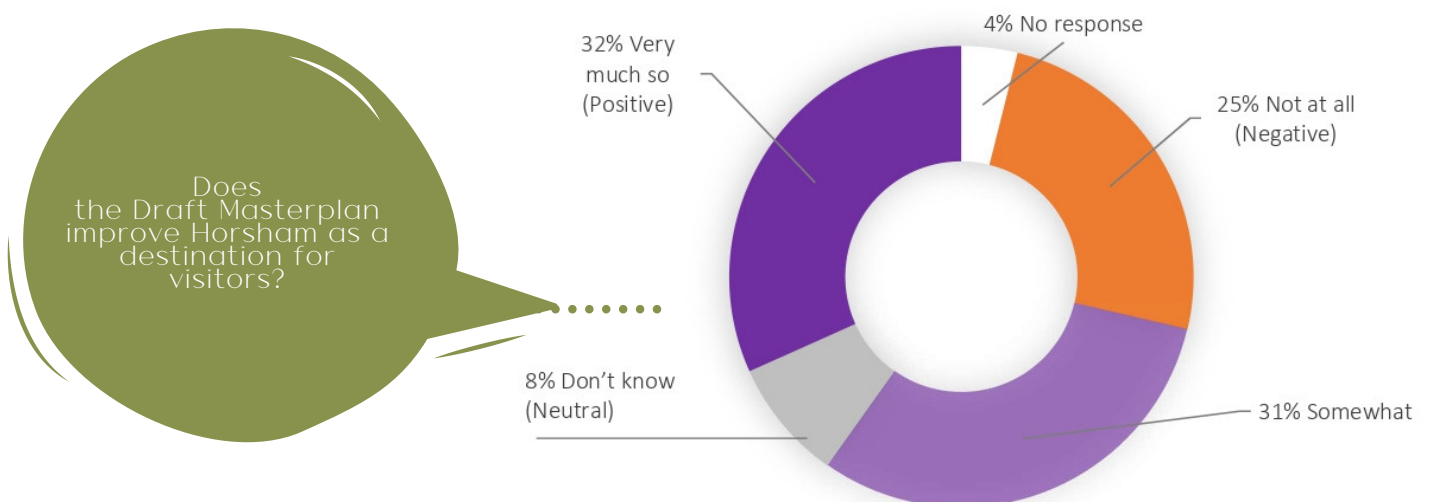
General feelings about...

97% of submitters responded to key questions and this is what they said

What you'd like to see on the Riverfront



Improving Horsham for Visitors



4.2. How themes are grouped

Themes have been grouped under City to River sub-precinct (see figure 8, p23) and project wide themes. Key messages, including positive messages, concerns and issues have been summarised under each of the themes. Some direct quotes have been included after each summary.

4.3. Project wide themes

The following themes have relevance to all areas of the plan or are not related to a specific idea presented in the Draft Masterplan.

4.3.1. Planning for the future

Of all themes raised, nearly a quarter of participants referred to council planning for the future as being a very positive thing. Having a vision for the future was the top overarching theme raised, making up 25% of responses (183). Whilst very few said that council shouldn't be planning for the future, some participants raised concerns including the timescale being too long and the plan not incorporating a larger area.

In addition to individual submissions, Government Agency submissions and a number of regional and local sporting associations also commended Council on the preparation of the Draft.

The common overarching supportive messages for developing a 20 year Vision included:

- That we will have a plan
- Planning for the future has started and something is being done
- The need to develop long term planning so that future development does not fragment green spaces

- Planning for the future is important and it is good that the Council has a public consultation process
- The master plan will guide future development
- It will ensure better use of the Riverfront and connection with the CAD

Participants also raised concerns regarding:

- The plan doesn't go far enough
- A 20 year timespan is too long
- That too much strategic planning is happening at the same time
- Need to involve the community in all stages of the process
- That the plan hasn't been thought out enough

"Horsham is a Regional City and the Wimmera River is one of our greatest assets but to my knowledge there has been no strategic planning done to link the CBD to the river and further develop the Wimmera River precinct. This draft plan is visionary and has made me (and many others) think about what we want for our city to have, and to look like in the next 10 to 50 years."

"It is a good thing that we are starting the discussion to make Horsham a destination not just a passing location. With the upcoming bypass looming we need to become the destination or disappear as a town."

"Congratulations for having the foresight to at least get a discussion going and I hope to live to see some of this come to fruition! I think planning for the future is important and that it is good that the council has a public consultation process."

"Thank you so much for being creative and incorporating beautiful ideas and spaces for the community to enjoy our town and the river."

"It represents the kind of thinking and planning that is needed to ensure that Horsham develops into a viable, growing

regional centre, with facilities and attractions comparable to other developing urban areas.”

“... Having lived outside of Horsham and moving here when I was 17, I see from a younger person's perspective a lot of potential for Horsham.”

“Let's move forward, give the Community the right to have more say on the next stage of this plan and be a part of developing our future AND slow down, one strategy at a time and work with us.”

“I do, however, find your timescale for transforming this town appalling. Whoever heard of such a timescale.”

“However, it clearly illustrates the level of ad-hoc piecemeal planning that has plagued the lack of systematic structured planning of Horsham over many decades and the administrative culture.”

“Just a few thoughts on 'Transforming Horsham'. Whatever you do please for the sake of the town do not wait 20 years. Not everyone will be happy, that's life and some will need to come to the party kicking and screaming, that too is life so good luck.”

4.3.2. Community consultation

Both positive and negative feedback was received regarding the community engagement process. Approximately 17% (129) of all submissions made comments relating to community engagement.

The common overarching supportive messages regarding the community engagement process were:

- That council has asked and encouraged the communities feedback
- That everyone has been asked about what they think

- That Council will need to engage with affected user groups through future stages of the project, including the detailed design phase for individual projects.

Participants also raised concerns that:

- There was a lack of consultation with existing user groups in the development of the plan or where alternative sites might be
- The community were asked to comment on what they like or dislike about the ideas, without costings being provided
- The consultation and preparation of the plan was done by external consultants
- The engagement process isn't genuine and that the decision has already been made on the Masterplan.

“The seeming lack of consultation with active organisations, and the fact that so much is being taken away, which would cost so much to relocate, with very little extra benefit.”

“I am concerned at the process that has been undertaken. Firstly there was a poor public consultation. Several key stakeholders weren't even included in the preparation of the report.”

“As is almost always the case, these visions have a foregone conclusion without true consultative process being undertaken.”

4.3.3. Increase in the number of people using an area

A small number of people commented on the potential for a transformation to increase the number of people in the area.

Approximately 6% (44) of all submissions commented on this theme. Of the submissions

received via the project feedback form 4% (31) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 1% (7) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'further comments' in the feedback form 1% of submissions (10) made reference to the idea of increasing the number of people using the area, being a mix of comments.

In summary key positive references included:

- More locals will use the area
- More tourists will visit Horsham

In summary key references regarding dislikes included:

- It will be too busy
- Extra people will negatively impact on residents

4.3.4. Impacts on existing business and community

Approximately 5% (39) of all submissions commented on the potential impact of the City to River project on the existing community and businesses. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form less than 1% (1) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 3% (24) raised concerns. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'further comments' in the feedback form 2% of submissions (18) made reference to the the impact of the City to River project on existing businesses and the community, being a mix of comments.

Key themes related to: the potential negative impact of reduced parking in the CAD; impact on businesses relocated by the plans; and the need for further consultation with businesses before undertaking any redevelopment works in the CAD.

In summary key positive references included:

- The Master Plan supports business growth and growing visitor numbers to the region.

In summary comments related to dislikes included:

- Uncertain or negative impact on businesses in the CBD
- There are businesses impacted by the changes in the plan
- May take business away from the main part of Firebrace Street i.e. cafes
- Business negatively impacted by reduced parking and parallel parking
- Focus on pedestrians and cycling at the expense of parking
- Disruptions to CBD because of project works.

"The Vision and Master Plan report talks about meeting the needs of the community, supporting and growing business and growing visitors to the region. I fully support these aims What is the plan for local businesses that will be effected by this major plan?."

"It will take away a lot of focus from the main part of Firebrace St where businesses are already struggling. Business effected by reduced and parallel parking. Horsham has too many empty shops now, we need to encourage city centre engagement not discourage it."

"The revamping of the CBD to a CAD appears to be aimed at cyclists and pedestrians, which is very disappointing to see as this is a shared space and seems to be disadvantaging small businesses."

"I believe creating urban parks where a great number of people can engage is of real benefit to social health of the local community. It also makes Horsham a more desirable destination for non-locals, bringing with them an economic boost to the local businesses."

4.3.5. Implementation time and scope

Timeframe and staging

Approximately 6% (43) of all submissions commented on implementation and staging of the City to River project. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form there were no specific positive comments, whilst 3% (21) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'further comments' in the feedback form 3% of submissions (22) made reference to implementation and timing, being a mix of comments.

The common overarching messages regarding transformation timeframe and staging were:

- Clubs could be left where they are at this stage until the new sporting precinct is established when they could transition across
- More consultation needed in the next stages of the development i.e. detailed design
- Twenty year implementation timeframe is too long, new facilities are needed before this
- Proposed timelines should be in the Masterplan
- The scope of the Masterplan is too large to possibly be completed in 20 years.

"I look forward to continued engagement through further stages of concept development, design and ultimately delivery of future facilities, such that our centre realises its vision for improved facilities within a reasonable timeframe."

"The timeframe of 15+ years is unacceptably long for improving the quality of facilities for athletics".

"Whatever you do please for the sake of the town, do not wait 20 years."

Scope: area and amount of change

A small number of submissions felt that the project area was too large. Approximately 3% (22) of all submissions commented on the idea of too much change. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, less than 1% (1) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 2% (13) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'further comments' in the feedback form 1% of submissions (8) referred to the scope of the change, being a mix of comments.

The general theme of the responses related to too many changes being proposed.

In summary key concerns included:

- Concern that the scope of the project is too big to be delivered
- Changes are not required for a city of our size
- Concerns about cost of infrastructure and maintenance.

4.3.6. Politics

The review of feedback found that politics appeared as a theme. Politics surrounding the City to River project elicited comments in 2% (14) of all submissions. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form there were no positive references, whilst 2% (11) raised concerns. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'further comments' in the feedback form less than 1% of submissions (3) made reference to politics, all in a negative context.

“Does the current Council have the drive and commitment to attract the people and business that would make these improvements worthwhile?”

“First please either be a councillor or not, you are elected to do a job by, for the most part, a very supportive community. In addition, if it is important to you to change something about that community you cannot do it outside the tent so better to get on with the job inside the tent.”

“Yes I agree there are some good ideas, but the community looks at something of this magnitude without any costing and immediately gets suspicious. Why put out a Masterplan for consultation without any sort of costing and timeline?”

“The cost is prohibitive, and will no doubt run well above the amount presented to the public at this time.”

“We can't even get roads graded for our rates yet we are expected to contribute to this white elephant that is going to cost millions and destroy businesses.”

“Can Horsham afford this? And can HRCC guarantee the new projects will not go over budget and our rates go up.”

“Whilst taxpayer funding seems to be the strong HRCC theme it will not cover the cost to the community of the ongoing maintenance liability.”

4.3.7. Funding and rate impacts

In total 17% (125) of all submissions made comments relating to how projects would be funded and the financial implications of the transformation. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form 11% (82) raised concerns relating to funding and cost implications, whilst 10% (76) of the letter/email submissions and under ‘further comments’, expressed concerns regarding the financial implication of the transformation.

The common overarching concerns relating to financial implications were:

- How projects would be paid for
- That rates would go up – that it will cost ratepayers
- That roads and paths should be fixed and existing assets paid off, before money is spent on the Riverfront and CAD
- That Council can't afford the ongoing operational and maintenance costs of new facilities
- Costings won't be determined and presented to the Community prior to a Council discussion on the Concept Masterplan .

4.3.8. Transport and connectivity

Transport related themes including: linkages, roads, bridges, walking and bike tracks proved to be a key theme.

In total, 27% (202) of all submissions commented on transport and related ideas. This included linkages, roads, bridges, and walking and bike tracks. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 12% (87) were of a positive nature, and 11% (82) raised dislikes, concerns or alternative ideas.

Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, less than 8% of submissions (62) made reference to transport and related themes, being a mix of comments both positive feedback and dislikes, concerns or alternative ideas to ideas proposed.

GWMWater

GWMWater submitted that there is a need to have heavy transport re-directed around the town whether this is by way of a bypass or a heavy vehicle detour. The submission noted that excessive large traffic loads adversely affect the life and performance of water and wastewater infrastructure in the road reserve.

In summary key positive references regarding transport related ideas included:

- Walking
- Connectivity
- Cycling
- Footbridge

In summary key dislikes and concerns included:

- Parallel parking in the CAD (lack of parking in other precincts was also a concern to some)
- Street closures (the majority of these relate to McBryde Street)
- Concerns that improved walkability will disadvantage older people and people with a disability

Car parking

Concerns regarding car parking related mainly to two precincts of the plan, the multi-purpose sporting precinct and the CAD.

Changes to parking in the CAD where there are a number of concerns relating to the introduction of parallel parking including that:

- a decrease in parking will have a negative impact on retail businesses and rural people who need to drive into town

- That older people and people with a disability will be disadvantaged
- That parallel parking will interfere with traffic flow and create additional hazards
- Parking issues will be increased and disadvantage the elderly & parents
- Other solutions could be considered when trying to improve walkability including more crossings at grade level, giving pedestrians priority
- Parallel parking might increase congestion of traffic.

“Changing the parking from angled to parallel seems ridiculous and pointless. Why would we want less parking? Will also mean less revenue from parking meters, or is the council just planning on putting the cost of parking up to compensate.”

“PARKING - not enough parking in ANY of the masterplan. The entire plan - no parking for City Oval, River area.”

“...very much against parallel parking. Parking on an angle is much safer and easier for the elderly, also parallel stops traffic.”

“[Horsham residents] rely on transportation in private vehicles which require adequate parking locations.”

“What consideration for car parking for large events has been planned for though?”

“How are your elders and disabled meant to enjoy the river when 99% find it hard to walk even 500 metres not all of us are 100% fit to walk and the new plan takes it away from them”

“I don't like the idea that it is going to be more difficult for us to travel into town and park anywhere to do the things we need to do. Parking in Horsham is already an issue in many places. It would be more beneficial to create a multi story parking area to relieve the congestion, not make it worse by introducing parallel parking in a town where 90% of the occupants wouldn't know how to park a car anymore.”

“Firebrace street area- Do not remove parking - retailers already struggling.”

“I like the idea of having a road that allows access for bikes and walkers, as well as cars.”

“It’s great. Fantastic that there is a long-term vision for the town. The way it connects the town.”

“I like the idea of having a pedestrian and bike way.”

“Like the connection between the Waterlink estate and central Horsham via the footbridge. Needs to be completed to allow for school access and hospital access and also park areas.”

“Parallel parking in Firebrace Street when we’re already seeing shops close because of lack of business and we have an ageing population - they need easy access to shops.”

“By closing McBryde Street, lives will tragically be lost due to traffic congestion.”

“‘The world’s most walkable city’ the most ridiculous and damaging proposal that I have ever heard. This would be a disaster ... for the elderly, physically unable to walk ...”

4.3.9. Tourism, arts and culture

Tourism, Arts and Cultural elements of the draft Masterplan was a strong feedback theme.

In total, 14% (102) of all submissions commented on the ideas relating to Tourism, Arts and Culture. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 5% (35) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 5% (37) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 6% of submissions (41) made reference to Tourism, Arts and Culture, being a mix of

comments.

The common overarching positive messages from submissions were:

- Need to attract more tourists to stay longer in our city
- Need to make better use of our major natural asset – the Wimmera River
- Events can increase tourism and investment in the region
- Visitor Information Centre needs to be highly visible and accessible
- Support for a museum

In summary key positive references included:

- Feedback indicated that a number of elements in the Masterplan would increase tourism opportunities including:
 - Riverfront development – café, splash park, playground, cultural centre
 - Showgrounds development – Visitor Information Centre and museum
- Planned developments along the Riverfront will allow us to compete with other areas in attracting more visitors to our city
- New playground area to attract people traveling through Horsham
- Café to provide an eating opportunity for tourists
- Support for museum to showcase our strong historical collections
- Incorporation of a new museum and Visitor Information Centre in the Showgrounds creating a precinct for tourists
- Support for cultural facility along the river to acknowledge our indigenous history
- Planning for inclusion of indigenous culture
- Encouragement of more art installations in the River Precinct
- Possibility of a central Horsham market.

In summary key concerns included:

- Needs to be adequate parking for holiday vehicles i.e. RVs and caravans
- Caravan park:

- If relocated would create better use of space for festivals and open space
- Could the current location be used for better purposes
- Space to run events and markets with appropriate utilities is not identified
- Location of Visitor Information Centre, conference centre and museum is hidden and needs to be clearly accessible from Western Highway
- Insufficient linkage to the Horsham Town Hall – our major events/culture and arts space
- Don't create a separate cultural heritage centre, rather incorporate cultural heritage into the development of all facilities as appropriate
- Develop the miniature railway into a regional tourism attraction.

up with future accessibility, connectivity, permeability and community interests from the Botanic Gardens to Wimmera River."

"I feel the draft plan has missed an opportunity to "capitalise" on tourism opportunities around the area where the Western Highway crosses the Wimmera River. We need to develop this area to encourage people "to stop", at the moment this is not the case."

"Combine Horsham museum with indigenous culture facility."

"Main issue is increasing the population of the area and getting tourists to the area."

"I think it will improve Horsham as a whole and we may get more visitors in the holidays as there will be more activities to do and there will be more action for kids like me."

"I love the way it seems that the First Australians have been considered throughout the planning, and not added in at the end or just tacked on as a token effort."

"The Showgrounds precinct shows remarkable vision for development with a natural amenity for the Visitor Information Centre and proposed Horsham Regional Museum. Well done on this draft concept for development for Horsham's future. Vehicle parking is more than adequate and the natural setting is wonderful to complement state of the art, best practice architectural design for these buildings. The Showgrounds area certainly needs an uplift and has for years."

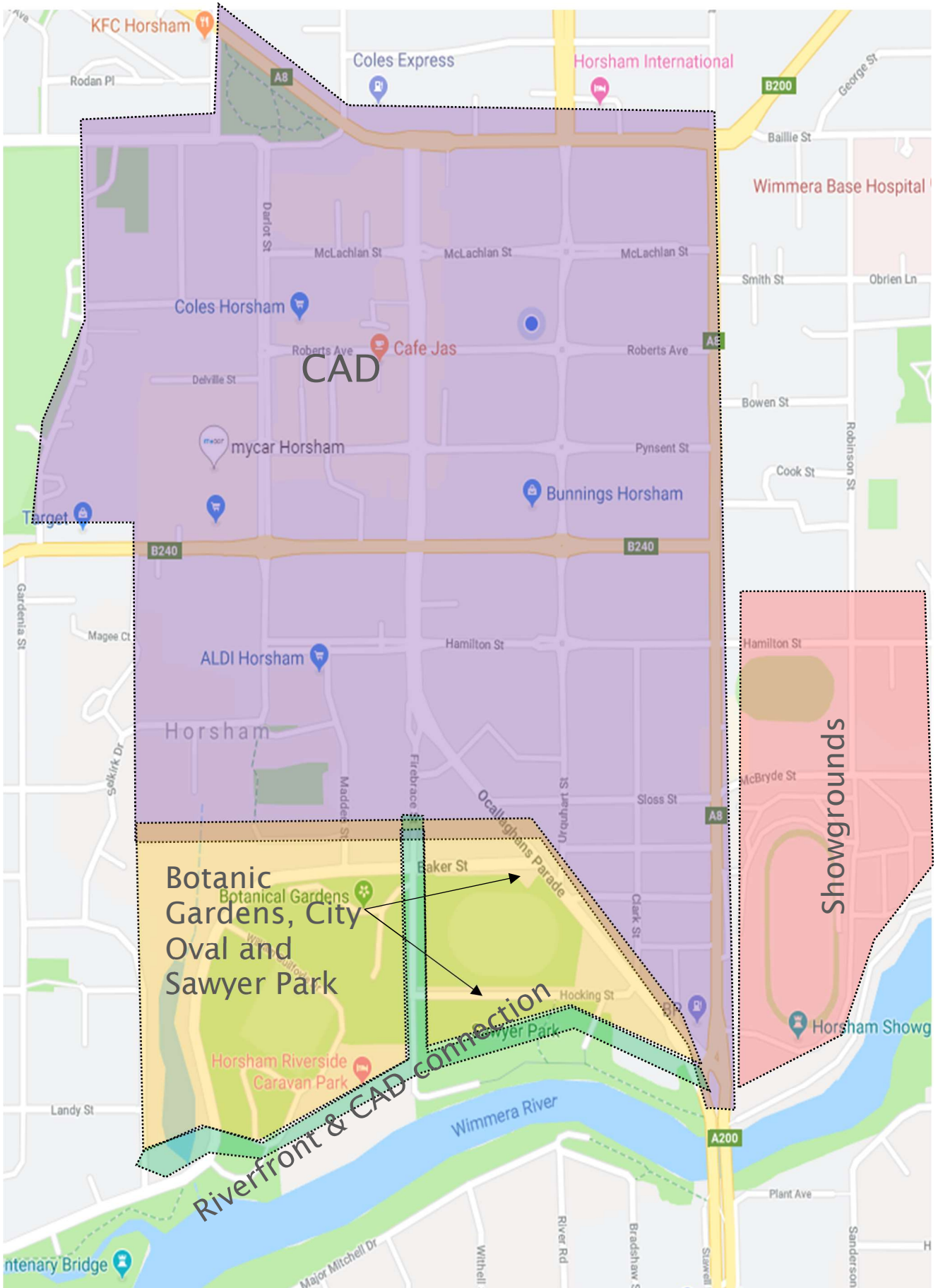
"It (the Masterplan) utilises our town's most natural asset and offers a range of things for everyone in the community with the aim of increasing tourism."

"Caravan Park needs to be moved and look at better utilising the space for festivals and open space."

"Economic benefits of retaining the caravan park in its current location need to be weighed

4.4. City to River Sub Precincts

Figure 8: City to River areas



4.4.1. Showgrounds precinct

4.4.1.1. Showgrounds and Greyhound Racing

In total, 6% (47) of all submissions commented on the relocation of the greyhounds track in the draft City to River Masterplan.

Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, less than 1% (1) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 5% (36) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under "Further Comments" in the feedback form, 1% (11) of submissions made reference to the relocation of the greyhounds, being a mix of comments.

Greyhound Racing Victoria

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) submitted that they were disappointed that the draft did not recognize the social or economic contribution the Horsham Greyhounds Club makes to Horsham and the region. GRV noted that the multi-purpose sporting precinct did not include provision for the greyhound track or mention Council plans for the future of greyhound racing in Horsham.

GRV noted the economic value generated by greyhound racing across Victoria as well as the contribution to the Wimmera region:

- The value-added benefit of the greyhound racing industry to the Wimmera region is \$3.5m
- The total number of participants, employees and volunteers involved with the greyhound industry in the region is 261, which comprises:
 - 9 Breeders
 - 118 Registered Owners
 - 33 Trainers
 - 60 Employees (incl club staff, GRV staff, breeder staff, kennel

- employees, catchers and attendants)
- 41 Volunteers

- There are approximately 194 greyhounds in training in the Wimmera region.

The submission also noted the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club Activity being:

- 60 race meetings annually at the showgrounds site
- more than 1,600 individual greyhounds started at the track in 681 races, involving 472 trainers
- \$1.55 million in prizemoney was distributed and more than \$118 million was wagered on these races nationally.

GRV noted investment in the site as being over \$1.2 million on a substantial upgrade and re-build of the Horsham greyhound facility with \$600,000 to be invested this financial year.

GRV identified Horsham as being strategically important geographically and the showgrounds site as being important due to its high visibility at the gateway to the city.

GRV and the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club welcomed the opportunity to discuss with Council ideas for the greyhound racing track to be integrated into plans for new sporting facilities and development of open space areas at the showgrounds. The submission also noted a preparedness to invest in the showgrounds site to improve amenity for customers as well as users of a new multipurpose sporting facility. It was highlighted that co-location with other racing codes inside the one racetrack does not work effectively for greyhound racing and GRV do not consider that to be an option.

Key themes:

- Cost of relocating established and quality facilities
- GRV and Horsham Greyhound Racing Club have suggested further discussions

around future designs that could integrate the club at the existing site.

In summary key positive references included:

- The location would be better suited to tourism, events and a museum.

In summary key concerns included:

- There is no need to shift the greyhound track, rather integrate it into plans
- The Greyhound Club, along with the Croquet, Lawn Tennis and Miniature railway have been developed by volunteers using their time and resources
- Concern about the loss of sporting facilities
- Concern about loss of economic impact of Greyhound Racing for the Horsham economy – the submission from GRV outlines this in detail
- Query about what support would be given to the Greyhounds to relocate and that the plans need to develop an alternative location.
- Quality of existing grandstand and function room

Council and Government funding.”

“No-one can possibly justify that proposal when a long established concern such as the greyhounds, who employ several people full-time, and part-time, as well as contributing many hundreds of thousands of dollars to Horsham's benefit each year.”

“Far too many existing and well frequented facilities not included/improved such as the lawn tennis courts, croquet club, mini railway, greyhound racing.”

“Thousands of dollars have been spent by the association to give the dog owners a first class track second to none and put Horsham on the map.”

“The plan needs to have suitable, appropriate and clearly defined alternatives for historic user groups that would be displaced.”

“I think in time that the greyhounds should be assisted to move out to a more appropriate location leaving room for the showgrounds site to become Horsham's tourism/ events/ museum home with room for a new soundshell.”

“The greyhound track has just been fully upgraded costing millions of dollars.”

“I love everything about the plan, as long as it's not taking existing resources from Horsham that currently get utilized.”

“Destruction of existing clubs and facilities, eg, Horsham Croquet Club, Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, miniature railway, Greyhound Racing Club. These facilities have cost a lot of volunteers' time and money as well as

4.4.1.2. Sport and the multipurpose sporting precinct

Feedback confirmed that, in general, providing modern, regional level sporting facilities, as part of a multi-purpose complex continues to be a key issue for the community.

The location emerged as a key theme with a high level of interest in comparison to other themes, with a balanced view of support for the proposed location and an alternative location. In addition to submissions from individual members of the community, local, regional and Victorian level sporting associations contributed to the conversation.

In total, 30% (219) of all submissions commented on considerations relating to the provision of sporting facilities. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 14% (103) of comments were of a positive nature regarding ideas put forward in the draft Masterplan, whilst 15% (110) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'Further Comments' in the feedback form, 5% (37) of submissions made mixed comments regarding the provision of sporting facilities.

In addition to general comments on the provision of sporting facilities, specific comments relating to the idea of the indoor/outdoor multipurpose sporting facility emerged as a theme in itself.

In total, 16% (119) of all submissions received made reference to the idea of a multipurpose sporting precinct. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 3% (22) of comments were of a positive nature regarding the ideas put forward, whilst 7% (50) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under "Further Comments" in the feedback form, 8% (61) of submissions made mixed comments in relation to the indoor/outdoor multipurpose sporting facility ideas.

Government Agency feedback

Greyhound Racing Victoria

Refer to 'Showgrounds and Greyhounds' section 4.4.1.1

Victoria Sporting Associations

A joint submission was made by the below mentioned Victoria Sporting Associations specifically in relation to the outdoor multipurpose sports precinct proposal:

- Tennis Victoria
- Croquet Victoria
- Hockey Victoria
- Football Victoria
- Little Athletics Victoria

The joint submission cover letter, prepared by Tennis Victoria was supported by individual letters from each of the associations along with a concept plan outlining a number of shared options that will accommodate the following on the showgrounds site:

- Regional tennis facility
- Regional croquet facility
- Regional athletics track and field events space
- Regional hockey facility
- Local football (soccer) pitch
- Local rugby/multipurpose pitch

Each of the associations provided commentary around their specific needs and how inclusion in the sports precinct would enable participation to grow, promote community wellbeing and enhance liveability.

All six State Sporting Associations support the principle of a multipurpose sports precinct as a vision for the future of sport in the Wimmera and welcomed further consultation and input.

Victorian Planning Authority

Through its role on the project steering committee the Victorian Planning Authority provided the following key remarks:

- 1) Global experience of improving urban waterways and the open space/recreation area along them, is that they have multiple benefits, bringing together economic, social, cultural and environmental dividends to the community and businesses.
- 2) The consolidation and concentration of community and recreation facilities that have a regional function close to other complimentary facilities, such as retail, entertainment and public transport provides benefits including:
 - o The effective use of existing and new facilities
 - o Improving the case for investment in renewal and upgrade of facilities
 - o Attracting business and events to regional areas
 - o Creating overall regional competitiveness

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), having responsibilities under the Victorian legislation for waterway health and floodplain management submitted that they see many challenges and opportunities in relation to:

- Floodplain management
- Integrated water management and sensitive stormwater design
- Waterway health

WCMA noted that they will be pleased to work through and share their expertise with HRCC staff in more detail so these issues can be dealt with appropriately in the final Masterplan. This will ensure that State government approval processes are considered and delivered as efficiently as possible.

WCMA identifies many complementary actions to our relevant strategies and action plans and can identify areas for co-investment.

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWM)

The submission supports the redevelopment of the showgrounds site to improve the aesthetics of the entry to the city as you cross the river, as the current state of the infrastructure does not present the city well and any development should enhance the presentation.

Common overarching messages of a positive nature relating to the provision of sporting facilities (by individuals, local and regional clubs) were:

- Sport is such a huge part of the Wimmera and bringing sporting facilities up to a regional and modern standard is a must because it would:
 - Help alleviate our region's sporting disadvantage
 - Create "bang for buck": draw more regional sporting events to Horsham
 - Improve the overall quality of sporting facilities in Horsham by providing modern facilities
 - Create more opportunities for people to participate in sport
 - Provide premium synthetic facilities for suitable sports that will be future proofed against drought and needing little maintenance
 - Helps all sports in the region to grow and provides opportunities for existing participants to be exposed to sports they may not have known about before
- Participation in a number of sports is growing, however many clubs do not have a permanent home or suitable facilities
- The idea of having a sporting complex in the centre of town is a great idea because:
 - Keeping everything within a central precinct will be ideal for the growth

- of the town. Being within walking distance to the main street and shops is ideal when big events are held and many tourists are coming to Horsham
- It's easy for everyone (school students and the general community) to access
- Provides an opportunity for students to walk/ride from schools without needing to be driven
- It's an accessible place for all schools and community groups to utilise
- It improves the entrance to Horsham
- It would help activate the riverfront and would be accessible by existing walking and cycling paths

The overarching concerns raised in submission regarding sporting facilities included:

- There being too much emphasis on sport; the emphasis around sporting facilities is too great!
- Some concerns were raised relating to the idea of consolidating sporting facilities including:
 - Scheduling impacts
 - Cost of modern facilities to participants
 - Overcrowding
 - Amenity impact on adjoining land

The proposed location of a multipurpose facility emerged as a concern with comments commonly including:

- Concerns about how long it will be before we have a modern multipurpose sporting facility in Horsham
- The idea of a sporting precinct being great, however further investigation is required regarding the site
- That a multipurpose sporting facility should be developed on a greenfield site because it would:

- Be closer to school students and a potential growth area - therefore having increased use
- Allow for growth and expansion
- Allow for pedestrian/bike, public transport and highway connection
- Allow for it to be built sooner – use an empty, available venue to make a start on sport projects straight away
- Avoid retrofitting into a confined space
- Allow for prime riverfront open space to be used for another purpose at the entrance to Horsham
- Not cause traffic issues and allow for ample car parking
- There would be room to build an AFL size oval
- Create an area for other non-sporting events
- Provide an opportunity to build on land with fewer design and construction considerations
- Cater for spectators
- Allow Greyhound Victoria to remain on the Showgrounds site for the long term

A number of suggested locations for a multipurpose sporting facility included:

- On the north west fringe of Horsham - off Jenkinson Avenue near Horsham College
- Opposite the police paddocks
- At the racecourse site (racecourse to move out to the Adelaide side of town)

There was also comment on the need for sporting facilities in Haven to support the community, sporting groups and school families.

It was also submitted by Horsham Primary School, that having a sporting facility in Horsham West or at Haven would be disappointing, for reasons including:

- The school being somewhat isolated
- Potential for a central facility to attract young families to the catchment area
- Lack of significant building growth in the area therefore a sporting facility built in the West or Haven would add another level of complexity to maintaining a consistent level of enrolment.

Lawn Tennis and Croquet

Comments relating to Lawn Tennis and Croquet being part of a multipurpose sporting facility are summarised under the theme of 'Lawn Tennis and Croquet', section 4.4.4.2 (p39)

AFL Oval

Comments relating to an AFL Oval being part of a multipurpose sporting facility are summarised under the theme of "City Oval", section 4.4.4.3 (p35).

General comments on sports and activities included in a multipurpose sporting complex included:

- The need to take all sports into consideration – including those not shown on the draft Masterplan
- Being understanding of the concerns of the Horsham Basketball Stadium, however a feeling they are not considering the needs of the many other sporting groups and looking to keep a monopoly on the facility
- The need to redevelop or reuse the velodrome as part of a multi-use sporting precinct
- The option of catering for "non-sporting events" as well

Submissions included concerns relating to cost implications and impacts on sporting businesses and volunteers. Overarching concerns included:

- A fear that a multipurpose sporting complex that is not run by volunteers would be more costly for participants across the region
- A fear that private sporting facility business operators would go out of business
- A concern that a complex would run at a loss and would require subsidising by Council
- The need to ensure current sporting clubs and community groups who have long established ties to the study precinct are well considered in future plans
- Financial and emotional impact of relocation of existing sporting clubs that don't want to be moved and the need to understand how to nurture and grow our communities sporting volunteers

There was a range of comments regarding design detail considerations, including:

- Being against the closure of McBryde Street as it would have an impact on surrounding school, hospital and local traffic
- The need to keep the basketball stadium separate from the new stadium

“Bringing sporting facilities up to modern standards is a must.”

“The idea of having a centralised sport region in the centre of town is brilliant. Facilities for all sports in the centre of town as an accessible place for all schools and community groups to utilise is needed.”

“I like that all sporting facilities are centralised in the town around the river. It’s easy for everyone to access and for students to walk/ride from schools, etc without kids having to be driven one side of town to out of town.”

“The greyhound lease is until 2035, we need decent sporting facilities before that ...”

“I’m worried that the sporting complex might be a bit crowded and I’m concerned on how long constructions will take.”

“Take football / netball and create new multi sports facility from scratch elsewhere - maybe north-west area.”

“Why should sports and community clubs/organisations, business, etc, be relocated under the Masterplan, as many of them are either: happy where they are, current location suits them.”

“Why not locate this in the area to the west of Horsham?”

“As a school and regional sports co-ordinator, I have lobbied hard for many years to ensure our students don't have to travel long distances to larger communities to compete. We are continually leaned on that our facilities doesn't stack up at any forum I attend and it is tough to argue and lobby for interschool sport events to come north. “

4.4.2. Central Activity District

4.4.2.1. Central Activity District

In total 12% (92) of all submissions commented on ideas relating to the vision for the CAD area. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form 5% (34) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 8% (59) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under 'further comments' in the feedback form 4% of submissions (30) made reference to the CAD area, being a mix of comments.

The general themes of the responses relating to the CAD area were:

- A strong perception that the vision would include a (non-desired) reduction of parking through conversion to parallel parking in the CAD area
- The greening of the CAD area with more shade and places for people to sit is a strong positive theme
- Removal of the Council works depot and other adjacent industry and replacement with residential housing is a second strong positive theme

In summary key positive references included:

- Upgrade of CAD area is definitely needed, including landscaping, trees, enhanced lighting, and seating
- Need for a city square
- Greening of the CAD area, providing more shade
- Need to remove large vehicles from the CAD
- Additional residential areas in the CAD i.e. medium density housing options
- Firebrace Street connection to the river
- Need to cater for pedestrian traffic and improved safe access for pedestrians i.e. treatment of roundabouts

- Movement of the depot and the concreting business out of the area
- Upgraded toilet facilities
- Gov Hub to upgrade ageing infrastructure

In summary key concerns included:

- Parallel parking – reduces car parking spaces and people will avoid areas where they have to parallel park. Does not suit an aging population. Will decrease activity in the CAD
- Planning and re-zoning of areas within the CAD and linking the CAD to the River precinct
- No need for a town square as Horsham is not large enough to make this necessary
- The plan does not adequately address revitalization of the CAD needed to address the oversupply of floor space, loss of the urban fabric to carparking
- Cost of establishing a Gov Hub is paid for by ratepayers
- Plans would not improve vehicle flow through the CBD area

“Improving the street scapes, by installing more trees and plants, especially in the CBD/Firebrace street. Roberts Avenue is the best looking street in the CBD and it makes me want to shop there more and eat at those cafes, because of the trees and the lights. I think it's really important to update/modernise the look of Firebrace st, to hopefully attract a younger group of shoppers/shop owners”.

“Great to see some of the central parking areas replaced with a central median and shade trees on Hamilton Street - same treatment needs to continue throughout CBD”.

“Love the focus on pedestrian traffic”

“Promote more residential development in the O'Callaghans Parade - Hamilton Street - McPherson Street triangle by reviewing the current zoning to allow a mix of retail/ service business at street level and residential on 1st / 2nd floors to replace the old existing warehouses. The ability to integrate residential development in conjunction with commercial developments will make the area more appealing for developers, allow for reduced rent for businesses and improve one of Horsham's not so appealing areas”.

“Continuation of pedestrian/cycle focus through CBD is required with parallel parking, bike lanes, gathering spaces, bring back the verandahs and wider verges”.

“there is no widening of arterials to accommodate bike lanes - McPherson, Firebrace, Darlot, Urquart Streets or O'Callaghans Parade”.

Alternative thoughts:

- Shifting the bus terminal from Roberts Avenue away from the Court House area
- Shifting library to the Town Hall carpark area as a central hub
- consideration of medium density housing precinct to the North East of the CAD.

- Roberts Avenue - the street space between Firebrace and Darlot Streets could be made into a pedestrian area.

4.4.2.2. Accommodation and housing

In total, 2% (16) of all submissions commented on ideas relating to housing and accommodation. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, less than 1% (7) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst less than 1% (7) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, less than 1% (3) of submissions made reference to housing and accommodation, being a mix of comments.

The general theme of the responses relating to housing and accommodation was positive around the relocation of the Council works depot and concrete plant in Selkirk Drive and the use of this space for more higher density accommodation.

In summary key positive references included:

- Support for the relocation of the Council works depot and concrete plant and use of this area for new housing.

In summary key concerns included:

- Fears that change in zoning would be proposed from Commercial to Residential and the potential impact on existing landowners and businesses.

“New housing area on depot yards, great idea. The cost to relocate can be offset by the sale of the blocks so this is a great idea. We need more houses close to city centre, I’m all for this idea.”

“The development of residential living (apartments, etc) in the CAD is a great idea and should be strongly encouraged.”

“A greater mix of residential uses close to the town centre is required to activate the centre of Horsham.”

“Ripping down businesses in the CBD to put up residential areas? I’m not sure what the thinking here is. A CBD is a “Central Business District”, not a “Central Residential District”.”

4.4.2.3. GovHub

In total, 2% (13) of all submissions commented on the idea of the Government Hub. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, less than 1% (2) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 1% (9) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 1% (4) of submissions made reference to the Government Hub, being a mix of comments.

GWM Water

GWM submitted that they support the concept of a consolidated Whole of Government Business Precinct. They also noted that they were not in a position to comment on the location and any participation by GWM would require approval by the board. In addition they noted that the concept of a GovHub was under development in other regional centers and these may produce some learning for Council on configuration.

In summary key positive references included:

- Removal of out of date and unattractive buildings.

In summary key concerns included:

- Cost
- Loss of old police station (bus station)

“... the removal of both the Police Station and Magistrates Court. Two ageing and not especially aesthetically pleasing structures that to the untrained eye look to be past their use by date.”

“We don't need local government in a prime retail location.”

“Why move Council and police from the CBD, there is easy access for residents and visitors alike now.”



4.4.3. City Oval and Sawyer Park

In total, 16% (120) of all submissions referred to the idea of upgrading the City Oval. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 8% (58) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 6% (43) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 4% (28) of submissions made reference to upgrading of the City Oval, being a mix of comments.

AFL Wimmera Mallee

The AFL Wimmera Mallee Commission strongly support conceptually, key directions 1 and 3 in the Background Report contained within objective four (Sport and Recreation) as a positive plan that would be beneficial to AFL football and netball. The Commission noted that City to River objectives relating to sport and recreation directly aligned with their strategic priorities, which is for a premier facility within the region capable of hosting high level marquee games of football and the development of an outdoor facility to meet the increasing demands of clubs requesting training venues within Horsham and the possible relocation of a club into Horsham into the future.

The Commission also highlighted considerations regarding design detail for the redevelopment of City Oval. This included the ability for Horsham FNC to charge patrons to attend matches, ensure crowd control and public safety and provision of car parking. The submission supported the provision of an outdoor multipurpose sports precinct to provide additional green space for club training.

The Commission’s vision is to have one grassed field and one multipurpose synthetic field that, between the two, would accommodate the requirements of football, soccer, athletics and hockey.

GWMWater

GWM’s submission acknowledged the need for a premier sporting reserve and the proposed upgrade of City Oval is important to attract premier sporting events.

Comments in support of the redevelopment of City Oval by individuals, local and regional sporting groups included:

- Support for the opening up of the City Oval for passive recreational use and making it more user friendly
- This is a major facility in a city and needs to be a show piece with excellent facilities
- Support for the redevelopment of City Oval as the major Horsham sporting facility, to provide a premier AFL quality ground to AFL compliant standard in line with extant AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines: State, Regional, Local, School and Remote Facilities (2019 current) and Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy 2016-2026
- Support for two netball courts, a bigger oval, improved grandstand and new clubrooms for both Horsham and surrounding clubs
- Support for the potential to attract high quality games such as AFL, VFL, AFL Womens and Ballarat Rebels
- A redevelopment would enable the oval to be utilised for a variety of events, in addition to sporting events
- A redevelopment would contribute towards liveability, attracting new people to Horsham, including those in professional employment with families.

Participants also raised concerns regarding:

- Upgrades being driven by desire to attract AFL practice matches or state level cricket games and Horsham’s capacity to do that
- Justification for the cost of the redevelopment and focus on football over other sports and user/interest groups

- Exclusive use of the site by football, netball and cricket and desire to improve the asset for wider community use
- Where football and netball groups would be accommodated during a redevelopment
- Where all existing (non-sporting) groups would be accommodated during and after a redevelopment.

There was a range of comments regarding design detail considerations, including:

- The direction of the alignment to accommodating for a larger oval, including support for a north-south orientation being conducive to both football and cricket
- A number of submissions questioned the capacity (size) of the site to accommodate a larger oval and associated buildings and development including:
 - Existing and additional car parking demand generated by larger events (including provision for disabled and elderly access)
 - Road access and impact on traffic movements on surrounding businesses
 - Impact on the size of Sawyer Park and therefore the Riverfront's capacity to be a venue for local and regional events, including Festivals that attract visitors.
- Both support and concern for the realignment of Hocking Street to make more room for Horsham City Oval upgrades. The key concern was the potential size reduction and therefore impact on events space at Sawyer Park
- Relocation of the existing lights and impact on the cost of redevelopment
- Grandstand/seating, clubroom and accessibility design considerations including:
 - The heritage significance of the existing grandstand

- Provision of shelter for spectators
- The need for both the grandstand and clubrooms to have ramp or lift accessibility
- Access to the oval for walking, gophers, wheelchairs, etc.
- User-friendly change rooms (including family and disabled rooms) and more toilets
- Access from adjoining event spaces
- Provision of public seating around the oval
- Grandstand seating option (portable /permanent) for netball court
- The impact of increasing access for passive recreation by removing fences on clubs ability to ticket games (generate income) and manage safety.

Alternative ideas

There was a mix of views regarding the location of City Oval with a number of submissions suggesting that Horsham's premier oval should be incorporated within a multipurpose sporting precinct. This would enable shared facilities and ensure ticketing and safety requirements are met.

“The size of the City Oval playing surface and its actual east/west position on goal to goal basis is not conducive to cricket and we support the realignment of the oval towards a more north/south basis.”

“Well done on the City Oval plans. They look more functional and turning the oval to a north south orientation is long overdue.”

“... this should not be redeveloped in this location. Enlarging it would create parking problems and compromise traffic flow and given its level of usage it does not deserve to remain in this location.”

“Reconsider the City Oval. This redesign won't be adequate for planned use. Images are not indicative of final appearance size i.e. fences, parking, buildings- grandstands etc..” .

4.4.4. Botanic Gardens and Caravan Park

4.4.4.1. Botanic Gardens

In total, 14% (102) of all submissions commented on the idea of expanding the Botanic Gardens. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 7% (52) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 5% (38) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 3% (23) of submissions made reference to expanding the Botanic Gardens, being a mix of comments.

On the idea of incorporating a lake into an expanded Botanic Gardens, 6% (45) of all submissions commented on the idea. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 1% (4) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 4% (26) raised concerns. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 2% (15) of submissions made reference to expanding the Botanic Gardens, which were largely unsupportive of the idea.

The common overarching messages in support of expanding the Botanic Gardens were:

- Support for restoring Botanical gardens to original footprint
- Increasing the size of the Botanic Gardens would create more space for passive recreation including walking
- Opening up the space and removal of fencing would create connections to the river through the Botanic Gardens
- Opening up the Botanic Gardens to the river would focus activities and civic spaces around the river for all residents of Horsham
- Support for linking Horsham with the river through the botanic gardens

Whilst there was support for increasing the footprint of the Botanic Gardens and creating

access to the river, the overall idea of incorporating a lake was not supported. Concern regarding increasing the Botanic Gardens was also raised.

Concerns relating to incorporating a lake included:

- Availability of water and capacity for ongoing maintenance of a larger Botanic Gardens
- Proximity to an existing natural waterway therefore value in attracting people
- The value in replacing the tennis courts with a lake
- Safety concerns
- The idea does not appear to match the illustration of Guilfoyle's original plan
- Opportunity for a lake with ecological “refuge islands” for birdlife as a retreat from feral and wandering cats and city dogs; predation problems by exotic species probably would not have been evident at the time of the first development of the gardens.

Participants also made suggestions and raised concerns regarding:

- Management associated with a larger Botanic Gardens
- The existing gardens could be better served by developing the current space better, including wayfinding signage and access infrastructure to make it easier for people to engage with the gardens
- A great place that should not be changed too much.

There was a range of comments regarding design detail considerations, including:

- Allow dog access.

“I really like the focus on increasing connectedness to the river and focusing activities and civic spaces around the river.”

“I like that we are actually making our gardens bigger and a lot more attractive to walk through and spend a whole heap of time at rather than just a few minutes walking in and out.”

“Love everything that has been proposed in the masterplan, particularly the location of facilities, the increased access and opportunity to engage with the Wimmera River and surrounding environment. The central location of the proposed facilities provides amazing opportunities for local community members to engage with one of Horsham’s best features – Wimmera River. It will also be a great draw card for visitors and improve the township on a whole. The improved facilities are also exciting for community members and school groups with regard to opportunities to participate in more physical activities with easier access. As well as opportunities to learn about the environment and develop valued connections with the environment that encourages the Horsham community to conserve and protect the environment.”

“I like the idea of continuing the Botanical gardens to the east embracing Firebrace St, which is to become a walkway to the river from the city i.e. giving the area including the city oval more of a park theme.”

“... Good to see the removal of the croquet club and lawn tennis to make the space more accessible to all, without fencing and barriers for pedestrian movement from the botanic gardens through to the river.”

4.4.4.2. Lawn Tennis and Croquet

Considerations relating to lawn tennis and croquet emerged as a strong theme. Of the 740 submissions received, a total of 208 (28%) submissions (from individuals and groups) made reference to lawn tennis, ranging from support for the draft

Masterplan, support for an alternative site for lawn tennis and strong local support for the retention of lawn tennis in the current Botanic Gardens location.

Similarly, across all 740 submission, 139 (19%) submissions commented on considerations relating to croquet, ranging from support for the draft Masterplan, support for finding a suitable alternative site, to support for the retention of croquet within the Botanic Gardens.

Tennis Victoria and Croquet Victoria

Tennis Victoria and Croquet Victoria, in conjunction with Hockey Victoria, Football Victoria and Little Athletics Victoria, made a submission on City to River, specifically to the outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct proposal.

Tennis Victoria and Croquet Victoria, along with the abovementioned sporting associations, agree that a multi-purpose sports precinct presents a “unique opportunity to develop a ‘game changing’ facility that will see Horsham and the Wimmera well positioned as a regional centre for participation, development and sporting excellence” (Ken Barton, General Manager – Government Relations and Places to Play, Tennis Victoria, July 2019).

Tennis Victoria support the recommendation put forward in the Horsham Sports Facility Demand Assessment (Urban Enterprise, 2019) that tennis and hockey can co-locate and consolidate existing tennis venues. Tennis Victoria also notes that whilst Horsham Lawn Tennis Club is in favour of a regional tennis facility and potential amalgamation of two clubs, it is not in favour of a relocation from its current site nor the loss of grass courts.

Tennis Victoria submit that some (shared) natural grass courts can be facilitated through the inclusion of a regional croquet venue as part of a multi-purpose sports precinct at the Showgrounds site. Tennis Victoria did not suggest including 24 natural grass courts in a multi-purpose sporting precinct, but rather 24 courts of the same all-weather surface. Tennis Victoria believes that this approach will achieve Council’s objectives of a long-term strategic approach to developing sporting infrastructure that meets contemporary standards,

promotes participation, accommodates regional events, makes efficient use of public land and integrates with the urban and river environment. “Development of a regional facility in Horsham servicing the Wimmera, capable of hosting tournaments and events, enables expenditure to be circulated through the local economy” (Ken Barton, General Manager – Government Relations and Places to Play, Tennis Victoria, July 2019).

Croquet Victoria submitted that “Growing Croquet Facilities Infrastructure Planning Project 2020-2030” identified Horsham Croquet Club as a Regional Facility, showing how a regional level croquet facility could be incorporated in a multi-purpose sports precinct on the showgrounds site. Croquet Victoria submitted that the loss of the facilities provided by the Horsham Croquet Club would be a huge loss to the entire Wimmera Croquet Association.

Horsham Lawn Tennis Club submitted that:

Tennis is a major sport in Horsham, especially in regard to female participation and involvement of volunteers, but unfortunately, it appears that this report does not adequately address any of this.

Horsham Lawn Tennis Club intends to stay at its current location and continue to grow tennis.

Why is Horsham Lawn important?

“Horsham Lawn has for 135 years been an important community asset. The first game of tennis played in Horsham was between a team from Dimboola and Horsham in 1883 in the Botanic Gardens and the Horsham Lawn Tennis Club was formed in 1884. Horsham Lawn has significant heritage value and is a place that many Horsham people are proud of. Horsham Lawn provides an essential community service, providing physical and social benefits for our 140 members, and the players from rival clubs and others who regularly use the facility for tournaments of social tennis. We have around 90 junior members, with 60% of our juniors being girls. The lawn courts are currently used most days of the week. On Saturdays there are typically 19 teams (Lawn, opposition, junior and

senior) plus we run a Hotshots program for up to 30 kids. On average over 100 players use the courts each Saturday. Currently we are maintaining 20 of the 24 courts (not 16!). However, in order to meet the growing demand from juniors we are planning to put back into use another couple of courts so will have 22 courts in use.

Additional to Saturday tennis we host social tennis on Tuesdays, junior training and coaching on Wednesdays and Fridays and senior practice on Thursdays. The courts are available for hire at all other times (charging a small amount of \$10 per session). During winter we sponsor junior training at Lanes and Games. This season the courts will host a regional junior points tournament (we had record numbers last year) plus two regional croquet tournaments.

We understand that tennis is gradually moving away from the traditional Saturday competition towards less structured weeknight tennis and modified tennis aimed at juniors, i.e Hotshots and Matchplay, which Horsham Lawn has been at the forefront over the past few years, thanks to the hard work of our wonderful volunteers.

Horsham Lawn’s Strategies

In the short term (January 2018 Strategy) Lawn’s main focus is on: Continued growth of junior program and coaching Court improvements Promotion of alternative forms of tennis.

Since January 2018 Horsham Lawn has made significant steps towards achieving the objectives of the strategy. Horsham Lawn has appointed a club coach and made continued improvements to our junior program. This is reflected in an increase in member numbers, a high level of enthusiasm for tennis and a record number of junior teams in finals in 2018/19. Horsham Lawn has also hired a curator, and implemented a new court maintenance program.

Regarding promoting alternative forms of tennis, we have trialed Fast4 tennis on Tuesday evenings. We also see the need to install lights to make better use

of the evenings - to this end we have identified that the installation of lights would help us to promote alternative forms of tennis.

In August 2019 the club met to look at longer term strategic objectives. The agreed overall longer term objective is to enhance this already wonderful facility through: Better integration of the courts into the botanic gardens. Hosting more regional tournaments Ongoing improvement of facilities Working with other Botanic Garden stakeholders to achieve common Goals.

Better integration of the courts into the Botanic Gardens may include: trialing the removal of locks so anyone can access the courts at anytime modifying and potentially removing or lowering some fences, and replacement of internal fences with curtains (as used on Dimboola hockey/tennis complex) opening up the area replacement of the road that runs between the croquet club and tennis courts with a walking track to improve viewing and safety.

A 24 court facility in its present location is the ideal place for Horsham to host regional tournaments. This beautiful location in the middle of town next to the river and caravan park, and because of its beauty and convenience, could be promoted as one of the best locations in Australia to host regional tennis or croquet tournaments. Participants would only be a short walk away from accommodation, shops and restaurants.

Note 1: The biggest regional tournaments (Country Week and the Victorian Inter-Regional Championships) are always played on grass. Grass courts are ideal for hosting senior and veteran tournaments. Ironically and overwhelmingly most medium regional cities in Victoria have fantastic grass courts. Horsham is extremely lucky to have this facility. Yes, grass courts require regular maintenance, however, Horsham with its numerous turf sporting fields and golf course has the ability to maintain grass courts to a high level. In lifecycle cost terms grass courts compare favourably to cushioned hard courts — importantly, most money spent on grass courts stays in the community.

Horsham Lawn intends to explore various avenues to continue improving facilities. This will include: installation of lights to make better use of nights installation of some hard courts to provide coaching and tennis all year round modification or relocation of clubhouse fencing modifications (as mentioned above) Horsham Lawn recognises that to make the continued improvement proposed, our club needs to work closely with all Botanic Garden stakeholders, i.e., Horsham Rural City Council, Horsham Croquet Club and the Horsham Riverside Caravan Park. That way all stakeholders' objectives can be put onto the table. From this starting point we can then start working towards improvements that are beneficial to all. To this end we will look at forming a Botanic Gardens users group.

To this end we request that the Horsham Rural City Council review its proposal for the river precinct, with a view to integrating our tennis courts into the plans. Note 2: Tennis really is a great past-time, and grass court tennis is especially unique to regional Australia. We know for a fact that people from Melbourne love playing on grass courts. Tennis is a sport that is played everywhere and only requires a couple of people to play. It is a very social game, as well as being physically beneficial - interestingly tennis players have the longest life span <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/05/well/move/t-he-best-sport-for-alonger-life-try-tennis.html>"

Below is a summary of the overarching comments made to Lawn Tennis and Croquet by individuals, local and regional sporting groups.

Comments in support of the ideas in the Masterplan included:

- The infrequency of use by the Lawn Tennis Club of prime riverfront crown land and the idea of opening up and expanding the botanical gardens
- Council must work with the clubs to identify an alternative (better) site for the future
- Support for regional tennis facilities forming part of a multi-purpose sporting facility.

Submissions that had concerns around Lawn Tennis/Croquet and the Masterplan commonly felt:

- Disappointed that there was no provision made for lawn tennis and croquet in the Masterplan, including identifying a potential alternative location
- Disappointment that Lawn Tennis and Croquet Clubs were not properly consulted
- Lack of recognition of the contribution the Club makes to the community
- It is unclear what would be achieved by moving these Horsham institutions
- The current facilities are fully maintained by members with no cost to ratepayers
- The facilities should be upgraded to encourage local and regional participation
- Council should find a way for the river's beautification to move ahead, whilst integrating the existing tennis and croquet clubs by:
 - Downsizing the current lawn tennis facility, keeping a number of lawn courts well maintained for players to experience the surface whilst setting up another venue with 24 courts
- The idea would impact the development of lawn tennis by:
 - Losing a 24 court complex without another facility and ability to host larger tennis events
- Lawn tennis should be retained in Horsham because:
 - The junior lawn tennis program is growing
 - Improved coaching
 - Lawn tennis court improvements
 - Promotion of alternative forms of tennis
- The clubs having visions for the future and desire to upgrade their current facilities
- The croquet courts should be retained because of:
 - the general health and wellbeing benefits of the sport, particularly to the ageing population
 - opportunity to run regional events, drawing people to the region
- The historical significance of the clubs in the Botanic Gardens location, having been established there for a significant number of years and grass court tennis is especially unique to regional Australia



- It being vital that the historic aspects of both clubs be kept and maintained
- Not wanting to see lawn tennis and croquet moved from the current location to allow for the expansion of Botanic Gardens because:
 - Of the historical significance of the site to the club and wider community
 - The current location is considered ideal for events and families, being near the caravan park, gardens and playground
 - The facilities have been constructed and maintained by the community
 - Tennis is a major sport in Horsham
 - The Croquet Club has been identified by Croquet Victoria as a regional level facility
 - Courts need to be near the riverfront for water supply
 - The beautiful location
 - Croquet and lawn tennis are complementary sports
 - The cost of relocating and replacing the facilities and affordability of facilities run by private enterprises in another location
 - Replacing the area with a lake wouldn't be a good use of the space
 - Lawn tennis and croquet complement the Botanic Gardens

Other comments relating to lawn tennis included:

- With a number of courts in the one complex with lighting and easy access, tennis could be a sport that is played 12 months of the year
- There are tennis coaches in Horsham who are restricted in their activity due to lack of lighting
- Tennis Victoria has put forward a very good plan for a tennis complex whilst also incorporating a number of other sports that have not been included in the multi-sports stadium proposal.

"I can live with the fact that Lawn tennis clubs aren't the way of the future, but please respect what has been done by many people to maintain that club."

"I am concerned that there is no allowance made for the Lawn Tennis Courts and Croquet Lawn. I believe this is an important part of our community and it provides social opportunities along with exercise."

"Lack of consultation. Consultations were done by non-Horsham people therefore they have no concept of local heritage/history. The Horsham Lawn Tennis Club is one of the best grass courts in Victoria".

"The first recorded game of tennis at the botanic gardens occurred in 1883 and Horsham Lawn Tennis Club was established in 1884. The Horsham Lawn Tennis Club is the oldest tennis club in Horsham."

"Played tennis in Horsham when I was younger. I particularly remember how beautiful the courts were, a truly special place."

"Maybe if a new regional tennis centre (24 courts) was developed in the future as part of a regional indoor- outdoor sports HUB in the West then they may see value in shifting, and if discussed along the way it may be very different to being told they are out."

4.4.4.3. Caravan Park

The draft feedback elicited a mixture of responses in relation to the location and size of the caravan park in the draft City to River Masterplan.

In total, 4% (28) of all submissions commented on the caravan park in some way. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 1% (5) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 2% (13) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 3% (22) of submissions made reference to the caravan park, being a mix of comments.

Key themes related to retaining the caravan park in its current riverfront location, or alternatively, relocating elsewhere along the river foreshore area, possibly along the eastern edge of the showgrounds precinct.

In summary key references supporting the caravan park included:

- Good to retain the caravan park as a major tourism facility
- The location along the riverfront makes the caravan park an attractive destination
- Tourists staying at the caravan park will support the café and other facilities along the river
- The caravan park should be enhanced and enlarged to make it a premier destination particularly for the ‘grey nomad’ demographic.

In summary key dislikes, concerns and alternative comments included:

- Caravan park should be relocated away from the river and the area better utilised for other recreation and social aspects i.e. pond and gardens
- Caravan park is not a good fit within a beautiful botanical gardens area
- Walkways to the river shouldn’t have to meander through a caravan park

- The caravan park should be moved to the new proposed sporting precinct (showgrounds eastern river foreshore area) which is still next to the river and could provide accommodation for the sports tourism market
- The caravan park should be relocated as it can operate on any site (i.e. Southbank) and the Botanical Gardens could then be increased by using that location
- Road links to caravan park will mix large vehicles and vans with pedestrian traffic through from Firebrace street creating safety issues
- The caravan park should stay at its current capacity to cater for demand and maintain viability.

“The Caravan Park should be moved. I don’t want to walk past people’s clotheslines, cars and paraphernalia. All located in a community space.”

“Great that caravan park will be retained. This is a major attraction.”

“Dislike profoundly the presence of caravan park - cheapens a lovely park, which should have serene areas.”

“The grey nomad community is on the increase and brings an enormous economic benefit to the region. The caravan park should be enhanced and enlarged to make it a premier destination for this demographic.”

“The concept of expanding the botanical gardens is great but this could be done by relocating the caravan park. After all, the caravan park is a commercial enterprise that could serve the same purpose wherever it is situated.”

“Economic benefits of retaining the caravan park in its current location need to be weighed up with future accessibility, connectivity, permeability and community interests from the Botanic Gardens to Wimmera River. By moving the caravan park to the east side of the road bridge or south of Wimmera River, creates opportunities for future community-based development, events and greater connectivity between the CAD and river. The caravan park is not a friendly place to walk past as a resident or solo female.”

“There seems to be some great work to link town to river and then to utilise the river frontage but then this is cut off drastically by the caravan park.”

“Visitors will swamp to the rationalised caravan park and the biggest botanical gardens in the Wimmera.”

“I think it is a retrograde step to reduce the size of the caravan park when we wish to encourage visitors to Horsham. When there are special events in Horsham the park is filled.”

4.4.5. Riverfront and Firebrace Street connection

4.4.5.1. Riverfront improvements and activation

The need to enhance, improve and activate the riverfront emerged as one of the most strongly supported ideas in the draft Masterplan.

In total, 25% (185) of all submissions commented on ideas relating to the development of the riverfront. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 16% (114) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 5% (38) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 7% (52) of submissions made reference to ideas relating to the development of the riverfront, being a mix of both support for ideas put forward, concerns, issues or alternative ideas.

Comments relating specifically to riverfront boardwalks were made in 6% (46) of all submissions. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form 4% (29) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 2% (11) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 1% (7) of submissions made reference to ideas relating to riverfront boardwalks, being a mix of both support for ideas put forward to concerns or issues.

Refer to WCMA and GWM feedback in previous sections

The common overarching supportive messages for the development of the riverfront, including boardwalks related to:

- The riverfront being Horsham’s greatest natural asset and capitalising on it is fantastic and well overdue

- Enhancing and making the riverfront more attractive should be a priority
- The ideas being progressive and visionary
- Responding to something the community have been asking for, for many years
- The importance of a shared vision that recognises and celebrates the riverfront as an important place for the community
- Enhancing the quality of the riverfront through:
 - Riverfront boardwalks
 - Landscaping
 - Water play areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Shared paths for all ages
 - Enhancements to the botanic gardens
 - Indigenous/cultural facilities
 - Infrastructure to improve access to the water.
- The development of the riverfront promoting recreation, nature based and physical activities, while providing mental health and wellbeing benefits
- Increasing activities and scenic areas, improving and increasing access to the riverfront as a way of drawing the community and visitors to the riverfront
- Linking Horsham’s CAD with the river and botanic gardens
- The land where Wilson Bolton are is prime riverfront land at the entrance to Horsham and could be much better used to enhance the entrance to Horsham.

Participants also raised concerns regarding:

- The river being nice as it is
- Overdevelopment or commercialization of the riverfront posing a risk to its natural beauty and values
- the use of the word ‘plaza’ given the riverfront is a recreation area, not a commercial area
- changing the edge of the riverbank to a boardwalk

- The belief that a splash park would increase use of the riverfront
- Too many sports grounds being within the riverfront area
- The lack of access to the riverfront for travelling public, especially caravans
- A desire to see more shops for refreshments around the river
- Lack of provision to host major events and or upgrades to the soundshell
- The distance between the CAD and the river being too far to make a connection
- Incorporating boardwalks on the riverfront due to impacting the natural feel of the riverfront, cost of ongoing maintenance and appearance overtime and ability to withstand flood

There was a range of comments regarding design detail considerations, including:

- The need for any works to celebrate and enhance the outstanding natural values of the river
- Development should include upgrades to hold major events
- The need for more toilets (to modern standards), seating, tables, barbeques and picnic areas spread along the river as well as additional pedestrian crossings over the river
- The need for adequate signage on the highway directing people to the river precinct
- Safety concerns resulting from increased activity and shared access for cars, cyclists and pedestrians
- Security concerns if the fences are not retained
- Opportunities for river activities including paddle boats and a 'dancing fountain' in the river
- Public art being incorporated along the riverfront

- Projections into the river severely affecting rowing activities and access to the 'rope swing'.

"Progressive and visionary, finally attempting to fully utilise the river precinct the community has been complaining about for many years and is in desperate need of."

"They will bring more opportunities for other people to come and visit. It will give Horsham a new meaning and it will give the elderly residents more of an opportunity to get out and see the river if they wish."

"I would rather you keep the natural look of the river. I would hate it to look like a city square with water."

"I love the desire to connect the city with the river and increase flow between the two."

I love the willingness to create a river precinct i.e. cafe and subsequent area around cafe. Creating more usable community gathering space along the river is vital and could be a significant improvement on attracting visitors and locals without the need to cut out other gathering places."

"Perfect for families. We have 4 small children and it'll be so nice to have places for them to play, while also spots to have coffee, a nice picnic or just meet up with friends in a beautiful environment that WELCOMES you. I DO NOT feel inspired by our town at the moment. It's ugly and bleak. This is the OPPOSITE."

"My teenage daughter has said to me how Horsham is so boring and there isn't much to do here. Well something like this plan being brought to action could really help keep people who have grown up here and make Horsham more attractive to them making them want to stay."

"I dislike the urbanised and domestic treatment of the river's riparian zone (e.g. Artists vision 1 & 2) showing off the shelf treatment of a beautiful natural environment - the teared edge treatment, standard bench seats, traditional layout, Mallee trees and market umbrellas communicates poorly the sense of place of Horsham - it is important to consider the natural materials & forms and offer a unique and bespoke treatment that says more of Horsham - a blending of our historical & cultural past with the transformative vision for the future."

"... the increased access and opportunity to engage with the Wimmera River and surrounding environment. The central location of the proposed facilities provides amazing opportunities for local community members to engage with one of Horsham's best features - Wimmera River."

"This draft plan is visionary and has made me (and many others) think about what we want our city to have, and to look like in the next 10 to 50 years. I like many of the options in the draft plan particularly in relation to improvements to passive and active recreation opportunities."

"The vision does not represent the people and culture that we are. The plan looks like a poor man's version of something in Melbourne."

4.4.5.2. Riverfront environment

In total, 9% (67) of all submissions commented on environmental considerations relating to the riverfront. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 4% (29) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 4% (31) raised concerns or ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under "Further Comments" in the feedback form, 2% (12) of submissions made reference to the environment, being a mix of comments.

In summary key positive references included:

- Increased tree coverage/greenery

- Increased shade
- Increased capacity to spend time in nature.

In summary key dislikes and concerns included:

- Concern around flood impacts
- Risk of overdevelopment
- Removal of large native trees
- Planting of introduced species.

*"The extensive tree planting is genius."
"The green canopy and more shade."
"Dislike the idea of lots of concrete and paving."*

4.4.5.3. Café

The idea of a café emerged as a strongly supported idea. In total, 23% (172) of all submissions commented on the idea. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, 17% (122) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 3% (25) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under "Further Comments" in the feedback form, 5% (39) of submissions made reference to the café, being a mix of comments.

In summary key positive references included:

- Attract more people to the river
- Make greater use of the beautiful river
- It's something the community have wanted for a long time.

In summary key dislikes and concerns included:

- Would not be viable
- Will damage existing food businesses.

"...especially having a cafe along the river would definitely attract more people to it."

"...a cafe using our beautiful natural river for families to enjoy."

"An empty Cafe/Restaurant is NOT a tourist attraction."

"...a restaurant is pointless; there are lots of choices now."

4.4.5.4. Miniature Railway

In total, 10% (75) of all submissions commented on the idea of not having the miniature railway within the riverfront precinct. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form, less than 1% (2) of comments directly supported the removal, whilst 6% (61) of all submissions raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under "Further Comments" in the feedback form, 4% (31) of submissions commented on the idea of not having the miniature railway within the riverfront precinct, being a mix of both support for the idea and concerns or alternative ideas.

Although 90% of all submissions did not comment on this theme, where it was specifically noted, the common overarching supportive messages was that Council would need to provide a suitable alternative and relocate the miniature railway.

Participants also raised concerns regarding:

- The lack of recognition of the value miniature railway gives to the riverfront
- The volunteer time and financial investment that has been made in the miniature railway and contribution it makes to the community
- The time and cost involved in relocating
- Removal of Miniature Railway due to:

- It being an existing use, with the location being supported by Council in the past
 - The view that the ideas would dismantle the Society or the Miniature Railway (volunteer group) run by volunteers who have contributed a lot to the site over a number of years
 - The view that the miniature railway is an asset and drawcard for families and visitors and that it should remain
 - The frequency of use, operated 12 months of the year – running once a month in addition to organised birthdays, Carols by Candlelight, Kanamaroo, the 19:14 event, and as required for events at the Soundshell
 - It being unclear what would be achieved by removing miniature railway from the current location
 - Suitability of the site for miniature railway to shade, proximity to the caravan park, sound shell and other amenities.
- Where miniature railway would go if required to move, what support would be given to the group to relocate and the impact on the volunteer group
 - Concerns about the historic use of the site and suitability for other uses if not used for the miniature railway
 - The Draft Masterplan doesn't mention the Society or the Miniature Railway, with no information about the operation and impact that the removal of the Miniature Railway would have
 - The potential to work with the group to further develop miniature railway to enhance it as an attraction to the riverfront.

Alternative idea:

- Retain the railway and put the splash park on the South side of the railway to incorporate it all as a family area
- Reposition the miniature railway along the river or around the gardens.

“The mini railway station is in the perfect spot. Leave it. Its growth has been a credit to the club that has built the station. Why move this attraction that can be used year-round for a water play park that has a seasonal use.”

“I am concerned that the miniature railway may not stay where it is. The group of men who regularly use the railway are volunteers, and have given many hours of their time to set up the railway and they provide hours of enjoyment for Horsham children and also visitors by running the train on the track at that excellent site.”

4.4.5.5. Splash park and family friendly attractions

The splash park and family friendly attractions were among key ideas discussed in submissions. In total, 16% (119) of all submissions commented on the water play and family elements of the City to River Draft Masterplan. Of the submissions received via the project feedback form 11% (82) of comments were of a positive nature, whilst 3% (25) raised concerns or alternative ideas. Of the letter/email submissions and under “Further Comments” in the feedback form, 3% (24) of submissions made reference to water play and family elements, being a mix of comments.

The feedback around the waterplay area was very positive overall.

In summary key positive references included:

- Water play area will be great for children
- What people want and have been asking for
- Perfect for families, an area where they can meet with friends, with places for children to play
- A tourist attraction that will encourage visitors to stay longer in our city
- An investment in the liveability of our city - creating a gathering space for our community of all ages to enjoy.

In summary of key dislikes and concerns included:

- The water play area is a waste of money
- Water play area is not financially sustainable
- Location of water play area
- Focus water activities at the Horsham Aquatic Centre
- Splash park mainly for younger children
- Water restrictions could impact on future use
- Replacing the miniature railway with a splash park
- Safety issues.

“Great to see a plan put forward to increase the liveability of our town!”

“I think the water play area is a waste of money, why not focus on the existing facilities at the Horsham Aquatic Centre.”

“Waterways- they look great but not long ago we had stage 4 water restrictions in this city, seems shortsighted in this area.”

“Instead of a splash park maybe a water park with big slides.”

“I think a water play area is only sustainable in a very large tourist area and could be a dangerous liability.”

“Further issue of concern relates to the development of a new water play area at the expense of the miniature railway.”

5. Next steps

5.1. Formulate recommendations

This Engagement Report, together with further targeted engagement activities and assessments and other relevant information, will be used by Council to formulate a final City to River Masterplan. When the Masterplan has been finalised and adopted by Council, an action and implementation Plan will be prepared. Through the detailed planning and design phase for individual projects, further engagement will be undertaken – focusing for example on location, design, function and aesthetic elements and based on the preliminary feedback collected through engagement to date. HRCC would again like to thank those who contributed to this process, and we hope to continue the conversation about City to River with you soon.

The timeline overleaf provides more detail and indicative delivery dates.



CITY TO RIVER TIMELINE

From ideas, concept to detailed design

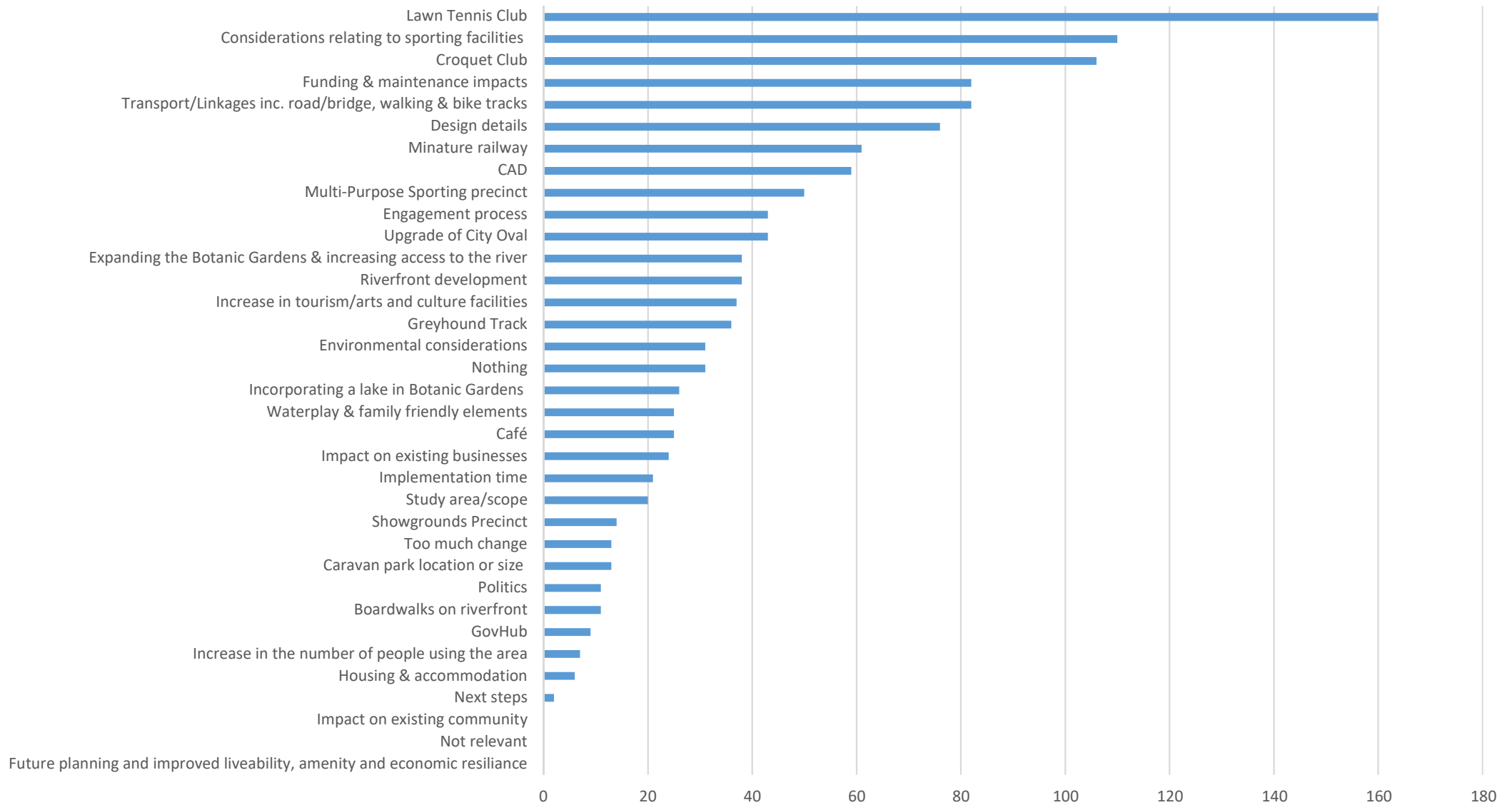


• This timeframe may be subject to change

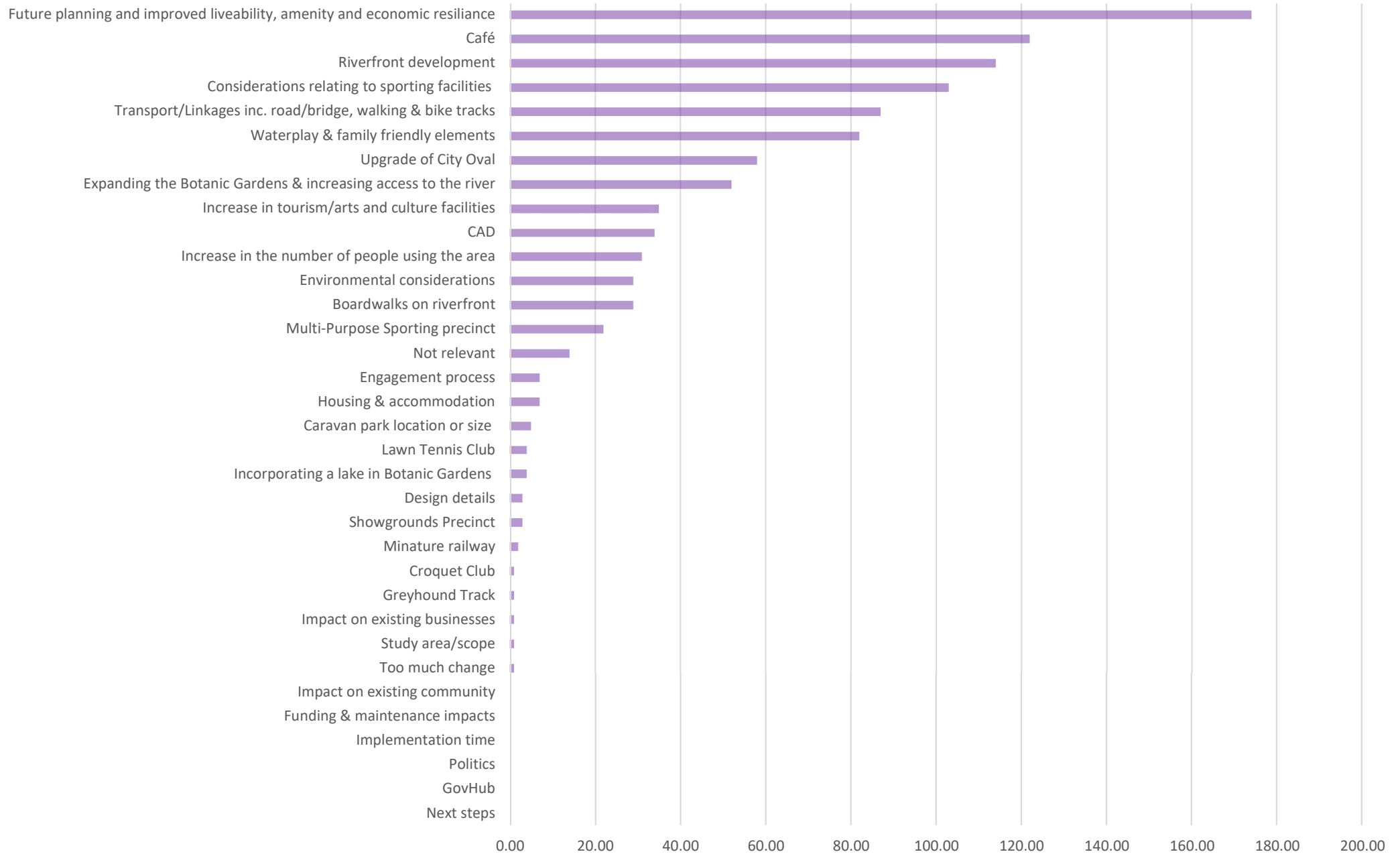
6. Appendix

6.1. Tables

Number of submissions (received via the form) who raised concerns, issues or alternative ideas by theme



Number of submissions (received via the form) who like ideas by theme



CELEBRATING
30
YEARS
1989-2019

urban planning
enterprise economics+tourism

WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT AND CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT

BACKGROUND REPORT

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL | MAY 2019 | FINAL



www.urbanenterprise.com.au



AUTHORS

Paul Shipp, Director

Kurt Ainsaar, Associate

With input from:

Rob Carolane (Twin Prism Consulting)

Nigel Parker (Tract)

Urban Enterprise

Urban Planning, Land Economics, Tourism Planning & Industry Software

Level 1 302-304 Barkly Street, Brunswick VIC 3056

(03) 9482 3888

www.urbanenterprise.com.au

© Copyright, Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd, 2019

This work is copyright. Apart from any uses permitted under Copyright Act 1963, no part may be reproduced without written permission of Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd.

VERSION: 1

DISCLAIMER

Neither Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. nor any member or employee of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. takes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person or organisation (other than that for which this report has been prepared) in respect of the information set out in this report, including any errors or omissions therein. In the course of our preparation of this report, projections have been prepared on the basis of assumptions and methodology which have been described in the report. It is possible that some of the assumptions underlying the projections may change. Nevertheless, the professional judgement of the members and employees of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. have been applied in making these assumptions, such that they constitute an understandable basis for estimates and projections. Beyond this, to the extent that the assumptions do not materialise, the estimates and projections of achievable results may vary.

CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND	1	FIGURES	
1.1. INTRODUCTION	1	FIGURE 1 STUDY AREA	3
1.2. REPORT STRUCTURE	1	FIGURE 2 STUDY AREA PLANNING ZONES	4
1.3. STUDY AREA AND PERIOD	2	FIGURE 3 STUDY AREA OVERLAYS	5
2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT	6	FIGURE 4 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION GROWTH – 2001 TO 2017	19
2.1. INTRODUCTION	6	FIGURE 5 POPULATION GROWTH IN HRCC / WSMR – 2006 TO 2031	20
2.2. LOCATION CONTEXT OF HORSHAM	6	FIGURE 6 DRIVERS OF HORSHAM’S ECONOMY	23
2.3. MACROECONOMIC CONDITIONS	6	FIGURE 7 PROCESS TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND DIRECTIONS	32
2.4. MAJOR PROJECTS	7		
2.5. ACTIONS/PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN PREVIOUS STUDIES	12	TABLES	
2.6. FUNDING AVENUES / OPPORTUNITIES	16	TABLE 1 DWELLING PROJECTIONS – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2036	21
3. CONSIDERATIONS	18	TABLE 2 OVERARCHING PROJECT OBJECTIVES	32
3.1. INTRODUCTION	18		
3.2. POPULATION & HOUSING	18		
3.3. ECONOMY	22		
3.4. RETAIL, PROPERTY AND LAND USE	24		
3.5. TOURISM	26		
3.6. SPORT AND COMMUNITY ASSET CONSIDERATIONS	29		
4. VISION, OBJECTIVES AND KEY DIRECTIONS	31		
4.1. INTRODUCTION	31		
4.2. VISION STATEMENT	31		
4.3. OBJECTIVES AND DIRECTIONS	32		
4.4. NEXT STEPS	39		

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Urban Enterprise would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by Horsham Rural City Council, businesses, referral agencies, special interest groups, community representatives and residents for attending consultation sessions and providing input into this project.

ACRONYMS

AAGR – Average Annual Growth Rate

ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics

ANZSIC – Australian New Zealand Standard Industry Classification

AVPCC – Australian Valuation Property Classification Code

C1Z – Commercial 1 Zone

C2Z – Commercial 2 Zone

CAD – Central Activities District

CBD – Central Business District

DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

EMT – Executive Management Team

EO – Executive Officer

ERP – Estimated Resident Population

FLG – Food Liquor Groceries

FO – Flood Overlay

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

GWM – Grampians Wimmera Mallee

HRCC – Horsham Rural City Council

IVS – International Visitor Survey

LGA – Local Government Area

LQ – Location Quotient

LSIO – Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

MCH – Maternal Child Health

MTA – Main Trade Area

NSW – New South Wales

NVS – National Visitor Survey

PPRZ – Public Park and Recreation Zone

RDV – Regional Development Victoria

SEIFA – Socio Economic Index For Areas

SRV – Sport and Recreation Victoria

TRA – Tourism Research Australia

VIC – Visitor Information Centre

VPA – Victorian Planning Authority

WCMA – Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

WDA – Wimmera Development Authority

WIFT – Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal

WSMP – Wimmera Southern Mallee Partnership

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Backward Linkages - The industry sectors which spend the most on locally sourced intermediate goods and services per dollar of output. These industry sectors may not necessarily make the largest contributions to the region's economy at present however due to well-developed local supply chains these sectors have a significant capacity to deliver broad based economic benefits for the region.

Domestic day trip visitor - Those who travel for a round trip distance of at least 50 kilometres, are away from home for at least 4 hours, and who do not spend a night away from home as part of their travel. Same day travel as part of overnight travel is excluded.

Domestic overnight visitor - People aged 15 years and over who undertake an overnight trip of one night or more and at least 40 kilometres away from home are referred to as overnight visitors. Only those trips where the respondent is away from home for less than 12 months are in scope of the NVS.

Gross Regional Product - The total value of final goods and services produced in the region over the period of one year.

Horsham – Horsham is defined as the locality (suburb) and generally includes the Horsham CAD and surrounding residential areas. The area is shown in Appendix A of the Technical Report.

Horsham (RC) – The Horsham Local Government Area.

International visitor - A person is defined as an international visitor to Australia if they are currently a resident overseas, have been in Australia for less than one year and are aged 15 years or over.

Local Expenditure - Represents the value of intermediate goods and services purchased by local industry sectors within the region. A high level of local expenditure on intermediate goods and services proportionate to total output is indicative of well-developed local supply chains and also that any expansion in this sector would typically deliver broad based benefits for the region's economy.

Output - Represents the gross revenue generated by businesses/organisations in each of the industry sectors in a defined region. Gross revenue is also referred to as total sales or total income.

Propulsive Industry - Key drivers of the Horsham economy in terms of regional exports, employment, value-added and local expenditure on goods and services (backward linkages)

Regional Exports - Represents the value (\$) of goods and services exported outside of the defined region that have been generated by businesses / organisations in each of the industry sectors within the region.

Value-Added - represents the marginal economic value that is added by each industry sector in a defined region. Value-Added can be calculated by subtracting local expenditure and expenditure on regional imports from the output generated by an industry sector, or alternatively, by adding the Wages & Salaries paid to local employees, the gross operating surplus and taxes on products and production.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. INTRODUCTION

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) engaged Urban Enterprise, in conjunction with Tract Consultants and Twin Prism to prepare a Vision and Masterplan for the revitalisation of Horsham's Central Activities District (CAD) and Wimmera River Precinct.

The overarching aim of this project is to identify, justify and assess a suite of priority projects that will improve and revitalise Horsham's Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District, making it a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in.

This work will be used by Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) to attract public and private sector interest (and investment) and to provide a clear vision and action plan to support employment and economic growth in the municipality.

The project builds on the extensive existing economic development and strategic planning strategies delivered by Council in recent years. These studies seek to strengthen Horsham as a Regional City with extensive influence and service provision to approximately 60,000 persons across the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

This **Background Report** summarises and updates the substantial strategic work that has been undertaken to date through further research, consultation and analysis relating to Horsham's population and housing needs, the local and regional economy, the property market, tourism opportunities and community and sport/recreational facility needs. Detailed research, data and consultation findings are included in the supporting Technical Report.

This Background Report provides the basis for the preparation of a Vision and Concept Plan for the CAD and riverfront.

1.2. REPORT STRUCTURE

This Background Report is presented in the following structure:

Strategic Context

This section provides the strategic and economic context for the study area, Horsham Rural City and the broader region. An assessment of macroeconomic conditions provides the current overview of the state's economic performance and outlook.

This section also summarises the current state of play for major investment projects in Horsham and the broader region and provides an overview and assessment of strategic work that has been undertaken for the study area.

Considerations

Technical work and consultation identified a range of issues that will influence the role and function of the CAD and riverfront over the coming years. This section identifies the key issues and considerations that should be taken into account in the Vision and Concept Plan.

Vision, Objectives and Key Directions

Consultation with community, business and government representatives through this and previous projects led to the formulation of a Vision statement for the study area which is set out in this section.

The section then shows the broad objectives and key directions which will guide the achievement of this vision over the study period, drawing on the strategic context and considerations identified in the previous sections.

1.3. STUDY AREA AND PERIOD

The study area generally includes Horsham's Central Activities District (CAD) and riverfront precinct, as shown in Figure 1.

The study area is the Western Highway and the Wimmera River to the east, Baillie Street and Dimboola Road to the north, Park Drive and Wotonga Drive to the west and the Wimmera River to the south.

Figure 2 shows the study area planning zones and Figure 3 shows the study area planning overlays.

The core commercial area (CAD) is within the Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) and provides a mix of retail, commercial and civic uses. A precinct on and near O'Callaghans Parade is within the Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z) and provides a mix of light industrial, residential and retail uses.

The riverfront precinct is predominantly within the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and includes City Oval, Sawyer Park, a caravan park and the Botanic Gardens. There is one commercially zoned (C2Z) property within the riverfront precinct. This site is currently occupied by an automotive dealership.

The riverfront precinct is partially affected by a Flood Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). Flood mapping (2001) is provided in the Technical Report and shows flood scenarios for a 1 in 5, 20, 50, 100 and 200 year flood event.

Residential uses in the study area are generally concentrated to the periphery of the CAD; to the east of Urquhart Street, the west of Darlot Street and to the west of Madden Street.


The Horsham Showgrounds Precinct is within the Special Use Zone 4 (SUZ4) and is partially subject to a Flood Overlay (FO) and a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO).

Study Period

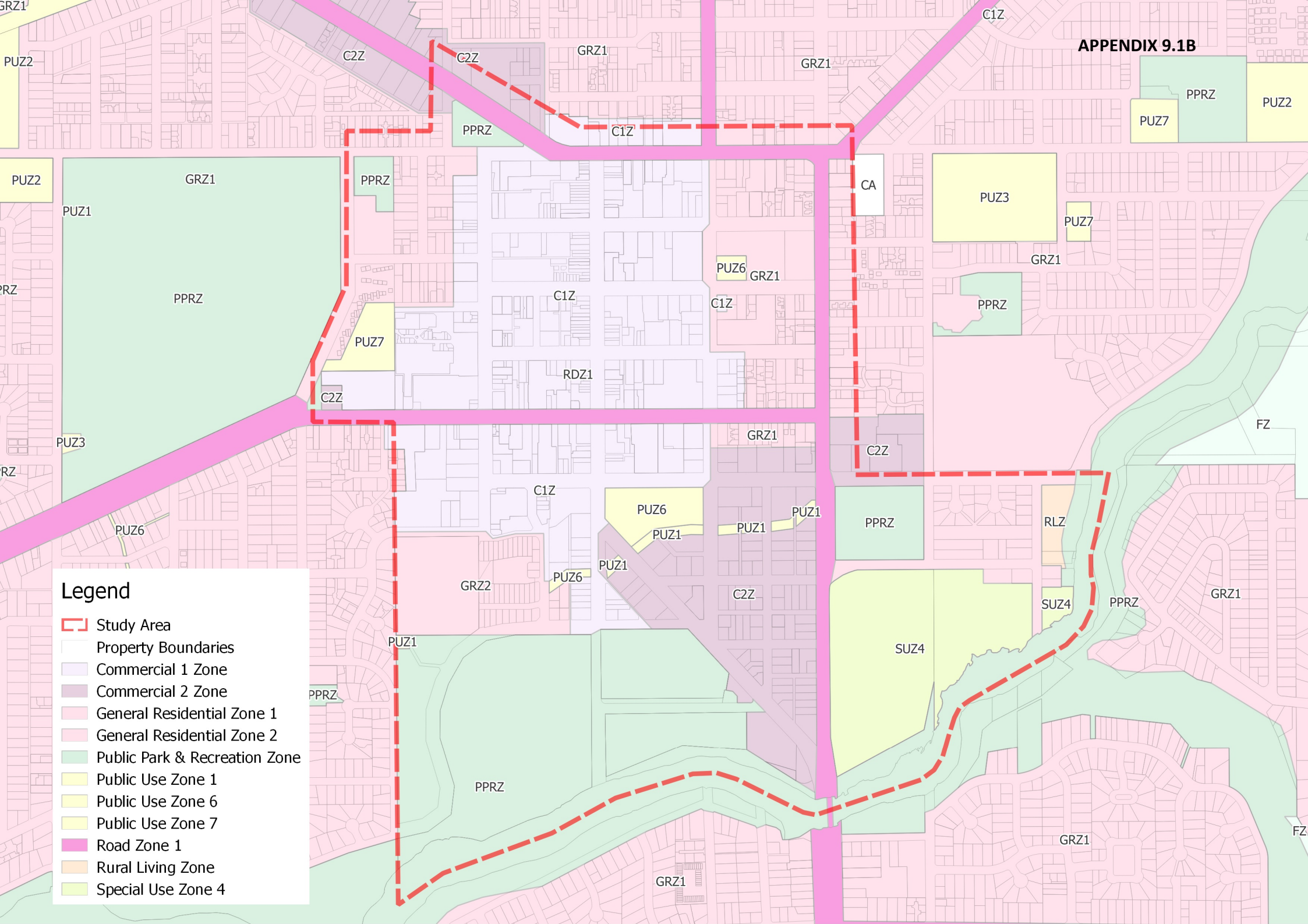
A strategy of this nature requires a long time horizon for projects to be planned and delivered and for key steps towards the transformation and revitalisation of the study area progressed.

The research, analysis and directions of this study are designed to position Horsham for prosperity and sustainability over a 20-30 year period.

Legend

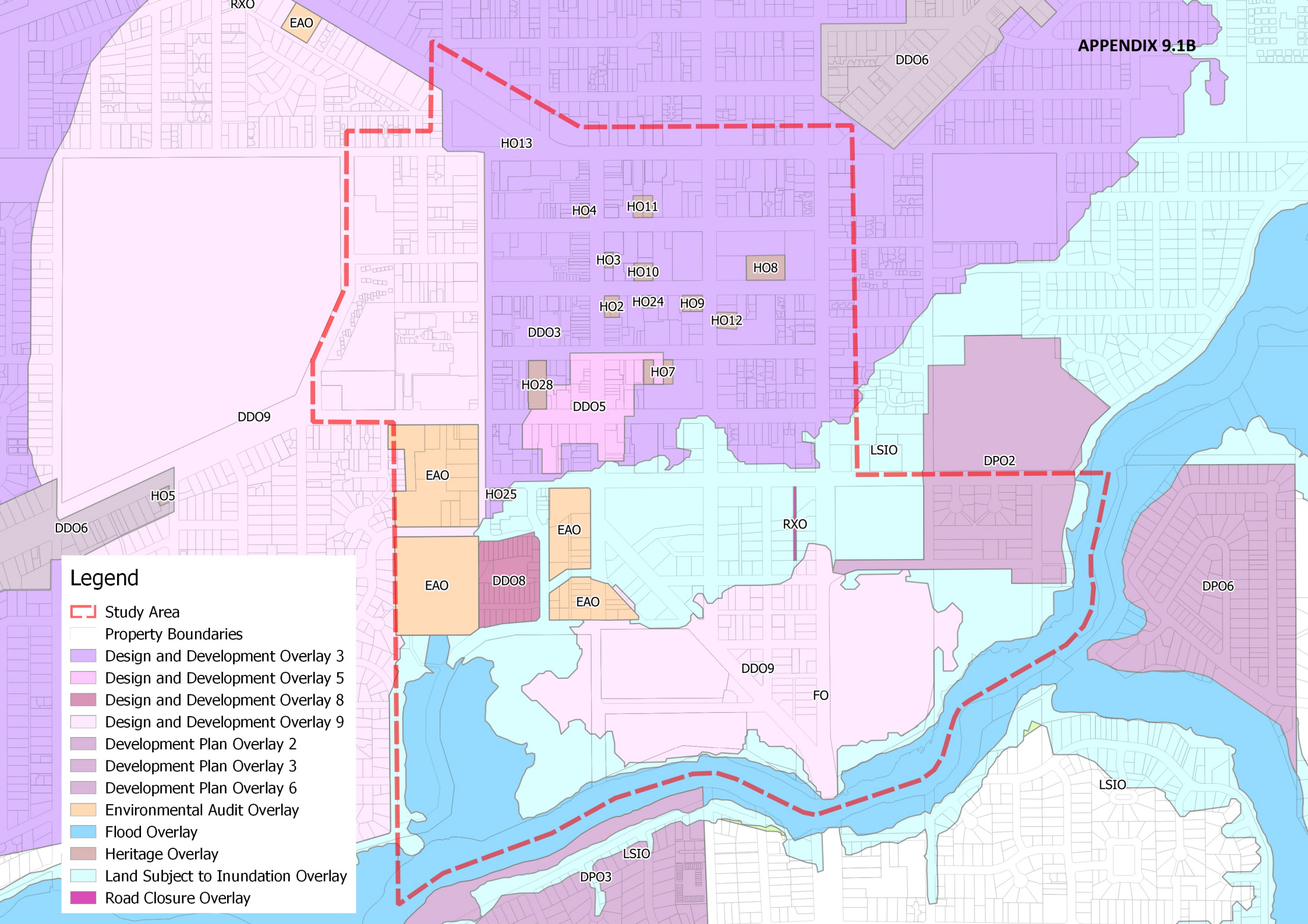
 Study Area





Legend

- Study Area
- Property Boundaries
- Commercial 1 Zone
- Commercial 2 Zone
- General Residential Zone 1
- General Residential Zone 2
- Public Park & Recreation Zone
- Public Use Zone 1
- Public Use Zone 6
- Public Use Zone 7
- Road Zone 1
- Rural Living Zone
- Special Use Zone 4



Legend

- Study Area
- Property Boundaries
- Design and Development Overlay 3
- Design and Development Overlay 5
- Design and Development Overlay 8
- Design and Development Overlay 9
- Development Plan Overlay 2
- Development Plan Overlay 3
- Development Plan Overlay 6
- Environmental Audit Overlay
- Flood Overlay
- Heritage Overlay
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
- Road Closure Overlay

EAO

DDO6

HO13

HO4

HO11

HO3

HO10

HO8

HO2

HO24

HO9

HO12

DDO3

HO28

DDO5

HO7

DDO9

EAO

LSIO

DPO2

DDO6

HO5

HO25

EAO

RXO

DPO6

EAO

DDO8

EAO

EAO

DDO9

FO

LSIO

DPO3

LSIO

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides the strategic and economic context for the study area, Horsham Rural City and the broader region. An assessment of macroeconomic conditions provides the current overview of the state's economic performance and outlook.

This section also summarises the current state of play for major investment projects in Horsham and the broader region.

This section also provides an overview and assessment of strategic work that has been undertaken for the study area.

A detailed literature review is provided in the accompanying Technical Report.

2.2. LOCATION CONTEXT OF HORSHAM

Horsham Rural City is located approximately 300 km west of Melbourne and 400 km east of Adelaide.

The township of Horsham is well serviced by road infrastructure, located at the juncture of three major highways: Western Highway, Wimmera Highway and Henty Highway.

Horsham is the regional service centre for the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region, attracting residents from across the Wimmera for employment, as well as a range of retail, entertainment, health/medical, and professional and financial services.

The Wimmera Southern Mallee region includes the Local Government Areas of Horsham, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera and Northern Grampians.

2.3. MACROECONOMIC CONDITIONS

STATE & NATIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE & OUTLOOK

2018 marked the 27th consecutive year of economic growth in Australia. This is expected to continue into 2019 with an improving global outlook and favourable domestic conditions.

An upturn is increasing global growth above trend for the first time since 2011, with trade, capital expenditure and employment all increasing. Given the commodity boom in Australia has come to an end, a resulting recession posed a strong risk, particularly due to stagnation in wages growth. However, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has returned to pre-2011 growth. As a result, company profits and government revenues have been increasing.

Other factors supporting growth in Australia are rising resource exports, an increase in infrastructure spending and improved investor sentiment. Although residential construction has slowed recently, significant negative impacts have been mitigated due to strong population growth.

Weak income growth, a more stringent lending environment, declining house prices, rising electricity and gas prices and a reduction in household spending pose the most significant risks to the state economy in 2019.

As at October 2018, Victoria ranked first in Australia for economic performance, attributed to strong population growth driving construction activity, particularly in residential and large-scale infrastructure.

The key economic indicators for Victoria are as follows:

- Economic growth: Economic activity is 26.7% above its 'normal' or decade-average level of output.
- Retail spending: Retail spending is 17.7% above decade-average levels, supported by residential building activity, population and employment growth.
- Unemployment: the unemployment rate stands at 4.7%, 17.4% below the decade average. Employment is also 13% above the decade average.
- Construction activity: Victoria has moved past NSW into top spot with construction work done is close to 39% above its decade average.
- Population growth: Growth is 11% above the decade average.¹

Whilst overall the economic conditions in Victoria are favourable and the general outlook is positive, Horsham's economy is presented with a number of unique challenges and opportunities, such as a low level of historical and forecast population and dwelling growth, an ageing and declining regional population, weak employment growth and a wide range of major tourism, resource and construction investment proposals. These are discussed further in this report.

¹ State of the States, CommSec, CBA, Oct Qtr 2018

2.4. MAJOR PROJECTS

There are a number of major economic development projects that have either been recently delivered, are currently underway or are planned to occur in Horsham (RC) and the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

Public and private sector investment can often provide a catalyst for attracting further investment and generating flow-on economic benefits to a local or regional economy.

This section summarises the current state of play for major investment projects in Horsham.

2.4.1. HORSHAM RURAL CITY

HORSHAM TOWN HALL REDEVELOPMENT

Horsham Rural City Council commissioned a Cultural Facilities Review in 2009 to assess the condition of existing facilities, the needs of the community and determine the effective way to provide high-quality cultural facilities for Horsham.

The Review resulted in the redevelopment of the Horsham Town Hall. The project was completed in January 2016 at a final cost of \$19.8 million. The resulting product was the Horsham Town Hall complex, comprising the Heritage Hall, a 500 seat Theatre and the Regional Art Gallery.

The redevelopment of the Horsham Town Hall and Horsham Regional Art Gallery is the largest infrastructure project ever embarked upon by Horsham Rural City Council.

The Town Hall provides world-class performance, visual arts and conferencing facilities. Performances, events and exhibitions attract visitors from across the Wimmera region. The facility has significantly bolstered the arts and cultural product offering in the region and has been a catalyst in attracting new and repeat visitor markets to Horsham.

Status: Complete

WIMMERA CANCER CENTRE

The Wimmera Cancer Centre was completed in early 2019. The \$3.5 million Centre significantly bolsters the health services in the region. The Centre includes nine new day chemotherapy chairs, a wellness service, six renal dialysis chairs and modern accommodation facilities for palliative care.

Status: Complete 2019

BROADBAND INITIATIVE

The Victorian Government announced that a \$1.7 million broadband project will be undertaken in Horsham to provide homes and businesses with high-speed internet services, similar to services provided in metropolitan Melbourne.

The project will provide Horsham businesses and residents access to the latest wireless infrastructure. The service will provide symmetrical gigabit broadband, with speeds up to one gigabit a second. The project was first announced in April 2018, as part of the government's Connecting Regional Communities Program.

The fixed-wireless service will cover all of Horsham including the central business district and industrial estate, plus the city's aerodrome and Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal.

Status: Underway. Estimated completion is mid to late 2019

KALKEE ROAD INTEGRATED CHILDREN HUB

Horsham's Kalkee Road Children's and Community Centre is located in Horsham North (outside of the study area) and officially opened in March 2018. The Hub was jointly funded with the Victorian Government (\$2.6 million), the Federal Government (\$900,000) and Horsham Rural City Council (\$810,926).

The Hub delivers a range of education, health and support services to children and their families. Further, the Hub provides a multitude of uses and services including Maternal Child Health (MCH) services, childcare and kindergarten services,

playgroup, Uniting Wimmera's parenting training and other specialist services like Barwon CASA and the Horsham Toy Library.

Status: Complete 2018

WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL (WIFT)

WIFT's establishment in 2012 has increased the region's use of rail as an efficient mechanism to transport grain.

The 2016 harvest was close to a record for the region, contributing to a significant increase in container throughput at the site. Container numbers increased from 900-1,200 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) per month, to 2,000-3,000 per month since harvest.

In 2016/17, The WIFT recorded a throughput of 23,567 TEU, which is above the 2020-21 projected activity for the site (22,900 TEU).²

In 2017, throughput in January was close to the design capacity of the site, and February was marginally greater than the design capacity of the site of 105 TEU per day.

Due to the increase level of throughput activity on the site, the WIFT requires more infrastructure to expand operations. Specifically, infrastructure is required to increase the storage capacity of empty containers, increase capacity and accommodate increasing throughput, and improve access and manoeuvrability.

In August 2017, the State Government announced \$1.25 million for Stage 1 of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Industrial Precinct development.

The 100-hectare precinct will see the establishment of industrial lots with bitumen road access, street lighting and other amenities for agribusinesses and food and fibre processors establishing operations at the precinct.

The development will create enabling infrastructure to support development, generate up to 80 jobs and attract further commercial opportunities.

² WIFT Business Case, 2006

The \$2.5 million development will be delivered by Horsham Rural City Council with support from the State Government.

Status: Funding Received

AERODROME

Horsham Aerodrome is a CASA registered aerodrome owned and operated by Horsham Rural City Council, located approximately 6 kilometres from the CAD.

The current operations at the Aerodrome include a range of aeronautical activities including general aviation, flying training, gliding activities, joy flights, regular air ambulance services, emergency support during major emergency events such as bushfires and floods, and some limited RAAF operations.

Council has recently commenced a review of the Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan 2010 and preparation of an Aerodrome Master Plan to consider long term opportunities to improve and upgrade the Aerodrome in terms of extending the runway, utilities, aviation support facilities, painting and repairs, fuel, ground transport facilities and movement area facilities.

With potential upgrades and improvements to infrastructure and services at the Aerodrome, there is an opportunity to expand existing activities and operations. Similar to Mangalore Airport, the Horsham Aerodrome could support cadet pilot training, and capture cadets from existing airports that are at capacity, such as Moorabbin and Mangalore.

Status: Planning Phase (ongoing)

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE PIPELINE

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, established in 2010, replaced 17,500 km of inefficient channels providing approximately 9,000 km of rural pipeline.

It is estimated that the pipeline saves an average of 103 billion litres of water per annum and provides a continuous water supply to approximately 7,000 rural customers and townships across the Wimmera and Mallee.

The Pipeline provides water security for the Agriculture sector and is of major benefit to the region. The Pipeline is promoted to potential new agri-business that are looking to establish in the region.

Status: Complete 2010

2.4.2. REGIONAL

MINERAL SANDS

The Wimmera region is home to a significant proportion of natural mineral deposits. Donald (Minyip), Avonbank, Drung South and Bungalally are the four key sites for mineral sands.

The Avonbank Project is projected to produce 488 million tonnes of Heavy Mineral Sands (HMS) and has a projected mine life of 32 years. Avonbank is forecast to commence mining in 2021.

The Bungalally HMS project incorporates over 20% Zircon (mineral). The project is located approximately 10 km south of Horsham.

Whilst these projects are either in pre-feasibility or feasibility stage, once construction commences and operations are underway, they will generate significant economic benefits to Horsham including output, wages and salaries, and jobs.

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Mining Sector Plan (2012) considers the opportunities, constraints and key enabling factors required to further develop and grow the mining industry within the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region. The Plan found that the Wimmera Southern Mallee region has significant competitive advantages that can enable the local industry to develop. These key advantages include:

- Accessible, large scale and high quality resource quantities;
- Secure water resources;
- High levels of liveability for the workforce, particularly compared to other mining regions;
- Established, experienced and responsive support industries;
- Experienced, stable and low cost workforce;
- Excellent transport linkages with an intermodal freight terminal at the heart of the region in Horsham, road and rail access to the Ports of Portland, Geelong, Melbourne, and Adelaide;
- Access to high quality research and training institutions;

- Competitively priced, reliable and accessible power and gas connections;
- Proactive State and Local Governments; and
- Regional social infrastructure - schools, health, sporting and cultural.

Growing the sector will have significant spill over benefits to the broader region. The sector is a high value adding activity and is therefore a driver of regional economic prosperity. Within the Wimmera Southern Mallee regional economy, mining produces the highest rates of return per job, and more than two times the value added benefits to the economy than any other sector from the same level of output growth.

These projects typically attract a significant number of workers who settle in the region for the duration of the mining period, generating significant economic benefits to Horsham.

Status: Planning Phase (ongoing)

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The 4,250 ha Murra Warra Wind Farm, located approximately 25km north of Horsham is currently under construction and is expected to be operational by 2020. The farm will accommodate up to 116 turbines and a terminal station that will connect to the 220kV grid network.

The Murra Warra Wind Farm Economic Benefit Assessment (2016) identifies that the \$650 million investment will support 235 direct and 375 indirect FTE jobs during the construction phase. Once operational, the project will support 15 direct and 45 indirect FTE jobs.

Furthermore, the project has the capacity to supply sufficient clean energy to power approximately 250,000 homes and, in the process, reduce Co2 emissions by an estimated 1.3 million tonnes per annum.

Biomass is another renewable energy opportunity that could be further explored and developed in the City. Biomass refers to the fuel that is developed from organic materials, a renewable and sustainable source of energy used to create electricity or other forms of power.

Some examples of materials that make up biomass fuels are scrap lumber, forest debris, certain crops, and manure. The use of these materials would create a significant opportunity in the supply chain.

Development in renewable energy and becoming energy efficient is a concept that is widely received and promoted by the Horsham community.

Natimuk Community Energy (NCE) is an organisation with a vision for the community to achieve self-sufficient energy production by 2030. To achieve this vision, NCE are proposing a community owned renewable energy facility (solar farm).

Whilst solar and wind farms generally support lower proportions of ongoing employment, they generate major capital expenditure and create employment opportunities throughout the planning, design and construction phases.

Horsham Rural City is well positioned to attract investment in large scale renewable projects, specifically solar and wind. Key advantages of establishing in Horsham include a large availability of land and long periods of sunlight. Council are aware of two solar farm proposals; one has submitted to receive planning approval, the other is in pre-application phase.

In recent years, there has been lobbying with State Government to develop a third interconnector extending from Horsham into South Australia. The interconnector is required for energy storage and distribution.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

The Grampians Peaks Trail is one of the key attractions in the Grampians National Park and the broader Grampians region due to the unparalleled natural and cultural landscapes it offers.

An extension and enhancement of the trail is currently underway and when complete, will provide a world-class long distance hiking experience, in which visitors can undertake a 13-day/12-night walk across the entire National Park.

Stage one of the Grampians Peaks Trail is completed and operational and is located in the central area of the Park, in close proximity to Halls Gap. This stage allows visitors to undertake a three-day/two-night loop hike that commences and finishes in Halls Gap.

The estimated completion date for the full extension and enhancement is 2020/2021. Once complete; the attraction of the Park, which is already considered a drawcard domestic and international destination will be further strengthened. This game-changing project will have implications for the broader region, particularly in terms of servicing visitation with accommodation, retail and hospitality.

SILO ART TRAIL

Starting with the silo in Brim, the Silo Art Trail was conceived in 2016 and is Australia's largest outdoor gallery. It currently stretches over 200 kilometres through Yarriambiack Shire, with painted silos currently in Brim, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Rosebery, Rupanyup and Sheep Hills. Horsham is the closest regional city to the southern end of the trail.

The project consisted of a team of renowned artists from Australia and across the world visit the region, meet the locals and transform each grain silo into a work of art; each telling a unique story about the host town.

Artists include Fintan Magee (Patchewollock), Adnate (Sheep Hills), Julia Volchkova (Rupanyup), Rone (Lascelles), Kaff-eine (Roseberry), and Guido van Helten (Brim).

Since opening, the Trail has grown in popularity and is well-visited across the region.

2.5. ACTIONS/PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN PREVIOUS STUDIES

The need to revitalise Horsham's CAD and Riverfront Precinct was identified and prioritised through a range of strategic projects that were commissioned by Horsham Rural City Council. This section provides a summary and review of the existing work that has been undertaken.

Given that there has been a significant amount of work undertaken in recent years across a broad range of areas, a summary of recommended actions and priorities is provided across 5 key areas:

1. Central Activities District (Streetscape, Public Realm, Transport & Connectivity);
2. Wimmera River Precinct / Wimmera River Corridor;
3. Sport and Recreation;
4. Tourism; and
5. Land Use: Study Area (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Retail).

This section provides a summary of the actions/projects identified in previous strategic and technical work undertaken by and for Council.

Please refer to the accompanying Technical Report for supporting research.

Please note that recommendations detailed in this section are based on existing work only and do not consider independent research and analysis which is discussed in section 3.

2.5.1. CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT

The following actions/projects were recommended by previous projects for the Central Activities District:

- Upgrade footpaths;
- Introduce water sensitive urban design principles into Council planning to ensure low water-use street trees, garden beds and other landscaping elements;
- Upgrade power supply to improve power supply resilience;
- Install energy efficient public lighting systems;
- Roll-out free wifi in the CAD;
- A town square;
- Pavement modifications;
- Tree plantings and landscaping in median car parking areas, incorporating water harvesting and reuse;
- Provision of shade and shelter;
- Intersection upgrades:
 - Tightening intersection geometries to slow traffic, improve safety and ensure more direct paths for pedestrian crossings;
 - Reduce road widths;
 - Install raised pedestrian crossings at intersections to slow traffic, improve pedestrian safety and increase accessibility for all users;
 - Reconsider the use of roundabouts at key intersections.
 - Propose signalisation of Wilson Street and Darlot Street.
- New mid-block crossings:
 - Mid-block zebra or wombat crossings should be introduced in areas with high pedestrian activity (e.g. Roberts Avenue).
- Providing for bikes:
 - Priority lanes for on-street bicycles;
 - Reduce traffic speeds to 30 km/hr and ensure one lane of traffic per direction;

- Removal of on-street parking or replacement of angle-parking with parallel parking on selected cycle routes.
- Car Parking:
 - Introduce a parking overlay to reduce the standard car parking rates for new CBD development;
 - Commit to initiatives to reduce car dependence in Horsham;
 - Manage CBD time restrictions to encourage parking in peripheral areas;
 - Defer any plans to increase CBD parking supply.
- Make Horsham the 'world's most walkable rural city';
- Short to medium term urban growth opportunities for Horsham should be focused in Town Centre (Horsham CAD), existing urban area (Outside of CAD), strategic infill sites, which may include open space sites;
- Establish and improve pedestrian and cycling routes in strategic locations;
- Improve connectivity between the Horsham CAD and surrounding urban area.

2.5.2. WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT / WIMMERA RIVER CORRIDOR

The following actions/projects were recommended by previous studies for the Wimmera River Precinct and Wimmera River Corridor:

- Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation);
- Encourage the development of a riverside café;
- Recognise and promote the river's character, culture and history:
 - Engage with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council to identify, protect and manage Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural elements along the river corridor;
 - Identify, protect and manage post contact significant cultural elements along the river corridor;
 - Develop and implement appropriate education and interpretative materials along the river corridor.
- Improve access opportunities to the river from surrounding areas of Horsham:
 - Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor.
- Establish new linkages across the river to better connect north and south Horsham:
 - Incorporate universal design principles in any proposed bridges or river crossings.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable recreational and social use of the river corridor through provision of appropriate infrastructure and programs:
 - Encourage events that are appropriate to the river corridor;
 - Deliver public realm design outcomes which encourage and support recreational activity.
- Provide opportunities for improved integration of activities in the Horsham Central Activities District with the river corridor:
 - Create linkages between the Central Activities District and river corridor as identified through the Horsham Central Activities District revitalisation project.

- Ensure commercial activities within the Wimmera river corridor are compatible with the primary use of the corridor for environmental and recreation purposes:
 - Support the development of riverside catering/dining venues.
- Activate areas fronting the river to attract patronage and stimulate activity around the river corridor;
- Investigate the establishment of new walking and cycling linkages, including:
 - A connection between Firebrace Street and the southern bank of the Wimmera River;
 - Showgrounds and land to the south east of the Wimmera River.
- Encourage recreation opportunities along the Wimmera River corridor:
 - Consider small scale restaurant/café uses in the Wimmera River corridor that are subordinate to the dominant use of the corridor as passive open space.
- Prepare a Masterplan for the Wimmera River trail to examine ways to accommodate uses such as:
 - Additional recreation opportunities;
 - Walking and Cycling;
 - Small scale business that supports the recreational aspects of the corridor.

2.5.3. SPORT AND RECREATION

The following actions/projects were identified and recommended in previous studies relating to sport and recreation in the study area:

- Proceed with plans to develop a multipurpose indoor sport and recreation centre, located as close as possible to the existing Basketball Stadium, either adjacent to, or on the Showgrounds;
- Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multipurpose, multiuser venue, over a single purpose facility;
- Develop and progressively implement a plan for the redevelopment of the Horsham City Oval precinct; and
- Encourage redevelopment of community facilities at the Horsham Showgrounds.

2.5.4. TOURISM

Based on a review of existing strategic work, the following actions/projects were recommended in relation to tourism in the study area:

- Promote and attract conferences to Horsham;
- Facilitate the attraction of major sporting events;
- Leverage greater benefit from the Horsham Town Hall precinct by exploring:
- Establishing a pedestrian and performance zone opposite the Town Hall theatre in Ward Street;
- Attraction of entertainment and dining businesses to the precinct; and
- Business/conference market.
- Develop a destination brand for Horsham;
- Explore the establishment of the Wimmera River Art Trail;
- Encourage diversification of the regional economy through building on the region's assets, particularly agriculture, energy, mining and tourism.

2.5.5. PROPERTY & LAND USE

The following actions/projects were identified in relation to property and land use in the study area:

- Encourage the development of strategic infill sites identified in the Horsham CAD Strategy and existing residential land which is yet to be developed;
- Encourage medium density residential development within a 400 metre radius of the Horsham CAD;
- Encourage opportunities for mixed use development;
- Encourage compact urban forms and infrastructure;
- Encourage light industrial businesses to continue to locate outside of the Horsham CAD;
- Encourage the location of State Government Departments within Horsham;
- Encourage opportunities for home-based businesses and enterprises;
- Support the on-going growth and development of the retail and commercial sectors within Horsham CAD;
- Encourage retail and business activities within the Horsham CAD;
- Consider alternative uses for surplus industrial land;
- Encourage the development of office accommodation in the CAD; and
- Investigate the potential to redevelop and expand the Wimmera Business Centre to meet contemporary business needs.

2.5.6. KEY FINDINGS & IMPLICATIONS OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

The suite of recommendations across the 5 focus areas are significant and differ in terms of scale, cost and potential benefit.

Given the sheer number and varying types of proposed recommendations, it is highly unlikely that HRCC will have the capacity or resources to deliver all of the recommended projects. Therefore, it is important that recommendations are prioritised in order to identify the projects that are expected to deliver the greatest benefit to the local community and economy.

Another key consideration will be for HRCC to explore potential funding avenues and partnership opportunities, particularly with Federal/State Government and the private sector.

Government is not expected to deliver all of the recommended projects to revitalise the study area; a portion of projects/actions will need to be delivered by, or in partnership with the private sector. Therefore, it is important for local Government to provide and encourage an economic environment that is conducive to attracting private investment. Council can assist private investment by providing leadership, brokerage services, creating a consistent and predictable regulatory environment, conducting market research, and business case development.

Landmark projects that are supported and delivered by the public sector can often provide a catalyst for generating flow-on public and private investment.

2.6. FUNDING AVENUES / OPPORTUNITIES

HRCC will need to explore funding avenues and opportunities to partner with key State Government agencies such as Regional Development Victoria (RDV), Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), as well as Federal Government counterparts.

This section provides an overview of a number of funding avenues and opportunities that are available to HRCC and may contribute to identifying projects for the study area.

Several State Government agencies offer potential sources of funding based on an alignment of strategic government objectives and opportunities and projects identified for Horsham that could result in the achievement of a shared vision (e.g. enhanced liveability, economic growth) for the study area.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is Victoria's lead agency responsible for rural and regional economic development. RDV provides numerous funding and collaborative opportunities to Victoria's regions, and are motivated by the following objectives:

- Provide better infrastructure, facilities and services;
- Strengthen the economic and social base of communities;
- Create jobs and improve career opportunities for regional Victorians; and
- Support local project development and planning³.

Much of this is achieved through development of community infrastructure projects that are designed to increase community accessibility and engagement, which is critical for population retention and attraction.

³ <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/about-rdv/about-rdv>

⁴ Based on discussions with RDV

Another approach to improving liveability and diversifying regional economies is through growth in the Visitor Economy, which can be supported by RDV (as well as Visit Victoria). Development of priority infrastructure projects that activate the riverfront and CAD could generate increases in visitation and provide a stimulus for Horsham's visitor economy (and increase local business activity).

RDV could provide additional assistance by promoting opportunities with private investors to support visitors, including the provision of more tourism product and accommodation.⁴ These opportunities could help establish Horsham as a 'hub' for visitors to the Grampians Region and broader Wimmera, which could, in turn, be promoted by Visit Victoria.

SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) is a key partner for major improvements to sporting infrastructure within the Horsham CAD. SRV is driven by its vision to improve liveability (including health and wellbeing), community engagement and the economy via the development of sporting facilities. Where possible, SRV focus on projects that increase usage of existing assets, and/or creating flexible facilities that can support multiple sports as well as a broad catchment area (thereby creating efficiencies).⁵

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) primary objective is to improve and maintain Victoria's liveability by responding to the effects of climate change; and protecting Victoria's natural environment, infrastructure and heritage.⁶ DELWP could potentially utilise its funding streams to enhance Horsham's liveability and sustainability, which would improve population retention and attraction as well as economic development and local government sustainability.

⁵ <http://sport.vic.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do>

⁶ <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/our-department/what-we-do>

Funding priorities for the Horsham Riverfront and CAD could include the following:

- Development of 'green' infrastructure in public spaces and promote efficient use of public land (e.g. water reuse, shade, etc.), which could increase community access and engagement;
- Supporting increases in housing stock and accommodation, to improve population attraction and attract growth in visitation; and
- Supporting the biodiversity and health of the Wimmera River corridor.

VICTORIAN PLANNING AUTHORITY (VPA)

The Streamlining for Growth Program is funded by the Victorian State Government and managed by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). It aims to provide support and capacity building for councils in regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne. The program assists to unblock delays in the strategic planning system and speed up the delivery of projects that provide employment growth and/or increased housing choice, diversity and affordability. The core aims of the program for Regional Councils include:

- Build council capacity through grants and assistance;
- Ensure a land supply pipeline to facilitate regional growth;
- Implement Regional Growth Plans; and
- Undertake master planning for strategic sites.

This funding stream, along with any relevant future programs, could support land use and infrastructure planning for sites within the study area that are identified as suitable for land use transition/urban renewal.

2.6.1. KEY FINDINGS

There is a high degree of alignment of objectives and principles for funding criteria across State Government agencies, and in many cases the existing recommendations for revitalising the study area in Horsham are well placed to address these principles and objectives.

Based on the above and consultation outcomes, two overarching principles have been formulated to guide the decision making process when considering projects for the study area.

PRINCIPLE 1 LIVEABILITY

The principle of liveability underpins the objective to create a liveable regional city for existing and future residents, providing the necessary infrastructure and services to support the local community. This includes:

- Providing improved and quality infrastructure, facilities and services;
- Strengthening the social fabric of communities; and
- Improving the health and wellbeing of communities.

The recommendations for the study area will consider implications for liveability.

PRINCIPLE 2 ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

The principle of economic resilience is a key focus for the study area, particularly given the economic role of the study area and its importance in supporting commercial activities, business, employment and entertainment not only for Horsham but the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region. This includes:

- Strengthening the economic base of the regional economy;
- Creating jobs and improved career pathways; and
- Improving population and labour force attraction and retention.

The recommendations for the study area will consider economic implications, with a view to promoting economic growth and creating a more resilient and prosperous local economy.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This section summarises the issues that emerged through the technical work (detailed in the Technical Report) and should be considered in the preparation of the vision and masterplan for the study area.

Considerations are summarised for the following:

- Population and housing;
- The local and regional economy;
- Retail, property and land use;
- The tourism industry; and
- Sport and Community Assets.

3.2. POPULATION & HOUSING

POPULATION

Horsham is forecast to experience low to moderate population growth.

Since 2001, Horsham's population has grown at an average rate of 0.5% per annum, which is well below the regional Victorian average (1.1%).

This level of growth is forecast to continue into the future, with Victoria in Future projecting that Horsham will grow at an average rate of 0.6% per annum to 2031; increasing from 19,887 in 2016 to 21,793 in 2031.

The low to moderate population growth that has occurred and is forecast to continue in Horsham suggests that the opportunities for the study area should consider the needs of existing residents and cater to the differing needs of the community demographics as they change over time.

Whilst the proportion of senior and elderly cohorts are projected to increase, there is a replenishment of young and middle-aged families that is forecast to occur in Horsham.

Forecasts for Horsham's residents indicate that there will be notable growth in young to middle aged families, as well as senior and elderly cohorts.

20% of the increase in residents is forecast to occur in children aged between 0 and 14 years. A further 30% of growth in residents is projected to occur in persons aged between 30 and 44 years. This indicates that young to middle aged families are projected to account for approximately half of the growth across all cohorts.

Overall, Horsham's resident population is forecast to move into older age cohorts, with a projected 46% growth in cohorts aged over 70 years. The notable increase in seniors and elderly will have implications for demand and accessibility of housing, infrastructure, services and amenity in the study area.

The population of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region is declining. This trend is forecast to continue.

The population of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region is declining, partially due to an ageing workforce in the farming sector and population movements to larger regional centres to be closer to supporting infrastructure and services such as health, medical and retail.

Horsham continues to attract residents from surrounding Council areas, highlighted by the large proportion of rural migration that has occurred from nearby municipalities including Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Northern Grampians and Hindmarsh.

Horsham’s community is relatively disadvantaged.

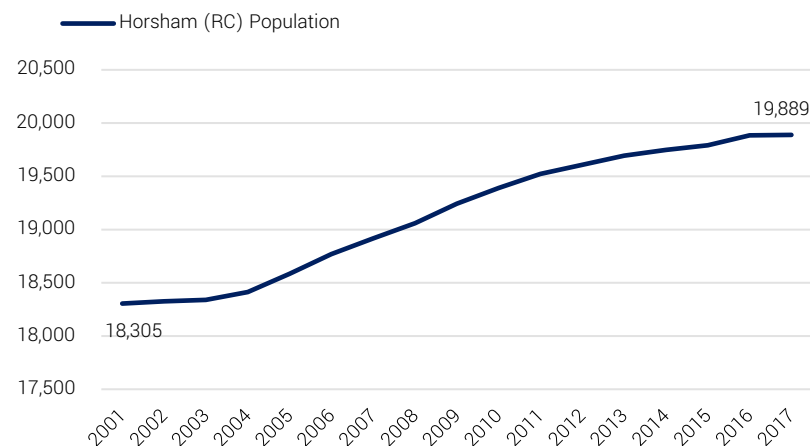
Horsham has a relatively high level of socio-economic disadvantage when compared with other areas in Regional Victoria. This is consistent with the higher proportion of low-income earning households and the lower proportion of persons attaining higher education qualifications (Bachelor Degree or higher).

This could also be attributed to the more limited access to high-quality education, community and sporting infrastructure and services compared with other regional centres in Victoria.

HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2001 and 2017, the population of Horsham (RC) experienced average growth of 0.5% per annum increasing from 18,305 residents in 2001 to 19,889 residents in 2017 as shown in Figure 4. The historic rate of growth is less than the regional Victoria average of 1.1% per annum and the Victorian average of 1.8% per annum.

FIGURE 4 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION GROWTH – 2001 TO 2017



Source: Population, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2001 to 2017 (ERP)

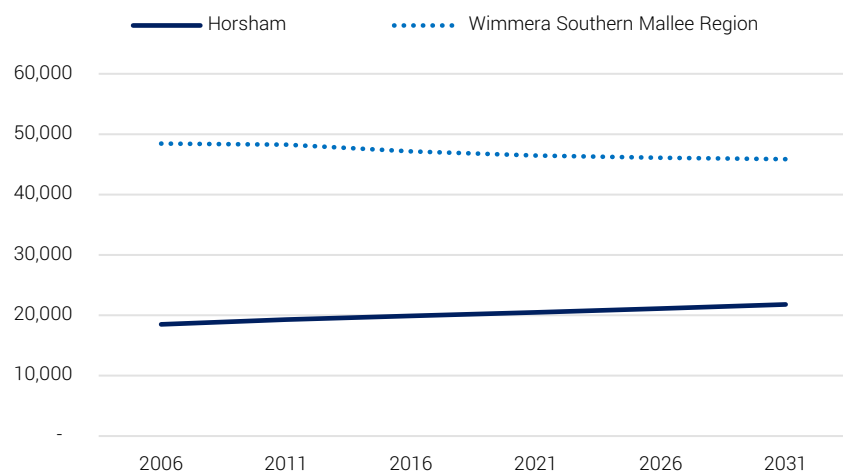
PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

Horsham’s historically low rate of population growth is forecast to continue. Horsham (RC) is projected to experience an average annual growth rate of 0.6% per annum between 2016 and 2031 increasing from 19,887 people in 2016 to 21,129 residents in 2031.

All of Horsham’s growth is projected to occur in the urban area, whilst the population in rural areas is forecast to decline.

Figure 5 shows the forecast population growth of HRCC compared with the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. The figure shows that whilst Horsham Rural City’s population is projected to increase, the population of the Wimmera Southern Mallee is expected to decline.

FIGURE 5 POPULATION GROWTH IN HRCC / WSMR – 2006 TO 2031



Source: Census of Population & Housing, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006, 2011 / Forecast Population, Victoria in Future 2017

HOUSING

Horsham’s housing stock is characterised by detached, homogenous dwellings.

The housing stock in the municipality is characterised by detached, homogenous dwellings, indicated by the fact that separate houses account for 87% of all dwellings in the Council area.

The number of dwellings in Horsham (RC) increased by 329 between 2011 and 2016; growing at an average rate of 66 per annum. This level of growth (0.7% p.a.) is not significant but indicates that dwellings and development activity is occurring in Horsham; notably in Horsham East (Waterlink Estate), Horsham South (southbank) and Horsham West (Dumesny Street).

Approximately two thirds of Horsham households are families and one third are lone person households.

The housing market in Horsham is primarily being driven by families and older adult couples.

According to local agents, demand for dwellings in Horsham’s growth areas is being driven by the family market seeking large, new dwellings. Housing in the study area, however, is generally sought by a different buyer profile. Demand for dwellings in the study area is being driven by older cohorts, notably semi-retirees, retirees and second and third home buyers seeking to be closer to the amenity of the CAD.

Demand for future housing stock in the CAD will primarily be for smaller, single storey dwellings that are lower maintenance and have good access to the CAD. There is a current lack of rental housing stock and high rents due to high volume of short term construction workers based in the region.

Horsham is a relatively affordable place to live.

As at 2017, Horsham’s median house price was \$265,000. This is significantly less when compared with Victoria (\$533,000) and Regional Victoria (\$343,000). House prices in Horsham Rural City and surrounding council areas are the most affordable in the State.

The affordable nature of Horsham could be attractive to prospective new residents, particularly given the affordability challenges in larger regional and capital cities.

Horsham's annual dwelling growth is forecast to accelerate.

Dwelling requirements are expected to increase over the next 20 years in Horsham. According to Victoria in Future (VIF), average dwelling growth in the Council area is projected to increase to an estimated 94 dwellings per annum.

Given that the age profile is forecast to experience notable change over the next 20 years with an increase in senior and elderly cohorts in particular, there will be a need for additional residential uses and aged care in the study area. Parts of the CAD have attractive attributes such as access and proximity to retail, open space, transport, community services and amenity that will be highly attractive to future residents.

The demand for housing in the study area in the short to medium term is expected to be for semi-detached and detached dwellings on smaller allotments due to the lesser requirements for property maintenance and the more efficient use of land.

Given the lack of suitably zoned residential land in the CAD, there is potential to explore infill urban renewal opportunities at strategic locations to meet this demand.

TABLE 1 DWELLING PROJECTIONS – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2036

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	GROWTH (2016 – '36)	AAGR
Dwellings	9,232	9,956	10,490	11,000	11,110	+1,878 (20%)	1%

Source: Census of Population and Housing, ABS 2016 / Dwelling projections, Victoria in Future (VIF) 2016

3.3. ECONOMY

Horsham's economy is largely driven by primary, industrial and public sector industries.

Horsham Rural City's economy is largely driven by Agriculture; both dry land broadacre farming (grain and pulse production) and livestock grazing, Manufacturing; specifically cleaning, food, metal and transport products and equipment, Construction, as well as public sector industries including Health, Education and Public Administration and Safety. These industries are vital to the local economy in terms of employment, wages and salaries and local supply chain networks.

Given Horsham's role in servicing the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region, population-led service industries are also critical, particularly in supporting a labour force. Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, Other Services and Arts and Recreation Service account for a quarter of total employed persons in Horsham.

Horsham experienced a decline in jobs between 2011 and 2016.

Horsham experienced a 1% decline in employment between 2011 and 2016. This was mainly due to the decline in employment across the Manufacturing (-161 jobs), Wholesale Trade (-99 jobs) and Retail Trade (-88 jobs) sectors.

The notable decline in employment across these sectors was partially offset by growth in employment across the Education and Training (+104 jobs), Health Care and Social Assistance (+93 jobs), Professional Service (+55 jobs), Arts and Recreation (+36 jobs), Accommodation and Food Service (+35 jobs) sectors. Employment growth across these sectors is a good indication of sector growth overall and could potentially highlight specialisations for the local economy in the future.

Retail has recently experienced a minor decline in employment and businesses.

Whilst the Retail Trade sector remains a critical industry to the health of Horsham's economy, particularly in supporting business and employment in the CAD, the sector has experienced a minor decline in business and employment in recent years.

Between 2015 and 2017, the number of local retail businesses declined by 7%; decreasing by 11 businesses. Further, the sector experienced an 8% decline in jobs between 2011 and 2016; decreasing by 88 jobs.

This is a consistent trend across much of the state as online retailing becomes more prevalent and continues to disrupt traditional forms of retailing. The changing nature of retail and the changing preferences of buyers / shoppers may have implications for the sector in Horsham.

There are three main pillars of the local and regional economy.

Figure 6 shows the three main pillars of the Horsham and Wimmera Southern Mallee regional economy. These include:

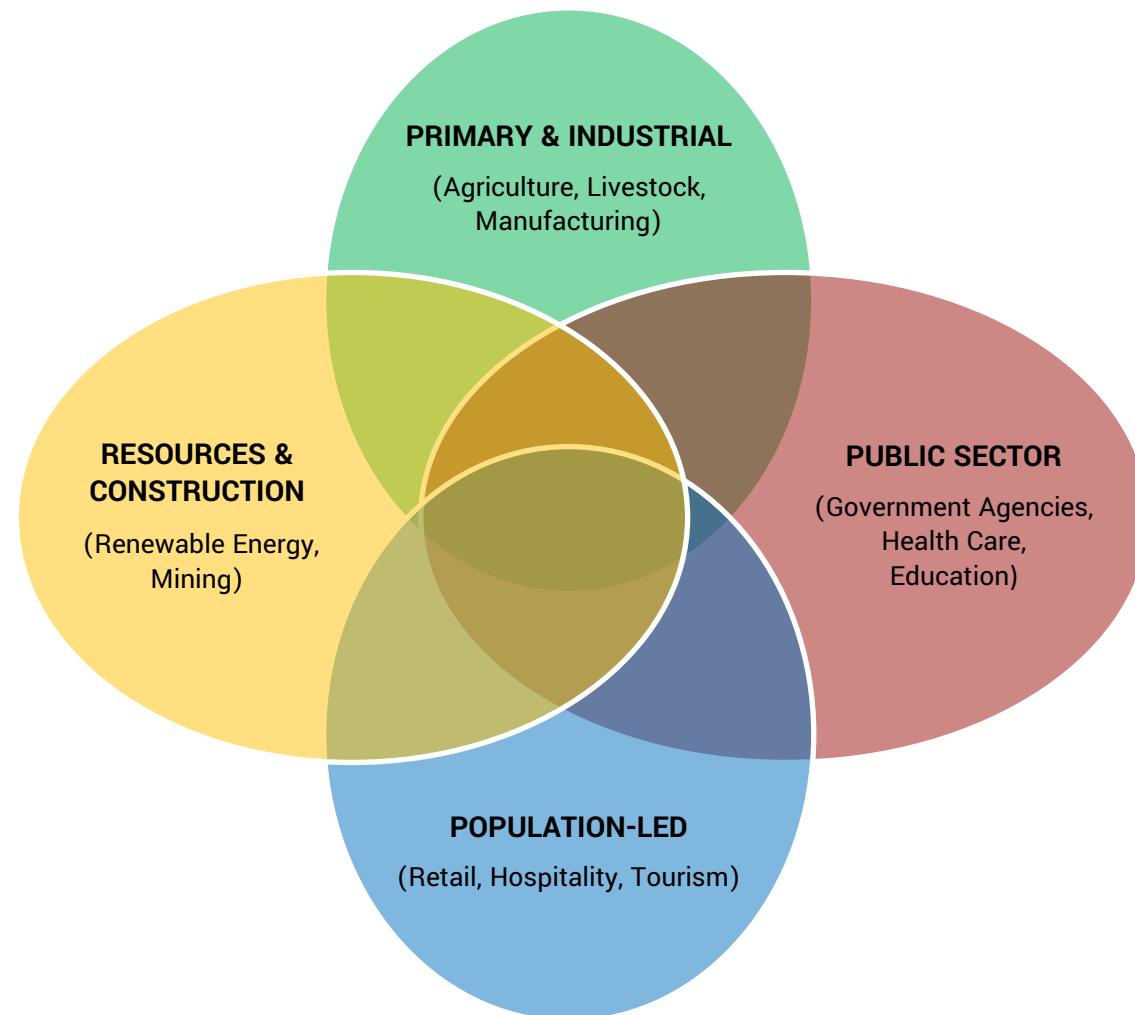
- Primary and Industrial – Agriculture, Livestock, Manufacturing;
- Public Sector – Government Agencies, Health Care and Education;
- Population-Led Industries – Retail, Hospitality, Tourism; and

Primary, industrial, public-sector and population-led industries have traditionally underpinned the local and regional economy.

The Resources and Construction sector is emerging as a considerable economic opportunity for the region, linked to the large-scale renewable energy and mining projects that are underway or planned in the region. These projects are attracting temporary labour force to service these projects, which is driving demand for housing, accommodation, retail and other services in Horsham.

Population retention and attraction will be important to service the existing and growth sectors into the future.

FIGURE 6 DRIVERS OF HORSHAM'S ECONOMY



3.4. RETAIL, PROPERTY AND LAND USE

Horsham is the highest order regional centre in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

Horsham is the highest order retail centre in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. Horsham attracts shoppers from smaller towns within the broader region of Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Northern Grampians, as well as parts of Buloke Shire and South Australia.

Although major regional centre retailers are located within 2 hours drive in Bendigo and Ballarat, Horsham will need to continue to perform a regional retail role into the future.

There is a potential oversupply of retail floorspace in the study area.

Although Horsham's retail catchment extends across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, there is a potential oversupply of retail floorspace in the study area. The current provision is in the order of 4 sqm per Horsham resident, significantly higher than the national average (2.2 sqm/person).

The current commercial vacancy rate across the study area is above 5%. Unoccupied commercial floorspace is generally concentrated to larger floorplate premises, which are often unsuitable for niche and boutique retailers and does not often meet contemporary retail business needs.

There is a potential over provision of non-food retail.

Of the 79,000 sqm of occupied retail floorspace in the study area, approximately 70% is categorised as non-food retail. This is a very high proportion of non-food retail, particularly given that comparable regional centres such as Swan Hill's CBD has a current ratio of 53% (non-food retail).

Discussions with local agents revealed that there are recent examples of a transition of use across larger vacant retail space, whereby larger retail premises typically suited to larger format goods; are transitioning into shop front office uses.

Given the potential overprovision of non-food retail in the study area, there is an opportunity to encourage a more diverse retail mix in the future. This includes a higher

provision of food catering retail (i.e. hospitality uses), as well as supporting more of an entertainment and service offering.

There is a limited amount of vacant commercially zoned land in the study area, but there are clear opportunities for reinvestment and redevelopment.

There is an estimated 2.1 hectares of vacant commercial land dispersed across 17 properties in the study area. The vacant supply of commercially zoned land in the study area is limited. There are, however, clear examples and candidate sites for reinvest or redevelopment. Sites and precincts that present as potential candidates for re-investment and/or redevelopment include:

- Council depot;
- Concrete batching plant (Selkirk Drive);
- Commercial/light industrial precinct on O'Callaghans Parade; and
- Lower-value retailers dispersed throughout the CAD.

Forecast demand for retail floorspace in Horsham to 2036 is negligible.

Horsham's retail catchment is forecast to experience low population and expenditure growth over the next 20 years. The level of retail floorspace that is supportable in Horsham to 2036 is estimated in the order of 2,000 sqm.

This level of growth is negligible and could be absorbed within existing unoccupied premises. The estimate indicates that there is a sufficient and potential oversupply of built retail floorspace in the study area.

Some parts of the Commercial 2 Zone Precinct on O'Callaghans Parade present an opportunity for urban renewal.

The commercial precinct on O'Callaghans Parade primarily consists of light industrial uses (manufacturing, wholesale trade), bulky goods retail and a number of residential dwellings.

Given the ad-hoc nature of development that has occurred in this precinct over a long period of time, there is an absence of business clustering and very limited examples of new businesses that have established in the precinct.

The precinct is strategically located between the CAD and the Wimmera riverfront and contains some areas which are candidates for urban renewal.

Some industrial uses in the study area are considered unsuitable and difficult to integrate with surrounding urban uses and opportunities to re-locate to dedicated industrial precincts outside of the urban area should be considered. There is a significant supply of vacant industrial land in both Horsham South and the proposed WIFT precinct and are considered more suitable areas for heavier industrial uses.

The western section of the O'Callaghans Parade precinct should be considered as candidates to accommodate housing, tourism and commercial uses, particularly those with proximity to retail and civic services and those in proximity to the riverfront precinct and near Firebrace Street.

3.5. TOURISM

Horsham has a small tourism industry relative to comparable regional centres.

The tourism industry in Horsham generates \$91.3m in economic output per annum and supports 582 jobs. For comparison purposes, the tourism industry in Mildura Rural City generates an economic output of \$259m.

Horsham's tourism industry is small relative to comparable regional centres. This is partly attributed to its relatively isolated location and distance from metropolitan areas (i.e. capital cities) but could indicate a shortfall in tourism product and supporting infrastructure.

Domestic overnight has experienced negligible growth in a decade.

Domestic overnight visitation to Horsham grew by 0.4% between 2008 and 2017, which is low compared with overall trends in regional Victoria.

The proportion of domestic holiday/leisure travellers visiting Horsham (34%) is significantly lower than the Regional Victorian average (53%). Horsham is typically recognised as a stopover destination for self-drive visitors due to its location approximately halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide.

Horsham has a strong business / corporate market and caravan / touring market.

Horsham performs well in attracting business and corporate travellers which are critical to the local visitor economy.

The significant business base across the government, Agricultural, Health Care and Construction industries attracts a large proportion of business travellers to Horsham, providing local commercial accommodation operators with strong mid-week occupancy.

At present, construction projects in the region are driving very high demand for short term accommodation, especially serviced rooms with kitchens.

Tourism product development opportunities.

Horsham's under representation of holiday/leisure domestic overnight visitors could be attributed to a number of factors including the relatively isolated location/distance

from major metropolitan markets, as well as a potential lack of investment into new tourism product, attractions and infrastructure.

The Horsham Economic Development Strategy (2017) identifies three key focus areas for Horsham to develop as a destination an increase visitation and include:

- Further leverage the success of the Horsham Town Hall;
- Increase sports tourism through development of sport and recreation infrastructure and events; and
- Ensure development of the Wimmera riverfront precinct considers tourism uses.

Other opportunities that could be considered for tourism development include:

- **Food and beverage** - The most common and popular activity for domestic overnight visitors in Regional Victoria is eating out at a restaurant and/or café, with 58% participating in the activity.

In order to further develop Horsham as a destination in its own right, the development and provision of high quality food and beverage product presents a key opportunity to achieve this, particularly given the regional produce strengths in agriculture (e.g. grain/pulse product and livestock).

High quality dining options such as cafés, a gastronomic pub/hotel, provedore, microbrewery and/or wine bar should be considered for Horsham's CAD and riverfront to provide an anchor attraction and contribute to a vibrant precinct.

Horsham's strengths in regional product sees it well placed to strengthen this market segment.

- **Strengthen the overnight touring market** - A key visitor market to Horsham is the holiday / leisure self-drive, caravan and touring market. Typically, this market uses Horsham as a base to tour the broader region including the Grampians, Mount Arapiles, the Silo Art Trail and Pink Lake.

The investment in regional tourism product such as the Grampians Peaks Trail is expected to increase the number of domestic and overnight visitors to the region, providing opportunities for Horsham to attract more visitors, particularly for accommodation, food and beverage.

During consultation, the Horsham Riverside Caravan Park indicated that they attract strong occupancy from this market and are not affected by seasonality. This presents opportunities for a potential expansion of the Park.

- **Attract investment into the accommodation sector and address accommodation gaps** - Much of the existing stock is standard hotel/motel (3 to 3.5 star) and there is an under provision of high-quality accommodation establishments (i.e. 4+ star) when compared with regional Victoria.

There is an opportunity to diversify the accommodation supply and improve the offering to meet the need and preferences of the business/corporate market, as well as segments of the holiday/leisure market. Based on the consultation findings and a review of existing strategies, the current accommodation gap in Horsham is a high quality serviced apartment and/or hotel establishment.

3.5.1. TOURISM PRODUCT STRENGTHS

Horsham's tourism strengths include outdoor and adventure, water-based, arts and culture, and sport and recreation.

NATURE BASED / OUTDOOR AND ADVENTURE

An abundance of natural assets including lakes, rivers, National & State parks are within a 50-kilometre radius of Horsham. Major assets such as the internationally renowned climbing destination; Mount Arapiles Tooan State Park, as well as Mount Stapylton, Mount Zero and in the Grampians National Park attract a significant level of annual visitation.

The internationally renowned rock climbing destination; Mount Arapiles is located in Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, approximately 7 km from Natimuk and 30 km from Horsham. This natural asset is a major draw card for domestic and international visitors as it caters to differing levels of climbing abilities. The Mountain is estimated to attract 70,000 visitors per annum.⁷

The Council area and broader region is home to many lakes and rivers. Wimmera River, Green Lake, Taylors Lake, Natimuk Lake, Lake Toolondo, Lake Wartook and Rocklands Reservoir provide opportunities for locals and visitors to undertake water-based activities such as swimming, fishing, water-skiing, wind surfing and recreational boating.

Another natural area of significance is the Wartook Valley, located to the west of the Grampians mountain range. Attractions in this area include bushwalking, 4WD, horse riding, rock climbing, abseiling, fishing, mountain biking and quad bike tours.

The Laharum area, to the north of the Wartook Valley, is known for its olive groves and organic farming.

⁷ Submission to Amendment C75, Parks Victoria

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Horsham Town Hall underwent a redevelopment and was officially completed in January 2016. The revitalised facility incorporates the original Town Hall, a 500 seat Theatre and the Regional Art Gallery.

The Town Hall provides world-class performance, visual arts and conferencing facilities. Performances, events and exhibitions attract visitors from across the Wimmera region.

The Town Hall and Regional Art Gallery is recognised as a game changing project for Horsham, as it attracts visitors from across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region and captures visitors who are travelling through. It will be critical to build on the success of this game changing attraction and to strengthen its appeal as a destination in its own right.

Natimuk is recognised as a hub for community arts and culture. Arapiles Community Theatre (ACT) is responsible for operating Natimuk's flagship facility; the Goat Gallery, which is an art gallery showcasing works from local and regional artists.

ACT are also responsible for the Natimuk Frinj Festival is the township's signature boutique visual performance and arts event. The Festival provides an avenue for local artists and attracts visitors looking for a rural community art experience.

Arts and Culture is an emerging tourism strength in Horsham. The success of the Town Hall redevelopment could be further leveraged through events in music, performing arts and fine/public art.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

According to TRA, between 2012 and 2016, an average of 4% of domestic overnight visitors to Horsham visited for the purpose of attending an event. This is higher than the average for Regional Victoria (2%).

Tourism events are an effective method of attracting visitors from outside of the region that wouldn't ordinarily visit.

The annual event calendar in Horsham supports a proportion of visitation to the Council area. The existing event calendar predominantly consists of music, performing arts, art and cultural events. This is largely due to the emergence of arts and culture as a result of the Horsham Town Hall redevelopment.

The Cultural Department and the management team at the Town Hall indicated that events held at the Town Hall capture audiences that extend beyond the Council area, attracting visitors from Ballarat, Warrnambool and townships along the Victorian and South Australia border.

The Wimmera Event Centre is a purpose built large-scale event venue, located on approximately 23 hectares of land. The venue includes two large scale pavilions, a number of smaller pavilions, meeting rooms, facilities for on-site camping, catering areas, sheds and outbuildings.

The Centre has the capacity to accommodate a range of large scale events, from music concerts and festivals to conferences, shows and exhibitions. The Centre can also accommodate smaller functions and events such as seminars, meetings, and social functions. An existing major event held at the Centre is the Wimmera Machinery Field Days.

3.6. SPORT AND COMMUNITY ASSET CONSIDERATIONS

SPORT AND RECREATION ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

There is a lack of passive open space in the core of the CAD.

Most open space areas and sport and recreation assets/facilities in the study area are concentrated to the southern portion of the CAD, particularly the riverfront precinct and Showgrounds precinct.

With the exception of May Park, which is the key area of open space in the northern portion of the study area, there is an absence of passive open space in the core of the CAD.

Sporting facilities and open space areas in the study area are disparate, inefficient and poorly integrated with other sports and land uses.

Whilst Horsham is generally well supplied in terms of the number of sport and recreation facilities, the current sporting facilities and open space areas in the study area are disparate; with very limited examples of consolidation and co-location of infrastructure that can cater to multiple sports and users. This is particularly the case with City Oval, which includes high perimeter fencing and is not inviting for use by the general public and visitors for public use. Given its strategic and favourable location in the riverfront precinct, City Oval does not integrate well with Sawyer Park and the Botanic Gardens precinct.

City Oval and Horsham Lawn Tennis and Croquet have facilities which do not meet current standards and as a result cannot host certain events or accommodate participation from a broad cross section of the community.

City Oval is currently limited in its scope to host regional events, issues/constraints identified for the facility include:

- No universally accessible clubroom or pavilion;
- The size of the field is too small to host premier regional events;

- The field is poorly orientated for cricket matches resulting in short straight boundaries;
- Insufficient number of publicly accessible toilets on site;
- There is only one netball court;
- The spectator grandstand is orientated to the south and can be subject to cold southerly winds;
- There are issues with the gravel embankment surrounding the field, including the quality of the surface and in providing universal access;
- The club pavilion is not currently accessible to all clubs and users;
- Generally, there is limited access available to the public (perception of private facility).

Horsham lawn tennis (and croquet) is also a key sport facility within the study area. There are 24 grass courts, however, only 16 are maintained. The tennis facility is not currently capable of hosting regional level tennis events.

The facility also does not have lighting, has no formal licence in place and the pavilion has no accessible toilets. Its future position within the precinct should be considered having regard to future opportunities for tennis facilities noted in the *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment*.

There is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham.

Although there is an adequate number of indoor courts in Horsham to support local indoor sports needs, existing facilities are generally non-compliant, ageing, do not meet contemporary facility standards, do not cater to all demographics and cannot host regional events.

Previous work⁸ has determined that there is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham. A number of sites were assessed for this

⁸ *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility (2016)* and *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*

facility, with the McBryde street site identified as the preferred location. Centrally located sites, close to existing businesses would be beneficial for an indoor sports stadium for a number of reasons, including:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, producing spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre when events are hosted in town;
- Providing an equitable location from an access point of view for residents;
- Providing access to existing infrastructure and services such as accommodation, cafes and restaurants for events visitors;
- Consolidating and enhancing the role and primacy of the CAD;
- Providing the opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Although the CAD contains a number of important community assets, there are few examples of multi-use and integrated facilities.

Horsham's community facilities are predominantly concentrated in the CAD, with the exception of the Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub in Horsham North. Many of the community facilities in the CAD are disparate and are not well integrated.

There are limited examples of a co-location of community uses in the study area. Community uses are shifting towards a co-location model, whereby a multitude of uses are provided within the one facility (or Hub). This can encourage greater utilisation, as well as help realise efficiencies in management, operations and achieve economies of scale. Successful examples of co-located community hubs can be seen throughout Regional Victoria including the Echuca Library/Community Hub, Civic Hall Ballarat and the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre.

Whilst the Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub and the Horsham Town Hall are successful examples of integrated models for community uses, there is an opportunity to improve and strengthen this in Horsham, particularly in the CAD.

4. VISION, OBJECTIVES AND KEY DIRECTIONS

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a vision statement, objectives and key directions for the study.

4.2. VISION STATEMENT

A draft vision statement has been prepared for the study area and is based on input from the community and other stakeholders during the consultation phase.

Horsham is the heart of the Wimmera and supports the region's economy and communities. The success of the City is linked to its rich history, strong community and resilient economy.

The centre of Horsham is a thriving commercial, cultural, civic and recreation hub that will continue to evolve over time to meet the needs of the community, support and grow businesses activity and support and grow visitors to the region. The CAD will be better connected to highly accessible and quality open spaces, will incorporate substantially more shade, and active transport opportunities and accommodate more housing.

Horsham celebrates its connection to the Wimmera River, its greatest natural asset. The cultural, recreation and tourism potential of the riverfront precinct will be maximised to increase recreation, socialising, play, events, activities and infrastructure for visitors and residents. The riverfront will be better connected with surrounding areas, provide opportunities for public and private investment and creatively communicate the history and ongoing importance of Indigenous culture in the area.

By focusing on improvements which support liveability and economic resilience, the area will promote the attraction and retention of population and investment which will preserve the City's critical role for Horsham and the Wimmera region. Together, the Horsham Central Activities District and the Wimmera riverfront will form an attractive, prosperous and sustainable destination that residents are proud of, businesses thrive within, investors covet, and visitors enjoy.

4.3. OBJECTIVES AND DIRECTIONS

Four strategic objectives have been identified to guide the achievement of the vision – the objectives are shown in Table 2. The objectives respond to issues and opportunities identified in previous studies, technical analysis prepared as part of this study and consultation as shown in Figure 7.

The objectives and key directions will guide the preparation of the Vision and Concept Plan for the study area.

FIGURE 7 PROCESS TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND DIRECTIONS

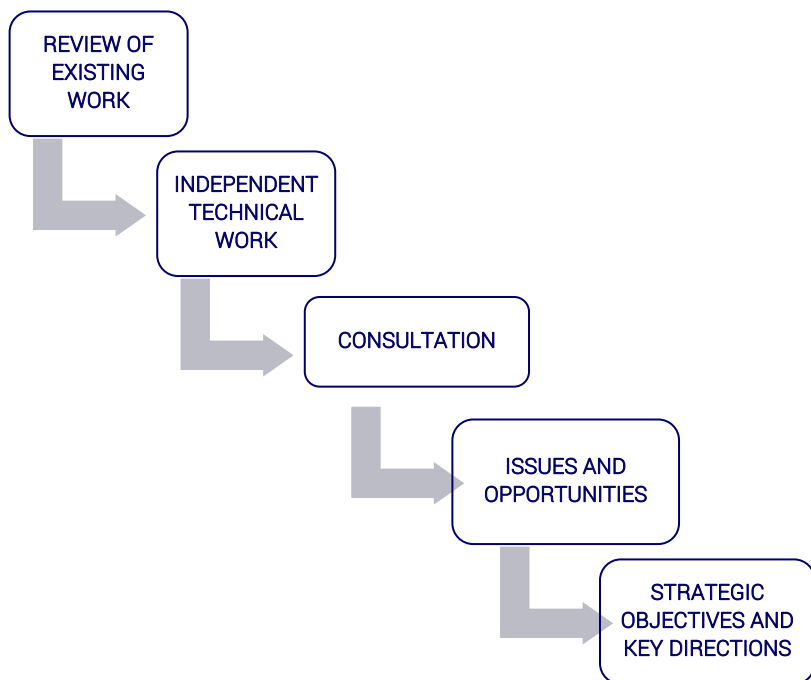


TABLE 2 OVERARCHING PROJECT OBJECTIVES

NO.	AREA OF FOCUS	OBJECTIVE
1	WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT	Activate, connect and add-value to the Riverfront Precinct to establish an iconic community, recreation and tourist destination.
2	HORSHAM'S CAD	Improve the amenity of the CAD and the diversity of land uses to strengthen the existing business environment, attract more visitors and accommodate greater housing, hospitality, open space and events.
3	TRANSPORT & CONNECTIVITY	Better integrate and improve the connection between the CAD and the Riverfront and improve access to, and connectivity within the study area.
4	SPORT & RECREATION	Adopt a long term strategic approach to developing sporting infrastructure that meets contemporary standards, promotes participation, accommodates regional events, makes efficient use of public land and integrates with urban and river areas.

4.3.1. WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT

OBJECTIVE

Activate, connect and add value to the Wimmera Riverfront Precinct to establish an iconic community, recreation and tourist destination.

KEY DIRECTIONS

1. Activate the riverfront to increase utilisation by residents and visitors

Consider the following opportunities:

- Construct a dedicated meeting place;
- Formalise and upgrade walking/cycling trails;
- Introduce a water play area;
- Develop and upgrade recreational fishing and boating infrastructure;
- Upgrade the soundshell at Sawyer Park;
- Public art and indigenous interpretive content;
- Improve street furniture, upgrade lighting and public toilets.

2. Improve the integration and accessibility of existing areas within the Riverfront Precinct - Including City Oval, Sawyer Park, Caravan Park, Botanic Gardens and the Showgrounds precinct and consider the need to relocate existing uses to achieve optimal integration and accessibility.

3. Leverage activation to establish commercial and tourism development opportunities

Consider the following opportunities:

- Hospitality – destination restaurant / café;
- Visitor accommodation;
- Business events; and
- Arts and cultural product (e.g. Horsham Museum).

ISSUES

- The riverfront is a major recreational asset but is significantly underutilised.
- There are limited attractions to draw locals and visitors to the precinct;
- Existing riverfront precinct uses are poorly integrated;
- Tourism is a key growth sector for the region however visitation growth is low;
- There is a lack of private land available to leverage riverfront opportunities.

RATIONALE FOR DIRECTIONS

- Works will support increased utilisation by locals and visitors, as identified in consultation and demonstrated by similar projects in other regional cities.
- Greater visitation to and awareness of the riverfront will improve business conditions for hospitality, tourism activities and accommodation in the precinct.
- Creation of new development sites will enable a new type of tourism product to be introduced to Horsham and an opportunity to address gaps in accommodation and opportunities in hospitality.
- Opportunity to use a formal trail to communicate important indigenous values and heritage relating to the river, Horsham and the region.
- New infrastructure will support health and recreation benefits, particularly through linear trails, play areas and access to water-based activities.
- A new riverside park would help address the lack of formalised open space and well defined meeting places in the study area.
- Improvements will support the events sector (an important part of the existing tourism economy) and encourage greater length of stay and visitor spend.

The rationale meets both the 'liveability' and 'economic resilience' principles.

Strategic support:

- Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2018-22 (2018)
- Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021 (2017)
- Horsham Wimmera Corridor Plan (draft) (2018)
- Wimmera River Project Report (2018).

4.3.2. HORSHAM'S CAD

OBJECTIVE

Improve the amenity of the CAD and the diversity of land uses to strengthen the existing business environment, attract more visitors and accommodate greater housing, hospitality, open space and events.

KEY DIRECTIONS

1. Implement the recommendations of the CAD Revitalisation Strategy - Including improving streetscapes, prioritising pedestrian/cycling transport and connectivity and better integrating the CAD and the riverfront precinct with clear visual connections and landscaping.
2. Develop of a series of meeting places in the CAD - Investigate the opportunity to develop a meeting place/series of meeting places in the CAD. This could link with other CAD anchors (e.g. the Town Hall, May Park, the Riverfront).
3. Investigate the potential to redevelop/develop a high-quality purpose-built Government facility in the CAD – Co-locate a range of Government agencies (e.g. Local and State Government departments, agencies, Police).
4. Identify sites or precincts suitable for urban renewal between the riverfront precinct and Wilson Street. These sites could both transition unsuitable industrial uses to other locations and accommodate new housing and commercial uses in the CAD. This should include relocating the Council Depot to an alternative location and encouraging land use transition along key pedestrian routes between the riverfront and CAD. Consider Burnt Creek Estate or Enterprise Estate as a location for any industrial uses wishing to relocate.

5. Transform the Wimmera Business Centre - To meet contemporary business needs including reconsidering the operating model, physical requirements and optimum location. Potential to provide an integrated model that co-locates multiple uses including permanent and co-working office accommodation, temporary meeting rooms, community uses (e.g. small library space / gallery space / education facilities) and a café.

ISSUES

- There is a significant lack of shade in the CAD.
- The community has aspirations for a new meeting place in the CAD.
- There are limited examples of outdoor dining in the CAD.
- Although the retail sector is not performing strongly, there are opportunities for an improved food and beverage offering for visitors and residents.
- The ageing population will require safe and legible movement infrastructure.
- Wide road reserves and roundabouts prioritise vehicle movements and create a difficult environment for pedestrians.
- The Council depot and Concrete Batching Plant are not suitable to the CAD environment and alternative industrial land exists.
- Residential is becoming a highly attractive land use within and near the CAD.
- The Wimmera Business Centre infrastructure and operating model is outdated.
- Many Government buildings within the CAD will require reinvestment or redevelopment within the study period.

RATIONALE FOR DIRECTIONS

- An improved streetscape environment will support safety and amenity gains for pedestrians, active transport users and motorists.
- Greater pedestrian footfall, street amenity and footpath space would strengthen conditions for retail and hospitality uses in certain parts of the CAD.
- Greater active transport usage will support health and recreation outcomes.

- Public realm could lead to property values uplift in certain areas, encouraging greater private sector investment and occupation of space.
- Open spaces and meeting places in the CAD will encourage greater dwell times, community interaction, worker amenity and opportunities for temporary events, supporting employment retention, social capital, business conditions and leveraging Horsham's strength in arts and culture.
- Encouraging urban renewal in key areas will present the opportunity to new investment and construction, particularly in the residential sector, contributing to employment, housing options for new and existing residents and potentially improving rental market conditions.
- Transforming the Wimmera Business Centre will present the opportunity to better align this service with market needs with a view to increasing utilisation and underpinning business and employment creation.
- A high-quality and purpose-built government agency facility would improve public sector labour force attraction and retention and create operating efficiencies across a range of government agencies. Redevelopment of the precinct could also create opportunities for new civic open spaces in this section of the CAD, addressing existing shortfalls.

Strategic support

- Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy (2017)
- Imagine Horsham, Community and Stakeholder Engagement (2016)
- Horsham Growth Management Framework (2012).

4.3.3. TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY

OBJECTIVE

Better integrate and improve the connection between the CAD and the riverfront and improve access to, and connectivity within the study area.

KEY DIRECTIONS

1. Implement the transport recommendations of the CAD Revitalisation Strategy - including improving streetscapes, prioritising pedestrian/cycling transport and connectivity and better integrating the CAD and the riverfront precinct with clear visual connections and landscaping.
2. Create safe crossing points over the Western Highway and advocate for the downgrading of the road / creation of an alternative truck route to remove large vehicles from the CAD given proximity to schools and the need to improve access to recreation facilities to the east of the highway.
3. Improve north-south routes connecting the riverfront with the CAD. This should consider using existing road reserves as well as opportunities for 'off road' or laneway connections.
4. Establish an east-west linear trail along the existing drainage easement commencing at Hamilton Street and Wimmera Highway and travels in a south west direction, past the Aquatic Centre to Madden Street.
5. Establish a pedestrian bridge at Hamilton Street to provide an off-road connection between residential areas, schools, the river corridor and the CAD and to create a continuous north and south bank trail loop along the river in conjunction with the ANZAC bridge.

ISSUES

- Wide road reserves, multiple roundabouts, substantial on-street car parking and large vehicles create an uninviting public realm for pedestrians and visitors
- Connections across the Western Highway are important due to schools and recreation assets to the east and CAD uses to the west, however this movement is difficult given the wide road and high vehicle and truck volumes.
- Connections between the CAD and the riverfront precinct are weak and wayfinding is poor.
- The study area is poorly connected with residential areas south of the river.
- There is a lack of formal off-road linear trails within the study area.
- Young families and older residents are projected to increase as a share of the population – each group requires opportunities for safe pedestrian movements.

RATIONALE FOR DIRECTIONS

- Significant improvement in safety for active transport users in the study area by prioritising pedestrians and cyclists on key routes.
- Greater pedestrian footfall improves trading environment for CAD businesses.
- Improved connections between the CAD and riverfront will encourage greater visitation to each and potential for expenditure growth in the CAD.
- Active transport usage has health and recreation benefits, in particular the creation of a complete riverfront loop will encourage informal recreation.
- Greater riverfront visitation is an important step in supporting tourism industry growth and yield.

Strategic support:

- Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy (2017)
- Integrated Transport Strategy Stage 1 (final draft) (2016)
- Horsham Municipal Bicycle & Shared Path Plan 2012 to 2016 (2012)
- Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy (2017)
- Imagine Horsham Community and Stakeholder Engagement, Village Well (2016)

4.3.4. AREA OF FOCUS: SPORT AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE

Adopt a long term strategic approach to developing sporting infrastructure that meets contemporary standards, promotes participation, accommodates regional events, makes efficient use of public land and integrates with urban and river areas.

KEY DIRECTIONS

1. **Upgrade City Oval as Horsham's premier regional AFL/cricket venue** – Upgrade City Oval to a regional standard to enable regional AFL and cricket sporting events and other non-sporting events to be hosted. Upgrades required may include expansion of the size of the field, a new multi-purpose pavilion and clubrooms (including fully accessible and female friendly facilities) and covered spectator areas. Delivery of a second netball court would assist in club training and matches.
2. **Develop a Regional Indoor Sports Precinct** – Develop a regional indoor sports precinct at the McBryde Street site, providing for basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball and squash. This project should build on the work completed as part of the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report* (2017) and reflect the outcomes of consultation with key stakeholders during 2019.
3. **Develop an outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct** – Plan for and develop a new multi-purpose shared infrastructure outdoor sports precinct on the Crown land reserve at the Horsham Showgrounds precinct, currently occupied by the Horsham Greyhounds. As a preliminary concept this should include provision of multipurpose sporting facilities. Key sports facilities considered for inclusion include Athletics (including 8 lane grass track and associated athletics facilities), soccer/rugby fields and a synthetic hockey pitch. Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of a shared use oval for AFL/Cricket training and matches, this could be delivered as part of a multi-purpose grass field that has the capacity to accommodate multiple sports (i.e. soccer, rugby, AFL, cricket). Consideration could also be given to the inclusion of tennis courts with the synthetic hockey facility, however this would require two hockey pitches to deliver the required amount of courts to service regional events (i.e. 16 courts) and would be subject

to site capacity and appropriate shared surfaces. Further work is required to finalise this concept, including an assessment of facility and site requirements and the preparation of a masterplan and business case to support investment.

ISSUES

- Sporting facilities and open space areas in the study area are disparate, inefficient and poorly integrated with other sports and land uses.
- City Oval and Horsham Lawn Tennis and Croquet have facilities which do not meet current standards and as a result cannot host certain events or accommodate participation from a broad cross section of the community.
- There is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham.
- The Showgrounds is a significantly underutilised public land asset located adjacent to existing and proposed sporting infrastructure and with rover frontage.

RATIONALE FOR KEY DIRECTIONS

City Oval:

- Increase utilisation of an existing asset and infrastructure.
- Provide facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
- Attract regional level sporting events driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Deliver modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- Provide compliant sporting facilities.
- Support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
- Improve integration with surrounding areas, in particular Sawyer Park and Riverfront precinct.
- Opportunities for use by other sporting codes for regional events and non-sporting events.

Indoor Sports:

- Demand from indoor sports for an appropriate facility to host training, events and matches.
- The need to provide compliant sporting facilities.
- The need to provide additional courts to meet current and projected demand.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
- Support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
- To attract regional level sporting events driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Opportunity to attract non-sporting events.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- The need to co-locate and share infrastructure so asset utilisation is maximised.
- Support and justification as identified through the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report* (2017).

Outdoor multi-purpose sports:

- Demand from sports for appropriate and suitable facilities for training, matches and club facilities (little athletics, soccer, rugby and hockey).
- Demand for an additional AFL field for training, matches and catering for future growth opportunities.
- Demand from cricket for an additional 'hard wicket' facility.
- Demand from Hockey for a venue/surface capable of hosting matches in Horsham (currently utilise Dimboola for matches) and an appropriate training surface.
- Demand from soccer for an appropriate venue for training and matches, including a full-sized soccer pitch.
- The need to support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.

- Encouraging growth and participation in grass roots sports;
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
- To attract municipal sporting events including creating new opportunities for little athletics, soccer, rugby events (and hockey).
- Driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- The need to co-locate and share infrastructure so asset utilisation is maximised.
- Improve the southern gateway to Horsham (e.g. along the Western Highway) by providing a high-quality and well-designed facility.
- Generate economic benefits for Horsham by hosting regional events in a facility close to the CAD.
- Potential to access the Wimmera River for irrigation purposes.

Strategic support:

- Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Assessment;
- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-18 (draft) (2013)
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design (2017).

4.4. NEXT STEPS

The objectives and directions will inform the preparation of a Vision and Masterplan for the study area which will set out the preferred location, land use vision and potential design outcomes for key sections of the study area.

Public comment will be invited on the Vision and Concept Plan before an action and implementation plan is prepared.

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS
1989-2019

urban planning
enterprise economics+tourism

WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT AND CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT

TECHNICAL REPORT

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL | MAY 2019 | FINAL



www.urbanenterprise.com.au



AUTHORS

Paul Shipp, Director

Kurt Ainsaar, Associate

Urban Enterprise

Urban Planning, Land Economics, Tourism Planning & Industry Software

Level 1 302-304 Barkly Street, Brunswick VIC 3056

(03) 9482 3888

www.urbanenterprise.com.au

© Copyright, Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd, 2019

This work is copyright. Apart from any uses permitted under Copyright Act 1963, no part may be reproduced without written permission of Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd.

VERSION: 1

DISCLAIMER

Neither Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. nor any member or employee of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. takes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person or organisation (other than that for which this report has been prepared) in respect of the information set out in this report, including any errors or omissions therein. In the course of our preparation of this report, projections have been prepared on the basis of assumptions and methodology which have been described in the report. It is possible that some of the assumptions underlying the projections may change. Nevertheless, the professional judgement of the members and employees of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. have been applied in making these assumptions, such that they constitute an understandable basis for estimates and projections. Beyond this, to the extent that the assumptions do not materialise, the estimates and projections of achievable results may vary.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1	5.4. TOURISM PRODUCT STRENGTHS	54
PART A. STRATEGIC CONTEXT	2	5.5. VISITOR MARKET ASSESSMENT	57
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	3	6. SPORT, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ASSETS	64
2.1. INTRODUCTION	3	6.1. INTRODUCTION	64
2.2. CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT	5	6.2. KEY FINDINGS	64
2.3. WIMMERA RIVERFRONT PRECINCT & RIVER CORRIDOR	11	6.3. CONTEXT	66
2.4. SPORT AND RECREATION	13	6.4. SPORT FACILITIES	69
2.5. TOURISM, PROPERTY & LAND USE	15	6.5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES	72
2.6. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/PROJECTS	18	PART C. RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL LAND SUPPLY & DEMAND	75
PART B. EXISTING SITUATION		7. EXISTING LAND SUPPLY IN THE CAD	76
POPULATION & HOUSING	22	7.1. INTRODUCTION	76
THE ECONOMY	22	7.2. EXISTING LAND SUPPLY IN THE CAD	76
TOURISM	22	7.3. EXISTING SUPPLY OF RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL FLOORSPACE	77
COMMUNITY / SPORT & RECREATION	22	8. RETAIL DEMAND	80
3. POPULATION & HOUSING	23	8.1. INTRODUCTION	80
3.1. INTRODUCTION	23	8.2. KEY FINDINGS	80
3.2. KEY FINDINGS	23	8.3. RETAIL TRADE AREA	82
3.3. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	25	8.4. RETAIL EXPENDITURE	85
3.4. HOUSING	32	8.5. SUPPORTABLE FLOORSPACE PROJECTIONS	86
4. ECONOMIC PROFILE	37	9. INDUSTRIAL LAND ANALYSIS	87
4.1. INTRODUCTION	37	9.1. INTRODUCTION	87
4.2. KEY FINDINGS	37	9.2. KEY FINDINGS	87
4.3. ECONOMIC INDICATORS	39	9.3. EXISTING STUDY AREA SUPPLY	87
4.4. EMPLOYMENT	44	9.4. COMPETING SUPPLY	88
4.5. INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	50	9.5. PROPOSED FUTURE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT	89
5. TOURISM	52	PART D. CONSULTATION	91
5.1. INTRODUCTION	52		
5.2. KEY FINDINGS	52		
5.3. VALUE OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY	54		

10. CONSULTATION	92	FIGURE 23 1 IN 100 YEAR FLOOD	102
10.1. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	95	FIGURE 24 1 IN 200 YEAR FLOOD	103
APPENDICES	97		
APPENDIX A DATA AREAS	97	TABLES	
APPENDIX B HORSHAM FLOOD MAPPING	98		
FIGURES			
FIGURE 1 HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH – HORSHAM (RC) – 2001 TO 2017 (ERP)	25	TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF LITERATURE REVIEW	3
FIGURE 2 POPULATION GROWTH IN HRCC / WSMR – 2006 TO 2031	26	TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS / PROJECTS – EXISTING STRATEGIC WORK	18
FIGURE 3 HISTORICAL AGE PROFILE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	27	TABLE 3 FORECAST POPULATION GROWTH – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2036	26
FIGURE 4 EDUCATION ATTAINMENT – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	29	TABLE 4 PROJECTED AGE PROFILE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2031	28
FIGURE 5 MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUES (\$) – HORSHAM (RC) – 1988 TO 2018.	34	TABLE 5 JOURNEY TO WORK – EMPLOYED RESIDENTS – 2011 TO 2016	29
FIGURE 6 DRIVERS OF HORSHAM'S ECONOMY	38	TABLE 6 LABOUR FORCE STATUS – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	30
FIGURE 7 LOCATION QUOTIENT	47	TABLE 7 OCCUPATION – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	30
FIGURE 8 BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY (PUBLIC & PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) – STUDY AREA – 2008 TO 2018	51	TABLE 8 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (PER WEEK) – HORSHAM (SUBURB AND RC) – 2011 TO 2016	31
FIGURE 9 DOMESTIC VISITOR SEASONALITY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	62	TABLE 9 PLACE OF RESIDENCE (MIGRATED) – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 - 2016	31
FIGURE 10 MAP OF SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (HORSHAM STUDY AREA)	68	TABLE 10 HORSHAM (RC) - SEIFA - 2016	32
FIGURE 11 MAP OF COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE – HORSHAM (STUDY AREA) - 2019	74	TABLE 11 DWELLING PROJECTIONS – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2036	32
FIGURE 12 LOCATION OF VACANT FLOORSPACE, STUDY AREA	79	TABLE 12 DWELLING STRUCTURE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	32
FIGURE 13 RETAIL HIERARCHY LOCATIONS	83	TABLE 13 DWELLING TYPE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	33
FIGURE 14 MAIN TRADE AREA, HORSHAM	83	TABLE 14 TENURE TYPE – HORSHAM (SUBURB AND RC) – 2011 TO 2016	33
FIGURE 15 LOCATION OF COMMERCIAL 2 ZONED LAND, STUDY AREA	87	TABLE 15 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION – HORSHAM (SUBURB AND RC) – 2011 TO 2016	34
FIGURE 16 FIGURE 2 COMPETING INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CONTEXT	88	TABLE 16 RENTAL REPORT – HORSHAM AND OTHER REGIONAL CENTRES	35
FIGURE 17 WIFT LAND USE PRECINCT PLAN	90	TABLE 17 NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS - HORSHAM (RC) – 2013 TO 2018	36
FIGURE 18 AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS DATA REGIONS	97	TABLE 18 VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS - HORSHAM (RC) – 2013 TO 2018	36
FIGURE 19 VICTORIA IN FUTURE DATA REGIONS	97	TABLE 19 GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	39
FIGURE 20 1 IN 5 YEAR FLOOD	99	TABLE 20 OUTPUT BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	39
FIGURE 21 1 IN 20 YEAR FLOOD	100	TABLE 21 VALUE ADDED BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	40
FIGURE 22 1 IN 50 YEAR FLOOD	101	TABLE 22 VALUE OF WAGES AND SALARIES BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	40
		TABLE 23 LOCAL SALES BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	41
		TABLE 24 REGIONAL EXPORTS VALUE BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	41
		TABLE 25 LOCAL EXPENDITURE BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	42
		TABLE 26 REGIONAL IMPORT VALUE BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017	42
		TABLE 27 KEY PROPULSIVE SECTORS	43

TABLE 28 RESIDENTS INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT – HORSHAM (SUBURB) – 2011 TO 2016	44	TABLE 55 RETAIL EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY, 2018	85
TABLE 29 RESIDENTS INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	45	TABLE 56 RETAIL EXPENDITURE POOL, MTA 2018	85
TABLE 30 INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT (WORKERS) - HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016	46	TABLE 57 ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE SUMMARY	85
TABLE 31 COUNT OF BUSINESSES – HORSHAM (RC) – 2015 TO 2017	48	TABLE 58 PROJECTED RETAIL EXPENDITURE GROWTH, 2018-2036	86
TABLE 32 COUNT OF BUSINESSES – CHANGE - HORSHAM (RC) – 2015 TO 2017	49	TABLE 59 RETAIL EXPENDITURE, TURNOVER AND SUPPORTABLE FLOORSPACE, HORSHAM, 2018-2036	86
TABLE 33 INVESTMENT ENQUIRIES – THE STUDY AREA – 2014 TO 2018	50	TABLE 60 INDUSTRIAL FLOORSPACE BY LAND USE, STUDY AREA	88
TABLE 34 HORSHAM’S TOURISM INDUSTRY	54	TABLE 61 OVERVIEW OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION	93
TABLE 35 TOTAL VISITORS - HORSHAM (RC) - 2008 TO 2017	57	TABLE 62 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY GROUPS & REFERRAL AGENCIES	94
TABLE 36 VISITOR AGE PROFILE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	57	TABLE 63 SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES – CONSULTATION PHASE	95
TABLE 37 PURPOSE OF VISIT – DOMESTIC DAY / OVERNIGHT AND INTERNATIONAL – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	58		
TABLE 38 DOMESTIC VISITOR ACTIVITIES – HORSHAM (RC) – 2007 TO 2008 (AVE)	59		
TABLE 39 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ACTIVITIES – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	60		
TABLE 40 DOMESTIC VISITOR ORIGIN – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	61		
TABLE 41 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ORIGIN – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	61		
TABLE 42 TRAVEL PARTY – DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT / INTERNATIONAL – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	62		
TABLE 43 VISITOR ACCOMMODATION – DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT / INTERNATIONAL – HORSHAM (RC) - 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)	63		
TABLE 44 LOCATION AND TYPES OF SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (HORSHAM STUDY AREA)	67		
TABLE 45 DEMAND SUMMARY	70		
TABLE 46 CITY OVAL	71		
TABLE 47 HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)	71		
TABLE 48 LOCATION & TYPES OF COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE – HORSHAM (STUDY AREA) - 2019	73		
TABLE 49 LAND SUPPLY BY ZONE, STUDY AREA	76		
TABLE 50 VACANT SUPPLY BY LAND USE TYPE, STUDY AREA	77		
TABLE 51 FLOORSPACE SUMMARY BY RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL USE, STUDY AREA	78		
TABLE 52 RETAIL HIERARCHY	82		
TABLE 53 CATCHMENT AREA POPULATION, ABS ERP	84		
TABLE 54 VICTORIA IN FUTURE POPULATION, 2016-2031	84		

ACRONYMS

AAGR – Average Annual Growth Rate

ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics

ANZSIC – Australian New Zealand Standard Industry Classification

AVPCC – Australian Valuation Property Classification Code

C1Z – Commercial 1 Zone

C2Z – Commercial 2 Zone

CAD – Central Activities District

CBD – Central Business District

DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

EMT – Executive Management Team

EO – Executive Office

ERP – Estimated Resident Population

FLG – Food Liquor Groceries

FO – Flood Overlay

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

GWM – Grampians Wimmera Mallee

HRCC – Horsham Rural City Council

IVS – International Visitor Survey

LGA – Local Government Area

LQ – Location Quotient

LSIO – Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

MCH – Maternal Child Health

MTA – Main Trade Area

NSW – New South Wales

NVS – National Visitor Survey

PPRZ – Public Park and Recreation Zone

RDV – Regional Development Victoria

SEIFA – Socio Economic Index For Areas

SRV – Sport and Recreation Victoria

TRA – Tourism Research Australia

VIC – Visitor Information Centre

VPA – Victorian Planning Authority

WCMA – Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

WDA – Wimmera Development Authority

WIFT – Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal

WSMP – Wimmera Southern Mallee Partnership

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Apparel/Homewares/Leisure (AHL) – includes clothing stores, shoes stores, gift stores, pharmacies, optometrists, homewares stores, sports and fitness stores, and outdoor living and camping stores.

Backward Linkages - The industry sectors which spend the most on locally sourced intermediate goods and services per dollar of output. These industry sectors may not necessarily make the largest contributions to the region's economy at present however due to well-developed local supply chains these sectors have a significant capacity to deliver broad based economic benefits for the region.

Bulky Goods (BG) – generally includes furniture, hardware stores, and whitegoods.

Domestic day trip visitor - Those who travel for a round trip distance of at least 50 kilometres, are away from home for at least 4 hours, and who do not spend a night away from home as part of their travel. Same day travel as part of overnight travel is excluded.

Domestic overnight visitor - People aged 15 years and over who undertake an overnight trip of one night or more and at least 40 kilometres away from home are referred to as overnight visitors. Only those trips where the respondent is away from home for less than 12 months are in scope of the NVS.

Food Catering (FC) – includes cafes, restaurants and takeaway food premises.

Food/Liquor/Groceries (FLG) – includes supermarket, deli, bakery, convenience store, bottle shop and shops selling food that is not ready-to-eat.

Gross Regional Product - The total value of final goods and services produced in the region over the period of one year.

Horsham – Horsham is defined as the locality (suburb) and generally includes the Horsham CAD and surrounding residential areas. The area is shown in Appendix A of Technical Report B (Existing Situation Analysis).

Horsham (RC) – Horsham Rural City (RC) Council is defined as the Horsham Local Government Area.

International visitor - A person is defined as an international visitor to Australia if they are currently a resident overseas, have been in Australia for less than one year and are aged 15 years or over.

Local Expenditure - Represents the value of intermediate goods and services purchased by local industry sectors within the region. A high level of local expenditure on intermediate goods and services proportionate to total output is indicative of well-developed local supply chains and also that any expansion in this sector would typically deliver broad based benefits for the region's economy.

Output - Represents the gross revenue generated by businesses/organisations in each of the industry sectors in a defined region. Gross revenue is also referred to as total sales or total income.

Propulsive Industry - Key drivers of the Horsham economy in terms of regional exports, employment, value-added and local expenditure on goods and services (backward linkages)

Regional Exports - Represents the value (\$) of goods and services exported outside of the defined region that have been generated by businesses / organisations in each of the industry sectors within the region.

Retail Services (RS) – generally includes services such as beauty salons, hairdressers and dry cleaning stores.

Value-Added - represents the marginal economic value that is added by each industry sector in a defined region. Value-Added can be calculated by subtracting local expenditure and expenditure on regional imports from the output generated by an industry sector, or alternatively, by adding the Wages & Salaries paid to local employees, the gross operating surplus and taxes on products and production.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Technical Report provides the supporting evidence for the Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District Vision & Masterplan Background Report.

The technical work provides research and analysis relevant to the objectives and recommendations made for the study area. This Technical Report includes the following Parts.

PART A – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Part A includes an overview and assessment of strategic work that has been undertaken for the study area. This includes work relating to the public realm, transport and connectivity, property & land use, economic development, sport, recreation and tourism.

PART B – EXISTING SITUATION

Part B includes robust research and analysis for Horsham’s existing situation having regard to population and housing, economic profile, tourism industry and visitor market, as well as community and sport and recreation infrastructure.

PART C – RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL LAND SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Part C provides a high-level assessment of commercial and retail uses in the study area including the current land use mix and floorspace provision. This assessment also projects the estimated level of floorspace that will be supportable in the study area in the future having regard to the existing provision of floorspace and retail mix, population growth, Horsham’s retail catchment and expenditure per capita, as well as current and future trading performance.

PART D – CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Part D provides an overview of the consultation process including a summary of stakeholders that were engaged and consulted and a summary of the key outcomes.

The consultation process helped inform the preparation of the emerging issues and opportunities and strategic objectives for the study area.

PART A: **STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Part A provides an overview and assessment of the suite of strategic work that has been undertaken for Horsham Rural City Council in the past. This includes work relating to the public realm, transport and connectivity, land use, economic development, sport and recreation and tourism.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. INTRODUCTION

A detailed review of existing work has been undertaken to summarise the relevant technical work and views expressed by community, industry and Government in relation to the study area.

The strategies, technical assessments and other documents that were reviewed and used to inform this section are summarised in Table 1. The following sections summarise the individual documents and how they relate to the revitalisation of the study area, with particular focus on the Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF LITERATURE REVIEW

AREA OF FOCUS	DOCUMENT
CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT (STREETSCAPE, PUBLIC REALM, TRANSPORT, CONNECTIVITY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy, MR Cagney (2017); • Horsham CAD Strategy, Essential Economics / Meinhardt Infrastructure & Engineering, Urban Initiatives (2013) • Imagine Horsham, Community and Stakeholder Engagement – Key Findings Summary, Village Well (2016); • Horsham Municipal Bicycle & Shared Path Plan 2012 to 2016, Driscoll Engineering Services (2012); • Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy, MRCagney (2017); • Horsham CBD Urban Design Framework, (2001)
WIMMERA RIVERFRONT PRECINCT & RIVER CORRIDOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham Wimmera Corridor Plan (draft), HRCC and VPA (2018); • Wimmera River Project Report, Regional Leadership Skills Project Group Members (2018);
SPORT AND RECREATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-18 (draft), SGL Consulting Group (2013); • Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design, William Ross Architects (2017); • Horsham Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021, HRCC (2017).
TOURISM, PROPERTY & LAND USE (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, RETAIL, INDUSTRIAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham Tourism Master Plan 2016 to 2020, HRCC (2018 review); • Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2021, Urban Enterprise (2017); • Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2018-22, HRCC (2018); • Horsham Growth Management Framework, Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment (2012); • Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan, Vic State Government (2014);

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL PLAN 2018-22

The Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2018-22 (Council Plan) seeks to position Horsham as a regional economic, tourism and cultural centre and build a vibrant, diverse, resilient, safe and healthy community.

The Council Plan includes five community goals:

- Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development
- Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy
- Goal 3 – Asset Management
- Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence
- Goal 5 – Natural and Built Environment

The Council Plan identifies a suite of objectives, strategies and/or programs in order to deliver the goals. Those relevant to the Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District are as follows:

- Implement urban design provisions with an aim to improve visitors' experience in the Horsham CAD.
- Develop and progressively implement a plan for the redevelopment of the Horsham City Oval precinct.
- Encourage redevelopment of community facilities at the Horsham Showgrounds.
- Implement outcomes from the multipurpose/indoor sports and community facility feasibility study.
- Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation).
- Encourage the development of a riverside café.
- CBD Revitalisation Project – improved urban design / town square.
- Support future operations and opportunities for the Wimmera Business Centre through the Committee of Management to reinforce its ongoing viability and effectiveness in fostering new business enterprises.
- Promote and attract conferences to Horsham.

- Facilitate the attraction of major sporting events.
- Promote and encourage safe bicycle use as a sustainable alternate mode of transport, including provision of bicycle parking facilities.
- Confirm and undertake design and planning for the relocation of the municipal depot including potential co-location of Tech Services planning and delivery staff.

2.2. CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT

HORSHAM CAD REVITALISATION STRATEGY (2017)

The Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy was prepared by MRCagney in May 2017. The Strategy aims to *“strengthen the economic performance of the region, improve social outcomes, including health and community wellbeing and future proof infrastructure by adapting to climate change.”*

The Strategy seeks to build on the urban design improvements recommended for Horsham’s CAD, as identified in the Central Activity District (CAD) Strategy (2013).

The key principles for revitalising the CAD are as follows:

- Prioritise place function over movement function;
- Maintain a compact CBD;
- Prioritise walkability;
- Connect the CBD with its surrounds;
- Focus on the main streets; and
- Celebrate heritage.

The Strategy identifies a range of public work interventions that are planned or under investigation, along with recommendations to satisfy the revitalisation principles.

Initiatives under consideration by Council for improving the CAD include:

- Upgrade footpaths;
- Introduce water sensitive urban design principles into Council planning to ensure low water-use street trees, garden beds and other landscaping elements;
- Upgrade power supply to improve power supply resilience;
- Install energy efficient public lighting systems;
- Roll-out free wifi in the CAD.

Public Realm Improvements

Public realm improvements currently in planning or investigation phase for the Horsham CAD include:

- A town square;
- Pavement modifications;
- Tree plantings and landscaping in median car parking areas, incorporating water harvesting and reuse;
- Provision of shade and shelter.

Transport Improvements

Transport improvements draw on findings from the Horsham Integrated Transport Strategy and the Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy.

The Parking Strategy identified that the current parking supply is plentiful and caters for current and forecasted demands. Historically, the town centre has been influenced by traffic engineering approaches that supported the addition of roundabouts in the CAD, wider road widths and increases in car parking. Future interventions will need to adopt an alternative approach if revitalisation objectives are to be achieved.

The following Transport improvements should be considered:

- **Intersection upgrades:**
 - Tightening intersection geometries to slow traffic, improve safety and ensure more direct paths for pedestrian crossings;
 - Reduce road widths;
 - Install raised pedestrian crossings at intersections to slow traffic, improve pedestrian safety and increase accessibility for all users;
 - Reconsider the use of roundabouts at key intersections.
 - Propose signalisation of Wilson Street and Darlot Street.
- **New mid-block crossings:**
 - Mid-block zebra or wombat crossings should be introduced in areas with high pedestrian activity (e.g. Roberts Avenue).
- **Providing for bikes:**

- Priority lanes for on-street bicycles;
- Reduce traffic speeds to 30 km/hr and ensure one lane of traffic per direction;
- Removal of on-street parking or replacement of angle-parking with parallel parking on selected cycle routes.
- **Car Parking:**
 - Introduce a parking overlay to reduce the standard car parking rates for new CBD development;
 - Commit to initiatives to reduce car dependence in Horsham;
 - Manage CBD time restrictions to encourage parking in peripheral areas;
 - Defer any plans to increase CBD parking supply;
 - Make Horsham the 'world's most walkable rural city'.

This strategy is considered paramount to the preparation of the Framework Plan as this strategy included a series of appropriate interventions that can be further developed in developing the Framework Plan, for example public realm and transport network improvements.

IMAGINE HORSHAM, COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY (2016)

In 2017, Village Well delivered a series of engagement activities with the Horsham community and stakeholders over two phases to identify projects that would revitalise Horsham's CAD.

The engagement process focused on the concept of a town square, streetscape upgrades, town entrances and local economic development opportunities to attract people to stay, enjoy and return to Horsham's CAD.

Residents, members of the business community, State and Local Government and agencies were invited to put forward their ideas, which were then prioritised (in a format of quick wins, medium and long-term projects) and presented back to the participants.

Five core objectives were identified by participants, including:

1. **A vibrant main street** – distinct and beautiful, offering all the services you need, delicious food and boutique retail offerings;
2. **Events & activities all year round** – wander the night markets, listen to buskers in the main street, admire local art in the laneways, enjoy the twilight buzz while sipping a wine before the show;
3. **A friendly place** – where the locals are proud, and visitors feel welcome, from the entrance to the town to the warm people you meet in the main street;
4. **Explore the river** – take an afternoon stroll along the river walk, stop for a coffee and take in the view, and relax while the kids play along the promenade; and
5. **Experience the remoteness** – stay for a few nights under the big sky, go fishing in the lakes, climb Mt Arapiles or ride a bike through this vast, beautiful landscape.

Important factors for success of the ideas proposed were subsequently identified, including the capacity building of the community and business to contribute to revitalisation projects, as well as the need for courageous governance.

Specific locations for potential public realm improvements were formulated, along with a list of priority actions.

Town Square

The concept for of a town square emerged and the most appropriate location for this square was near Roberts Place and Ward Street, providing a link between Firebrace Street, the Town Hall and the Plaza, as well as linking May Park, the Botanic Gardens and the River.

Physical features of a town square in Horsham should include the following:

- Greenery;
- Seating
- Shelter;
- A large screen for films, promotion and games;
- Retail and cafés on the periphery;
- A play space for children;
- Public toilets;
- Interpretive content celebrating and documenting local and indigenous history.

Streetscape Improvements

Recommendations in regard to streetscapes in the CAD are as follows:

- Lighting upgrades;
- Shade and shelter;
- Greenery;
- Develop laneways and side streets with murals and artwork;
- Al-fresco dining;
- Improved signage – wayfinding, attractions and promotional;
- Protect heritage buildings;
- More seating and meeting places;
- Access for all abilities and age friendly infrastructure;
- Encourage walkability – prioritise pedestrian activity.

Town Entrances

There was strong consensus for upgrading all entrances. Recommendations included:

- Attract passing travellers;
- Promote the town and what's on;
- Be reflective of Horsham's identity;
- Attractive, bold and distinctive.

The River

The River was identified as an important asset that was underutilised. Ideas for activating the River included:

- Pop-up café, function centre, restaurant;
- Attractive promenade and cycling track;
- More events, activities and films for all ages, including at the soundshell;
- Passive water recreation, such as paddle boats and fishing;
- Better connection to the Botanic Gardens and the Town Centre; and
- Playgrounds and family activities.

Other Location Specific Opportunities

- Two north south pedestrian access routes were identified to improve connectivity to key nodes (i.e. May Park, the River and the Horsham Botanic Gardens) – one along Firebrace Street and the second one generally along Ward Street (extending further north and south across surface car parking areas). Part of the Ward Street route could be designed to be safe shared space.
- The section of Roberts Avenue between Firebrace Street and Darlot Street was required to be improved / redesigned to give priority to pedestrians by introducing priority pedestrian spaces and safe shared spaces.
- Specific locations for activities / streetscape improvements to occur to improve connections between the Horsham CBD, the Botanic Gardens and the River.

A list of priority actions has been developed as quick wins, medium- or long-term actions. Priority actions are summarised in the table (overleaf).

DESCRIPTION	WHAT	WHERE
Quick Wins – Now – April 2018		
Regular Markets	Produce and craft market, Night food market (combined with Friday night shopping), complimentary to other local markets	Roberts Place, Ward Street (create a temporary shared zone during market times) River precinct
Activate Vacant Shops	Displaying local photography or art in vacant shop windows, uplifting 'tired' facades	Vacant shops in the CBD, particularly on Firebrace Street
Outdoor Cinema	Events for all ages, free or affordable	Events for all ages, free or affordable
Pop-Up Café on the River	A temporary cafe with areas to sit and enjoy the surrounds	Sawyer Park, Weir Park, Angling Club, Rowing Club, Showgrounds
Action Group	Community members, traders and organisations that are interested in assisting in planning and delivering Placemaking projects	Advertise for Expressions of Interest through websites, social media, local paper and radio
Medium Term – Year 2018		
Signage	Improve connections within the CBD and to surrounding areas including the River, Gardens, Roberts Place, May Park, etc. through wayfinding and informative signage	Throughout CBD and surrounding areas
Cohesive Identity and Distinct Branding	Continue to develop a cohesive identity and branding for Horsham, with community input and awareness	
Town Entrance Upgrades	Upgrade all town entrances, based on Horsham's identity and branding (a sign trail promoting features; character or identity bollards; acknowledging Aboriginal land and culture; build interest from 5 kilometres out and continue promotion until turn off	All town entrances
Marketing Campaign	Promoting Horsham regionally, drawing in travellers, making locals proud, align with identity and branding	Television, Social media, Gazettes, Magazines
Long Term – Year 2019+		
Town Square or New Public Space		Roberts Place, Ward Street carpark, Darlot Street carpark, Several sites in the central CBD
River Facilities	Restaurant, cafe, function centre, community facilities	Riverbank, Soundshell, Showgrounds
Street Improvements		Main streets in the CBD

HORSHAM CAD STRATEGY (2013)

The Horsham CAD Strategy (the Strategy) was prepared in 2013 by Essential Economics, Meinhardt Infrastructure and Engineering, and Urban Initiatives. The Strategy was adopted by Council in 2013. The Strategy was prepared:

- To provide a framework for future development of the CAD;
- To provide a clear understanding of the current supply and projected demand for retail and commercial floor space in the Horsham CAD; and
- To provide Council with the planning tools to manage and direct development and potential future growth of the CAD.

The following actions/recommendations were provided in the CAD Strategy (2013):

- Identify opportunities to enhance the commercial, cultural and administrative facilities and amenities in the CAD, consistent with its important role as a regional service centre and the recommendations provided in this Strategy.
- Encourage, where appropriate, a greater intensity of development in the central part of the CAD bounded by Baillie Street to the north, Firebrace Street to the east, Darlot Street to the west, and Wilson Street to the south.
- Develop an urban design framework which provides for improved pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle linkages between the different areas of the CAD.
- Continue to invest in improvements to the streetscape, amenity and public realm which meet best practise urban design outcomes.
- Provide support for development proposals which encourage mixed-use development in the CAD, consisting of residential or accommodation uses above ground floor and an increase in residential density in surrounding areas.
- Encourage a mix of community and social infrastructure development in the Horsham CAD.
- Support the continued development of this area as a light industrial/business location for service-related businesses which would preferably not locate in the CAD and which do not impact adversely on the amenity of surrounding areas.
- Identify a preferred location for an 'entertainment' precinct in the Horsham CAD.

- Maintain and enhance north/south connectivity between the existing CAD and the Wimmera River and Botanical Gardens.

HORSHAM MUNICIPAL PARKING STRATEGY (2017)

The Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy (Parking Strategy) was prepared in December 2017 by MRCagney and adopted by Council in December 2017. The Parking Strategy evaluates the current parking environment and provided recommendations to manage car parking efficiently and sustainably in the Horsham CAD.

The Parking Strategy concluded that there were no current demand pressures for car parking in the Horsham CAD. Key findings were:

- 30% of parking spaces were vacant at all times;
- Peak period occupancy in the Horsham CAD was considered significantly lower than the best practice benchmark level in a regional setting;
- There was a shortage of 4P parking spaces;

The Parking Strategy provided an evidence-based approach to manage car parking provisions in planning and deliver the Horsham CAD revitalisation projects and re-development of the Wimmera Riverfront. The key recommendations of the Strategy include the following:

- Retain current paid parking rates and locations.
- Commit to strategies and initiatives to reduce car dependence in Horsham.
- Enable the development of residential dwellings and/or re-use of CAD buildings for residential purposes to improve activity and residential density in the CAD.
- Improve amenity by increasing shade through street planting, verandas and shade in Council owned car parks.
- Improve and streamline signage and wayfinding.
- Consider covered walkways and incentives to encourage a high rate of pedestrian activity.

HORSHAM MUNICIPAL BICYCLE & SHARED PATH PLAN 2012-16

The Municipal Bicycle & Shared Path Plan (MBSP Plan) was prepared by Driscoll Engineering Services in September 2012. This MBSP Plan aimed to update the previous strategic bicycle plan for Horsham completed in 2004 and further support Council in the future planning of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

The MBSP Plan provides a number of recommendations in relation to upgrading key cycling routes and an increase in maintenance on existing routes as a way to promote cycling and walking as a more attractive and common mode of travel.

A list of priority projects with estimated project costs were recommended, including:

- Increase maintenance of the existing bicycle network to remove hazards, provide surfaces fit for use, and improve delineation and signage;
- Remove hazards on the on-road network and provide improved bicycle lane facilities at intersections;
- Provide 'end of trip' and en-route facilities to encourage greater participation in cycling; and
- Improve advisory and directional signage and bicycle route information.

HORSHAM CBD URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK (2001)

The Horsham CBD Urban Design Framework (UDF) was prepared in 2001 by TTM Consulting Pty Ltd, David Lock Associates and Tract Consultants.

The UDF guides future development of the Horsham CAD and surrounds, with a strong emphasis on Firebrace Street. The key recommendations for the CAD include:

- Consolidate Horsham's urban core, confining retail and commercial development to precincts that are currently used for those purposes, and use infill development to intensify where appropriate.
- Encourage a major retail centre on the eastern side of Firebrace Street.
- Develop retail on the periphery of the CAD core.
- Encourage office space above ground floor retail to intensify activities.
- Encourage medium density residential development close to the CBD, including the Saleyards site and other underutilised sites.

- Develop strong pedestrian linkages between the CAD and key assets such as the Botanic Gardens and Riverfront.
- Repair and enhance the footpath network to improve pedestrian amenity and safety.

2.3. WIMMERA RIVERFRONT PRECINCT & RIVER CORRIDOR

DRAFT WIMMERA RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN (2018)

The draft Wimmera River Corridor Plan was prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority in partnership with Horsham Rural City Council in January 2018. Through its vision, objectives, strategies and actions, the Plan provided strategic direction to inform use and development of the Wimmera River and its immediate environs. The Plan provides strategic direction to inform future planning scheme amendments for the river corridor including land acquisitions, cultural heritage management, recreation uses and development opportunities. The Plan builds on the strengths of the river corridor to promote city growth while preserving the natural environment and amenity of the area.

The six main themes that underpin the plan are:

- Biodiversity and River Health
- Cultural Heritage
- Access and Connectivity
- Recreation
- Economy
- Governance

The Plan also provides core objectives to guide decision making in relation to the Wimmera River corridor. The core objective are:

- To support the biodiversity and health of the Wimmera River Corridor
- To ensure ongoing recognition of the cultural significance of the Wimmera River corridor
- To improve access and connectivity to and around the Wimmera River corridor
- To promote the Wimmera River corridor as a key community recreational asset
- To utilise the Wimmera River corridor to contribute to Horsham's economy
- To ensure coordinated governance of the Wimmera River Corridor

Specific actions that are relevant to an activated and revitalised riverfront precinct and improved integration with the CAD are as follows:

- Recognise and promote the river's character, culture and history.
 - Engage with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council to identify, protect and manage Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural elements along the river corridor.
 - Identify, protect and manage post contact significant cultural elements along the river corridor.
 - Develop and implement appropriate education and interpretative materials along the river corridor.
- Improve access opportunities to the river from surrounding areas of Horsham.
 - Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor.
- Establish new linkages across the river to better connect north and south Horsham.
 - Incorporate universal design principles in any proposed bridges or river crossings.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable recreational and social use of the river corridor through provision of appropriate infrastructure and programs.
 - Encourage events that are appropriate to the river corridor.
 - Deliver public realm design outcomes which encourage and support recreational activity.
- Provide opportunities for improved integration of activities in the Horsham Central Activities District with the river corridor.
 - Create linkages between the Central Activities District and river corridor as identified through the Horsham Central Activities District revitalisation project.
- Ensure commercial activities within the Wimmera river corridor are compatible with the primary use of the corridor for environmental and recreation purposes.
 - Support the development of riverside catering/dining venues.
- Activate areas fronting the river to attract patronage and stimulate activity around the river corridor.
 - Develop and implement a plan for the redevelopment of the Horsham City Oval precinct.

- Investigate the redevelopment of community facilities at the Horsham Showgrounds.

The Plan also identifies a number of development sites due to their location within the Wimmera River corridor and close proximity to the Wimmera River. The potential development sites are:

- O'Callaghan's Parade – current business zoned site – prominent location at city gateway
- Baillie Street/Trinity Drive – prominent, accessible vacant site opposite Horsham Primary School and existing river parklands.

WIMMERA RIVER PROJECT REPORT (2018)

The Wimmera River Project Report was prepared by the regional leadership skills project group members (community group). The Report provides an audit and assessment of a community survey of river usage and facilities.

The Report provides a range of public realm recommendations, particularly in relation to:

- Tracks and trails;
- Signage;
- Public toilets;
- BBQs and Shelters;
- Seating;
- Car Parking;
- Playgrounds;
- Access Points;
- Drinking Fountains;
- Rubbish Bins and Dog Waste Bags; and
- Local Interest Points.

Recommendations are generally focussed around upgrading existing infrastructure and services along the riverfront in respect of the above.

The community survey results provide a number of suggestions for the riverfront. These include:

- Cafes and restaurants;
- Improved lighting and signage;
- Extended walking/cycling tracks/trails;
- Increase in playground and BBQ/picnic areas;
- Increase in fishing and recreational boating infrastructure/facilities; and
- Increase in designated swimming areas.

2.4. SPORT AND RECREATION

DRAFT SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2013-18

The Sport and Recreation Strategy (draft) was prepared by SGL Consulting Group in August 2013, with an aim to identify and evaluate existing sports and recreation needs and service gaps in sport and recreation provision in the Horsham municipality.

Major factors with significant impact on the provision of recreation, sport and physical activities were summarised in the Strategy, including:

- Potential to increase sport and recreation tourism and events;
- Many sport and recreation facilities are due for re-development or upgrading, including the basketball stadium precinct, City Oval precinct and existing network of multipurpose trails within the urban area of Horsham;
- Additional or new recreation facilities may be accommodated at old ambulance station at City Oval;
- Participation in non-organised physical activity is approximately twice as high when compared with organised and team based sports. This is partly a result of the lesser commitments required to engage in non-organised physical activity but also the aging resident demographic in Horsham.
- Sport and recreation clubs are confronted with some significant management issues.

The Strategy recommended that *" Council take a stronger, more strategic leadership role in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities, particularly regarding the management and use of its sport and recreation assets."*

The Strategy recommended the following:

- Proceed with plans to develop a multipurpose indoor sport and recreation centre, located as close as possible to the existing Basketball Stadium, either adjacent to, or on the Showgrounds.
- Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multipurpose, multiuser venue, over a single purpose facility.
- Reduce use of City Oval by restricting football training sessions.

HORSHAM MULTI-USE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM PLAN – PHASE ONE: FEASIBILITY (2016)

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility* was prepared by Insight Leisure Planning. The report assessed the demand for new indoor facilities, including the ability to continue to service and increase regional scale sport events, activities and uses.

In relation to demand for new indoor sporting facilities, the report noted the following key points:

- Demand for new, or additional, indoor stadium facilities in Horsham is not being driven by increases in local participation demand or requirements to address anticipated demand associated with future population growth.
- There is an adequate number of indoor courts currently available to address the indoor sport needs for local standard participation.
- Existing facilities do not meet contemporary standards or recommended facility guidelines in terms of playing areas and support amenities.
- Existing facilities (i.e. Basketball Stadium, squash courts, table tennis and gymnastics) are all over 40 years old.
- New facilities will be required in order to meet the contemporary needs of the community, including recommended facility standards and guidelines, in order to continue to service the needs and expectations of the community for the next 50+ years.
- Current facilities are used for a variety of regional and even State level events/activities despite current limitations, however it can be expected that such uses will not be supported in these venues in the longer-term if the facilities continue to fall below contemporary standards and expectations.
- New facilities are being planned for construction in other regional centres (i.e. Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Mildura) over the next five years that will further increase competition for hosting of such activities.
- Demand for new facilities is being driven by requirements to provide appropriate facilities that are capable of maintaining (and enhancing) current levels of

participation, including the capacity to continue to host a range of regional and state standard events, uses or activities over the next fifty years.

- Contemporary facilities will be required to cater for basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, squash and to a lesser extent gymnastics.

WIMMERA SPORTS STADIUM BUSINESS CASE AND CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT (2017)

This Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report was prepared by Williams Ross Architects in partnership with Communityvibe in December 2017. The need for such a facility was initially reiterated in the *Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-18*. Further work was undertaken in 2018 to investigate the feasibility of the multi-use indoor sports facility.

The development of the proposed stadium would result in the closure of McBryde Street, along with planning permit applications and rezoning the north western corner of the existing Showgrounds from Special Use Zone to Public Park and Recreation Zone.

The key findings of the report include:

- Regionally, the closest indoor multi-use stadiums with more than 2 courts are Hamilton (130km), Ballarat (187km), Bendigo (215km), Warrnambool (228km) and Mildura (310km).
- The facility is proposed to attract a wide variety of different uses, including basketball, badminton, volleyball, squash, netball, as well as Regional Sports Assembly, sports organisations, clubs and associations office space;
- The facilities proposed included:
 - Sports Hall with 3 new indoor sports courts designed to competition standards. Each court to be line marked for netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton.
 - Space for 12 x table tennis tables;
 - 6 x squash courts;
 - 6 x squash courts and support facilities;

- 5 x outdoor netball courts to bring total courts compliant with Netball Victoria requirements to 8, which is the minimum number required for Association Championships and other Netball Victoria events;
- Fixed spectator seating for 400, an increase on the approximate 350 existing capacity of the existing Stadium at McBryde Street
- Space for further temporary tiered spectator seating
- Large meeting room, to also provide a small function space
- 2 x Consulting Suites, available to allied sports and other services
- Additional shared office space for local sporting clubs and associations
- Additional player amenities to accommodate the multisport nature of the venue.

HORSHAM HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2017-2021

The Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan was prepared by HRCC and provides a 5-year Plan to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within Horsham Rural City.

The strategic priorities for health and wellbeing are as follows:

- Increasing healthy eating and active living;
- Reducing harmful alcohol and drug use;
- Improving mental health;
- Preventing family violence;
- Improving sexual and reproductive health;
- Improving early years outcomes; and
- Strengthening education and economic development.

Specific actions that are relevant to the revitalisation of the study area include:

- Develop and maintain footpaths and walking and bike trails with particular focus on key precinct linkages to promote active living options and supporting infrastructure such as seats, signage, water, lighting and shade.

- Support recreation activities in natural environment spaces including rivers, lakes and major trails across municipality (e.g. Grampians Peak Trail).
- Develop, maintain and promote facilities and open spaces as a venue for social connection for all including delivering on the CBD revitalisation project.
- Implement HRCC Economic Development strategy and ensure health and wellbeing priorities are reflected.
- Develop and promote the municipality's key tourism and events attractions with particular focus on unique natural and cultural offerings.

2.5. TOURISM, PROPERTY & LAND USE

TOURISM MASTER PLAN 2016-20 (REVIEWED 2018)

The Tourism Master Plan 2016-20 (TMP) was prepared by Horsham Rural City Council in 2016 and reviewed in 2018.

The TMP review identifies a number of priority marketing and promotional actions to build on existing and emerging tourism strengths in Horsham and continue to improve the awareness of the Horsham as a tourist destination.

The actions are specifically relevant to marketing and promotion. However, the Plan identifies the following tourism strengths that should be focus areas:

- Arts and culture (Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Silo Art Trail, Botanic Gardens, events);
- Horsham as a base to tour the region;
- Regional nature-based attractions (Grampians National Park, Mt Arapiles, Rivers and Lakes); and
- Outdoor and adventure (recreational boating on the Wimmera River, cycling, rock climbing).
- Modify Firebrace Street to include improved pedestrian access at intersections.

HORSHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-21

The Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017-21 (EDS) was prepared by Urban Enterprise and adopted by Council in 2017. The EDS aims to strengthen, enhance and further diversify the economic, tourism and industrial base to promote sustainable growth and improve the wealth and wellbeing of the community.

This EDS identifies the priorities, objectives and opportunities for economic development in the region. The strategies and actions relevant to the CAD and Riverfront Precinct are as follows:

- Deliver and implement the findings from the Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy.
- Investigate the establishment of a central public plaza or square as the focal point for Horsham.
- Deliver the multi-use indoor sports facility.
- Ensure Horsham's CAD is considered the prime location for future development in retail, commercial office, entertainment and community land uses. Identify fringe areas to the south of the CAD as long term areas for commercial growth. Future CAD development should align with CAD Revitalisation Strategy.
- Deliver and implement findings from the Horsham Car Parking Strategy.
- Deliver and implement the findings from the Wimmera River Corridor Masterplan, ensuring CAD's connection to the River is addressed.
- Improve wayfinding and promotion signage at the town's main entrances to encourage the capture of passing trade.
- Improve the public realm at Horsham's main entrances. Streetscaping, tree plantings and road upgrades should be the areas of focus.
- Encourage the development of office accommodation in the CAD.
- Investigate the potential to redevelop and expand the Wimmera Business Centre to meet contemporary business needs.
- Leverage greater benefit from the Horsham Town Hall precinct by exploring:
 - Establishing a pedestrian and performance zone opposite the Town Hall theatre in Ward Street;
 - Attraction of entertainment and dining businesses to the precinct; and
 - Business/conference market.
- Develop a destination brand for Horsham.
- Explore the establishment of the Wimmera River Art Trail.

HORSHAM GROWTH MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2012

This Horsham Growth Management Framework (HGFM) was prepared by Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Pty Ltd in 2012. This HGFM was adopted by Council in November 2013.

The HGFM served as a planning tool that would help deliver the long term vision for the future urban growth and development of Horsham and its environs.

This HGFM provides Council with broad strategic directions in relation to settlement and land use planning to inform future changes to the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Key strategic directions relevant to the Central Activities District include:

- Short to medium term urban growth opportunities for Horsham should be focused in Town Centre (Horsham CAD), existing urban area (Outside of CAD), strategic infill sites, which may include open space sites;
- Encourage retail and business activities within the Horsham CAD;
- Consider alternative uses for surplus industrial land;
- Encourage the development of strategic infill sites identified in the Horsham CAD Strategy and existing residential land which is yet to be developed;
- Establish and improve pedestrian and cycling routes in strategic locations;
- Improve connectivity between the Horsham CAD and surrounding urban area;
- Establish new linkages across the Wimmera River to improve connectivity between Horsham and communities to the south;
- Encourage opportunities for mixed use development;
- Provide a range of lots sizes within new subdivisions to cater for variety of dwelling types and sizes;
- Encourage medium density residential development within a 400 metre radius of the Horsham CAD;

- Improve connectivity between the Horsham CAD and surrounding urban area; and
- Encourage compact urban forms and infrastructure.
- Encourage light industrial businesses to continue to locate outside of the Horsham CAD.
- Encourage the location of State Government Departments within Horsham.
- Encourage opportunities for home-based businesses and enterprises.
- Support the on-going growth and development of the retail and commercial sectors within Horsham CAD.

Key strategic directions relevant to the Wimmera River Precinct and Showgrounds Precinct include:

- Investigate the establishment of new walking and cycling linkages, including:
 - A connection between Firebrace Street and the southern bank of the Wimmera River.
 - Showgrounds and land to the south east of the Wimmera River.
- Encourage the master planning of new development in infill and growth areas open space in areas where population growth could likely to occur in future, including:
 - Showgrounds
- Encourage recreation opportunities along the Wimmera River corridor.
 - Consider small scale restaurant/café uses in the Wimmera River corridor that are subordinate to the dominant use of the corridor as passive open space
- Prepare a Masterplan for the Wimmera River trail to examine ways to accommodate uses such as:
 - Additional recreation opportunities.
 - Walking and Cycling.
 - Small scale business that supports the recreational aspects of the corridor.

The Framework Plan identifies a number of strategic infill sites that present opportunities for future development. A relevant site to the study area includes:

- The Showgrounds Precinct – Consider a variety of uses including residential and ensure active frontages to the Western Highway given that it is a gateway site.

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN (2014)

This Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan ('the Regional Growth Plan') was authorised by the Victorian Government in May 2014.

The regional growth plan provides a regional approach to land use planning in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. It covers the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack and identifies opportunities for encouraging and accommodating growth and managing change over the next 30 years.

The plan identifies:

- Where future development will be supported, assessed at a regional scale;
- Environmental, economic, community and cultural assets and resources of regional significance that should be preserved, maintained or developed; and
- Key regional priorities for future infrastructure planning and investment to support growth.

Key direction relevant to Horsham and opportunities for the study area are as follows:

- Encourage diversification of the regional economy through building on the region's assets, particularly agriculture, energy, mining and tourism.
- Support liveable communities through the development of a range of housing, quality urban design and access to community facilities.

2.6. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/PROJECTS

There has been a significant amount of recent strategic work undertaken relevant to Horsham’s long-term future, particularly relating to the economic development, property and land use, the public realm and streetscape environment (CAD), the Wimmera riverfront precinct/river corridor, sport, recreation and open space.

Table 2 summarises the suite of relevant actions/projects to the study area that have been identified in existing strategic and technical work. The actions / projects are categorised by focus areas identified in Section 2 and will be used to inform the vision and masterplan for the study area.

There are also a number of projects underway, which will be used to inform the vision and masterplan for the study area including:

- Horsham Transport Strategy;
- Horsham Open Space Strategy; and
- Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Assessment.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS / PROJECTS – EXISTING STRATEGIC WORK

FOCUS AREA	ACTION / PROJECT	SOURCE
<p>CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT (STREETSCAPE, PUBLIC REALM, TRANSPORT & CONNECTIVITY)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade footpaths; • Introduce water sensitive urban design principles into Council planning to ensure low water-use street trees, garden beds and other landscaping elements; • Upgrade power supply to improve power supply resilience; • Install energy efficient public lighting systems; • Roll-out free wifi in the CAD; • A town square; • Pavement modifications; • Tree plantings and landscaping in median car parking areas, incorporating water harvesting and reuse; • Provision of shade and shelter; • Intersection upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tightening intersection geometries to slow traffic, improve safety and ensure more direct paths for pedestrian crossings; • Reduce road widths; • Install raised pedestrian crossings at intersections to slow traffic, improve pedestrian safety and increase accessibility for all users; • Reconsider the use of roundabouts at key intersections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy, MR Cagney (2017); • Horsham CAD Strategy, Essential Economics, Meinhardt Infrastructure & Engineering, Urban Initiatives (2013); • Imagine Horsham, Community and Stakeholder Engagement – Key Findings Summary, Village Well (2016); • Horsham Municipal Bicycle & Shared Path Plan 2012 to 2016, Driscoll Engineering Services (2012); • Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy, MRCagney (2017); • Horsham Growth Management Framework, Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment (2012).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose signalisation of Wilson Street and Darlot Street. • New mid-block crossings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-block zebra or wombat crossings should be introduced in areas with high pedestrian activity (e.g. Roberts Avenue). • Providing for bikes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority lanes for on-street bicycles; • Reduce traffic speeds to 30 km/hr and ensure one lane of traffic per direction; • Removal of on-street parking or replacement of angle-parking with parallel parking on selected cycle routes. • Car Parking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a parking overlay to reduce the standard car parking rates for new CBD development; • Commit to initiatives to reduce car dependence in Horsham; • Manage CBD time restrictions to encourage parking in peripheral areas; • Defer any plans to increase CBD parking supply. • Make Horsham the 'world's most walkable rural city'; • Short to medium term urban growth opportunities for Horsham should be focused in Town Centre (Horsham CAD), existing urban area (Outside of CAD), strategic infill sites, which may include open space sites; • Establish and improve pedestrian and cycling routes in strategic locations; • Improve connectivity between the Horsham CAD and surrounding urban area. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT / WIMMERA RIVER CORRIDOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation); • Encourage the development of a riverside café; • Recognise and promote the river's character, culture and history: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council to identify, protect and manage Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural elements along the river corridor; • Identify, protect and manage post contact significant cultural elements along the river corridor; • Develop and implement appropriate education and interpretative materials along the river corridor. • Improve access opportunities to the river from surrounding areas of Horsham: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor. • Establish new linkages across the river to better connect north and south Horsham: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate universal design principles in any proposed bridges or river crossings. • Ensure inclusive and equitable recreational and social use of the river corridor through provision of appropriate infrastructure and programs: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2018-22, HRCC (2018); • Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2021, Urban Enterprise (2017); • Horsham Wimmera Corridor Plan (draft), HRCC and VPA (2018); • Wimmera River Project Report, Regional Leadership Skills Project Group Members (2018).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage events that are appropriate to the river corridor; • Deliver public realm design outcomes which encourage and support recreational activity. • Provide opportunities for improved integration of activities in the Horsham Central Activities District with the river corridor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create linkages between the Central Activities District and river corridor as identified through the Horsham Central Activities District revitalisation project. • Ensure commercial activities within the Wimmera river corridor are compatible with the primary use of the corridor for environmental and recreation purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of riverside catering/dining venues. • Activate areas fronting the river to attract patronage and stimulate activity around the river corridor; • Investigate the establishment of new walking and cycling linkages, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A connection between Firebrace Street and the southern bank of the Wimmera River; • Showgrounds and land to the south east of the Wimmera River. • Encourage recreation opportunities along the Wimmera River corridor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider small scale restaurant/café uses in the Wimmera River corridor that are subordinate to the dominant use of the corridor as passive open space; • Prepare a Masterplan for the Wimmera River trail to examine ways to accommodate uses such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional recreation opportunities; • Walking and Cycling; • Small scale business that supports the recreational aspects of the corridor. 	
<p>SPORT AND RECREATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with plans to develop a multipurpose indoor sport and recreation centre, located as close as possible to the existing Basketball Stadium, either adjacent to, or on the Showgrounds; • Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multipurpose, multiuser venue, over a single purpose facility; • Develop and progressively implement a plan for the redevelopment of the Horsham City Oval precinct; • Encourage redevelopment of community facilities at the Horsham Showgrounds; • Reduce use of City Oval by restricting football training sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-18 (draft), SGL Consulting Group (2013); • Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design, William Ross Architects (2017); • Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2018-22, HRCC (2018).

<p>TOURISM, PROPERTY & LAND USE: STUDY AREA (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, RETAIL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development of strategic infill sites identified in the Horsham CAD Strategy and existing residential land which is yet to be developed; • Encourage medium density residential development within a 400 metre radius of the Horsham CAD; • Encourage opportunities for mixed use development; • Encourage compact urban forms and infrastructure; • Encourage light industrial businesses to continue to locate outside of the Horsham CAD; • Encourage the location of State Government Departments within Horsham; • Encourage opportunities for home-based businesses and enterprises; • Support the on-going growth and development of the retail and commercial sectors within Horsham CAD; • Encourage retail and business activities within the Horsham CAD; • Consider alternative uses for surplus industrial land; • Encourage the development of office accommodation in the CAD; • Investigate the potential to redevelop and expand the Wimmera Business Centre to meet contemporary business needs. • Promote and attract conferences to Horsham; • Facilitate the attraction of major sporting events; • Leverage greater benefit from the Horsham Town Hall precinct by exploring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a pedestrian and performance zone opposite the Town Hall theatre in Ward Street; • Attraction of entertainment and dining businesses to the precinct; and • Business/conference market. • Develop a destination brand for Horsham; • Explore the establishment of the Wimmera River Art Trail; • Encourage diversification of the regional economy through building on the region's assets, particularly agriculture, energy, mining and tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham Growth Management Framework, Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment (2012); • Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy, MR Cagney (2017); • Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2021, Urban Enterprise (2017).
--	--	--

PART B: **EXISTING SITUATION**

- **POPULATION AND HOUSING**
- **THE ECONOMY**
- **TOURISM**
- **COMMUNITY / SPORT & RECREATION**

Part B provides research and analysis for Horsham's existing situation having regard to population and housing, economic profile, tourism industry and visitor market, as well as community, sport and recreation infrastructure.

3. POPULATION & HOUSING

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview and assessment of Horsham's demographic and housing profile having regard to historical and projected changes and the implications for the study area.

A range of indicators have been assessed including:

- Population growth;
- Age profile;
- Socio-economic profile;
- Education attainment;
- Dwelling type;
- Household composition;
- Median property values;
- Building permits.

The data areas adopted for this assessment are shown in Appendix A.

3.2. KEY FINDINGS

POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Horsham is forecast to experience low to moderate population growth.

Since 2001, Horsham's population has grown at an average rate of 0.5% per annum, which is well below the regional Victorian average (1.1%).

This level of growth is forecast to continue into the future, with Victoria in Future projecting that Horsham will grow at an average rate of 0.6% per annum to 2031; increasing from 19,887 in 2016 to 21,793 in 2031.

The low to moderate population growth that has occurred and is forecast to continue in Horsham suggests that the opportunities for the study area should consider the needs of existing residents and cater to the differing needs of the community demographics as they change over time.

Whilst the proportion of senior and elderly cohorts are projected to increase, there is a replenishment of young and middle-aged families that is forecast to occur in Horsham.

Forecasts for Horsham's residents indicate that there will be notable growth in young to middle aged families, as well as senior and elderly cohorts.

20% of the increase in residents is forecast to occur in children aged between 0 and 14 years. A further 30% of growth in residents is projected to occur in persons aged between 30 and 44 years. This indicates that young to middle aged families are projected to account for approximately half of the growth across all cohorts.

Overall, Horsham's resident population is forecast to move into older age cohorts, with a projected 46% growth in cohorts aged over 70 years. The notable increase in seniors and elderly will have implications for demand and accessibility of housing, infrastructure, services and amenity in the study area.

The population of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region is declining. This trend is forecast to continue.

The population of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region is declining, partially due to an ageing workforce in the farming sector and population movements to larger regional centres to be closer to supporting infrastructure and services such as health, medical and retail.

Horsham continues to attract residents from surrounding Council areas, highlighted by the large proportion of rural migration that has occurred from nearby municipalities including Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Northern Grampians and Hindmarsh.

Horsham's community is relatively disadvantaged.

Horsham has a relatively high level of socio-economic disadvantage when compared with other areas in Regional Victoria. This is consistent with the higher proportion of low-income earning households and the lower proportion of persons attaining higher education qualifications (Bachelor Degree or higher).

This could also be attributed to the more limited access to high-quality education, community and sporting infrastructure and services compared with other regional centres in Victoria.

HOUSING

Horsham's housing stock is characterised by detached, homogenous dwellings.

The housing stock in the municipality is characterised by detached, homogenous dwellings, indicated by the fact that separate houses account for 87% of all dwellings in the Council area.

The number of dwellings in Horsham (RC) increased by 329 between 2011 and 2016; growing at an average rate of 66 per annum. This level of growth (0.7% p.a.) is not significant but indicates that dwellings and development activity is occurring in Horsham; notably in Horsham East (Waterlink Estate), Horsham South (southbank) and Horsham West (Dumesny Street).

Approximately two thirds of Horsham households are families and one third are lone person households.

The housing market in Horsham is primarily being driven by families and older adult couples.

According to local agents, demand for dwellings in Horsham's growth areas is being driven by the family market seeking large, new dwellings. Housing in the study area, however, is generally sought by a different buyer profile. Demand for dwellings in the study area is being driven by older cohorts, notably semi-retirees, retirees and second and third home buyers seeking to be closer to the amenity of the CAD.

Demand for future housing stock in the CAD will primarily be for smaller, single storey dwellings that are lower maintenance and have good access to the CAD. There is a current lack of rental housing stock and high rents due to high volume of short term construction workers based in the region.

Horsham is a relatively affordable place to live.

As at 2017, Horsham's median house price was \$265,000. This is significantly less when compared with Victoria (\$533,000) and Regional Victoria (\$343,000). House prices in Horsham Rural City and surrounding council areas are the most affordable in the State.

The affordable nature of Horsham could be attractive to prospective new residents, particularly given the affordability challenges in larger regional and capital cities.

Horsham’s annual dwelling growth is forecast to accelerate.

Dwelling requirements are expected to increase over the next 20 years in Horsham. According to Victoria in Future (VIF), average dwelling growth in the Council area is projected to increase to an estimated 94 dwellings per annum.

Given that the age profile is forecast to experience notable change over the next 20 years with an increase in senior and elderly cohorts in particular, there will be a need for additional residential uses and aged care in the study area. Parts of the CAD have attractive attributes such as access and proximity to retail, open space, transport, community services and amenity that will be highly attractive to future residents.

The demand for housing in the study area in the short to medium term is expected to be for semi-detached and detached dwellings on smaller allotments due to the lesser requirements for property maintenance and the more efficient use of land.

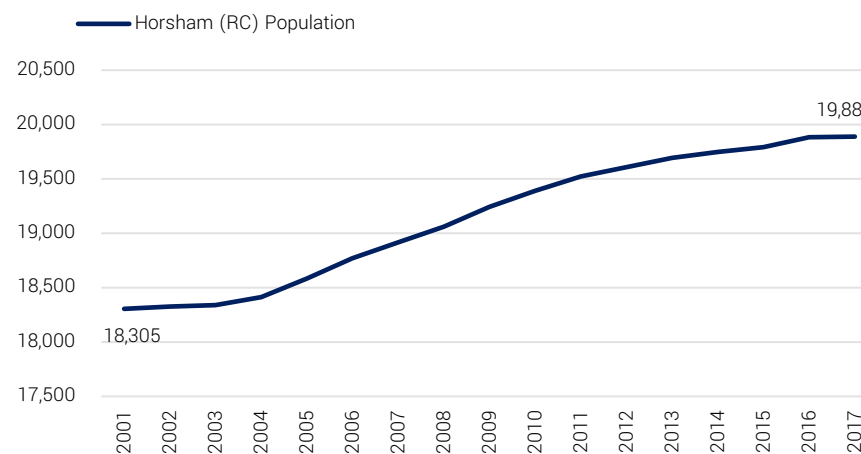
Given the lack of suitably zoned residential land in the CAD, there is potential to explore infill urban renewal opportunities at strategic locations to meet this demand.

3.3. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH

Between 2001 and 2017, the population of Horsham (RC) experienced average growth of 0.5% per annum increasing from 18,305 residents in 2001 to 19,889 residents in 2017 as shown in Figure 1. The historic rate of growth is less than the regional Victoria average of 1.1% per annum and the Victorian average of 1.8% per annum.

FIGURE 1 HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH – HORSHAM (RC) – 2001 TO 2017 (ERP)



Source: Population, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2001 to 2017 (ERP)

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

Horsham’s historically low rate of population growth is forecast to continue. Horsham (RC) is projected to experience an average annual growth rate of 0.6% per annum between 2016 and 2031 increasing from 19,887 people in 2016 to 21,129 residents in 2031 as identified in Table 3.

All of Horsham’s growth is projected to occur in the urban area, whilst the population in rural areas is forecast to decline.

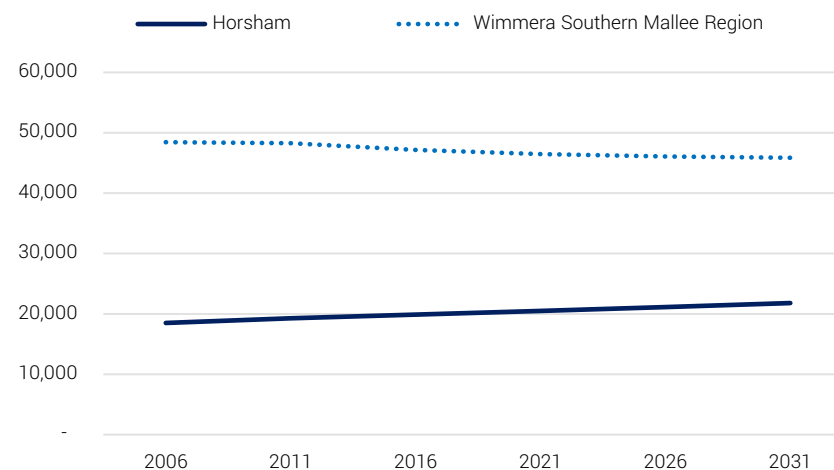
Figure 2 shows the forecast population growth of HRCC compared with the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. The figure shows that whilst Horsham Rural City’s population is projected to increase, the population of the Wimmera Southern Mallee is expected to decline.

TABLE 3 FORECAST POPULATION GROWTH – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2036

	2016	2021	2026	2031	CHANGE	AAGR%
Horsham Township	16,606	17,347	18,061	18,761	+ 2,155	0.8%
Horsham Rural Area	3,281	3,144	3,068	3,032	-249	-0.5%
Horsham (RC)	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	+1,906 (10%)	0.6%

Source: Population projections, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2001 to 2017 (ERP)

FIGURE 2 POPULATION GROWTH IN HRCC / WSMR – 2006 TO 2031



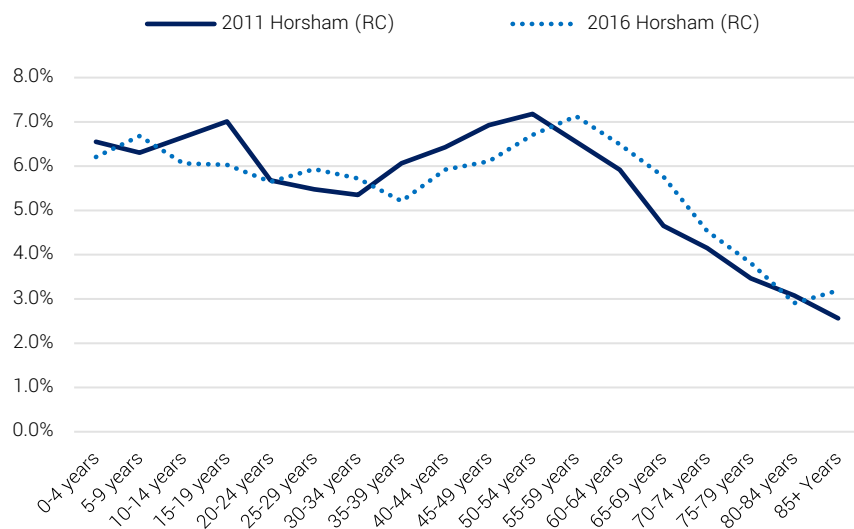
Source: Census of Population & Housing, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006, 2011 / Forecast Population, Victoria in Future 2017

AGE PROFILE

The historic change in age profile of Horsham residents between 2011 and 2016 is provided in Figure 3. The most common age cohorts in Horsham (RC) are 55 to 59 years (7.1%), 50 to 54 years (6.7%) and 5 to 9 years (6.7%).

A notable increase in the number of older residents including elderly residents (85+ years) and residents aged 65 to 69 years occurred between 2011 and 2016. Over the same period, there was decline in the number of residents aged 35 years to 44 years, middle aged residents (45 years to 54 years) and residents aged in their mid to late teens.

FIGURE 3 HISTORICAL AGE PROFILE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016



Source: Age Profile, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 to 2016 (ERP)

PROJECTED AGE PROFILE

Table 4 summarises the forecast change in age profile of Horsham residents between 2016 and 2031. The most notable changes in resident age profile is forecast to occur in young to middle aged families, as well as seniors and elderly cohorts.

20% of the increase in residents is forecast to occur in persons aged between 0 and 14 years. A further 30% of growth in residents is projected to occur in persons aged between 30 and 44 years. This indicates that young to middle aged families are projected to account for approximately half of the growth across all cohorts.

A proportion of Horsham's resident population is forecast to get older; with a projected 46% growth in cohorts aged over 70 years. The notable increase in seniors and elderly people will likely have implications on the demand for and accessibility of infrastructure, services and amenity in the study area.

TABLE 4 PROJECTED AGE PROFILE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2031

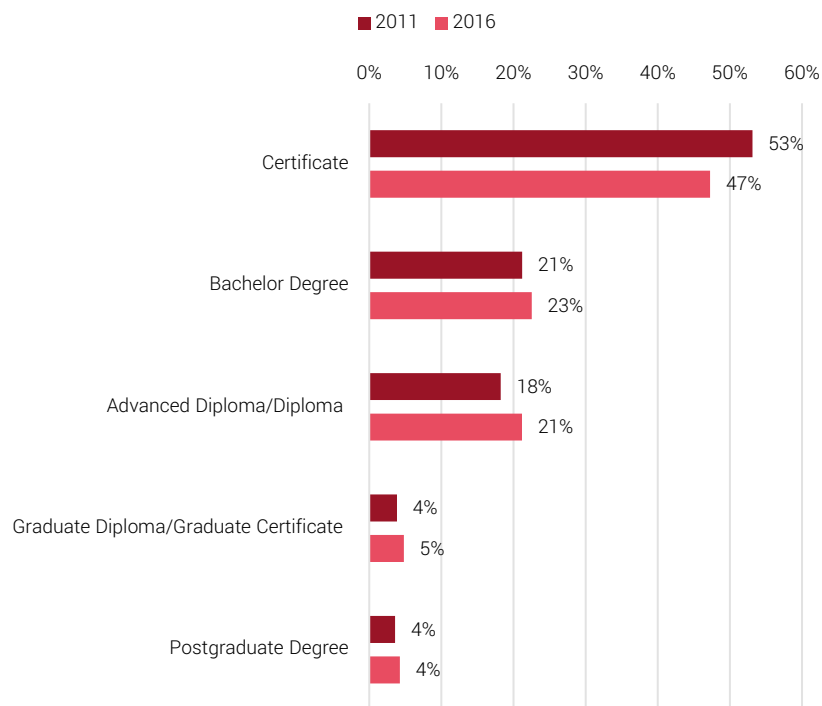
	2016	2021	2026	2031	CHANGE (RAW)	CHANGE (%)
0-4 years	1,298	1,359	1,412	1,419	121	9%
5-9 years	1,308	1,310	1,378	1,433	125	10%
10-14 years	1,230	1,293	1,299	1,370	140	11%
15-19 years	1,261	1,239	1,301	1,312	51	4%
20-24 years	1,291	1,222	1,219	1,285	-6	0%
25-29 years	1,177	1,338	1,263	1,275	98	8%
30-34 years	1,153	1,228	1,387	1,312	159	14%
35-39 years	1,096	1,195	1,262	1,421	325	30%
40-44 years	1,204	1,146	1,240	1,305	100	8%
45-49 years	1,306	1,277	1,215	1,313	7	1%
50-54 years	1,310	1,289	1,260	1,200	-110	-8%
55-59 years	1,338	1,257	1,232	1,208	-130	-10%
60-64 years	1,174	1,284	1,206	1,186	12	1%
65-69 years	1,030	1,116	1,224	1,153	123	12%
70-74 years	822	966	1,048	1,156	333	41%
75-79 years	714	753	884	965	251	35%
80-84 years	572	600	640	757	184	32%
85+ years	602	620	658	724	122	20%
Total	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	1,906	10%

Source: Age projections, Victoria in Future (VIF) 2016

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

The most common level of education qualification attained by Horsham residents is certificate level, accounting for 47% of all education attainment. The proportion of residents who have attained a bachelor’s degree or higher increased between 2011 and 2016.

FIGURE 4 EDUCATION ATTAINMENT – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016



Source: Place of Usual Residence, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

JOURNEY TO WORK

As identified in Table 5, 90% of Horsham (RC) residents also work within in the municipality. Of the limited number of residents working outside of Horsham (RC), locations include Yarriambiack Shire (3%), Hindmarsh (1%) and Northern Grampians Shire (1%).

TABLE 5 JOURNEY TO WORK – EMPLOYED RESIDENTS – 2011 TO 2016

	HORSHAM (RC)			
	2011		2016	
Horsham (RC)	7,738	87%	8,077	90%
Yarriambiack (S)	171	2%	226	3%
Hindmarsh (S)	108	1%	128	1%
Northern Grampians (S)	50	1%	68	1%
West Wimmera (S)	27	0.3%	56	1%
Ballarat (C)	13	0.1%	21	0.2%
Southern Grampians (S)	29	0.3%	18	0.2%
Ararat (RC)	3	0.0%	14	0.2%
Buloke (S)	6	0.1%	14	0.2%
Melbourne (C)	6	0.1%	13	0.1%
Greater Geelong (C)	8	0.1%	10	0.1%
Wyndham (C)	3	0.0%	7	0.1%
Greater Bendigo (C)	0	0.0%	6	0.1%
Hume (C)	0	0.0%	5	0.1%
Warrnambool (C)	4	0.0%	5	0.1%

Source: Place of Work, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

The current unemployment rate of Horsham (RC) residents is 3.4% (September 2018), which is lower than the Victorian average (4.3%).

The number of employed Horsham (RC) residents decreased by 0.7% (67 jobs) between 2011 and 2016. Further, the number of unemployed residents increased by 37% (127 jobs).

TABLE 6 LABOUR FORCE STATUS – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	HORSHAM (RC)					
	AAGR%	2011	2016	Growth 2011 to 2016 (#)	Growth 2011 to 2016 (%)	AAGR%
Employed	-0.32%	9174	9,107	-67	-0.7%	-0.15%
Unemployed	5.89%	348	475	+127	+36.5%	+6.42%
Not in the Labour Force	0.69%	5,242	5,419	+177	+3.4%	+0.67%
Total	0.25%	14,766	15,002	+236	+1.6%	+0.32%

Source: Place of Usual Residence, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

OCCUPATION

Occupations held by Horsham (RC) employed residents did not experience material change between 2011 and 2016.

Of the employed Horsham (RC) residents, 17% are professionals, 16% are managers, 14% are technicians and trades workers and 12% are clerical and administrative workers.

TABLE 7 OCCUPATION – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	HORSHAM (RC)		
	2011	2016	Growth 2011 to 2016
Managers	17%	16%	-1%
Professionals	17%	17%	+0.2%
Technicians and trades workers	15%	14%	-0.5%
Community and personal service workers	10%	11%	+2%
Clerical and administrative workers	12%	12%	-1%
Sales workers	11%	11%	+0.3%
Machinery operators and drivers	7%	6%	-1%
Labourers	10%	11%	+1%
Inadequately described	2%	1%	-1%

Source: Place of Usual Residence, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Table 8 shows the weekly income for Horsham households. A large proportion (31%) of households are lower income earning households (i.e. \$300-\$799). Further, 33% of households are median income earning households (i.e. \$1,000 to \$1,999).

The proportion of households earning higher incomes (i.e. \$2,500+) experienced a minor increase between 2011 and 2016.

TABLE 8 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (PER WEEK) – HORSHAM (SUBURB AND RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	HORSHAM (SUBURB)			HORSHAM (RC)		
	2011	2016	CHANGE	2011	2016	CHANGE
Negative income	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nil income	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
\$1-\$299	6%	3%	-3%	6%	3%	-2%
\$300-\$799	37%	33%	-4%	35%	31%	-4%
\$800-\$999	11%	10%	-1%	11%	10%	-1%
\$1000-\$1499	19%	20%	+1%	19%	20%	+1%
\$1500-\$1999	12%	13%	+1%	12%	13%	+1%
\$2000-\$2499	7%	9%	+2%	8%	10%	+2%
\$2500-\$2999	3%	4%	+1%	4%	5%	+1%
\$3000-\$3499	2%	2%	0%	3%	3%	0%
\$3500-\$3999	0%	2%	+1%	1%	2%	+1%
\$4000-\$4999	1%	2%	+1%	0%	2%	+1%
\$5000+	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Source: Place of Enumeration, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

MIGRATION

Between 2011 and 2016, 2,600 new residents migrated to Horsham (RC). Of the new residents attracted to Horsham (RC), 260 migrated from Yarriambiack, 211 migrated from Hindmarsh and 104 migrated from Ballarat.

Whilst the majority of new residents migrated from surrounding Council areas, there was a notable attraction of residents from overseas (225 persons) and interstate: South Australia (216 persons), Queensland (137 persons) and New South Wales (107 persons).

TABLE 9 PLACE OF RESIDENCE (MIGRATED) – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 - 2016

	2011	2016
Yarriambiack (S)	301	260
Hindmarsh (S)	214	211
Ballarat (C)	97	104
West Wimmera (S)	117	103
Northern Grampians (S)	68	76
Greater Geelong (C)	75	66
Wyndham (C)	32	54
Southern Grampians (S)	56	53
Mildura (RC)	45	51
Buloke (S)	64	43
Glenelg	46	31
New South Wales	138	107
Queensland	146	137
South Australia	220	216
Western Australia	78	55
Tasmania	21	13
Northern Territory	28	39
Australian Capital Territory	3	5
Overseas	266	225
Other Victoria	909	751
Total New Residents	2,924	2,600

Source: Place of Usual Residence, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

SEIFA INDEX

The Socio Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) measures the relative level of advantage (or disadvantage) of a Local Government Area (LGA). SEIFA is measured based on a range of ABS indicators such as rate of unemployment, average income and education attainment. Horsham (RC) has a SEIFA of 958 as identified in Table 10.

Horsham is ranked the 24th (out of 48) most disadvantaged Council area and 27th (out of 70) most disadvantaged in Victoria.

TABLE 10 HORSHAM (RC) - SEIFA - 2016

LGA	SEIFA INDEX	RANK IN REGIONAL VICTORIA	RANK IN VICTORIA
South Gippsland (S)	965	29	33
Wangaratta (RC)	962	28	31
Greater Bendigo (C)	961	27	30
Warrnambool (C)	961	26	29
Corangamite (S)	959	25	28
Horsham (RC)	958	24	27
Strathbogie (S)	957	23	26
Wodonga (C)	957	22	25
Wellington (S)	954	21	24
Buloke (S)	949	20	23
Hume (C)	947	n/a	22

Source: SEIFA Index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, ABS, 2011 and 2016.

3.4. HOUSING

DWELLING PROJECTIONS

On average, dwelling growth projections for Horsham (RC) are in the order of 94 additional dwellings per annum. The number of dwellings in the Council area are forecast to increase from approximately 9,200 in 2016 to 11,110 in 2036.

TABLE 11 DWELLING PROJECTIONS – HORSHAM (RC) – 2016 TO 2036

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	GROWTH (2016 – '36)	AAGR
Dwellings	9,232	9,956	10,490	11,000	11,110	+1,878 (20%)	1%

Source: Census of Population and Housing, ABS 2016 / Dwelling projections, Victoria in Future (VIF) 2016

DWELLING STRUCTURE

The majority of housing stock in Horsham (RC) is characterised by single detached dwellings, accounting for 87% of dwellings in Horsham (RC).

TABLE 12 DWELLING STRUCTURE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	2011	2016	GROWTH 2011 TO 2016		
	Horsham (RC)		#	%	AAGR%
Separate house	7,643	8,008	+365	+5%	+0.9%
Flat, unit or apartment	623	513	-110	-21%	-4%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	455	577	+122	+21%	+5%
Other dwelling	131	38	-93	-245%	-22%
Not stated or not applicable	41	93	+52	+56%	+18%
Total	8,903	9,232	+329	+4%	+0.7%

Source: Place of Enumeration, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

DWELLING TYPE

The majority of dwellings in Horsham (RC) are occupied private dwellings as identified in Table 13. In total, there were 9,232 dwellings in Horsham (RC). The number of dwellings in Horsham (RC) increased by 329, at an average growth rate of 66 dwellings per annum.

TABLE 13 DWELLING TYPE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	HORSHAM (RC)		
	2011	2016	CHANGE 2011 to 2016
Occupied private dwellings	7,906	8,079	173
Unoccupied private dwellings	951	1,104	153
Non-private dwellings	41	46	5
Total	8,903	9,232	329

Source: Place of Enumeration, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

TENURE TYPE

In Horsham (suburb) 34% of dwellings are owned outright and 30% are owned with a mortgage. In Horsham (RC), 33% of dwellings are owned outright and 30% are owned with a mortgage.

29% of dwellings in Horsham (suburb) and 28% in Horsham (RC) are rented. There was no material increase in rental housing available in Horsham (RC) between 2011 and 2016, indicating a potential under provision of rental properties.

TABLE 14 TENURE TYPE – HORSHAM (SUBURB AND RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	2011				2016			
	Horsham (suburb)		Horsham (RC)		Horsham (suburb)		Horsham (RC)	
Owned outright	2,092	34%	2,962	37%	2,068	33%	2,956	37%
Owned with mortgage	1,847	30%	2,478	31%	1,892	30%	2,559	32%
Rented	1,730	29%	1,899	24%	1,748	28%	1,901	24%
Other tenure type	114	2%	186	2%	101	2%	162	2%
Not stated	283	5%	389	5%	408	7%	512	6%
Total	6,069		7,913		6,219		8,079	

Source: Place of Enumeration, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

The majority of households in Horsham are one family households, with the composition accounting for 60% of households in Horsham (suburb) and 63% in Horsham (RC) as identified in Table 15. Lone person households are also common, accounting for 33% of households in Horsham (suburb) and 30% in Horsham (RC), which is slightly higher when compared with the regional Victorian average (29%). This could potentially be attributed to the higher proportion of elderly persons.

TABLE 15 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION – HORSHAM (SUBURB AND RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	HORSHAM (SUBURB)			HORSHAM (RC)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
One family household	61%	60%	-2%	65%	63%	-2%
Two family household	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Three family household	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lone Person Household	32%	33%	1%	29%	30%	1%
Group Household	3%	3%	0%	3%	2%	0%
Other	3%	5%	2%	3%	4%	1%
Total	6,069	6,219	150	7,913	8,079	166

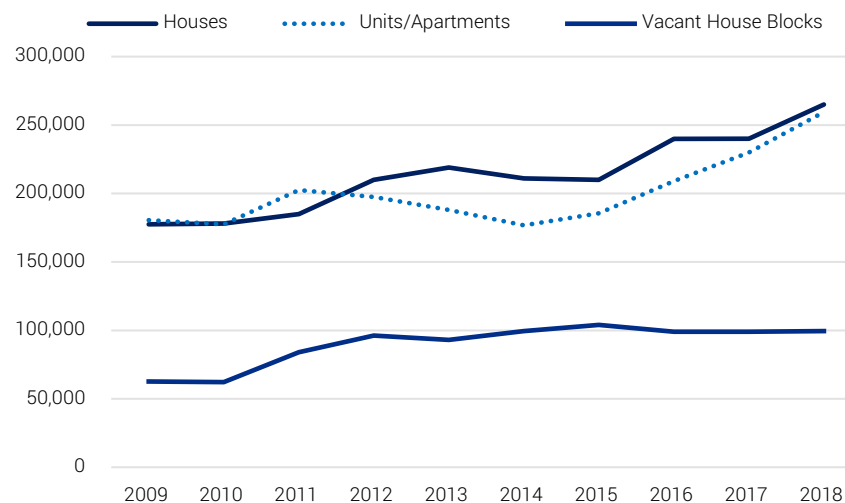
Source: Place of Enumeration, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

PROPERTY VALUES

Between 2009 and 2018, the median house price has grown by 49% (4.1% p.a.), increasing from \$177,500 in 2009 to \$265,00 in 2018. The historic growth in house prices in Horsham (RC) is higher when compared to the regional Victorian average of 43%. The median value of units / apartments also experienced strong growth; increasing from \$180,500 in 2009 to \$259,500 in 2018 (however, represent a smaller proportion of sales).

The median value of vacant house blocks also experienced growth, increasing from \$62,675 in 2009 to \$99,500 in 2018.

FIGURE 5 MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUES (\$) – HORSHAM (RC) – 1988 TO 2018.



Source: A Guide to Property Values, Valuer General, 2018.

RENTALS

Table 16 provides an overview of the median rental prices for 1 and 2-bedroom flats and 2 and 3-bedroom houses in Horsham for the December quarter (2018) and provides comparisons with the previous year.

The table shows that the median rental price for 2-bedroom houses is in-line with the average for other regional centres across Victoria (\$250/week). The median rental for a 2-bedroom house in Horsham increased by 6.4% compared with the previous year.

The median rental price for a 3-bedroom house in Horsham (\$280/week) is slightly less than average for regional centres across Victoria (\$300/week). However, the median price in Horsham did experience a 3.7% increase compared with the previous year.

The median rental price for 1 and 2-bedroom flats in Horsham has decreased since last year. For 1-bedroom flats, the median rental price in Horsham (\$180/week) is slightly higher than the average for other regional centres (\$170/week). However, the median rental price experienced a 21% decline compared with the previous year.

For 2-bedroom flats, the median rental price in Horsham (\$210/week) is slightly less than the average for other regional centres (\$230/week). The median rental price experienced a 1.9% decline compared with the previous year.

TABLE 16 RENTAL REPORT – HORSHAM AND OTHER REGIONAL CENTRES

LGA	1 BED FLAT			2 BED FLAT			2 BED HOUSE			3 BED HOUSE		
	Count	Median	Annual % change	Count	Median	Annual % change	Count	Median	Annual % change	Count	Median	Annual % change
Other Regional Centres												
Horsham	43	\$180	-21.70%	156	\$210	-1.90%	42	\$250	6.40%	306	\$280	3.70%
Hamilton	39	\$150	3.40%	45	\$200	5.30%	46	\$230	12.20%	154	\$260	4.00%
Mildura	79	\$200	11.10%	298	\$220	7.30%	113	\$260	4.00%	589	\$310	3.30%
Warrnambool	83	\$200	5.30%	324	\$250	4.20%	77	\$290	3.60%	426	\$330	3.10%
Wodonga	50	\$175	1.20%	321	\$235	2.20%	65	\$275	10.00%	567	\$320	3.20%
Ave Other Regional Centres Total¹	958	\$170	3.00%	2,875	\$230	4.50%	1,078	\$250	0.00%	5,972	\$300	3.40%

Source: Rental Report, Department of Health and Human Services, December Qtr 2018

Note 1: Table 16 only includes a sample of other regional centres. Other regional centres exclude major centres such as Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong and Mornington Peninsula

BUILDING APPROVALS

Table 17 summarises the number of building approvals for residential buildings in Horsham (RC) between 2012/13 and 2017/18. In that time, there has been an average of 103 building approvals for new residential buildings per annum. The highest number of approvals for new dwellings occurred in 2015/16 (123) and 2014/15 (102).

TABLE 17 NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS - HORSHAM (RC) – 2013 TO 2018

YEAR	RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
2012/13	99
2013/14	105
2014/15	102
2015/16	133
2016/17	88
2017/18	93

Source: Building Approvals, ABS 2012-2018.

Table 18 summarises the total value of building approvals in Horsham (RC) between 2012/13 and 2017/18. The total value of building approvals in 2012/13 was \$67.5 million, followed by 2016/17 (\$64.4 million) and 2015/16 (\$63.0 million)

TABLE 18 VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS - HORSHAM (RC) – 2013 TO 2018

YEAR	VALUE OF TOTAL RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (\$M)	VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (\$M)	TOTAL VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVALS (\$M)
2012/13	\$30.64	\$36.85	\$67.49
2013/14	\$32.17	\$26.27	\$58.44
2014/15	\$36.92	\$7.11	\$44.03
2015/16	\$43.99	\$18.97	\$62.95
2016/17	\$30.67	\$33.77	\$64.44
2017/18	\$32.42	\$18.16	\$50.58

Source: Building Approvals, ABS, 2012 to 2018.

4. ECONOMIC PROFILE

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an economic profile of the Horsham (RC) economy having regard to key economic indicators such as output, employment, export value and local supply chain networks across the 19 ANZSIC industry sectors.

Appendix A provides a map of the region's referred to in this section.

4.2. KEY FINDINGS

Horsham's economy is largely driven by primary, industrial and public sector industries.

Horsham Rural City's economy is largely driven by Agriculture; both dry land broadacre farming (grain and pulse production) and livestock grazing, Manufacturing; specifically cleaning, food, metal and transport products and equipment, Construction, as well as public sector industries including Health, Education and Public Administration and Safety. These industries are vital to the local economy in terms of employment, wages and salaries and local supply chain networks.

Given Horsham's role in servicing the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region, population-led service industries are also critical, particularly in supporting a labour force. Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, Other Services and Arts and Recreation Service account for a quarter of total employed persons in Horsham.

Horsham experienced a decline in jobs between 2011 and 2016.

Horsham experienced a 1% decline in employment between 2011 and 2016. This was mainly due to the decline in employment across the Manufacturing (-161 jobs), Wholesale Trade (-99 jobs) and Retail Trade (-88 jobs) sectors.

The notable decline in employment across these sectors was partially offset by growth in employment across the Education and Training (+104 jobs), Health Care

and Social Assistance (+93 jobs), Professional Service (+55 jobs), Arts and Recreation (+36 jobs), Accommodation and Food Service (+35 jobs) sectors. Employment growth across these sectors is a good indication of sector growth overall and could potentially highlight specialisations for the local economy in the future.

Retail has recently experienced a minor decline in employment and businesses.

Whilst the Retail Trade sector remains a critical industry to the health of Horsham's economy, particularly in supporting business and employment in the CAD, the sector has experienced a minor decline in business and employment in recent years.

Between 2015 and 2017, the number of local retail businesses declined by 7%; decreasing by 11 businesses. Further, the sector experienced an 8% decline in jobs between 2011 and 2016; decreasing by 88 jobs.

This is a consistent trend across much of the state as online retailing becomes more prevalent and continues to disrupt traditional forms of retailing. The changing nature of retail and the changing preferences of buyers / shoppers may have implications for the sector in Horsham.

There are three main pillars of the local and regional economy.

Figure 6 shows the three main pillars of the Horsham and Wimmera Southern Mallee regional economy. These include:

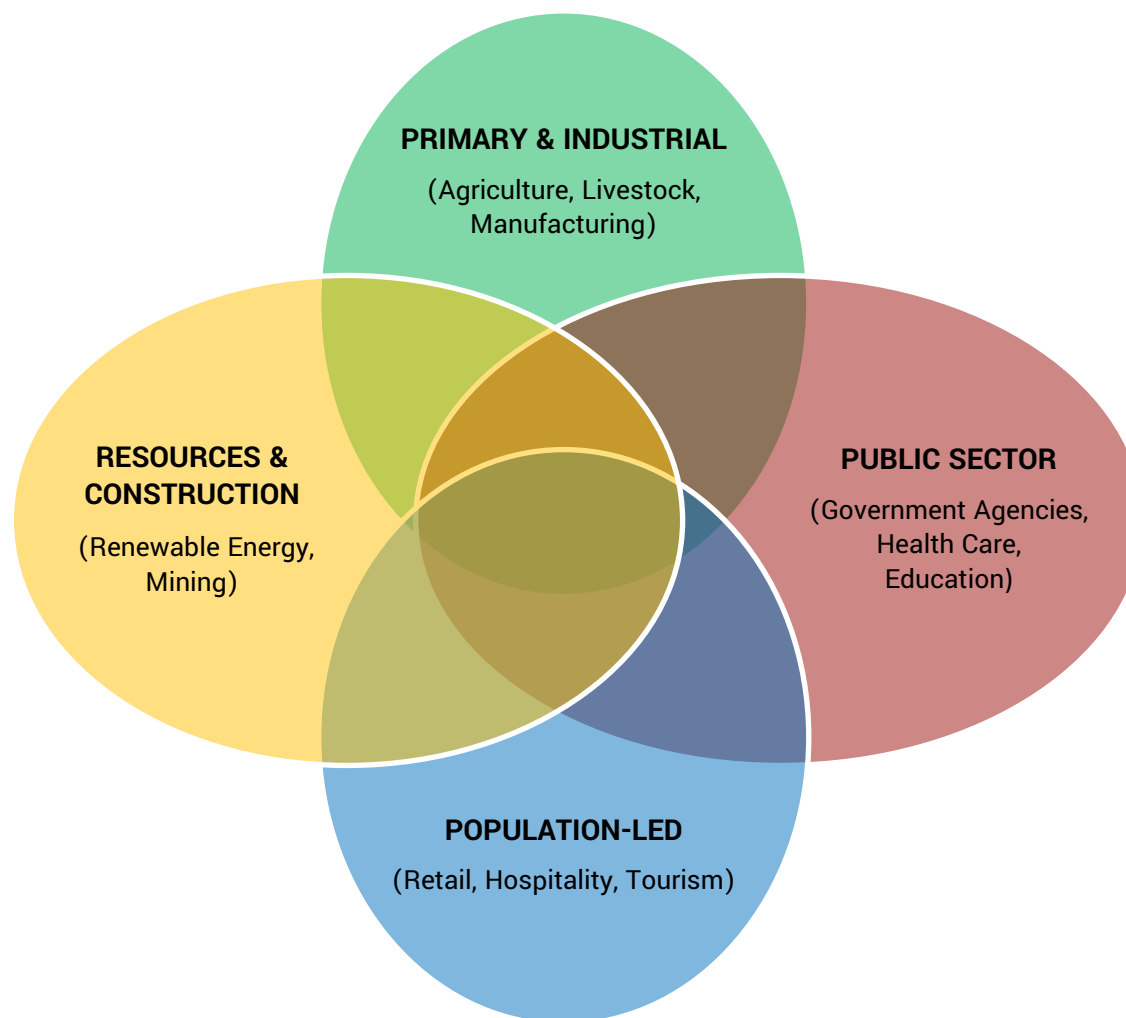
- Primary and Industrial – Agriculture, Livestock, Manufacturing;
- Public Sector – Government Agencies, Health Care and Education;
- Population-Led Industries – Retail, Hospitality, Tourism; and

Primary, industrial, public-sector and population-led industries have traditionally underpinned the local and regional economy.

The Resources and Construction sector is emerging as a considerable economic opportunity for the region, linked to the large-scale renewable energy and mining projects that are underway or planned in the region. These projects are attracting temporary labour force to service these projects, which is driving demand for housing, accommodation, retail and other services in Horsham.

Population retention and attraction will be important to service the existing and growth sectors into the future.

FIGURE 6 DRIVERS OF HORSHAM'S ECONOMY



4.3. ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) of Horsham is \$1.28 billion.

TABLE 19 GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (\$M)	\$1,278.97
Population	19,641
Per Capita GRP (\$'000)	\$65.12
Per Worker GRP (\$'000)	\$136.63

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

OUTPUT

In 2017, the Horsham (RC) economy generated an economic output of \$2.4 billion as identified in Table 20. The highest performing sectors in terms of generating output are Construction (\$385 million), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (\$226 million), Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (\$205 million), Manufacturing (\$200 million) and Health Care and Social Assistance (\$197 million).

TABLE 20 OUTPUT BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Construction	385.1	16.0%
Rental, Hiring, Real Estate Services	226.0	9.4%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	205.3	8.6%
Manufacturing	199.7	8.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	196.5	8.2%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	156.4	6.5%
Retail Trade	121.2	5.1%
Wholesale Trade	115.4	4.8%
Financial and Insurance Services	114.1	4.8%
Public Administration and Safety	113.9	4.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	96.4	4.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	88.0	3.7%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	79.5	3.3%
Administrative and Support Services	78.7	3.3%
Education and Training	78.4	3.3%
Other Services	59.4	2.5%
Information Media and Telecommunications	46.5	1.9%
Arts and Recreation Services	29.0	1.2%
Mining	10.0	0.4%
Total	2399.5	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

VALUE ADDED

The total value added to the Horsham (RC) economy is \$1,189.6 billion, as identified in Table 21. The industries with the greatest value add are Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (\$162.2 million), Health Care and Social Assistance (\$141.4 million) and Construction (\$119.3 million).

TABLE 21 VALUE ADDED BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	\$162.2	13.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$141.4	11.9%
Construction	\$119.3	10.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	\$90.2	7.6%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$80.4	6.8%
Financial and Insurance Services	\$74.5	6.3%
Retail Trade	\$74.0	6.2%
Public Administration and Safety	\$65.7	5.5%
Education and Training	\$59.7	5.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$57.4	4.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$45.2	3.8%
Administrative and Support Services	\$41.4	3.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$38.8	3.3%
Manufacturing	\$38.4	3.2%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	\$36.3	3.1%
Other Services	\$30.3	2.5%
Information Media and Telecommunications	\$20.5	1.7%
Arts and Recreation Services	\$10.3	0.9%
Mining	\$3.4	0.3%
Total	\$1,189.6	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

VALUE OF WAGES AND SALARIES

The total value of wages and Salaries paid to Horsham (RC) workers in 2017 was \$614.6 million. The sectors with the highest wages and salaries were Health Care and Social Assistance (\$118.5m), Construction (\$62.5m), Public Administration and Safety (\$54.5m), Education and Training (\$52.4m) and Retail Trade (\$48.5m).

Given that almost 20% of wages and salaries value is generated by the Health Care sector, this sector drives and supports much of the higher value employment.

TABLE 22 VALUE OF WAGES AND SALARIES BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$118.5	19.3%
Construction	\$62.5	10.2%
Public Administration and Safety	\$54.5	8.9%
Education and Training	\$52.4	8.5%
Retail Trade	\$48.5	7.9%
Administrative and Support Services	\$36.8	6.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$35.6	5.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$30.6	5.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	\$24.7	4.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$24.6	4.0%
Financial and Insurance Services	\$24.1	3.9%
Manufacturing	\$23.7	3.8%
Other Services	\$20.4	3.3%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	\$18.5	3.0%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$16.3	2.7%
Information Media and Telecommunications	\$7.6	1.2%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	\$7.6	1.2%
Arts and Recreation Services	\$6.2	1.0%
Mining	\$1.6	0.3%
Total	\$614.6	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

LOCAL SALES (VALUE)

The total value of local sales in Horsham (RC) is \$727.7 million. The Construction industry accounts for 21% of local sales.

TABLE 23 LOCAL SALES BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Construction	\$149.5	20.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$77.5	10.6%
Manufacturing	\$75.4	10.4%
Financial and Insurance Services	\$64.9	8.9%
Administrative and Support Services	\$55.4	7.6%
Wholesale Trade	\$51.4	7.1%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	\$42.5	5.8%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	\$40.1	5.5%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$39.0	5.4%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	\$36.6	5.0%
Information Media and Telecommunications	\$22.8	3.1%
Retail Trade	\$17.3	2.4%
Other Services	\$16.5	2.3%
Public Administration and Safety	\$13.5	1.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$12.9	1.8%
Arts and Recreation Services	\$4.7	0.6%
Mining	\$4.0	0.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$2.6	0.4%
Education and Training	\$1.3	0.2%
Total	\$727.665	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

REGIONAL EXPORT VALUE

The Horsham (RC) economy exported \$673 million worth of goods and services, with the highest exporting industries being Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (\$155.6 million) and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste services (\$100 million) as identified in Table 24.

TABLE 24 REGIONAL EXPORTS VALUE BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$156.6	23.3%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	\$100.3	14.9%
Manufacturing	\$78.4	11.7%
Construction	\$75.9	11.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$62.3	9.3%
Public Administration and Safety	\$26.5	3.9%
Retail Trade	\$24.2	3.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$20.1	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$20.0	3.0%
Administrative and Support Services	\$16.9	2.5%
Other Services	\$16.4	2.4%
Education and Training	\$15.3	2.3%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	\$14.5	2.2%
Financial and Insurance Services	\$13.2	2.0%
Information Media and Telecommunications	\$8.4	1.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$7.9	1.2%
Arts and Recreation Services	\$6.0	0.9%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	\$5.2	0.8%
Mining	\$4.9	0.7%
Total	\$673.1	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

LOCAL EXPENDITURE

The Horsham (RC) economy spent a total of \$727.7 million in local expenditure, as identified in Table 25. Industry sectors with the highest local expenditure are Construction (\$191.8 million) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (\$79.4 million), indicating a strong local supply chain.

TABLE 25 LOCAL EXPENDITURE BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Construction	\$191.8	26.4%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$79.4	10.9%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	\$47.8	6.6%
Manufacturing	\$47.4	6.5%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	\$44.5	6.1%
Wholesale Trade	\$35.8	4.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$33.8	4.6%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$32.9	4.5%
Public Administration and Safety	\$31.3	4.3%
Retail Trade	\$30.5	4.2%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	\$28.5	3.9%
Administrative and Support Services	\$24.6	3.4%
Financial and Insurance Services	\$23.3	3.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$20.3	2.8%
Other Services	\$16.8	2.3%
Information Media and Telecommunications	\$11.9	1.6%
Education and Training	\$11.8	1.6%
Arts and Recreation Services	\$11.7	1.6%
Mining	\$3.5	0.5%
Total	\$727.7	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

REGIONAL IMPORT VALUE

The Horsham (RC) economy imported goods and services with a total value of \$482 million. The breakdown of regional imports by industry sector in Horsham (RC) is provided in Table 26.

TABLE 26 REGIONAL IMPORT VALUE BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2017

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Manufacturing	\$113.9	23.6%
Construction	\$74.0	15.3%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$45.5	9.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$28.9	6.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$22.1	4.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$21.4	4.4%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	\$19.3	4.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	\$18.4	3.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$18.3	3.8%
Public Administration and Safety	\$16.9	3.5%
Retail Trade	\$16.6	3.5%
Financial and Insurance Services	\$16.3	3.4%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	\$14.8	3.1%
Information Media and Telecommunications	\$14.1	2.9%
Administrative and Support Services	\$12.7	2.6%
Other Services	\$12.3	2.5%
Arts and Recreation Services	\$7.0	1.4%
Education and Training	\$6.9	1.4%
Mining	\$3.0	0.6%
Total	\$482.2	

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

KEY PROPULSIVE SECTORS

A propulsive industry refers to an industry which is a key driver of a region's economy, in terms of regional exports, employment, value-added and local expenditure on goods and services (backward linkages).

Table 27 provides a summary of the key propulsive industries in Horsham (RC) in terms of exports, employment, value added and backward linkages. The key propulsive industries in Horsham (RC) are Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Construction and Health Care and Social Assistance.

TABLE 27 KEY PROPULSIVE SECTORS

INDUSTRY SECTORS	BACKWARD LINKAGES	EXPORTS	EMPLOYMENT	VALUE-ADDED	TOTAL
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Construction	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Health Care, Social Assistance		✓	✓	✓	3
Electricity, Gas, Water, Waste Services		✓		✓	2
Mining	✓				1
Manufacturing		✓			1
Retail Trade			✓		1
Transport, Postal, Warehousing	✓				1
Rental, Hiring, Real Estate Services				✓	1
Education, Training			✓		1
Arts, Recreation Services	✓				1
Wholesale Trade					0
Accommodation, Food Services					0
Information Media, Telecommunications					0
Financial, Insurance Services					0
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services					0
Administrative, Support Services					0
Public Administration, Safety					0
Other Services					0

Source: Horsham REMPLAN profile, 2017.

4.4. EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY - HORSHAM (SUBURB)

As of 2016, there were 6,443 employed residents in Horsham's urban area. The highest employing sectors are Health Care and Social Assistance (1,151), Retail Trade (863) and Construction (569).

The total number of employed Horsham (suburb) residents decreased by 103 people between 2011 and 2016. Manufacturing (-132 jobs), Wholesale Trade (-76 jobs), Transport, Postal and Warehousing (-72 jobs) and Retail Trade (-70 jobs) experienced the most notable loss of jobs. Public sector industries such as Health Care and Social Assistance (+74 jobs) experienced the highest employment growth.

TABLE 28 RESIDENTS INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT – HORSHAM (SUBURB) – 2011 TO 2016

	2011	2016	GROWTH 2011 TO 2016 (#)	GROWTH 2011 TO 2016 (%)	AAGR%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,077	1,151	+74	+7%	1%
Retail Trade	933	863	-70	-8%	-2%
Construction	558	569	+11	+2%	0%
Education and Training	445	516	+71	+16%	3%
Accommodation and Food Services	471	485	+14	+3%	1%
Public Administration and Safety	393	392	-1	0%	0%
Other Services	356	296	-60	-17%	-4%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	269	279	+10	+4%	1%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	317	245	-72	-23%	-5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	208	240	+32	+15%	3%
Inadequately described or not stated	114	237	+123	+108%	16%
Manufacturing	356	224	-132	-37%	-9%
Wholesale Trade	286	210	-76	-27%	-6%
Administrative and Support Services	186	202	+16	+9%	2%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	127	136	+9	+7%	1%
Financial and Insurance Services	149	122	-27	-18%	-4%
Arts and Recreation Services	80	103	+23	+29%	5%
Information Media and Telecommunications	91	88	-3	-3%	-1%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	74	69	-5	-7%	-1%
Mining	56	22	-34	-61%	-17%
Total	6,546	6,443	-103	-2%	0%

Source: Place of Usual Residence, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY - HORSHAM (RC)

The highest employing sectors of Horsham (RC) residents are Health Care and Social Assistance (1,517 jobs), Retail Trade (1,074 jobs) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (836 jobs).

The total number of Horsham (RC) residents employed decreased by 61 over the 5-year period between 2011 and 2016, from 9,171 to 9,110. The industry sectors which experienced the greatest decline were Manufacturing (-161 jobs), Wholesale Trade (-99 jobs) and Retail Trade (-88 jobs) as identified in Table 25.

TABLE 29 RESIDENTS INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT – HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	2011	2016	GROWTH 2011 TO 2016 (#)	GROWTH 2011 TO 2016 (%)	AAGR%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,424	1,517	+93	7%	1%
Retail Trade	1,162	1,074	-88	-8%	-2%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	871	836	-35	-4%	-1%
Construction	775	809	+34	+4%	+1%
Education and Training	585	689	+104	+18%	+3%
Accommodation and Food Services	588	623	+35	+6%	+1%
Public Administration and Safety	544	536	-8	-1%	-0.3%
Other Services	457	410	-47	-10%	-2%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	432	361	-71	-16%	-4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	286	341	+55	+19%	+4%
Inadequately described or not stated	161	335	+174	+108%	+16%
Manufacturing	482	321	-161	-33%	-8%
Wholesale Trade	401	302	-99	-25%	-6%
Administrative and Support Services	244	262	+18	+7%	+1%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	175	174	-1	-1%	-0.1%
Financial and Insurance Services	188	170	-18	-10%	-2%
Arts and Recreation Services	108	144	+36	+33%	+6%
Information Media and Telecommunications	106	103	-3	-3%	-1%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	78	85	+7	+9%	+2%
Mining	78	38	-40	-51%	-13%
Total	9,171	9,110	-61	-1%	-0.1%

Source: Place of Usual Residence, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY – HORSHAM WORKERS

There are 8,538 people working in Horsham (RC) as identified in Table 30. The sectors that support the highest proportion of employment are Health Care and Social Assistance (18%) and Retail Trade (13%).

Between 2011 and 2016 the total number of workers in Horsham (RC) increased by 2%. Industry sectors which experienced the highest growth in employees are Arts and Recreation Services (+40%), Administrative and Support Services (+20%) and Education and Training (+16%).

Sectors which experienced a decline in the number of workers included Mining (-67%), Manufacturing (-33%) and Wholesale Trade (-20%).

TABLE 30 INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT (WORKERS) - HORSHAM (RC) – 2011 TO 2016

	YEAR				GROWTH		
	2011		2016		#	%	AAGR%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,414	17%	1,570	18%	156	8.7%	2.1%
Retail Trade	1,135	14%	1,104	13%	-31	-4.8%	-0.6%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	720	9%	720	8%	0	-2.1%	0.0%
Construction	577	7%	663	8%	86	12.5%	2.8%
Education and Training	547	7%	647	8%	100	15.8%	3.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	583	7%	639	7%	56	7.3%	1.9%
Public Administration and Safety	537	6%	550	6%	13	0.2%	0.5%
Other Services	448	5%	416	5%	-32	-9.1%	-1.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	295	4%	354	4%	59	17.5%	3.7%
Wholesale Trade	380	5%	311	4%	-69	-19.9%	-3.9%
Manufacturing	446	5%	304	4%	-142	-33.3%	-7.4%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	339	4%	299	4%	-40	-13.7%	-2.5%
Administrative and Support Services	213	3%	260	3%	47	19.5%	4.1%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	189	2%	199	2%	10	3.1%	1.0%
Financial and Insurance Services	194	2%	176	2%	-18	-11.2%	-1.9%
Arts and Recreation Services	96	1%	137	2%	41	39.7%	7.4%
Information Media and Telecommunications	109	1%	103	1%	-6	-7.5%	-1.1%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	80	1%	84	1%	4	2.8%	1.0%
Mining	41	0%	14	0%	-27	-66.6%	-19.3%
Total	8,357		8,538		181	2%	0.4%

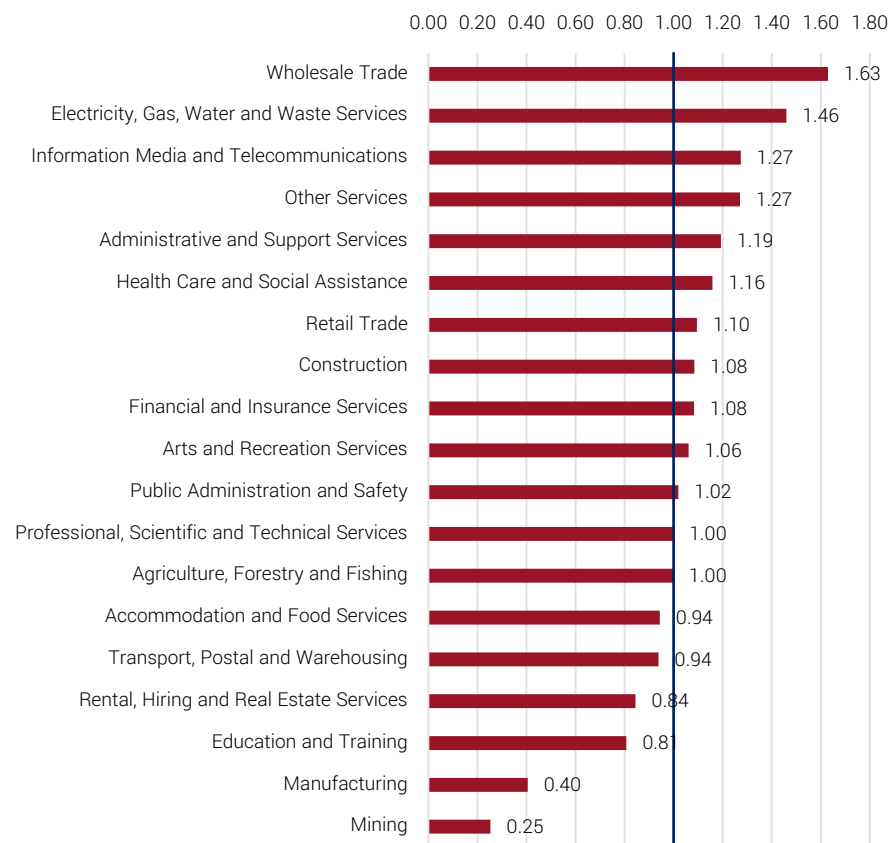
Source: Place of Work, Census of Population and Housing, ABS, 2011 and 016.

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the economic strengths and industry specialisations in Horsham (RC), relative employment comparisons can be made using the Location Quotient (LQ) technique. The LQ measures the proportion of employment in a particular industry relative to proportions in another region. The following LQ analysis compares Horsham (RC) with regional Victoria. An industry value of 1 indicates a low proportion of employment within that industry compared with regional Victoria. A value greater than 1 represents a higher proportion of employment and indicates a competitive advantage in that industry sector compared with regional Victoria.

The LQ analysis in Figure 6 shows that the industry strengths of Horsham (RC) are Wholesale Trade, Electricity, Gas, Waste and Water Services, Information Media and Telecommunications, Other Services, Administrative and Support Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Construction, Financial and Insurance Services, Arts and Recreation Services and Public Administration and Safety

FIGURE 7 LOCATION QUOTIENT



Source: Place of Work, Census of Population and Housing, ABS, 2016.

BUSINESSES IN HORSHAM (RC)

Table 31 and Table 32 identify the number of business in Horsham (RC) categorised by size (number of employees).

In total, there are 2,159 businesses operating within the municipality (as of 2017), which was a reduction of 8 businesses from 2015.

The industry sectors with the largest number of businesses included Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (640 businesses), Construction (292) and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (191).

The majority of businesses (1,244) are non-employing. There are 3 large businesses with 200 or more employees, which all operate in the Administrative and Support Services sector.

TABLE 31 COUNT OF BUSINESSES – HORSHAM (RC) – 2015 TO 2017

INDUSTRY	NON EMPLOYING		1-19 EMPLOYEES		20-199 EMPLOYEES		200+ EMPLOYEES		TOTAL	
	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	415	410	261	224	0	3	0	0	676	640
Construction	145	147	122	139	6	6	0	0	268	292
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	171	171	19	19	0	0	0	0	190	191
Financial and Insurance Services	107	111	31	31	0	0	0	0	141	148
Retail Trade	53	52	92	86	6	4	0	0	152	141
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	58	65	55	60	3	0	0	0	114	119
Other Services	46	45	62	69	0	0	0	0	100	110
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	53	54	58	54	0	0	0	0	110	100
Accommodation and Food Services	27	24	64	55	8	5	0	0	94	89
Manufacturing	33	24	37	40	4	3	0	0	75	71
Wholesale Trade	34	38	31	31	0	3	0	0	67	69
Health Care and Social Assistance	33	29	27	33	0	3	0	0	67	68
Administrative and Support Services	20	16	19	14	3	3	3	3	47	41
Currently Unknown	16	19	0	3	0	0	0	0	17	22
Arts and Recreation Services	15	15	10	6	0	0	0	0	20	19
Education and Training	7	7	4	4	3	0	0	0	11	13
Information Media and Telecommunications	6	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	10
Mining	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	4
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	3
Public Administration and Safety	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	4	3
Total	1,243	1,244	894	880	34	26	3	3	2,167	2,159

Source: Count of Australian Businesses, ABS, June 2015 to June 2017.

TABLE 32 COUNT OF BUSINESSES –CHANGE - HORSHAM (RC) – 2015 TO 2017

INDUSTRY	CHANGE 2015 TO 2017									
	Non employing		1-19 Employees		20-199 Employees		200+ Employees		TOTAL	
Construction	2	1%	17	14%	0	0%	0	No change	+24	9%
Other Services	-1	-2%	7	11%	0		0	No change	+10	10%
Financial and Insurance Services	4	4%	0	0%	0		0	No change	+7	5%
Information Media and Telecommunications	2	33%	-3	-100%	0		0	No change	+5	100%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	7	12%	5	9%	-3	-100%	0	No change	+5	4%
Currently Unknown	3	19%	3		0		0	No change	+5	29%
Wholesale Trade	4	12%	0	0%	3		0	No change	+2	3%
Education and Training	0	0%	0	0%	-3	-100%	0	No change	+2	18%
Mining	0	0%	3		0		0	No change	+1	33%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	0	0%	0	0%	0		0	No change	+1	1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	-4	-12%	6	22%	3		0	No change	+1	1%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0%	3		0		0	No change	-1	-25%
Public Administration and Safety	-3	-100%	0	0%	0		0	No change	-1	-25%
Arts and Recreation Services	0	0%	-4	-40%	0		0	No change	-1	-5%
Manufacturing	-9	-27%	3	8%	-1	-25%	0	No change	-4	-5%
Accommodation and Food Services	-3	-11%	-9	-14%	-3	-38%	0	No change	-5	-5%
Administrative and Support Services	-4	-20%	-5	-26%	0	0%	0	No change	-6	-13%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	1	2%	-4	-7%	0		0	No change	-10	-9%
Retail Trade	-1	-2%	-6	-7%	-2	-33%	0	No change	-11	-7%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	-5	-1%	-37	-14%	3		0	No change	-36	-5%
Total	1	0%	-14	-2%	-8	-24%	0	No change	-8	0%

Source: Count of Australian Businesses, ABS, June 2015 to June 2017.

4.5. INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

INVESTMENT ENQUIRIES

Table 33 provides an overview of Council's historical investment enquiries for the CAD and the broader Council area.

The table shows that there have been limited investment enquiries in the past five years. However, there was a notable spike in hospitality enquiries for the CAD across 2018, including a large proportion of food retail enquiries. This lends support to the notion that there is a higher level of business confidence across food retailing in the CAD when compared with traditional retailing.

TABLE 33 INVESTMENT ENQUIRIES – THE STUDY AREA – 2014 TO 2018

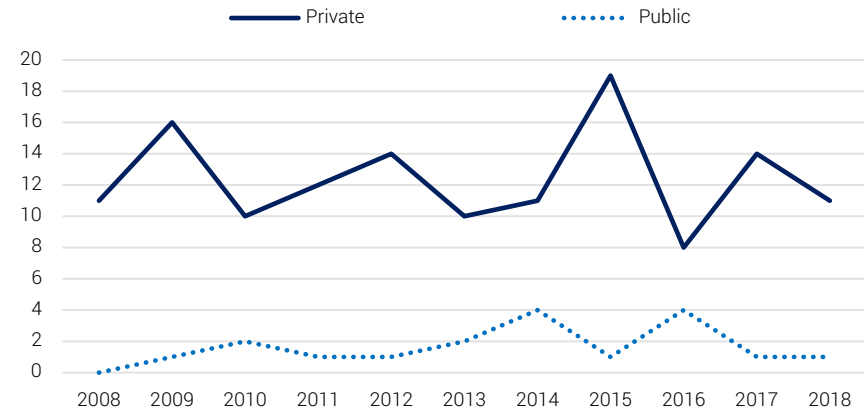
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENQUIRIES (CAD)	COMMENTS
2014	Retail	
2018	Serviced apartments (visitor accommodation)	
2018	Retail (food catering)	
2018	Wimmera Business Centre Review	Identified need for collaborative work spaces
2018	Retail (Food take-away)	Roberts Avenue
2018	Retail (Food restaurant renovations)	Darlot Street
2018	Retail (Food Restaurant)	Roberts Avenue
2018	Commercial (office/branch)	Firebrace Street
	OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENQUIRIES	COMMENTS
2015	Artist in residence	Wimmera River - Pearsons Road
2016	Mineral sands	WIFT Precinct
2016	Service centre	Burnt Creek Estate
2017	Hay processing	WIFT
2017	Stock Feed / breeding centre	Burnt Creek
2017	Fuel and Food outlets	Darlot and Wilson Street, Dimboola Rd
2018	Solar Farm	Rassmussen Road
2018	Wind Farm	Jung (3 turbines)
2018	Starch/Ethanol	WIFT
2018	Compost / green waste	Burnt Creek - Composting/green waste
2018	Grain processing	WIFT Grain processing
2018	Grain processing	WIFT Grain processing
2018	Pulse Protein facility	Enterprise Estate

Source: Economic Development Enquiries, Horsham Rural City Council, 2018

BUILDING PERMIT APPROVALS

Figure 8 shows that building permit activity from the private sector has generally averaged around 12.4 permits per annum over the previous 11 years.

FIGURE 8 BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY (PUBLIC & PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) – STUDY AREA – 2008 TO 2018



Source: Building Permit Data, Horsham Rural City Council, 2018

5. TOURISM

5.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a snapshot of Horsham's tourism industry including the value of the industry in terms of annual output generated and employment supported, as well as an overview of Horsham's tourism product strengths and competitive advantages.

This section also quantifies domestic and international visitation to Horsham and assesses the visitor market having regard to the following indicators:

- Purpose of visit;
- Travel group;
- Average length of stay;
- Activities undertaken; and
- Visitor origin.

Data has been collected using Tourism Research Australia's (TRA) National Visitor Survey (NVS) and International Visitor Survey (IVS). Data has been collected for the 10-year period between 2008 and 2017. A 10-year average has been adopted for certain data sets to eliminate irregularities with sample sizes and provide more certainty of results.

5.2. KEY FINDINGS

Horsham has a small tourism industry relative to comparable regional centres.

The tourism industry in Horsham generates \$91.3m in economic output per annum and supports 582 jobs. For comparison purposes, the tourism industry in Mildura Rural City generates an economic output of \$259m.

Horsham's tourism industry is small relative to comparable regional centres. This is partly attributed to its relatively isolated location and distance from metropolitan areas (i.e. capital cities) but could indicate a shortfall in tourism product and supporting infrastructure.

Domestic overnight has experienced negligible growth in a decade.

Domestic overnight visitation to Horsham grew by 0.4% between 2008 and 2017, which is low compared with overall trends in regional Victoria.

The proportion of domestic holiday/leisure travellers visiting Horsham (34%) is significantly lower than the Regional Victorian average (53%). Horsham is typically recognised as a stopover destination for self-drive visitors due to its location approximately halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide.

Horsham has a strong business / corporate market and caravan / touring market.

Horsham performs well in attracting business and corporate travellers which are critical to the local visitor economy.

The significant business base across the government, Agricultural, Health Care and Construction industries attracts a large proportion of business travellers to Horsham, providing local commercial accommodation operators with strong mid-week occupancy.

At present, construction projects in the region are driving very high demand for short term accommodation, especially serviced rooms with kitchens.

Tourism product development opportunities.

Horsham's under representation of holiday/leisure domestic overnight visitors could be attributed to a number of factors including the relatively isolated location/distance from major metropolitan markets, as well as a potential lack of investment into new tourism product, attractions and infrastructure.

The Horsham Economic Development Strategy (2017) identifies three key focus areas for Horsham to develop as a destination an increase visitation and include:

- Further leverage the success of the Horsham Town Hall;
- Increase sports tourism through development of sport and recreation infrastructure and events; and
- Ensure development of the Wimmera riverfront precinct considers tourism uses.

Other opportunities that could be considered for tourism development include:

- **Food and beverage** - The most common and popular activity for domestic overnight visitors in Regional Victoria is eating out at a restaurant and/or café, with 58% participating in the activity.

In order to further develop Horsham as a destination in its own right, the development and provision of high quality food and beverage product presents a key opportunity to achieve this, particularly given the regional produce strengths in agriculture (e.g. grain/pulse product and livestock).

High quality dining options such as cafés, a gastronomic pub/hotel, provedore, microbrewery and/or wine bar should be considered for Horsham's CAD and riverfront to provide an anchor attraction and contribute to a vibrant precinct.

Horsham's strengths in regional product sees it well placed to strengthen this market segment.

- **Strengthen the overnight touring market** - A key visitor market to Horsham is the holiday / leisure self-drive, caravan and touring market. Typically, this market uses Horsham as a base to tour the broader region including the Grampians, Mount Arapiles, the Silo Art Trail and Pink Lake.

The investment in regional tourism product such as the Grampians Peaks Trail is expected to increase the number of domestic and overnight visitors to the

region, providing opportunities for Horsham to attract more visitors, particularly for accommodation, food and beverage.

During consultation, the Horsham Riverside Caravan Park indicated that they attract strong occupancy from this market and are not affected by seasonality. This presents opportunities for a potential expansion of the Park.

- **Attract investment into the accommodation sector and address accommodation gaps** - Much of the existing stock is standard hotel/motel (3 to 3.5 star) and there is an under provision of high-quality accommodation establishments (i.e. 4+ star) when compared with regional Victoria.

There is an opportunity to diversify the accommodation supply and improve the offering to meet the need and preferences of the business/corporate market, as well as segments of the holiday/leisure market. Based on the consultation findings and a review of existing strategies, the current accommodation gap in Horsham is a high quality serviced apartment and/or hotel establishment.

5.3. VALUE OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

The tourism industry is recognised as a collection of activities across various industry sectors such as retail, accommodation, cafes & restaurants, cultural & recreational services.

The Remplan model utilises Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to provide estimates of the value of industry sectors' contributions to total tourism product output.

In the TSA, tourism is defined as:

"Comprising the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited."

Table 34 provides a summary of economic indicators for the tourism industry in Horsham Rural City and includes output, employment, wages and salaries and value add.

The tourism industry in Horsham generates \$91.3m in economic output and supports 583 (FTE) jobs. For comparison purposes, the tourism industry in Mildura Rural City generates an economic output of \$259m.

TABLE 34 HORSHAM'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

TOURISM	2017
Economic Output (\$M)	\$91.3
Employment (FTE Jobs)	583

Source: Remplan 2017

¹ Arapiles Climbing Guides, 2017

5.4. TOURISM PRODUCT STRENGTHS

Horsham's tourism strengths include outdoor and adventure, water-based, arts and culture, and sport and recreation.

NATURE BASED / OUTDOOR AND ADVENTURE

An abundance of natural assets including lakes, rivers, National & State parks are within a 50-kilometre radius of Horsham. Major assets such as the internationally renowned climbing destination; Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, as well as Mount Stapylton and Mount Zero in the Grampians National Park attract a significant level of annual visitation.

The internationally renowned rock climbing destination; Mount Arapiles is located in Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, approximately 7 km from Natimuk and 30 km from Horsham. This natural asset is a major draw card for domestic and international visitors as it caters to differing levels of climbing abilities. The Mountain is estimated to attract 90,000 visitors per annum.¹



Mt Arapiles

Source: Onsight Photography

The Council area and broader region is home to many lakes and rivers. Wimmera River, Green Lake, Taylors Lake, Natimuk Lake, Lake Toolondo, Lake Wartook and Rocklands Reservoir provide opportunities for locals and visitors to undertake water-based activities such as swimming, fishing, water-skiing, wind surfing and recreational boating.

Another natural area of significance is the Wartook Valley, located to the west of the Grampians mountain range. Attractions in this area include bushwalking, 4WD, horse riding, rock climbing, abseiling, fishing, mountain biking and quad bike tours.

The Laharum area, to the north of the Wartook Valley, is known for its olive groves and organic farming.



Green Lake

Source: Grampians Point

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Horsham Town Hall underwent a redevelopment and was officially completed in January 2016. The revitalised facility incorporates the original Town Hall, a 500 seat Theatre and the Regional Art Gallery.

The Town Hall provides world-class performance, visual arts and conferencing facilities. Performances, events and exhibitions attract visitors from across the Wimmera region.

Natimuk is recognised as a hub for community arts and culture. The township's flagship facility is the Goat Gallery; a privately-owned art gallery showcasing works from local and regional artists.

The Natimuk Frinj Festival is the township's signature boutique visual performance and arts event. The Festival provides an avenue for local artists and attracts visitors looking for a rural community art experience.



Horsham Regional Art Gallery

Source: Visit Victoria

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

According to TRA, between 2012 and 2016, and average of 4% of domestic overnight visitors to Horsham visited for the purpose of attending an event. This is marginally higher than the average for Regional Victoria (2%).

Tourism events are an effective method of attracting visitors from outside of the region that wouldn't ordinarily visit.

The annual event calendar in Horsham supports a proportion of visitation to the Council area. The existing event calendar predominantly consists of music, performing arts, art and cultural events. This is largely due to the emergence of arts and culture as a result of the Horsham Town Hall redevelopment.

The Cultural Department and the management team at the Town Hall indicated that events held at the Town Hall capture audiences that extend beyond the Council area, attracting visitors from Ballarat, Warrnambool and townships along the Victorian and South Australia border.

The Wimmera Event Centre is a purpose-built large-scale event venue, located on approximately 23 hectares of land. The venue includes two large scale pavilions, a number of smaller pavilions, meeting rooms, facilities for on-site camping, catering areas, sheds and outbuildings.

The Centre has the capacity to accommodate a range of large-scale events, from music concerts and festivals to conferences, shows and exhibitions. The Centre can also accommodate smaller functions and events such as seminars, meetings, and social functions. An existing major event held at the Centre is the Wimmera Machinery Field Days.

5.5. VISITOR MARKET ASSESSMENT

VISITATION

Table 35 shows the total annual visitation to Horsham (RC) between 2008 and 2017. On average, there were 379,302 visitors to Horsham (RC) per annum, with visitation increasing at an average growth rate of 7% per annum. The number of domestic day trip visitors has experienced the greatest growth when compared to other visitor types, growing at an average annual rate of 12%. The number of domestic overnight visitors has not experienced significant growth, increasing at an average annual rate of 0.4%. In comparison, the number of international visitors declined at an average rate of 3% per annum.

TABLE 35 TOTAL VISITORS - HORSHAM (RC) - 2008 TO 2017

	DOMESTIC DAY	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT	INTERNATIONAL	TOTAL
2008	118,949	158,929	5,209	283,087
2009	270,915	106,576	4,064	381,555
2010	159,790	144,873	3,094	307,757
2011	148,074	133,005	3,863	284,942
2012	162,351	135,865	4,542	302,758
2013	214,140	150,970	4,412	369,522
2014	235,921	147,907	2,485	386,313
2015	249,760	186,579	4,059	440,398
2016	317,533	161,913	4,993	484,438
2017	383,024	165,336	3,886	552,246
Average	226,046	149,195	4,061	379,302
Change (2008 – 17)	264,075	6,407	-1,323	269,159
AAGR%	12%	0.4%	-3%	7%

Source: National and International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017.

VISITOR AGE PROFILE

The visitor age profile of visitors to Horsham (RC) per year by visitor type is shown in Table 36. The most common age group of visitors are aged 60 to 64 years, with the age group accounting for 10% of domestic day trips, 9% of domestic overnight visitors and 13% of international visitors to Horsham (RC), followed by visitors aged 25-29 years, with the age group accounting for 9% of domestic day trips, 9% of domestic overnight and 13% of international visitors.

TABLE 36 VISITOR AGE PROFILE – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

AGE (YEARS)	DOMESTIC DAYTRIPS	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT	INTERNATIONAL
15-19	3%	7%	2%
20-24	5%	5%	13%
25-29	9%	9%	13%
30-34	9%	8%	6%
35-39	5%	9%	7%
40-44	8%	9%	6%
45-49	5%	10%	9%
50-54	11%	8%	9%
55-59	11%	9%	7%
60-64	10%	9%	13%
65-69	12%	7%	6%
70+	11%	10%	8%

Source: National and International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

On average, domestic overnight visitors to Horsham (RC) stayed 2 nights and international visitors stayed 9 nights.

PURPOSE OF VISIT

The most common purpose of visit for all visitor types to Horsham (RC) is for a holiday, accounting for 43% of domestic day trips, 35% of domestic overnight and 64% of international visitation. Visiting friends and relatives is also a common purpose of visit, accounting for 34% of overnight visitors, 24% of international visitors and 20% of day trippers to Horsham (RC) as identified in Table 37.

35% of domestic overnight visitors to Horsham visit for holiday / leisure purposes. This is significantly less when compared with the average for Regional Victoria (54%). This could be attributed to a number of factors including Horsham's relatively isolated location and significant distance from major metropolitan markets (i.e. capital cities), however, could also be a result of a lack of tourism product, infrastructure and attractions.

Horsham performs well across the business / corporate market, indicated by the 19% of domestic overnight travellers visiting for business purposes. This is considerably higher when compared with the Regional Victorian average (10%) and indicates a potential competitive advantage, particularly in generating strong mid-week occupancy across the commercial accommodation sector.

Horsham is also a popular stopover destination, as it sits approximately halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide. Horsham's popularity as a key stopover location is highlighted by the 6% of domestic overnight visitors whose main purpose of visit is 'in transit'. This is much higher when compared with the regional Victorian average (1%).

TABLE 37 PURPOSE OF VISIT – DOMESTIC DAY / OVERNIGHT AND INTERNATIONAL – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

	HORSHAM (RC)			REGIONAL VICTORIA		
	Daytrip	Overnight	International	Daytrip	Overnight	International
Holiday	43%	35%	64%	52%	54%	67%
Visiting friends and relatives	20%	34%	24%	30%	33%	28%
Business	14%	19%	7%	9%	10%	6%
Other reason	23%	5%	1%	10%	3%	5%
No other reason	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
In transit	0%	6%	3%	0.0%	1%	1%

Source: National and International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

ACTIVITIES

The most common activities undertaken by domestic visitors include eating out (46% of overnight visitors, 43% of day visitors) and visiting friends and relatives (38% of overnight visitors and 27% of day trippers) as identified in Table 38.

Other activities undertaken include going to a pub, club, disco etc. (19% of overnight visitors, 7% of day trippers), sightseeing (18% of overnight visitors and 7% of day trippers) and going shopping for pleasure (38% day trippers and 13% of overnight visitors).

There are a proportion of domestic overnight activities that are underrepresented in Horsham when compared with Regional Victoria, including:

- General sightseeing (18% in Horsham / 28% in Regional Victoria);
- Bushwalking (10% in Horsham / 14% in Regional Victoria);
- Fishing (4% in Horsham / 7% in Regional Victoria); and
- Cycling (1% in Horsham / 3% in Regional Victoria).

TABLE 38 DOMESTIC VISITOR ACTIVITIES – HORSHAM (RC) – 2007 TO 2008 (AVE)

	HORSHAM (RC)		REGIONAL VICTORIA	
	Daytrip	Overnight	Daytrip	Overnight
Eat out / dine at a restaurant and/or cafe	43%	46%	45%	53%
Visit friends & relatives	27%	38%	35%	44%
Pubs, clubs, discos etc	7%	19%	7%	21%
Sightseeing/looking around	7%	18%	19%	28%
None of these	16%	14%	11%	6%
Go shopping for pleasure	38%	13%	18%	21%
Bushwalking / rainforest walks	2%	10%	5%	14%
Visit national parks / state parks	2%	10%	5%	12%
Other outdoor activities nfd	4%	9%	2%	4%
Picnics or BBQs	1%	5%	5%	7%
Fishing	2%	4%	3%	7%

Exercise, gym or swimming	1%	3%	1%	5%
Go to markets	2%	3%	3%	8%
Visit botanical or other public gardens	1%	3%	3%	3%
Visit farms	0%	3%	1%	2%
Attend an organised sporting event	3%	3%	3%	3%
Go on a daytrip to another place	0%	3%	0%	6%
Visit history / heritage buildings, sites or monuments	0%	2%	2%	5%
Play other sports	3%	2%	3%	5%
Attend movies/cinema	1%	2%	1%	1%
Attend festivals / fairs or cultural events	0%	2%	2%	3%
Attend theatre, concerts or other performing arts	0%	2%	1%	2%
Visit museums or art galleries	2%	2%	3%	5%
Visit wildlife parks / zoos / aquariums	0%	1%	1%	1%
Go to the beach	1%	1%	15%	25%
Other activities	0%	1%	1%	1%
Cycling	1%	1%	1%	3%
Golf	1%	1%	1%	3%
Visit industrial tourist attractions / mines / breweries (breweries excl 2016 onwards)	0%	1%	1%	2%
Not asked	1%	1%	0%	0%

Source: National Visitor Survey, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

Table 39 shows the activities undertaken by international visitors to Horsham (RC). The most common activities undertaken include eating out (91%), sightseeing (77%) and visiting national parks / state parks (71%).

TABLE 39 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ACTIVITIES – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

	INTERNATIONAL	
	HORSHAM (RC)	REGIONAL VICTORIA
Eat out / dine at a restaurant and/or cafe	91%	93%
Sightseeing/looking around	77%	81%
Visit national parks / state parks	71%	65%
Go to the beach	69%	73%
Go shopping for pleasure	68%	79%
Pubs, clubs, discos etc	57%	54%
Visit history / heritage buildings, sites or	54%	46%
Bushwalking / rainforest walks	54%	45%
Go to markets	53%	59%
Visit botanical or other public gardens	51%	52%
Visit museums or art galleries	49%	47%
Visit wildlife parks / zoos / aquariums	42%	45%
Charter boat / cruise / ferry	37%	34%
Other outdoor activities nfd	27%	12%
Experience aboriginal art / craft and cultural displays	27%	21%
Visit farms	26%	23%
Visit wineries	23%	27%
Go on guided tours or excursions	22%	27%
Tourist trains	21%	24%
Visit art / craft workshops / studios	21%	15%
Attend festivals / fairs or cultural events	20%	19%
Visit the outback (2005-2015)	20%	15%
Attend Movies/Cinema (2007 onwards)	19%	24%

Snorkelling	16%	17%
Go whale or dolphin watching	16%	13%
Visit an aboriginal site / community	16%	12%
Attend theatre, concerts or other performing arts	12%	16%
Surfing	10%	10%
Visit casinos	10%	18%
Attend an organised sporting event	9%	13%
Fishing	9%	8%
Visit amusements / theme parks	7%	11%
Play other sports	7%	10%
Cycling	7%	9%
Scuba diving	6%	7%
Visit or stay on an island (2016 onwards)	5%	6%
Golf	4%	5%
Visit a reef (2016 onwards)	4%	4%
Sailing, windsurfing, kayaking	4%	9%
None of these	3%	1%
Visit a health spa / sanctuary / well-being centre	3%	6%
Visit breweries or distilleries (2016-2017)	3%	3%
Attend aboriginal performance	2%	5%
Other activities (2009 onwards)	1%	0%
Short educational course	1%	2%

Source: International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

VISITOR ORIGIN

On average the majority (96%) of domestic day visitors to Horsham (RC) are from Victoria, with the remaining 4% of visitors from South Australia. The majority (72%) of domestic overnight visitors to Horsham (RC) are also from Victoria, followed by South Australia (18%), New South Wales (5%) and Queensland (3%) as identified in Table 40.

TABLE 40 DOMESTIC VISITOR ORIGIN – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

	DOMESTIC DAY	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT
Victoria	96%	72%
South Australia	4%	18%
New South Wales	0%	5%
Queensland	0%	3%
Western Australia	0%	1%
Tasmania	0%	1%
Northern Territory	0%	1%
ACT	0%	0.3%

Source: National Visitor Survey, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

Table 41 identifies the country of origin of international visitors to Horsham. On average, 14% of international visitors are from New Zealand, 14% are from the United Kingdom, 13% are from United States of America and 12% are from Germany.

TABLE 41 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR ORIGIN – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
New Zealand	14%
United Kingdom	14%
United States of America	13%
Germany	12%
Scandinavia	8%
Netherlands	6%
Switzerland	6%
Other Europe	5%
Canada	4%
France	4%
China	3%
India	2%
Indonesia	2%
Malaysia	1%
Other Asia	1%
Japan	1%
Hong Kong	1%
Singapore	0.5%
Italy	0.1%
Thailand	0.1%

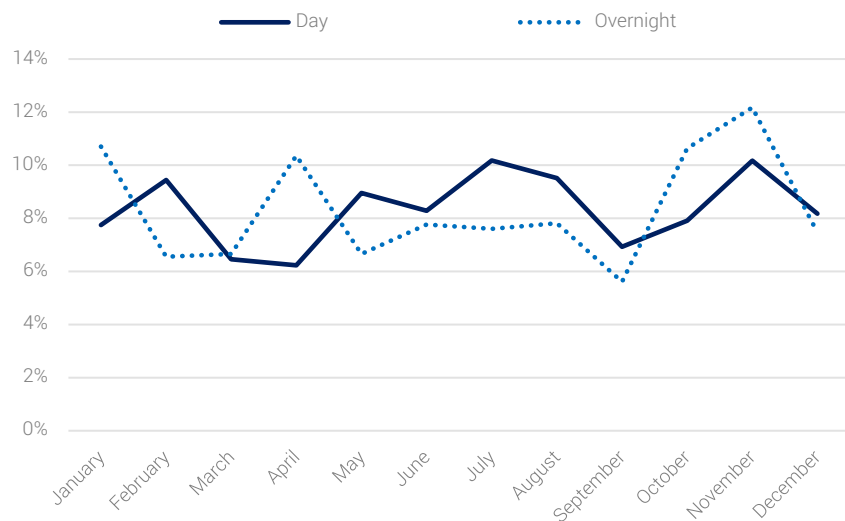
Source: International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

SEASONALITY

Given Horsham’s dependence on the business / corporate market and the caravan / touring and stopover market, Horsham is less affected by seasonality when compared with other visitor destinations in Regional Victoria.

On average, months that attract the highest number of domestic overnight visitors are November (12%), October (11%) and January (11%). September attracts the lowest number of overnight visitors.

FIGURE 9 DOMESTIC VISITOR SEASONALITY – HORSHAM (RC) - 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)



Source: National Visitor Survey, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

TRAVEL PARTY

For overnight visitors, the primary travel party type is adult couples (31%), followed by those travelling alone (25%) and family groups (19%).

For international visitors, the primary travel party is people travelling alone (51%), followed by adult couples (30%) and friends or relatives travelling together (12%).

TABLE 42 TRAVEL PARTY – DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT / INTERNATIONAL – HORSHAM (RC) – 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT	INTERNATIONAL
Adult couple	31%	30%
Travelling alone	25%	51%
Family group - parents and children	19%	5.3%
Friends and/ or relatives travelling together	18%	12%
Business associates travelling together with or without spouses	5%	2%
Other	3%	0.5%

Source: National and International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

ACCOMMODATION STAYED IN

The accommodation typologies stayed in by domestic overnight and international visitors to Horsham (RC) is identified in Table 43.

For both overnight and international visitors, the primary accommodation stayed in is hotels, resorts, motel or motor inn (37% of overnight and 36% of international). Staying at a friend or relatives property is also a common type of accommodation stayed in by overnight (34%) and international (26%) visitors.

TABLE 43 VISITOR ACCOMMODATION – DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT / INTERNATIONAL – HORSHAM (RC) - 2008 TO 2017 (AVE)

	DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT	INTERNATIONAL
Hotel/resort/motel or motor Inn	37%	36%
Friends or relatives property	34%	26%
Caravan park or commercial camping ground	13%	16%
Caravan or camping - non commercial	11%	15%
Rented house/apartment/flat or unit	2%	1%
Other Private Accommodation	1%	1%
Other Accommodation	1%	0%
Own property	1%	1%
Guest house or Bed & Breakfast	1%	1%
Backpacker or hostel	0%	3%

Source: National and International Visitor Surveys, TRA, 2008 to 2017 (10 year average).

6. SPORT, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ASSETS

6.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a high-level assessment of the existing sport and recreation assets, areas of open space and community assets in the study area having regard to current location, function and role, as well as condition relevant to on-site infrastructure.

This section also includes reference to the *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment* report, including the sporting facilities context and summary of demand for the provision of sporting facilities.

6.2. KEY FINDINGS

SPORT AND RECREATION ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

There is a lack of passive open space in the core of the CAD.

Most open space areas and sport and recreation assets/facilities in the study area are concentrated to the southern portion of the CAD, particularly the riverfront precinct and Showgrounds precinct.

With the exception of May Park, which is the key area of open space in the northern portion of the study area, there is an absence of passive open space in the core of the CAD.

Sporting facilities and open space areas in the study area are disparate, inefficient and poorly integrated with other sports and land uses.

Whilst Horsham is generally well supplied in terms of the number of sport and recreation facilities, the current sporting facilities and open space areas in the study area are disparate; with very limited examples of consolidation and co-location of infrastructure that can cater to multiple sports and users. This is particularly the case with City Oval, which includes high perimeter fencing and is not inviting for use by the general public and visitors for public use. Given its strategic and favourable location in the riverfront precinct, City Oval does not integrate well with Sawyer Park and the Botanic Gardens precinct.

City Oval and Horsham Lawn Tennis and Croquet have facilities which do not meet current standards and as a result cannot host certain events or accommodate participation from a broad cross section of the community.

City Oval is currently limited in its scope to host regional events, issues/constraints identified for the facility include:

- No universally accessible clubroom or pavilion;

- The size of the field is too small to host premier regional events;
- The field is poorly orientated for cricket matches resulting in short straight boundaries;
- Insufficient number of publicly accessible toilets on site;
- There is only one netball court;
- The spectator grandstand is orientated to the south and can be subject to cold southerly winds;
- There are issues with the gravel embankment surrounding the field, including the quality of the surface and in providing universal access;
- The club pavilion is not currently accessible to all clubs and users;
- Generally, there is limited access available to the public (perception of private facility).

Horsham lawn tennis (and croquet) is also a key sport facility within the study area. There are 24 grass courts, however, only 16 are maintained. The tennis facility is not currently capable of hosting regional level tennis events.

The facility also does not have lighting, has no formal licence in place and the pavilion has no accessible toilets. Its future position within the precinct should be considered having regard to future opportunities for tennis facilities noted in the *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment*.

There is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham.

Although there is an adequate number of indoor courts in Horsham to support local indoor sports needs, existing facilities are generally non-compliant, ageing, do not meet contemporary facility standards, do not cater to all demographics and cannot host regional events.

Previous work² has determined that there is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham. A number of sites were assessed for this facility, with the McBryde street site identified as the preferred location. Centrally

located sites, close to existing businesses would be beneficial for an indoor sports stadium for a number of reasons, including:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, producing spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre when events are hosted in town;
- Providing an equitable location from an access point of view for residents;
- Providing access to existing infrastructure and services such as accommodation, cafes and restaurants for events visitors;
- Consolidating and enhancing the role and primacy of the CAD;
- Providing the opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Although the CAD contains a number of important community assets, there are few examples of multi-use and integrated facilities.

Horsham's community facilities are predominantly concentrated in the CAD, with the exception of the Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub in Horsham North. Many of the community facilities in the CAD are disparate and are not well integrated.

There are limited examples of a co-location of community uses in the study area. Community uses are shifting towards a co-location model, whereby a multitude of uses are provided within the one facility (or Hub). This can encourage greater utilisation, as well as help realise efficiencies in management, operations and achieve economies of scale. Successful examples of co-located community hubs can be seen throughout Regional Victoria including the Echuca Library/Community Hub, Civic Hall Ballarat and the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre.

Whilst the Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub and the Horsham Town Hall are successful examples of integrated models for community uses, there is an opportunity to improve and strengthen this in Horsham, particularly in the CAD.

² *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility (2016)* and *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*

6.3. CONTEXT

Horsham is the only designated regional City in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region. Its growth and development as a regional city is supported by both *Plan Melbourne* (2017) and the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan* (2014). As a regional city Horsham is expected to be the principal centre for higher order goods and services, including social and community infrastructure.

Horsham is the only municipality within the Wimmera Southern Mallee region that is forecast to experience population growth³. This population growth is also expected to only occur in the central area of Horsham, supporting the need for Horsham to provide services and facilities that cater to a growing local population, whilst servicing other outlying regional and rural towns within Horsham Rural City and surrounding municipalities.

Table 44 and Figure 10 provide a summary of the sport and recreation assets and open space areas in the study area. The majority of open space areas and sport and recreation assets/facilities are concentrated to the southern portion of the CAD, particularly the riverfront precinct and Showgrounds precinct.

With the exception of May Park, which is the key area of open space in the northern portion of the study area, there is an absence of passive open space in the core CAD, as shown in Figure 10.

Whilst Horsham is well supplied in terms of the number of sport and recreation facilities, the current facilities and open space areas in the study area are disparate; with very limited consolidation and co-location of infrastructure that can cater to multiple sports and users.

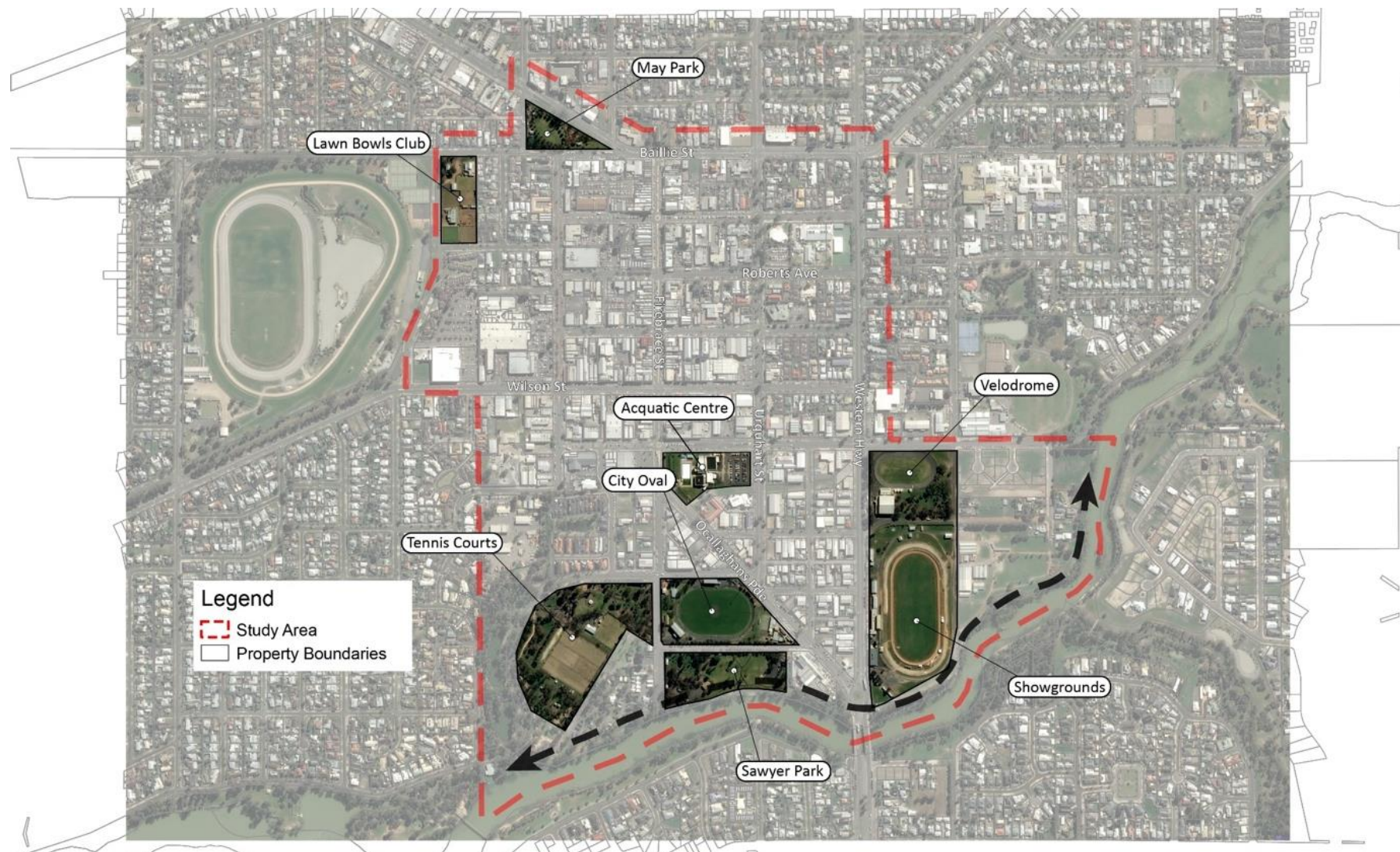
³ Victoria in Future, 2016

TABLE 44 LOCATION AND TYPES OF SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (HORSHAM STUDY AREA)

NAME	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Horsham Aquatic Centre	Sport and Recreation	53 Hamilton St	A multi-purpose facility that offers childcare programs, gym classes, crèche and swimming pool and aquatics.
City Oval Reserve	Sport and Recreation	Baker Street	One oval and one netball court. Oval used for AFL (football) and cricket. A public facility that has a low level of use based on perimeter fencing and management by existing user groups (sporting clubs).
Horsham Velodrome	Sport and Recreation	Hamilton Street	Cycling velodrome that is co-located with the existing basketball stadium. The velodrome is low quality with no complementary facilities on-site.
Lawn Bowls	Sport and Recreation	Park Drive	X4 Bowls Rinks (Horsham City) - 3X Grass / 1X Synthetic X1 Bowls Rink (Horsham West) – Grass Clubrooms
Horsham Botanic Gardens / Lawn Tennis & Croquet	Open Space (Recreation) / Sport and Recreation	Firebrace Street	An 8-acre landscaped garden dating back to the late 1800's with rose gardens, picnic & play areas. X24 Courts - grass (approx. 16 courts maintained) X1 Croquet Court
Sawyer Park	Open Space (recreation)	Firebrace Street (Riverfront)	An area of passive open space on the riverfront. Sawyer Park is the key open space area on the riverfront, in close proximity to the CAD. Is utilised for unorganised physical activity and is also used as an open air event space.
May Park	Open Space (Recreation)	Baillie Street, Horsham	May Park is located at the northern edge of the CAD on Baillie Street. The Park has an all abilities play space and is a popular stopover/rest stop for traveller passing through.

Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

FIGURE 10 MAP OF SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (HORSHAM STUDY AREA)



Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

6.4. SPORT FACILITIES

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES IN HORSHAM

Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment included a peer review of work relating to indoor sports in Horsham including the *Horsham Multi-use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan– Phase One Feasibility Study* (2016) and the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report* (2017).

Generally, there is an adequate number of indoor courts to support the needs for local standard provision, however, existing facilities are generally non-compliant, ageing, do not meet contemporary facility standards, do not cater to all demographics and cannot cater to regional events.

Previous work⁴ has determined that there is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham. A number of sites were assessed for this facility, with the McBryde street site identified as the preferred location. Centrally located sites, close to existing businesses would be beneficial for an indoor sports stadium for a number of reasons, including:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, producing spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre when events are hosted in town;
- Provides an equitable location from an access point of view for residents;
- Provides access to existing infrastructure and services such as accommodation, cafes and restaurants for events visitors;
- Consolidates and improves the role and primacy of the CBD;
- Provides opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

⁴ *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility (2016)* and *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES IN HORSHAM

The following information has been sourced from the *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment* report, which was prepared concurrently to this study. The *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment* included a review of the demand for outdoor sports facilities to 2033, including AFL, Cricket, Athletics, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Rugby League, Soccer and Tennis.

Current sporting facilities in Horsham are disbursed and primarily designated/used for individual sports, separate to other facilities. There are limited examples of co-location of sports beyond traditional relationships (e.g. Football/Netball clubs and Cricket). Generally, sporting facilities are ageing, not up to current day standards and are lacking in infrastructure. Although many clubs and sports have been able to 'make do' with these facilities, they are not of a quality aligned to a regional City, nor are they of a quality which provides a platform for strong sporting participation or community development.

From the perspective of quantitative supply relative to population, there is generally a sufficient number of fields/courts/pitches to meet the current needs of the local community, however, this varies depending on the sport.

There are significant issues with the quality of a number of facilities in Horsham including the quality and size of playing surfaces, run-off areas, lighting, condition of clubrooms (lack of universal access, female inclusive facilities), storage, car parking and in some cases scheduling conflicts.

There are currently no outdoor sporting precincts in Horsham that align to sporting association requirements to host regional events.

The following table provides a snapshot summary of the demand assessment for outdoor sports. For further detail on each sport, please refer to the *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment* report.

TABLE 45 DEMAND SUMMARY

Sport	Quantitative Demand Summary	Qualitative Demand Summary	Position on Need
AFL	Sufficient current provision of AFL fields. Requirement for an additional 0.8 fields by 2033.	There is short term demand for an additional AFL field or use of an existing field for AFL to cater for pre-season training and future opportunities for club matches. There is a need for an appropriate venue to host regional events.	Need for appropriate regional venue. Additional field required for AFL use in the medium term to cater to future strategic opportunities as well as cater to growth to 2033. The facility should be multi-purpose.
Cricket	Sufficient current provision of cricket fields. Requirement for an additional 0.4 fields by 2033.	There is a need for an additional 'hard wicket' facility in Horsham.	Potential for additional 'hard wicket' cricket field for cricket use, to assist with training and promoting short forms of the game and cater to growth to 2033. The facility should be multi-purpose.
Soccer	Demand for approximately 2.4 pitches by 2033.	Current facilities are not of an adequate standard. Minimum one full size field is required to cater to the needs of Horsham Soccer Club.	Adequate facility and pitch required to cater for soccer, with potential to grow to 2 pitches in the long term. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Tennis	Significant projected oversupply of tennis courts to 2033.	Adequate courts but require one venue capable of hosting regional events (16+ courts)	Need for one venue capable of hosting regional events. Opportunities to consolidate courts should be explored.
Netball	Netball Vic identified need for 14.4 courts.	Current facilities are not adequate. Need for suitable venue with minimum 8 compliant courts.	Need for one venue capable of hosting regional events. Need for suitable venue with minimum 8 compliant courts. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Little Athletics	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for Athletics facilities.	Need for suitable venue, including 8 lane athletics track, which can also accommodate regional events.	Need to address Athletics facility issues, including need for 8 lane track. Consideration should be given to 'grass' athletics tracks in the short to medium term. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Rugby League	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for Rugby facilities.	Current facilities are not of an adequate standard.	Adequate facility and pitch required to cater for rugby. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Hockey	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for synthetic hockey facilities.	There is no facility in Horsham for Hockey games. Need for a facility located in Horsham.	Hockey facility required in Horsham. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Lawn Bowls	Adequate supply of Bowls Greens.	Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham currently competing against each other for members.	Adequate number of bowling greens with opportunity for consolidation. Potential to upgrade one venue to be capable of hosting regional events.

Source: Horsham Facilities Demand Assessment, 2019

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITIES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

The following tables provide an overview of the key sporting facilities within the Study area assessed as part of the *Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment*, including City Oval, Horsham Lawn Tennis and Croquet.

TABLE 46 CITY OVAL

Facility Name	City Oval
Sports Catered For	AFL, Cricket, Netball
Clubs	Horsham Demons Football and Netball Club Horsham Cricket Association Inc.
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X1 football/cricket oval (grass field with turf wicket) X1 netball court (hard court)
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Crown Land
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	Yes (150-300 Lux)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	X1 Grandstand X1 Clubrooms (two storey building upstairs licenced to Horsham Demons) X1 Netball Clubrooms
Car Parking	Yes (some onsite parking around the ground and offsite, on street parking)
Other Facilities	Digital Scoreboard Broadcasting Box Toilet Block Halls (Horsham Pipe Band Inc. & Horsham City Brass Band Inc) Playgrounds
Other Comments	Considered the premier venue in Horsham for football and cricket matches.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of the field is too small for hosting premier matches. • Limited area for runoff between boundary and fence. • Short boundary length for cricket. • Incorrect field orientation for cricket. • Pavilion is ageing and is over two levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Universal access (no lift to second storey). • Horsham Demons Football/Netball Club have exclusive use over second storey of the Pavilion. • Insufficient number of public toilets and poorly accessible. • Universal access not provided to grandstand. • Facility is generally not open to the public. • Onsite parking is generally not allowed. However, access to onsite parking is provided for people with a disability. • Accessibility/scheduling of use of the facility for different sports i.e. Football / Cricket • Grandstand subject to cold southerly winds in winter (steel seating is cold). • Current location of pavilion is not ideal.
--	--

Source: Horsham Facilities Demand Assessment, 2019

TABLE 47 HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)

Facility Name	Horsham Lawn Tennis (and Horsham Croquet)
Sports Catered For	Tennis, Croquet
Clubs	Horsham Lawn Tennis Club
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X24 Courts - grass (approx. 16 courts maintained) X1 Croquet Court
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training, matches
Land Ownership	Crown Land managed by Council as the Committee of Management
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	No (recent application for funding for lighting)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Clubrooms
Car Parking	Yes on site parking
Other Facilities	Co-located with Horsham Croquet Club.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all courts are maintained. Courts are difficult to maintain and costly to maintain. • Currently no lighting. • No formal licence in place. • Pavilion has no accessible toilets.

-
- Roadway between community pavilion and courts which accesses car parking and playground.
-

Source: Horsham Facilities Demand Assessment, 2019

6.5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Table 48 and Figure 11 summarise the community assets and infrastructure in the study area.

Horsham's community facilities are predominantly concentrated to the CAD, with the exception of the Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub in Horsham North. Many of the community facilities in the CAD are disparate and are not well integrated.

There are limited examples of a co-location of community uses in the study area. Community uses are shifting towards a co-location model, whereby a multitude of uses are provided within the one facility (or Hub). This can encourage greater utilisation, as well as help realise efficiencies in management, operations and cater to varying economies of scale. Successful examples of co-located community hubs can be seen throughout Regional Victoria including the Echuca Library/Community Hub, Civic Hall Ballarat and Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre.

Whilst the Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub and the Horsham Town Hall are successful examples of integrated models for community uses, there is an opportunity to improve and strengthen this in Horsham, particularly in the CAD.

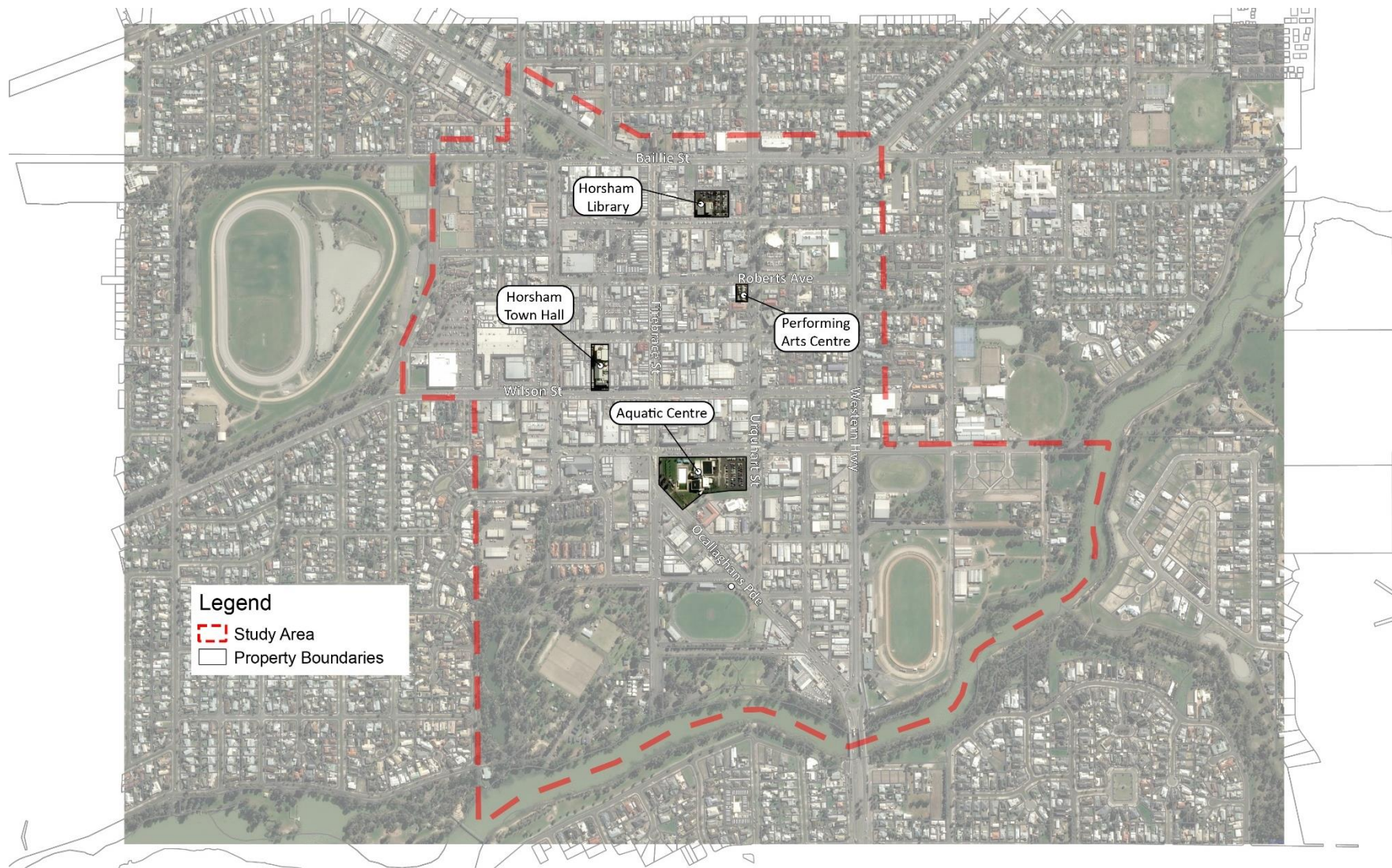
TABLE 48 LOCATION & TYPES OF COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE – HORSHAM (STUDY AREA) - 2019

NAME	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Wesley Performing Arts Centre	Arts and Culture (Performing Arts Centres)	17A Roberts Ave	A vibrant hub for cultural and community events in the Wimmera region.
Horsham Regional Art Gallery (Horsham Town Hall)	Arts and Culture (Art Gallery)	80 Wilson St, Horsham	Showcases local and international arts
Horsham School of Dance	Arts and Culture (Performing Arts Centres)	Level 1/77 Firebrace St	Offers classes in Pre-School Dance, Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Street Beat (Tap), Irish Dancing and Musical Theatre.
Maydale Reserve (Events venue)	Events space	22 McBryde St, Horsham	Events venue for the Horsham Show, Horsham Irish Festival and the Horsham Agricultural Society and more.
Horsham Library	Community Facility (Library)	28 McLachlan St, Horsham	Local library that is part of the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation.
Kalkee Integrated Children's Hub*	Community Facility (Children's Hub)	28 Kalkee Road, Horsham	This Integrated Children's Hub is located in Horsham North and opened in 2018. The Hub delivers a range of education, health and support services to children and their families including a Maternal Child Health (MCH), childcare and kindergarten, playgroup, Uniting Wimmera's parenting training and other specialist services like Barwon CASA and the Horsham Toy Library.
Federation University*	Education (University / TAFE)	289 Baillie St, Horsham VIC 3400	Offers a selection of university and TAFE courses and features modern and specialised training facilities.

Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

* outside of the study area

FIGURE 11 MAP OF COMMUNITY ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE – HORSHAM (STUDY AREA) - 2019



PART C: **RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL LAND SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

Part C provides a high-level assessment of commercial and retail uses in the study area including the current land use mix and floorspace provision.

This assessment also projects the estimated level of floorspace that will be supportable in the study area in the future having regard to the existing provision of floorspace and retail mix, population growth, Horsham's current retail catchment and expenditure per capita, as well as current and future trading performance.

7. EXISTING LAND SUPPLY IN THE CAD

7.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview and assessment of the existing supply of land in the study area. The key focus for the assessment is retail and commercial land use in the study area.

The information presented in this section is based on Horsham Rural City Council's Property Rates Database (2018), utilising the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) and an Urban Enterprise retail and commercial category to analyse the data.

7.2. EXISTING LAND SUPPLY IN THE CAD

There is approximately 170 hectares of zoned land in the study area, with the majority of land zoned for commercial and residential uses, as shown in Table 49.

The Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) precinct includes approximately 50 hectares of land. The supporting Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z) precinct on O'Callaghan's Parade includes approximately 15 hectares of land.

Residential uses in the study area include approximately 41 hectares of land. The Public Parks and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) includes approximately 40 hectares of land, the majority of which is located in the south of the study area, along the riverfront.

TABLE 49 LAND SUPPLY BY ZONE, STUDY AREA

ZONE	AREA (HA)
General Residential Zone 1	31.68
General Residential Zone 2	9.32
Commercial 1 Zone	48.50
Commercial 2 Zone	14.98
Public Park and Recreation Zone	39.26
Public Use Zone 1	0.79
Public Use Zone 4	0.05
Public Use Zone 6	2.27
Public Use Zone 7	1.34
Rural Living Zone	0.83
Special Use Zone 4	19.88
TOTAL	168.90

Source: HRCC Property Rates Database, verified by Urban Enterprise, 2019

VACANT LAND SUPPLY

It is estimated that there is approximately 3.1 ha of vacant land across 26 properties in the study area, including one vacant Council owned site (0.11 ha) to the east of the study area, along the riverfront. 68% of vacant land (2.12ha) is zoned commercial.

There are three notably larger vacant sites in the study area with future development potential. The largest of the three is located at 99 Wilson street and is C1Z. The site has an approximate land area of 0.46 ha and is currently for sale.

The second vacant site is 0.34ha and zoned C1Z. This site is located at 3-7 Madden Street; to south of Harvey Norman.

The other smaller vacant site is approximately 0.2 ha and is zoned C2Z. The site is located to the west of Horsham Gateway Centre (124 Wilson Street).

TABLE 50 VACANT SUPPLY BY LAND USE TYPE, STUDY AREA

	AREA (HA)	NO. OF LOTS
Vacant Residential	0.87	8
Vacant Commercial	2.12	17
Vacant Council Land	0.11	1
Total Vacant Land	3.10	25

Source: HRCC Property Rates Database, verified by Urban Enterprise, 2019

7.3. EXISTING SUPPLY OF RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL FLOORSPACE

This section summarises the existing supply of retail and commercial floorspace in the study area. In order to accurately quantify retail and commercial floorspace using HRCC's Property Rates Database, a retail and commercial category has been adopted for each property and is based on the AVPCC. The rates database has been verified by Urban Enterprise through a desktop analysis.

It should be noted that the adopted method to estimate floorspace is different to the method adopted in the retail analysis prepared in 2011 and 2013 by Essential Economics.

As at 2018, it is estimated that there is a total of 79,000 sqm of occupied retail floorspace and 41,000 sqm of occupied commercial floorspace in the study area. Further, there is an estimated 6,800 sqm of vacant retail and commercial floorspace. In total, there is there is approximately 128,000 sqm of built floorspace within the study area.

The study area has a broad range of retail uses and is largely concentrated to Firebrace Street, Horsham Plaza and Horsham Gateway Centre. It should be noted that the scale of retail floorspace provision in the study area is significant, with 3.9 sqm of retail floorspace per HRCC resident. This is significantly higher when compared with the national average (2.2 sqm/person)⁵.

Of the 79,000 sqm of occupied retail floorspace in the study area, 69% of total retail floorspace is categorised as non-food retail. The current ratio of non-food retail indicates a potential oversupply, particularly given that comparable regional centres such as Swan Hill's CBD has a current ratio of 53% (non-food retail).

Food, Liquor and Groceries (FLG) accounts for 13% of occupied retail floorspace. The majority of FLG floorspace is occupied by the two full-line supermarkets (Coles and Woolworths) and a smaller supporting discount supermarket (ALDI).

⁵ Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessment, Shopping Centre Council of Australia, 2010

Additionally, there is significant floorspace associated with office uses in the activity centre, largely accommodating major bank branches, real estate, finance, insurances, accountants and other consultants.

TABLE 51 FLOORSPACE SUMMARY BY RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL USE, STUDY AREA

RETAIL FLOORSPACE				
	Essential Economics (sqm) (2011)	Essential Economics (sqm) (2013)	Urban Enterprise (sqm) (2018)	% of total floorspace
Food, Liquor & Groceries	9,690	9,610	10,207	13%
Food Catering	3,600	3,400	7,148	9%
Apparel, Homewares & Leisure			27,925	35%
Bulky Goods	42,270	42,900	21,892	28%
Unclassified Shopping Centre Retail			4,944	6%
Retail Services	4,460	3,810	6,674	8%
Total Retail	60,020	59,720	78,791	100%
COMMERCIAL FLOORSPACE				
	Essential Economics (sqm) (2011)	Essential Economics (sqm) (2013)	Urban Enterprise (sqm) (2018)	% of total floorspace
Office			28,187	66%
Bank			2,410	6%
Medical			7,087	17%
Entertainment			1,500	4%
Other Commercial			1,698	4%
Mixed Use			1,622	4%
Total Commercial	33,660	34,440	42,504	33%
Vacant Retail and Commercial	5,680	4,630	6,845	5%
Total (Occupied and vacant)	99,360	98,790	128,140	

Source: HRCC Property Rates Database, verified by Urban Enterprise, 2018

RECENT RETAIL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

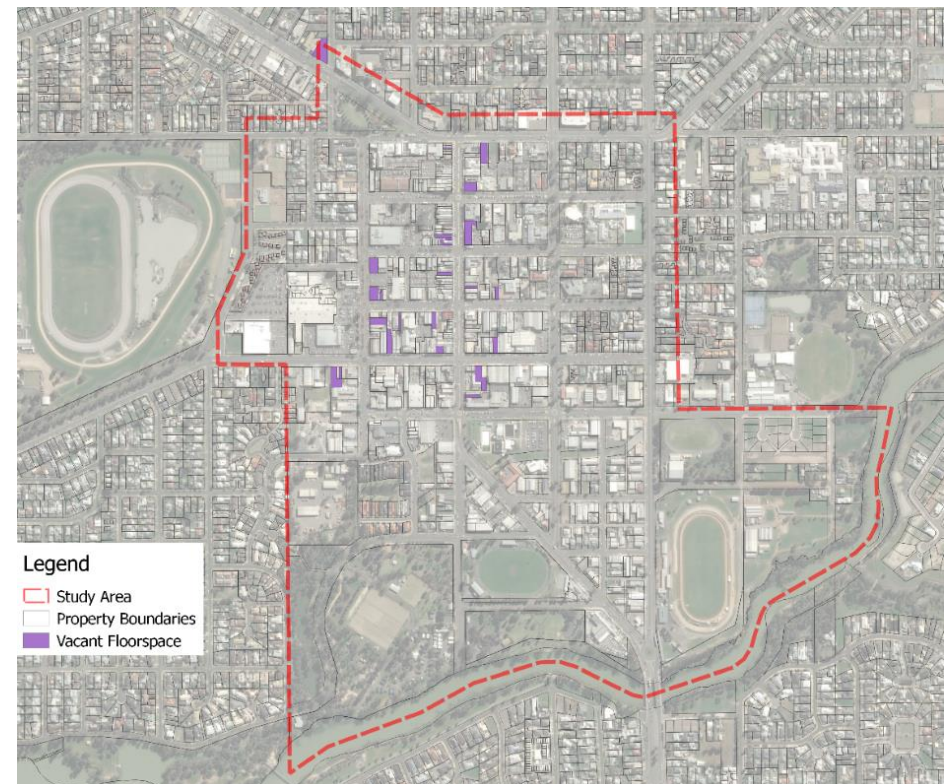
Since the Retail Assessment was undertaken by Essential Economics in 2013, there has been limited retail development activity. The estimated net additional floorspace in the study area is in the order of 6,500 sqm. This includes the development of the Horsham Gateway Centre (approx. 5,000sqm net additional floorspace) and Mitre 10 (approx. 1,400 sqm net additional floorspace).

VACANCY RATE

There is a total of 6,845 sqm of vacant retail and commercial floorspace, which represents 5.3% of all floorspace within the study area. The vacancy rate has increased slightly from since 2013, indicating a potential weakening of demand in the retail and office market.

Figure 12 shows the current vacant and unoccupied commercial floorspace within the study area. The figure shows that the retail vacancies are dispersed throughout the CAD, but are generally concentrated to the larger premises that have a higher provision of floorspace.

FIGURE 12 LOCATION OF VACANT FLOORSPACE, STUDY AREA



Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

8. RETAIL DEMAND

8.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a high-level assessment of demand for retail floorspace in the study area. The forecast supportable is estimated based on projected population growth as well as an analysis of Horsham's current role and position in the regional retail hierarchy. This assessment also considers Horsham's current retail catchment and market share of retail expenditure.

8.2. KEY FINDINGS

Horsham is the highest order regional centre in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

Horsham is the highest order retail centre in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. Horsham attracts shoppers from smaller towns within the broader region of Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Northern Grampians, as well as parts of Buloke Shire and South Australia.

Although major regional centre retailers are located within 2 hours drive in Bendigo and Ballarat, Horsham will need to continue to perform a regional retail role into the future.

There is a potential oversupply of retail floorspace in the study area.

Although Horsham's retail catchment extends across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, there is a potential oversupply of retail floorspace in the study area. The current provision is in the order of 4 sqm per Horsham resident, significantly higher than the national average (2.2 sqm/person).

The current commercial vacancy rate across the study area is above 5%. Unoccupied commercial floorspace is generally concentrated to larger floorplate premises, which are often unsuitable for niche and boutique retailers and does not often meet contemporary retail business needs.

There is a potential over provision of non-food retail.

Of the 79,000 sqm of occupied retail floorspace in the study area, approximately 70% is categorised as non-food retail. This is a very high proportion of non-food retail, particularly given that comparable regional centres such as Swan Hill's CBD has a current ratio of 53% (non-food retail).

Discussions with local agents revealed that there are recent examples of a transition of use across larger vacant retail space, whereby larger retail premises typically suited to larger format goods; are transitioning into shop front office uses.

Given the potential overprovision of non-food retail in the study area, there is an opportunity to encourage a more diverse retail mix in the future. This includes a higher provision of food catering retail (i.e. hospitality uses), as well as supporting more of an entertainment and service offering.

There is a limited amount of vacant commercially zoned land in the study area, but there are clear opportunities for reinvestment and redevelopment.

There is an estimated 2.1 hectares of vacant commercial land dispersed across 17 properties in the study area. The vacant supply of commercially zoned land in the study area is limited. There are, however, clear examples and candidate sites for reinvest or redevelopment. Sites and precincts that present as potential candidates for re-investment and/or redevelopment include:

- Council depot;
- Concrete batching plant (Selkirk Drive);
- Commercial/light industrial precinct on O'Callaghans Parade; and
- Lower-value retailers dispersed throughout the CAD.

Forecast demand for retail floorspace in Horsham to 2036 is negligible.

Horsham's retail catchment is forecast to experience low population and expenditure growth over the next 20 years. The level of retail floorspace that is supportable in Horsham to 2036 is estimated in the order of 2,000 sqm.

This level of growth is negligible and could be absorbed within existing unoccupied premises. The estimate indicates that there is a sufficient and potential oversupply of built retail floorspace in the study area.

8.3. RETAIL TRADE AREA

RETAIL HIERARCHY

Table 52 shows the competing retail hierarchy within a 200km catchment of Horsham. The table shows that Horsham is the highest order retail centre in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. Given its relative isolation, it is assumed that Horsham attracts shoppers from smaller satellite towns within the broader region.

The two higher order retail centres are Ballarat and Bendigo. These large retail centres support in excess of 100,000 sqm of retail floorspace and include major retailers such as Myer and Big W. However, both of these centres are in excess of 170km and a 2-hour drive from Horsham.

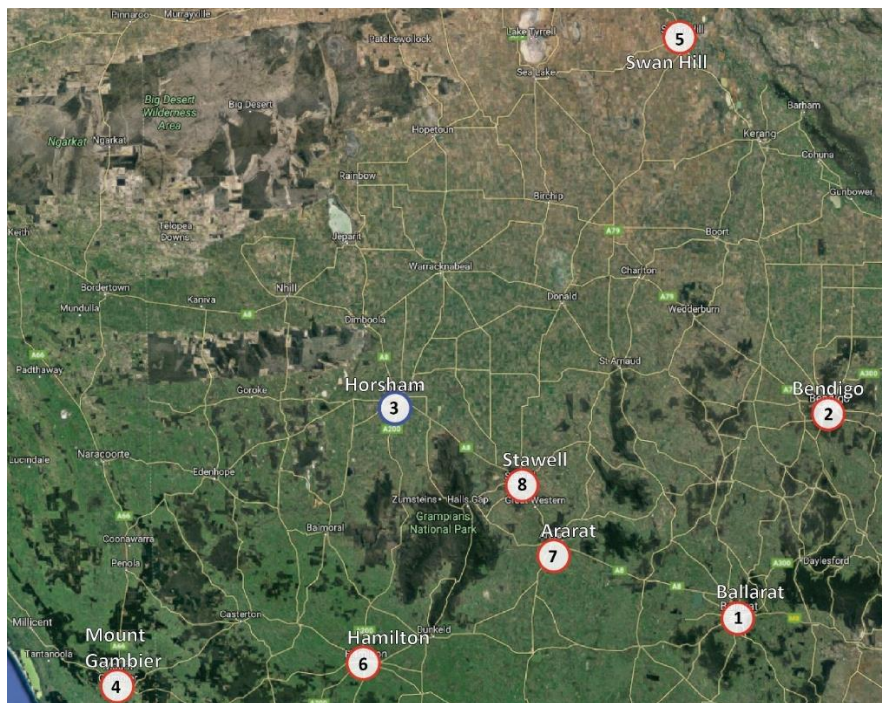
TABLE 52 RETAIL HIERARCHY

ID	TOWNSHIP	ROLE	ANCHORS	FLOORSPACE (SQM)	DISTANCE FROM HORSHAM
1	Ballarat	Regional City	Woolworths, Coles, ALDI, Myer, Target, Big W, Bunnings Warehouse	140,000 ¹	175km (2hr 7min drive)
2	Bendigo	Regional City	Woolworths, Coles, Myer, Target, Big W, Officeworks, Cinema		185km (2hr 30min drive)
3	Horsham	Regional City	Woolworths, Coles, ALDI, Target, Kmart, Bunnings Warehouse, Mitre 10, Harvey Norman	79,000 ²	
4	Mount Gambier	Regional City	Woolworths, Coles, Target, Kmart, Harvey Norman		175km (2hr 23min drive)
5	Swan Hill	Regional Centre	Woolworths, Coles, Target, Bunning Warehouse, Harvey Norman	46,610 ³	195km (2hr 30mins drive)
6	Hamilton	Regional Centre	Woolworths, Coles, ALDI, Target, Harvey Norman		115km (1hr 26min drive)
7	Ararat	Regional Centre	Woolworths, ALDI, Target, Mitre 10, Cinema	22,894 ⁴	91km (1hr 7min drive)
8	Stawell	Town	Woolworths, SUPA IGA, Mitre 10		64km (46min drive)

2. Council Rates Database, 2018; 3. Swan Hill Retail Strategy 2014; 4. Ararat Sustainable Growth Future, 2014;

* Data unavailable

FIGURE 13 RETAIL HIERARCHY LOCATIONS



Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

DEFINING THE RETAIL TRADE AREA

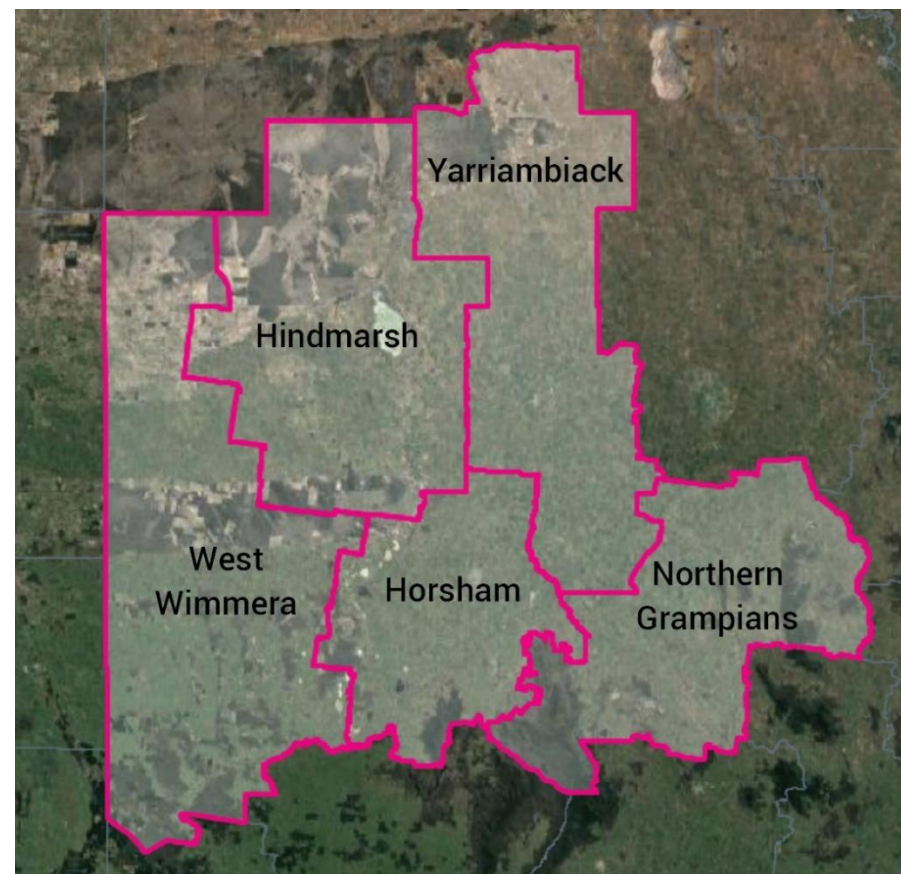
The main trade area (MTA) is defined as the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region, which includes the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Horsham, Northern Grampians, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera and Hindmarsh (LGA), as shown in Figure 2.

Within the MTA, Horsham has been identified as the Primary Catchment, while the remaining municipalities form the Secondary Catchment.

Given the economic role and existing supply of retail floorspace in centres such as Hamilton and Mount Gambier to the south, and Ballarat and Bendigo to the south-east of Horsham, the MTA does not include municipalities further south. However,

given the lack of any regional centre to the immediate north-west of Horsham, it is appropriate for the MTA to extend further to the north-west.

FIGURE 14 MAIN TRADE AREA, HORSHAM



Source: Remplan MapBuilder, 2019

POPULATION

As at 2016, the population of the MTA was 47,704 people. The Primary Catchment (Horsham) accommodates 42% of the MTA population.

Overall, the MTA experienced a decline in population between 2011 and 2016. The MTA population has decreased by 1,200 persons, with all LGAs in the Secondary Catchment recording a decline in population. The Primary Catchment (Horsham) is the only area to experience population growth; increasing by 366 persons (1.9%) between 2011 and 2016.

Table 53 summarises the historical population change within the MTA between 2011 and 2016. Please note that this assessment is high-level only. As there are only parts of Buloke Shire considered to be a part of the secondary trade area, it has been excluded from the assessment.

TABLE 53 CATCHMENT AREA POPULATION, ABS ERP

	POP. 2011	POP. 2016	CHANGE (2011-16)	AAGR % (2011-2016)
Horsham LGA (Primary Catchment)	19,523	19,889	366	0.4%
Hindmarsh LGA (Secondary)	5,856	5,718	-138	-0.5%
Northern Grampians LGA (Secondary)	12,054	11,518	-536	-0.9%
West Wimmera LGA (Secondary)	4,287	3,895	-392	-1.9%
Yarriambiack LGA (Secondary)	7,183	6,684	-499	-1.4%
Total: Primary Catchment	19,523	19,889	366	0.4%
Total: Secondary Catchment*	29,380	27,815	-1,565	-1.1%
Total: Main Trade Area	48,903	47,704	-1,199	-0.5%

Source: ABS Regional Population Growth, 2017

* Buloke Shire has been excluded from this assessment

FORECAST POPULATION

Table 54 shows the forecast population of the MTA to 2031. Historical population trends for the MTA are forecast to continue. The population of the MTA is projected to decline by approximately 1,300 persons by 2031. The Horsham is the only area within the MTA that is projected to increase (0.6% per annum).

As at 2031, it is projected that the MTA population will shrink to 45,860, declining at a rate of 0.2% per annum.

The population projections provided in Table 54 indicate that Horsham is attracting residents from surrounding Council areas, predominantly from more rural areas as proximity and access to amenity becomes more paramount as residents get older.

The forecast decline in the MTA population over the next 15 years suggests that demand for additional retail floorspace in Horsham may not be needed.

TABLE 54 VICTORIA IN FUTURE POPULATION, 2016-2031

VIF AREA (LGA)	2016	2021	2026	2031	CHANGE 2016-2031	AAGR 2016-2031
Primary Catchment						
Horsham	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	+1,906	0.6%
Secondary Catchment						
Hindmarsh	5,393	5,130	4,883	4,641	-752	-1.0%
Northern Grampians	11,420	11,119	10,931	10,820	-600	-0.4%
West Wimmera	3,811	3,471	3,210	2,988	-823	-1.6%
Yarriambiack	6,645	6,254	5,931	5,618	-1,026	-1.1%
Total: Primary Catchment	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	+1,906	0.6%
Total: Secondary Catchment	27,268	25,975	24,956	24,067	-3,201	-0.8%
Total: Main Trade Area	47,156	46,466	46,085	45,860	-1,296	-0.2%

Source: Victoria In Future, 2017

8.4. RETAIL EXPENDITURE

RETAIL EXPENDITURE

Retail expenditure in the Primary Catchment (Horsham) is \$13,223 per capita. This is lower when compared with the Victorian average (\$13,626).

Based on the MTA's estimated residential population (2018), total retail expenditure pool is estimated at \$619.1 million, as shown in Table 56.

TABLE 55 RETAIL EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY, 2018

RETAIL CATEGORY	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	VICTORIA AVE
Food, Liquor and Groceries	\$6,510	\$6,584	\$6,360
Food Catering	\$1,527	\$1,421	\$1,768
Apparel, Homewares and Leisure	\$3,299	\$3,122	\$3,604
Bulky Goods	\$1,431	\$1,351	\$1,413
Retail Services	\$457	\$426	\$480
Total	\$13,223	\$12,904	\$13,626

Source: Marketinfo, 2014 indexed by Urban Enterprise to 2018

TABLE 56 RETAIL EXPENDITURE POOL, MTA 2018

CATCHMENT AREA	POPULATION ESTIMATE (2018)	EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Primary Catchment	20,133	\$13,223	\$266.2 m
Secondary Catchment	27,347	\$12,904	\$352.9 m
Main Trade Area	47,480	\$13,039	\$619.1 m

Source: MarketInfo, 2014 adapted by Urban Enterprise 2019; VIF, 2017

ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE

To estimate Horsham's current market share, Urban Enterprise has adopted certain assumptions in respect of retail turnover density, the retail trade catchment and retail expenditure per capita. Assumptions are based on previous experience in retail demand analysis but have been adapted to reflect the current retail conditions in Horsham.

The total annual retail turnover in Horsham is estimated at \$326.7 million. based on our analysis, Horsham captures 47% of the MTA expenditure pool and 10% of market share is generate by visitors (i.e. from persons outside of the MTA). The 10% of turnover that is generated from outside the MTA is typically a lower proportion when compared with other regional cities. However, this is largely due to the isolated location of Horsham and the broad catchment area.

The Primary Catchment is estimated to have a higher primary catchment of approximately 72%, as shown in Table 57.

TABLE 57 ESTIMATED MARKET SHARE SUMMARY

	TURNOVER	EXPENDITURE	MARKET SHARE
Horsham Annual Turnover	\$326.7 m		
External Turnover	\$32.7 m		10%
Total MTA	\$294 m	\$619.1 m	47%
Primary Catchment	\$191.1 m	\$266.2 m	72%
Secondary Catchment	\$102.9 m	\$352.9 m	29%

Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

FORECAST RETAIL EXPENDITURE GROWTH

Retail expenditure of the residential catchment is expected to grow by \$45 million, to \$664 million, over the next 18 years. Given that the overall population of the MTA is expected to decline, this growth in expenditure is largely driven by the assumed real growth in retail expenditure of 0.5% per annum.

This real growth rate is lower than the long-term average to reflect the declining rate of real growth in recent years, and to allow for an expected increase in the impact of online retail on store-based retailers, which is also supported by the decline in retail employment in the Horsham suburb and Horsham RC between 2011 and 2016.

TABLE 58 PROJECTED RETAIL EXPENDITURE GROWTH, 2018-2036

	2018	2026	2036	CHANGE
Primary Catchment	\$266.2 m	\$293.8 m	\$328.3 m	+\$62.1 m
Secondary Catchment	\$352.9 m	\$346.9 m	\$335.9 m	-\$17 m
Total MTA	\$619.1 m	\$640.7 m	\$664.2 m	+\$45.1 m

Source: MarketInfo, 2014 adapted by Urban Enterprise 2019; VIF, 2017

8.5. SUPPORTABLE FLOORSPACE PROJECTIONS

Projections for supportable retail floorspace in the study area are prepared based on the preceding analysis and the following set of assumptions:

- Both the Primary and Secondary Catchments will continue to attract a constant market share based on current estimates. Given the transition of population (and expenditure) from the Secondary Catchment to the Primary Catchment, this will lead to a growing market share of catchment resident turnover.
- Turnover densities will increase at a rate of 0.5% per annum over the adopted period.

- Retail expenditure per capita will increase at a rate of 0.5% per annum over the adopted period.
- The MTA population is based on ERP at 2016 and is projected to 2036 using the Victoria in Future growth rates.

Table 59 shows that supportable floorspace projections for all retail types to 2036 estimate an increase in supportable floorspace of 2,110 sqm over the next 18 years in Horsham.

TABLE 59 RETAIL EXPENDITURE, TURNOVER AND SUPPORTABLE FLOORSPACE, HORSHAM, 2018-2036

	2018	2026	2036	Change	AAGR
Population	47,480	46,713	46,029	-1,451	-0.2%
Catchment Retail Spending	\$619.1 m	\$634.2 m	\$657.4 m	+\$38.3 m	0.3%
Turnover from Primary Catchment	\$191.1 m	\$208.8 m	\$233.3 m	+\$42.2 m	1.0%
Turnover from Secondary Catchment	\$102.9 m	\$100.1 m	\$96.9 m	-\$6 m	-0.3%
Turnover from outside catchment	\$32.7 m	\$34.3 m	\$36.7 m	+\$4 m	0.6%
Total Turnover	\$326.7 m	\$343.3 m	\$367 m	+\$40.3 m	0.6%
Average Turnover per sqm	\$4,150	\$4,320	\$4,540	+\$390	0.5%
Total Supportable Retail Floorspace	78,790	79,560	80,900	+2,110	0.1%

Source: Urban Enterprise, 2018

9. INDUSTRIAL LAND ANALYSIS

9.1. INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the existing industrial uses within the study area and the competing supply, both within and surrounding Horsham.

9.2. KEY FINDINGS

Some parts of the Commercial 2 Zone Precinct on O'Callaghans Parade present an opportunity for urban renewal.

The commercial precinct on O'Callaghans Parade primarily consists of light industrial uses (manufacturing, wholesale trade), bulky goods retail and a number of residential dwellings.

Given the ad-hoc nature of development that has occurred in this precinct over a long period of time, there is an absence of business clustering and very limited examples of new businesses that have established in the precinct.

The precinct is strategically located between the CAD and the Wimmera riverfront and contains some areas which are candidates for urban renewal.

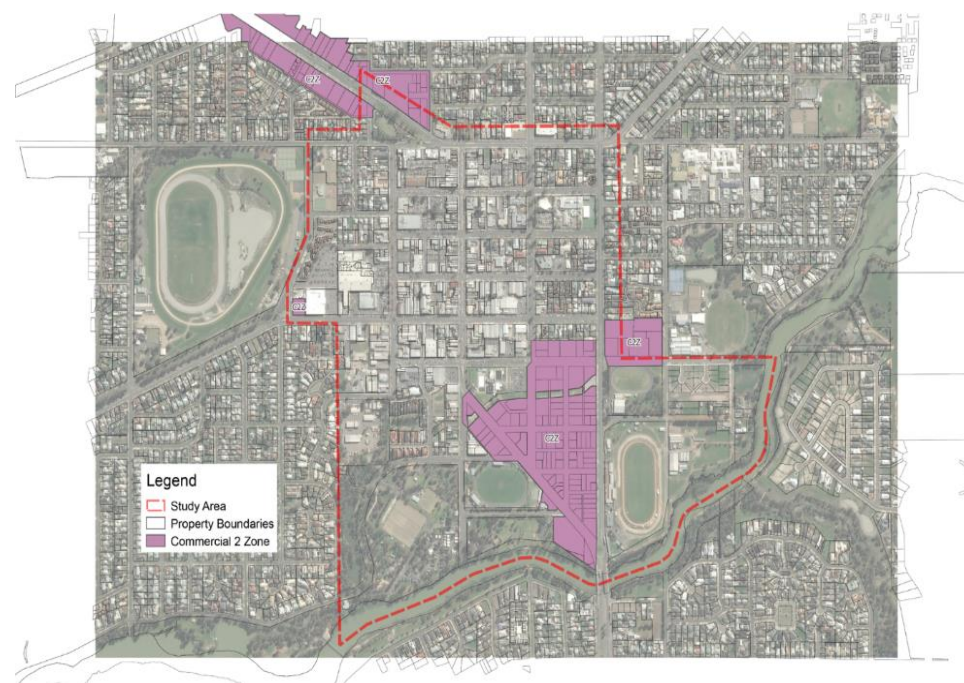
Some industrial uses in the study area are considered unsuitable and difficult to integrate with surrounding urban uses and opportunities to re-locate to dedicated industrial precincts outside of the urban area should be considered. There is a significant supply of vacant industrial land in both Horsham South and the proposed WIFT precinct and are considered more suitable areas for heavier industrial uses.

The western section of the O'Callaghans Parade precinct should be considered as candidates to accommodate housing, tourism and commercial uses, particularly those with proximity to retail and civic services and those in proximity to the riverfront precinct and near Firebrace Street.

9.3. EXISTING STUDY AREA SUPPLY

The industrial uses that exist in the Horsham study area currently operate within the Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z), generally to the south of the retail core. Based on the same method undertaken for the retail and commercial supply analysis, it is estimated that there is 14.98 ha of C2Z land within the study area as at 2018.

FIGURE 15 LOCATION OF COMMERCIAL 2 ZONED LAND, STUDY AREA



Source: Urban Enterprise, 2019

VACANT LAND

Within the C2Z, there is a total of 0.4 ha of vacant land across five different properties. Each of these properties are of similar land area, ranging from 0.06 ha to 0.1 ha in size.

INDUSTRIAL FLOORSPACE

Although the majority of industrial uses sit within the C2Z (21,000 sqm), other zones including C1Z (11,900 sqm), GRZ1(300 sqm) and GRZ2 (300 sqm) also accommodate some industrial uses. As such, the study area does not include a clearly defined industrial cluster. Rather, the industrial uses are primarily dispersed.

Based on Council’s Property Rates Database, it is estimated that there is 33,515 sqm of industrial floorspace in the study area; consisting mostly of warehouse space (69%), as shown in Table 60.

TABLE 60 INDUSTRIAL FLOORSPACE BY LAND USE, STUDY AREA

	Floorspace	Proportion of total (%)
Factory	4,741	14%
Warehouse	23,084	69%
Other Industrial	4,571	14%
Vacant Industrial	1,119	3%
Total (Occupied and vacant)	33,515	

Source: Property Rates Database, 2018

There is a floorspace vacancy rate of 3% within the industrial uses. This rate is approximately half the vacancy rate of retail and commercial uses in the study area, suggesting that industrial activity is relatively productive and well utilised.

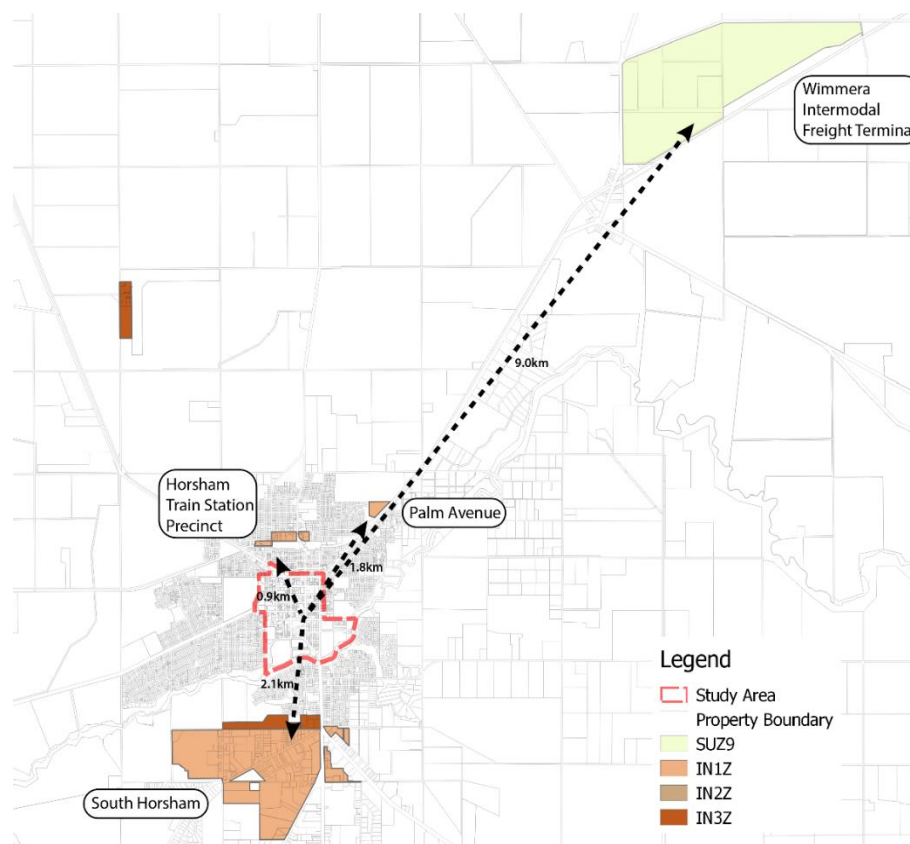
However, development of industrial uses within the study area appears to have occurred in an ad-hoc manner. This means that there are limited examples of new industrial businesses that have established in the precinct.

9.4. COMPETING SUPPLY

Surrounding the study area, there are three Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) clusters, being:

- South Horsham and Enterprise Estate (300 ha)
- Horsham North Industrial Precinct (10.7 ha); and
- Dooen Road/Palm Avenue (5.3 ha).

FIGURE 16 FIGURE 2 COMPETING INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CONTEXT



Source: Urban Enterprise

SOUTH HORSHAM AND ENTERPRISE ESTATE

The largest industrial precinct in the Horsham locality is Horsham South, with an estimated 275 ha of IN1Z land (180 ha within Horsham) and 23.8 ha of Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) land. This precinct is bisected by Golf Course Road and is largely made up of medium-large sites (1+ ha). There is a range of businesses in the precinct, including various manufacturers (plastics, paving and building parts), vehicle and automotive repairs, car sales and engineering services.

It is also estimated that 74 ha of the IN1Z land is vacant (27%), while 17 ha of the IN3Z land is vacant (71%).

HORSHAM NORTH INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

The train station precinct is located just north of Horsham Station. The major industrial uses of the site appear to be related to fuel services, grain silos and smash repairs.

It is estimated that there is approximately 9,000 sqm of industrial floorspace within the precinct. Additionally, approximately 1.5 ha of the precinct is occupied by residential uses, while 1.0 ha is vacant.

DOOEN ROAD/PALM AVENUE

From desktop research, it appears that the development at Palm Avenue includes a single property and building, with a total estimated floorspace of 5,300 sqm.

The primary use of the site appears to be for farming equipment. Previously, the site was home to the CMI Foundry, which closed in 2012. Current operations appear to have started between 2016 and 2017. It is unclear whether the main building is currently under use.

OTHER

- Burnt Creek Drive Industrial Estate
- Regional Livestock Exchange

9.5. PROPOSED FUTURE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT

WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL PRECINCT

The Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) is located to the north-east of Doeen and is bound by the Wimmera Highway and the train line. The site is estimated to be 100 ha in size, with investment in the development being \$2.5 million.

In 2017, it was announced that the State Government would support the development with \$1.25 million of funding, which is estimated to create 20 new industrial lots, generate 80 jobs and attract further commercial opportunities.

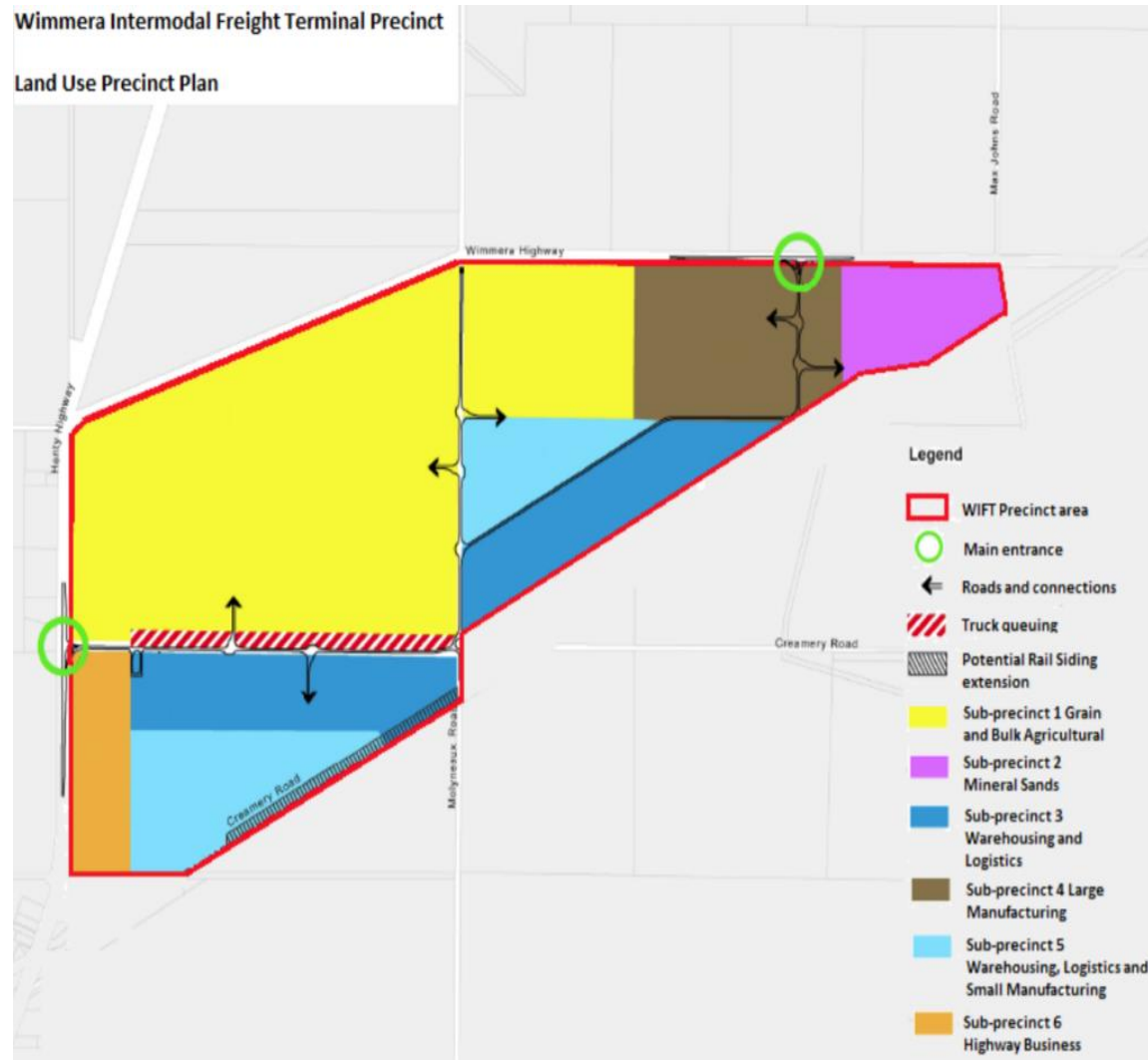
The development of site aims to improve "supply chain efficiency, reducing cost and improving the competitiveness of Victorian farmers". The Wimmera is one of Victoria's larger dryland farming regions and the site is identified as a key export hub for local grain growers.

Located in Schedule 9 to the Special Use Zone (SUZ9), the purpose of the zone is "to provide for industry involved in the storage and distribution of primary produce and raw materials and associated industry, warehouse, manufacturing, mineral sands processing and storage handling, office and retail uses in a manner which does not affect the safety and amenity of local communities".

The Planning Scheme identifies six sub-precincts of the WIFT, including:

- Grain and bulk agriculture produce;
- Mineral sands;
- Warehousing and logistics;
- Large manufacturing;
- Warehousing, logistics and small manufacturing; and
- Highway businesses.

FIGURE 17 WIFT LAND USE PRECINCT PLAN



Source: Horsham Planning Scheme, 2019

PART D: CONSULTATION

Part D provides an overview of the consultation process including a summary of stakeholders that were engaged and a summary of findings.

The consultation process contributed to identifying issues relating to the study area, as well as formulating a vision and strategic objectives for the study area.

10. CONSULTATION

An extensive consultation process was undertaken with a broad range of stakeholders including Horsham Rural City Council, State Government, business and industry, the local community and various referral agencies.

Table 61 (overleaf) provides a summary of stakeholders who were engaged and consulted.

TABLE 61 OVERVIEW OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

SESSION	ATTENDEES	FORMAT	LOCATION
Council Officer Workshop	Council Officers	Workshop	Council Offices
Council Executive Management Team Workshop	EMT	Workshop	Council Offices
State Government Agencies	SRV / VPA / RDV / DELWP	Workshop	Ballarat
Horsham community	38 attendees	3 Workshop	Council Offices
Referral Agencies	RDV / WDA / DELWP / WCMA	Workshop	
Wimmera CMA / WDA	Dave Brennan (CMA) / Ralph Kenyon (WDA)	one-on-one	Council Offices
WSM Regional Partnership / Sustainable Project Services	Emma Vogel / Mark Williams / Carolynne Hahndorf	one-on-one	Council Offices
Local Business Person	Michael Vincent	one-on-one	Council Offices
Caravan Park	Tim Rohan	one-on-one	Council Offices
Local Business Person	David Parkin	one-on-one	Council Offices
Coller Rathgeber Real Estate	Tim Coller	one-on-one	Council Offices
Business Horsham	Sarah Kelm (EO) / Graham Keay (Chair)	one-on-one	Council Offices
Grampians Tourism	Marc Sleeman	one-on-one	Council Offices
Horsham Agricultural Society	Chair, President	one-on-one	Council Offices

Table 62 summarises the 38 community attendees and the groups / organisations / agencies they represented:

- 4 Sporting Associations
- 10 Sporting Clubs
- 11 Community groups - Environment, Business, Arts and Agriculture
- 4 individuals

TABLE 62 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY GROUPS & REFERRAL AGENCIES

Agency	Regional Development Victoria
	Wimmera Development Association
	DELWP
	Wimmera CMA
	Barengi Gadjin Land Council
Sporting Associations	Tennis Vic
	AFL Wimmera Mallee
	Netball Vic
	Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly
Sporting Clubs	Horsham City Netball
	Horsham Football Netball Club
	Central Park tennis Club
	Rowing Club
	Horsham Angling club
	Natimuk Lake Water Ski Club
	Horsham Lawn Tennis Club
	Horsham and District Soccer Club
	Wimmera River Park Run
	Sunnyside Sporting Club (Bowls)
Community groups	Centre for Participation
	Business Horsham
	Wimmera River Improvement Committee
	Art is
	Horsham town Hall
	Rotary Club Horsham East
	Wimmera River Project Report group
	Horsham Agricultural Society
	Bicycle Advisory Committee
	Public art Advancement Committee
	Kannamaroo Plus Community
Individuals	4

10.1. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Table 63 summarises the recurring issues and opportunities that were raised throughout the consultation phase.

TABLE 63 SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES – CONSULTATION PHASE

AREA OF FOCUS	WHAT WE HEARD
<p>CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT (STREETSCAPE, PUBLIC REALM, TRANSPORT, CONNECTIVITY)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the streetscape environment by providing more shade, public and green spaces, and wider footpaths. - Make the CAD a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists. - Reduce the number of trucks in the CAD. - Improve linkages between CAD anchors (Town Hall, May Park, Riverfront, Friebrace Street etc). - Construct a pedestrian bridge over the River at Hamilton Street. - Formalise a pedestrian/cycling trail along the existing drainage easement. - Provide more opportunities for public art. - Beautify the streetscape environment at strategic locations. - Reduce speed limits in the CAD. - Upgrade the library/community spaces. - Improve signage.
<p>WIMMERA RIVERFRONT PRECINCT & RIVER CORRIDOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The riverfront precinct is significantly underutilised. - Need to activate the riverfront precinct (e.g. water play/splash park, meeting place, events, walking/cycling, public art). - Consider better integration or relocation of the Caravan Park. - Increase opportunities for recreational boating. - Establish hospitality uses in the riverfront precinct. - Create a pedestrian/cycling circuit around the river. - Improve the integration of the Botanic Gardens and Law Tennis precinct. - Consider developing the site at 22 O'Callaghans Parade into an iconic gateway/tourist attraction (e.g. destination restaurant, conferences, accommodation).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve pedestrian connections between the CAD and riverfront precinct. - Consider expansion of the wetlands.
<p>SPORT AND RECREATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are currently no examples of multi-use/multi-purpose sport facilities. - Sporting facilities are too user specific. - Develop a regional sporting precinct (multi-use, multi-purpose). - City Oval is not publicly accessible. - Consider closing Hocking Street (between City Oval and Sawyer Park) - Sawyer Park is underutilised. - Consider developing a regional tennis facility. - Improve facilities for Netball.
<p>TOURISM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen Horsham as a tourist destination and its role as a stopover destination and a destination to tour the broader region. - Leverage major tourism product in the region (e.g. Grampians Peaks Trail, Silo Art Trail). - Develop the riverfront precinct into a tourist destination. - Address the accommodation gaps in Horsham (e.g. high-quality serviced apartments). - Leverage off the success of the Town Hall.
<p>PROPERTY & LAND USE (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, RETAIL, INDUSTRIAL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider alternative uses for the Showgrounds/Greyhound Precinct (e.g. sport and recreation, tourism and hospitality) - The Showgrounds/Greyhound Precinct is underutilised and economically unproductive. - Consider more residential uses in the CAD (e.g. medium density). - Consider relocating the Council Depot and Concrete Batching Plant and investigate urban renewal opportunities at these sites. - Re-develop Government agencies precinct (e.g. GovHub). - Consider relocating the Greyhound Track to alternative location (e.g. inside the Horsham Racecourse). - Consider redeveloping the Wimmera Business Centre. - Consider rezoning the light industrial precinct on O'Callaghans Parade as it presents a long-term urban renewal opportunity.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A DATA AREAS

The data areas adopted for Part B include:

- ABS data regions (Figure 18)
- Victoria in Future data regions (Figure 19)

FIGURE 18 AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS DATA REGIONS

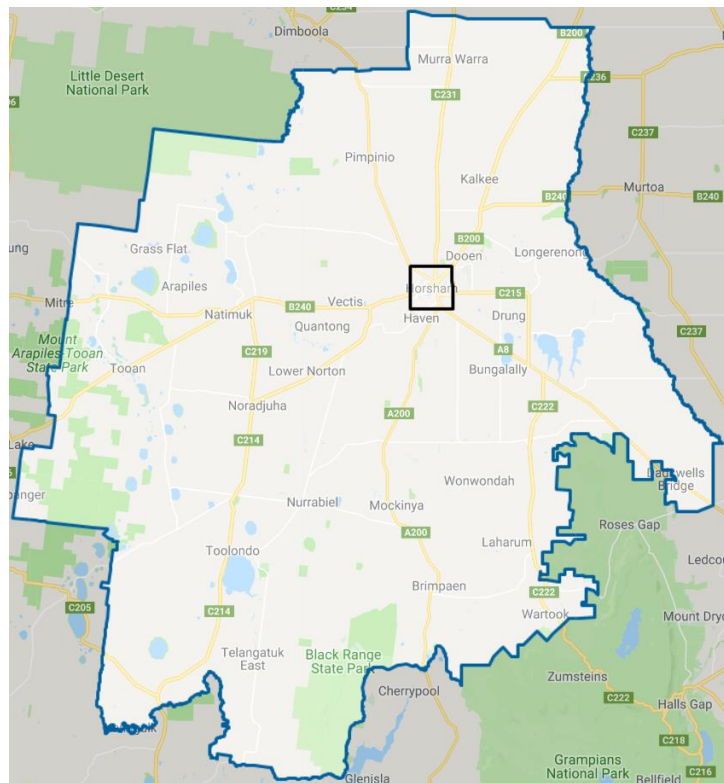
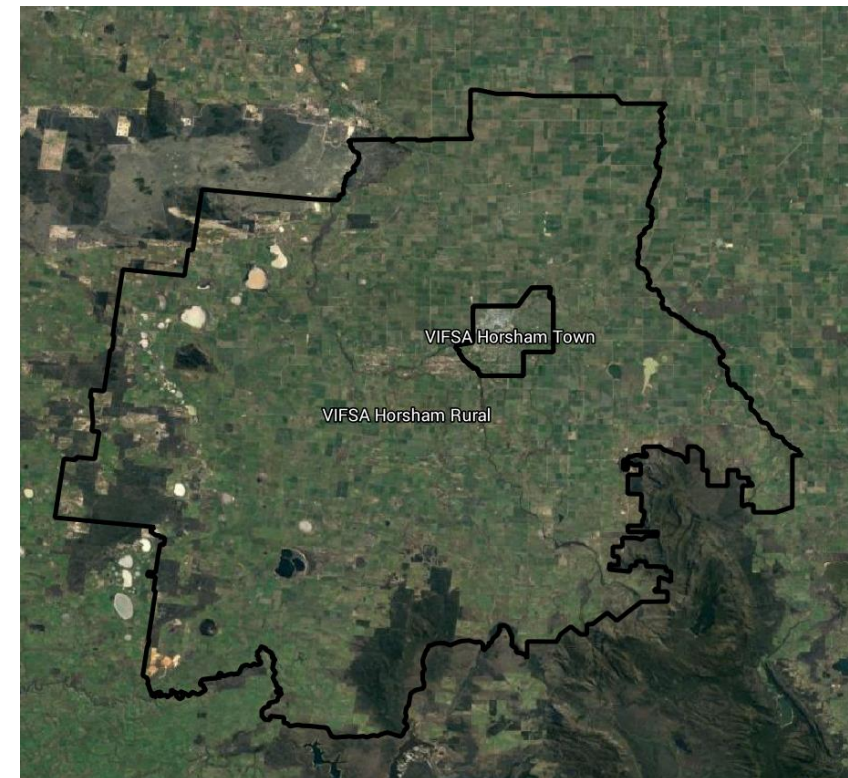
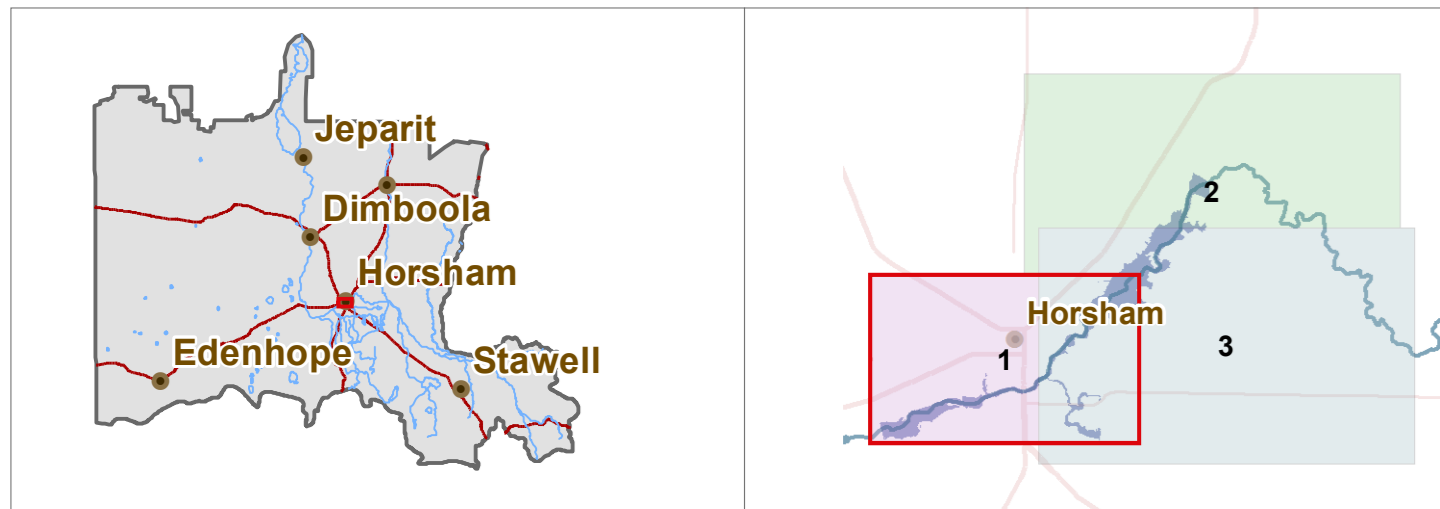
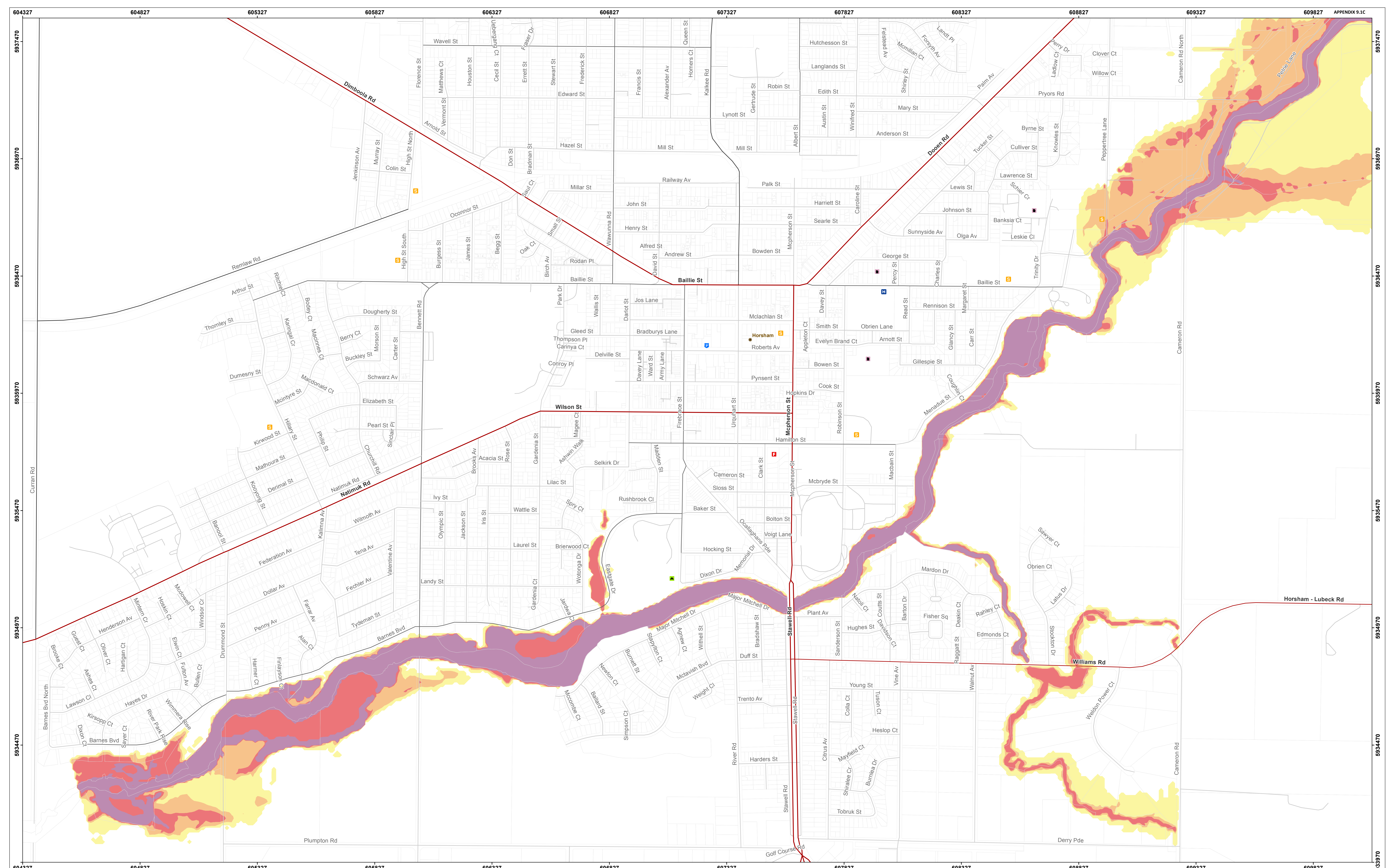


FIGURE 19 VICTORIA IN FUTURE DATA REGIONS



APPENDIX B HORSHAM FLOOD MAPPING

FIGURE 20 1 IN 5 YEAR FLOOD



Scale: 1:5,000
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 1994
 False Easting: 500,000.0000
 False Northing: 10,000,000.0000
 Central Meridian: 141.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000
 Units: Meter

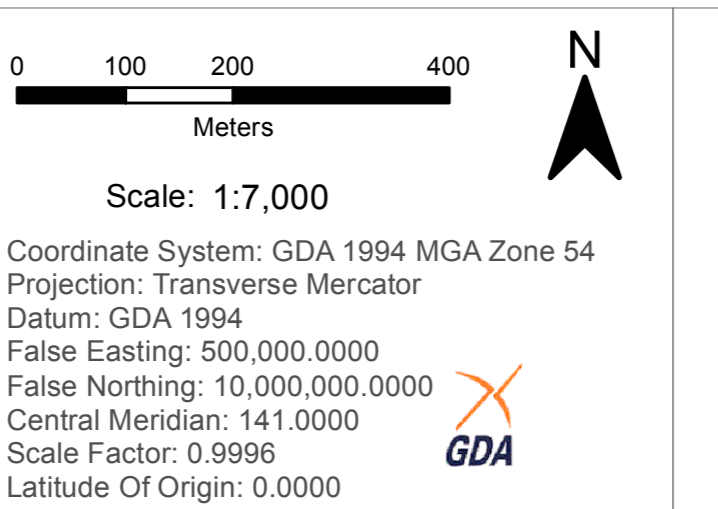
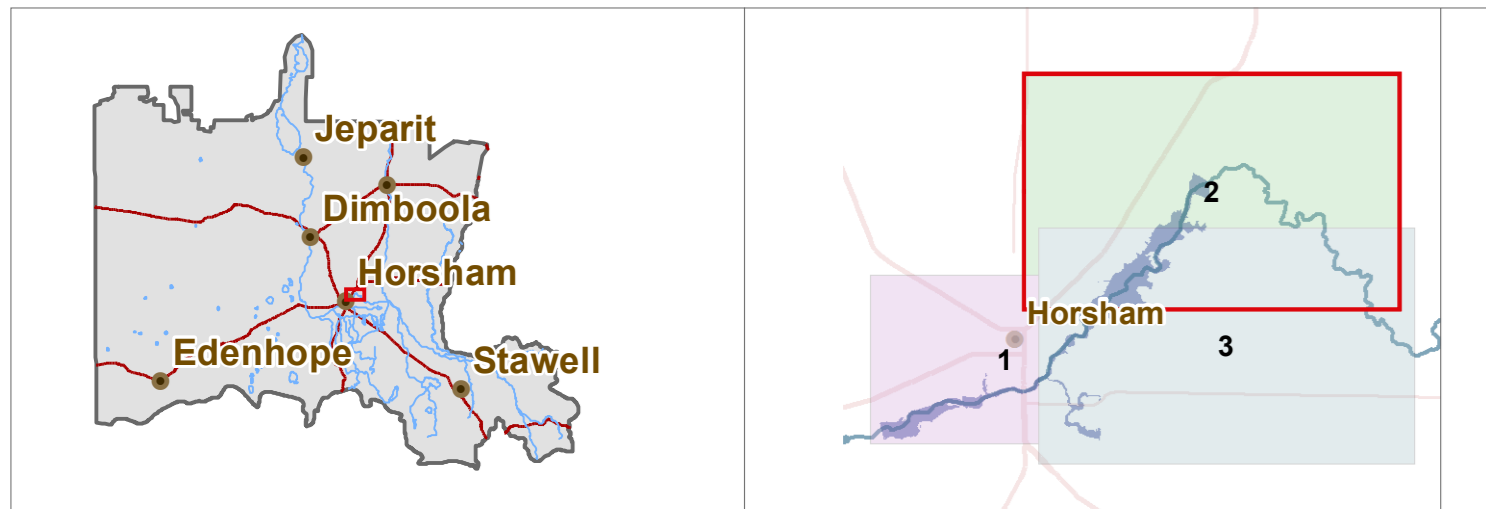
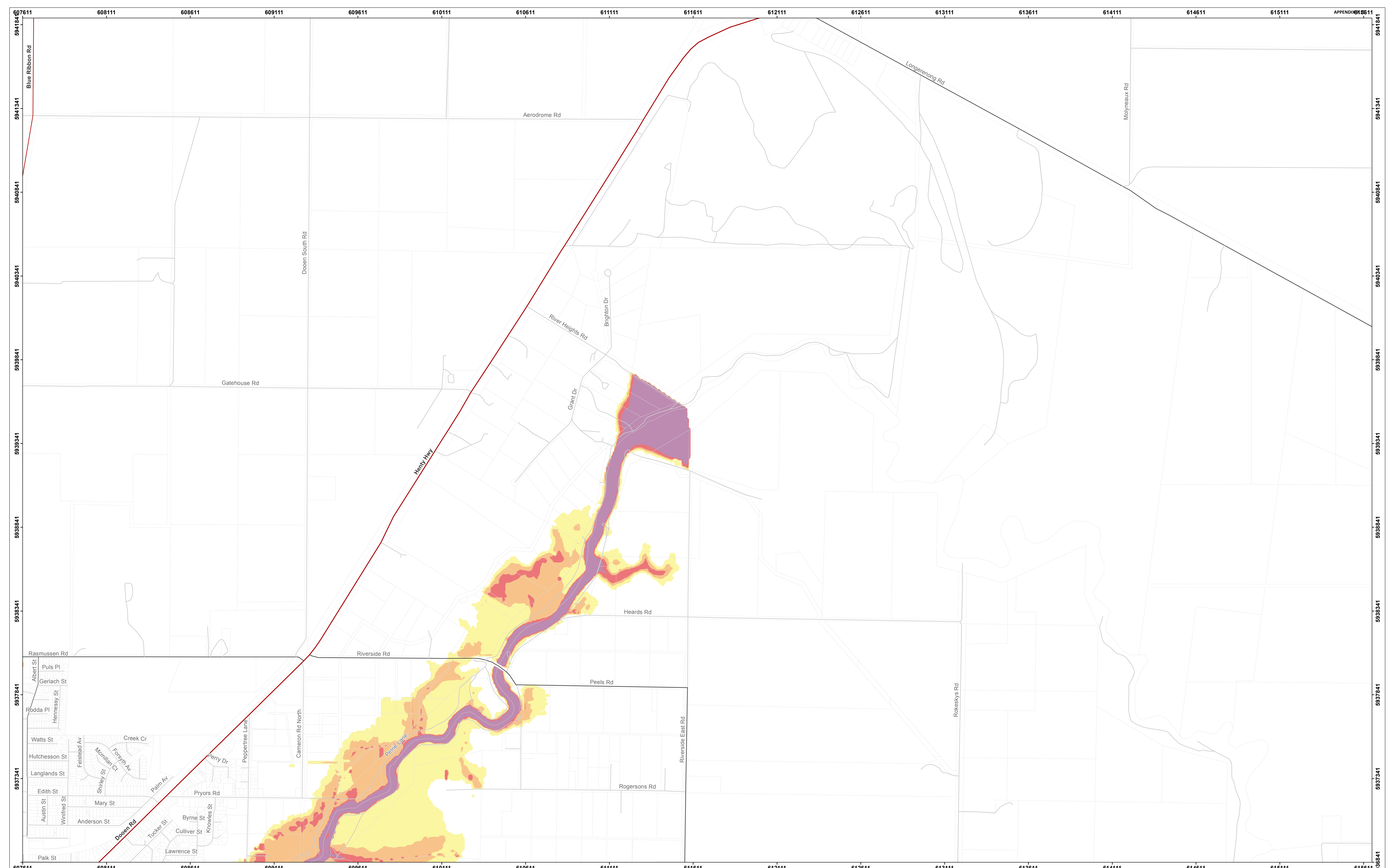
Legend		FOI (points)	
<0.25m	Parcels	Fire station	School
0.25 to <0.5m	Highways	Police station	Aged care
0.5 to <1m	Other Major Roads	Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site
1m +	Minor Road Class 3		
	Minor Road Class 4		
	Minor Road Class 5+		

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

20% AEP Sheet: 1 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



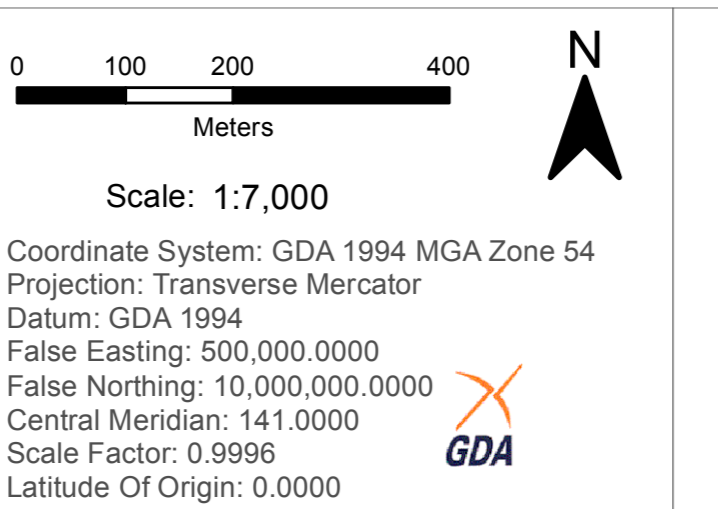
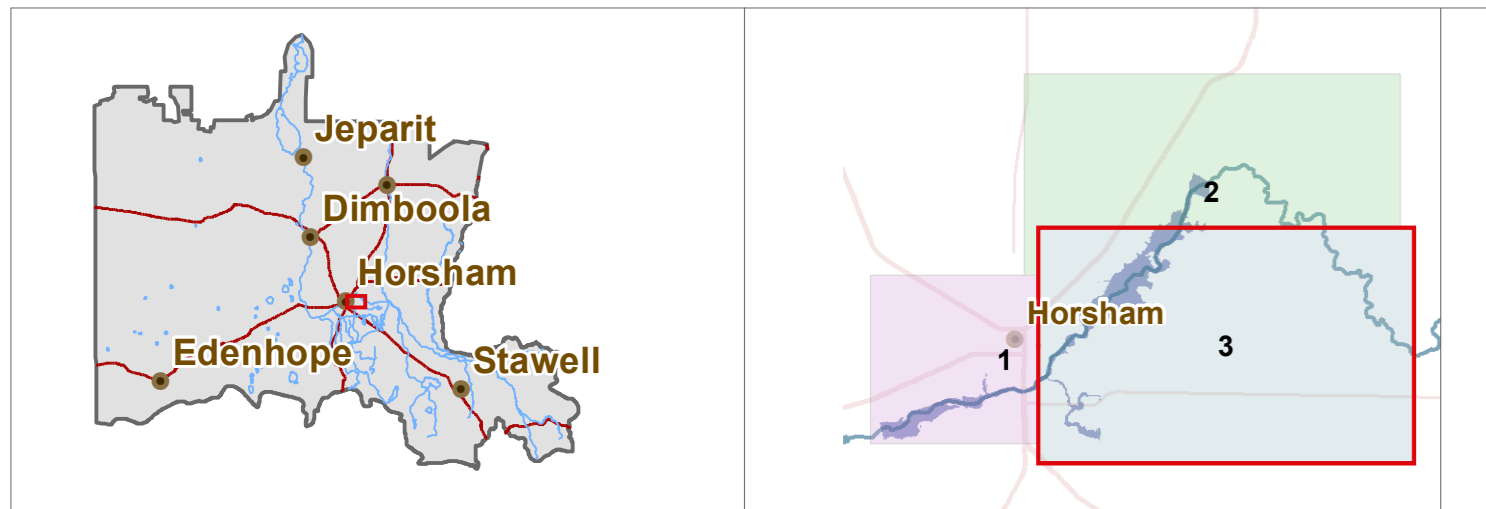
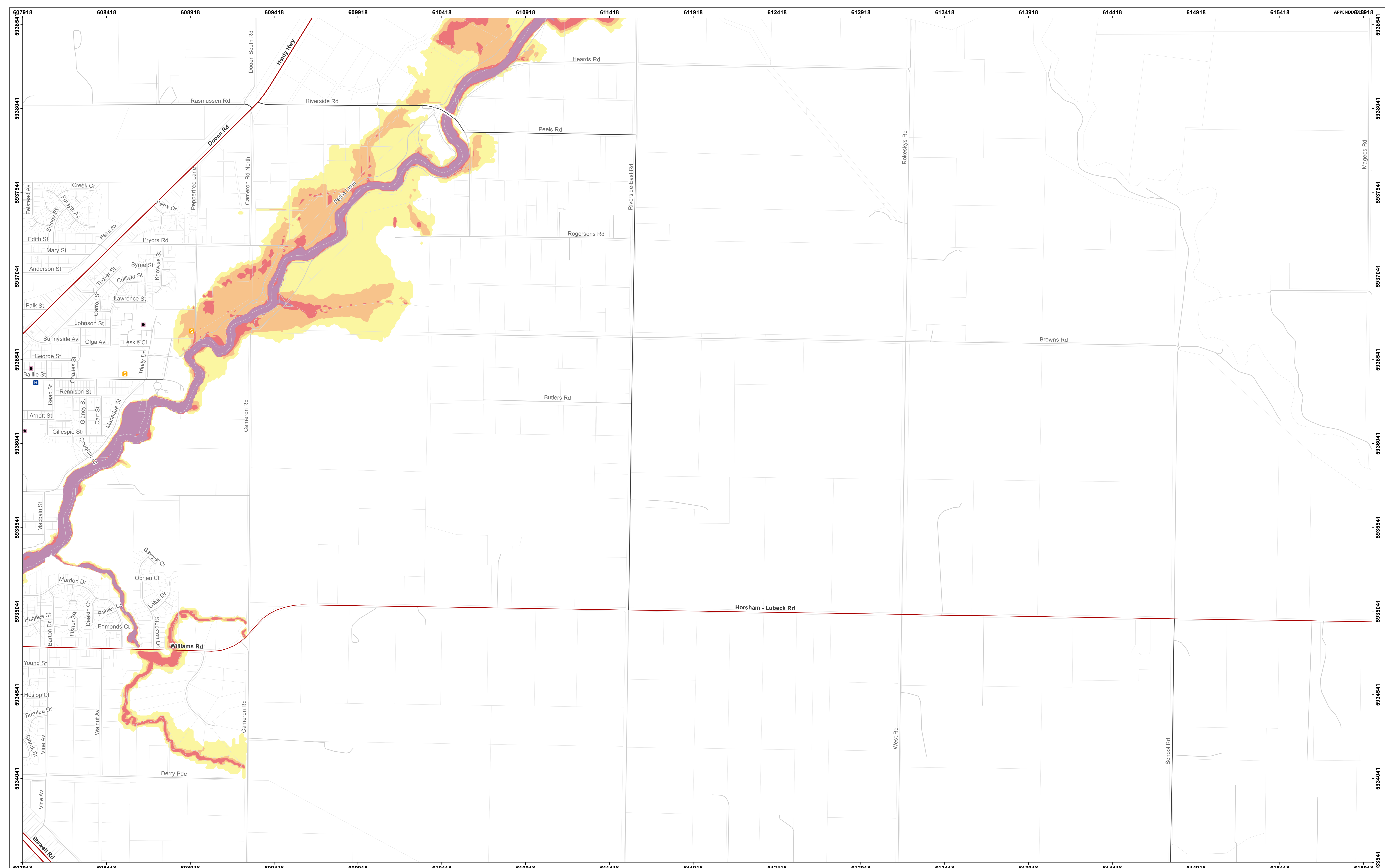
Legend	
<0.25m	Parcels
0.25 to <0.5m	Highways
0.5 to <1m	Other Major Roads
1m +	Minor Road Class 3
Major Towns	Minor Road Class 4
Minor Towns	Minor Road Class 5+
Fire station	School
Police station	Aged care
Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site
FOI (points)	

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

20% AEP **Sheet: 2 of 3**



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Legend	
<0.25m	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3
1m +	Minor Road Class 4
Major Towns	Minor Road Class 5+
Minor Towns	Fire station
School	Police station
Aged care	Emergency Hospital
Caravan / Camp Site	

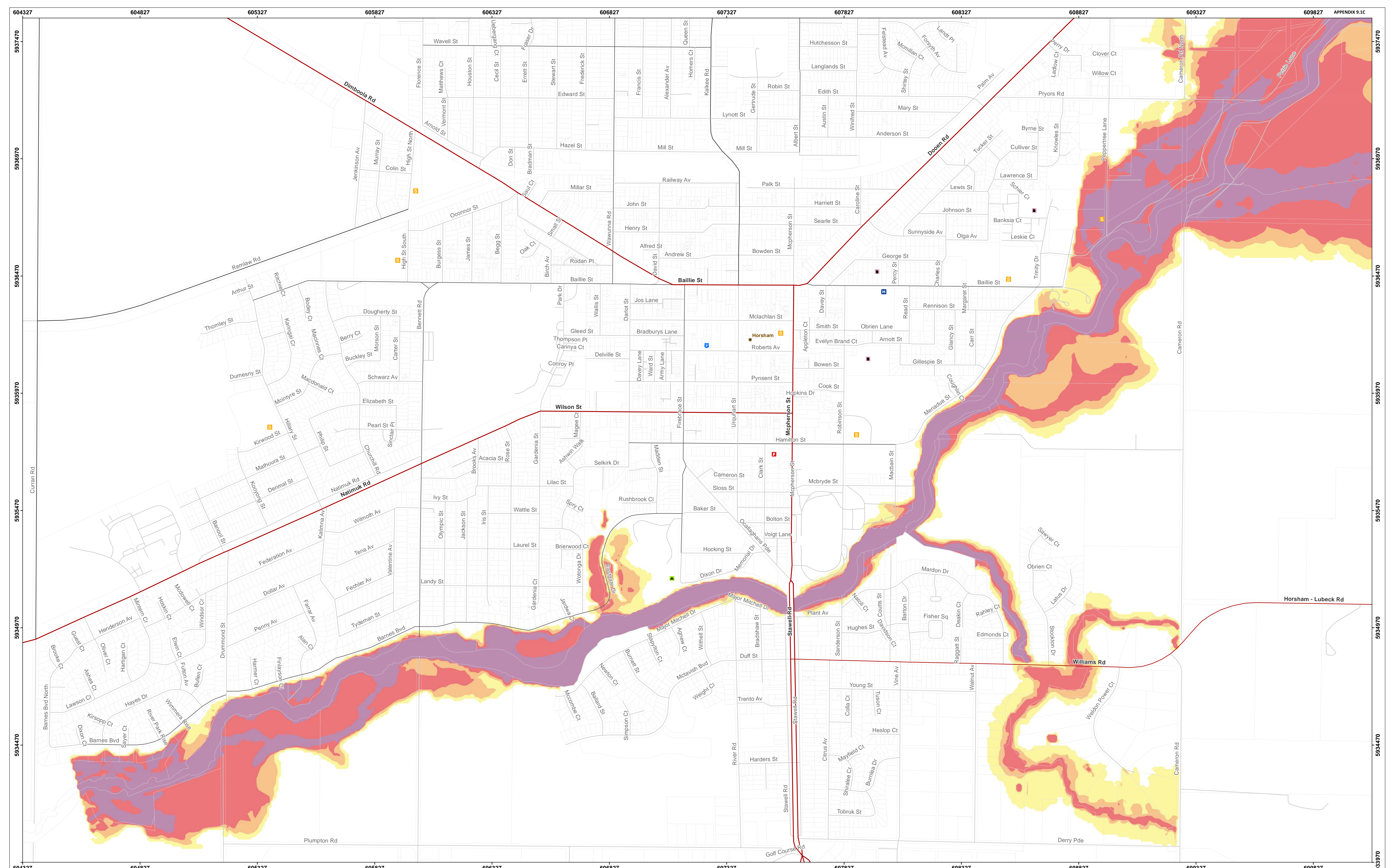
**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

20% AEP Sheet: 3 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.

FIGURE 21 1 IN 20 YEAR FLOOD



Scale: 1:5,000
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 1994
 False Easting: 500,000.0000
 False Northing: 10,000,000.0000
 Central Meridian: 141.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000
 Units: Meter

Legend	
	<0.25m
	0.25 to <0.5m
	0.5 to <1m
	1m +

	Highways
	Other Major Roads
	Minor Road Class 3
	Minor Road Class 4
	Minor Road Class 5+

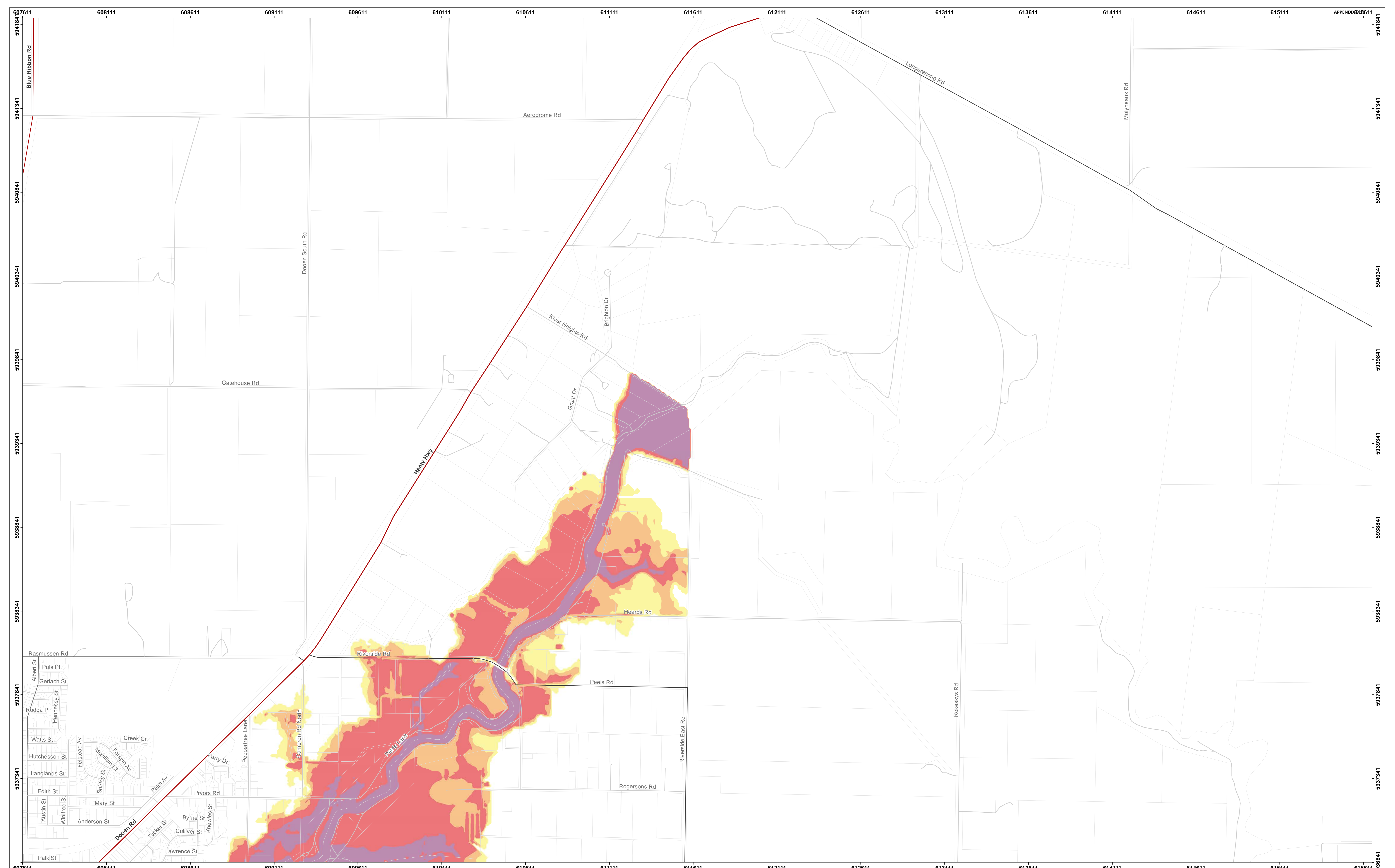
FOI (points)	
	Fire station
	Police station
	Emergency Hospital
	School
	Aged care
	Caravan / Camp Site

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

5% AEP **Sheet: 1 of 3**



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Scale: 1:7,000

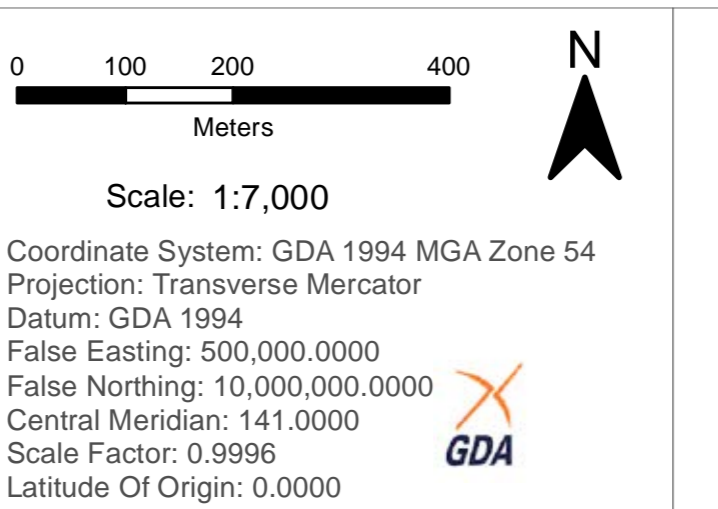
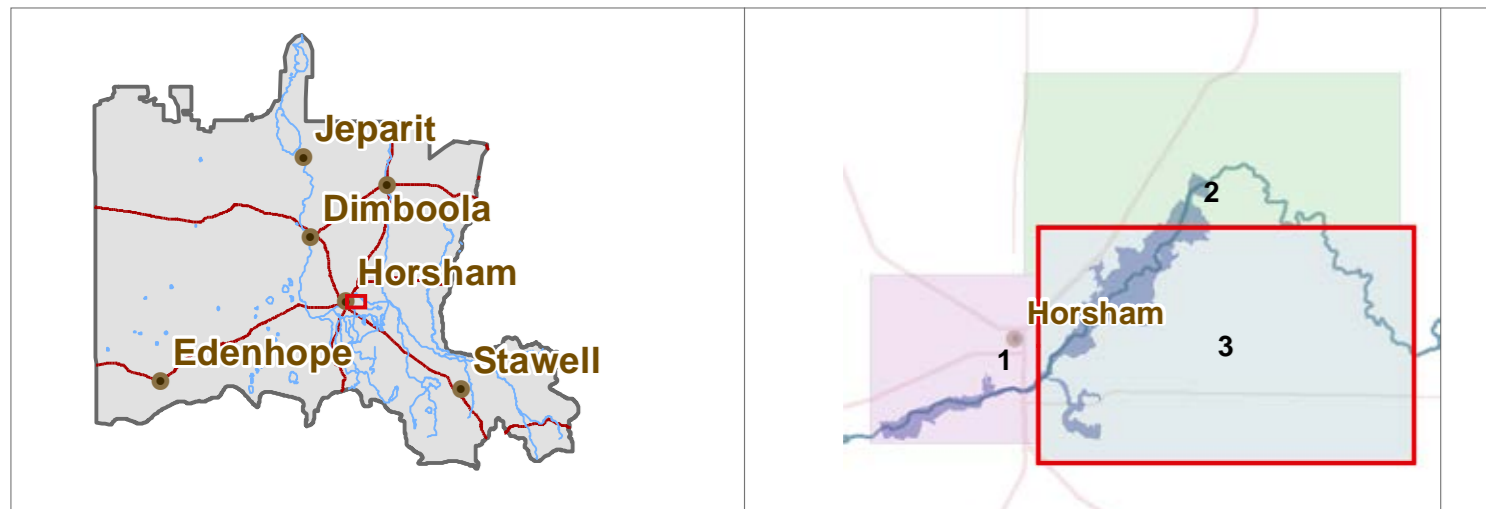
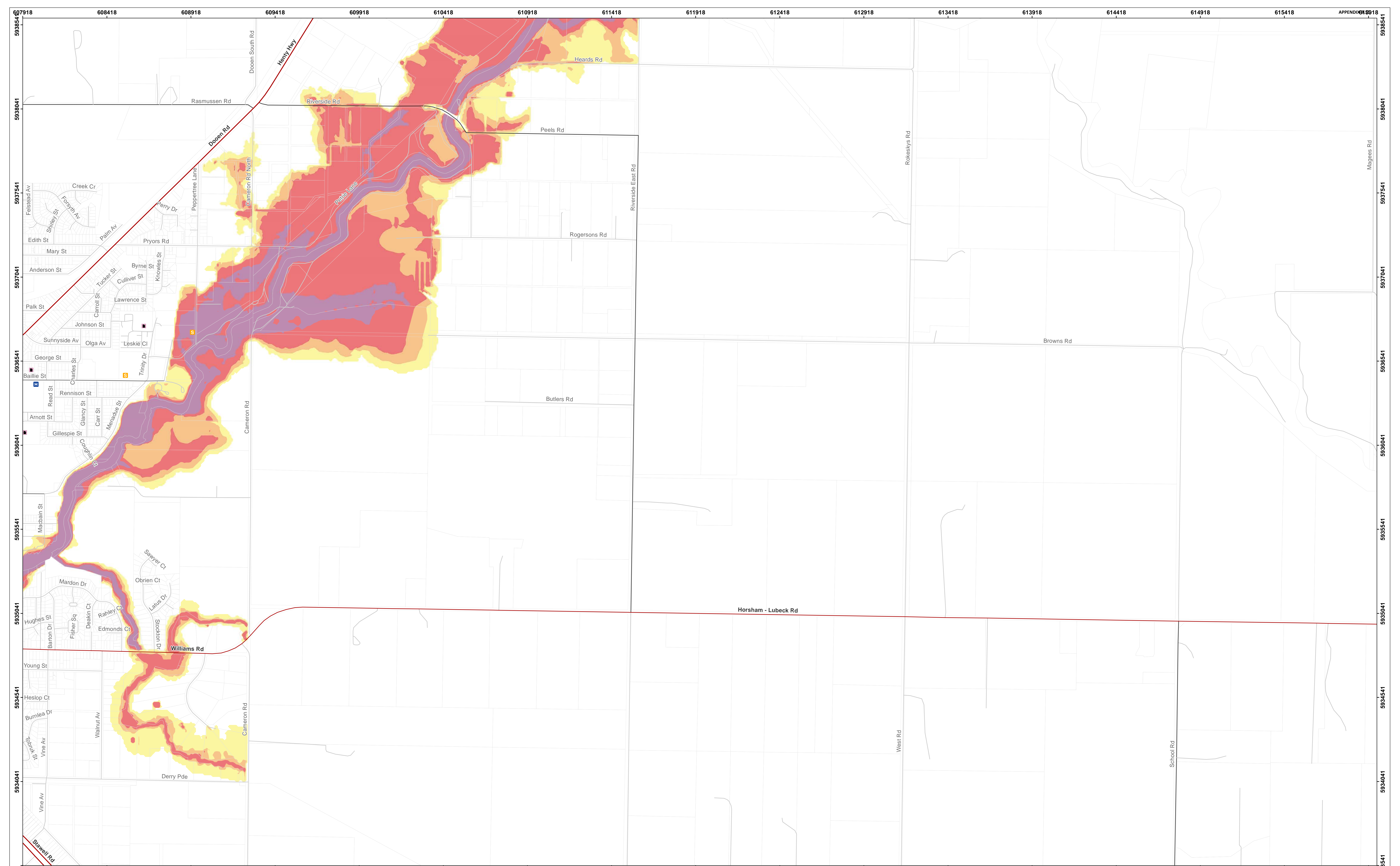
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 1994
 False Easting: 500,000.0000
 False Northing: 10,000,000.0000
 Central Meridian: 141.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000
 Units: Meter

Legend		FOI (points)	
 <0.25m	 Major Towns	 Fire station	 School
 0.25 to <0.5m	 Minor Towns	 Police station	 Aged care
 0.5 to <1m	 Minor Road Class 3	 Emergency Hospital	 Caravan / Camp Site
 1m +	 Minor Road Class 4		
	 Minor Road Class 5+		

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

5% AEP **Sheet: 2 of 3**

DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Legend	
<0.25m	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3
1m +	Minor Road Class 4
Major Towns	Minor Road Class 5+
Minor Towns	Fire station
FOI (points)	Police station
School	Emergency Hospital
Aged care	Caravan / Camp Site

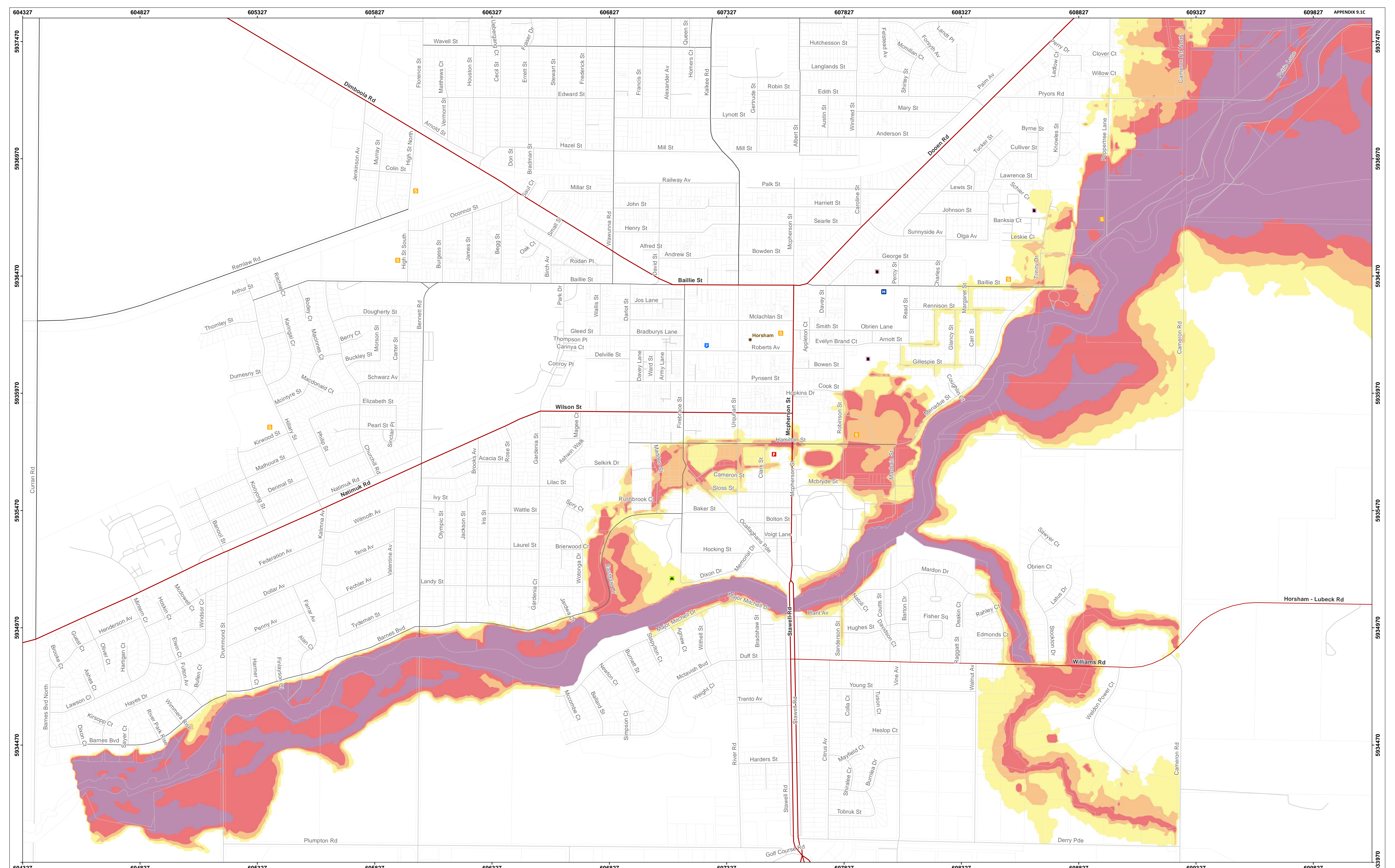
**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

5% AEP **Sheet: 3 of 3**



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.

FIGURE 22 1 IN 50 YEAR FLOOD



Scale: 1:5,000
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 1994
 False Easting: 500,000.0000
 False Northing: 10,000,000.0000
 Central Meridian: 141.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000
 Units: Meter

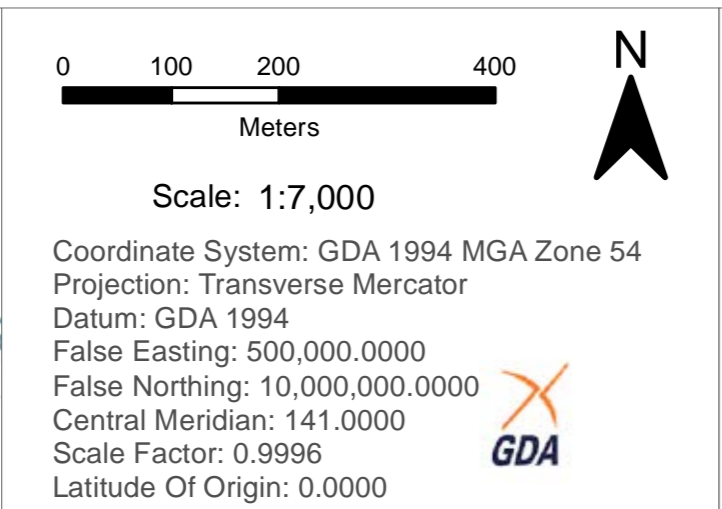
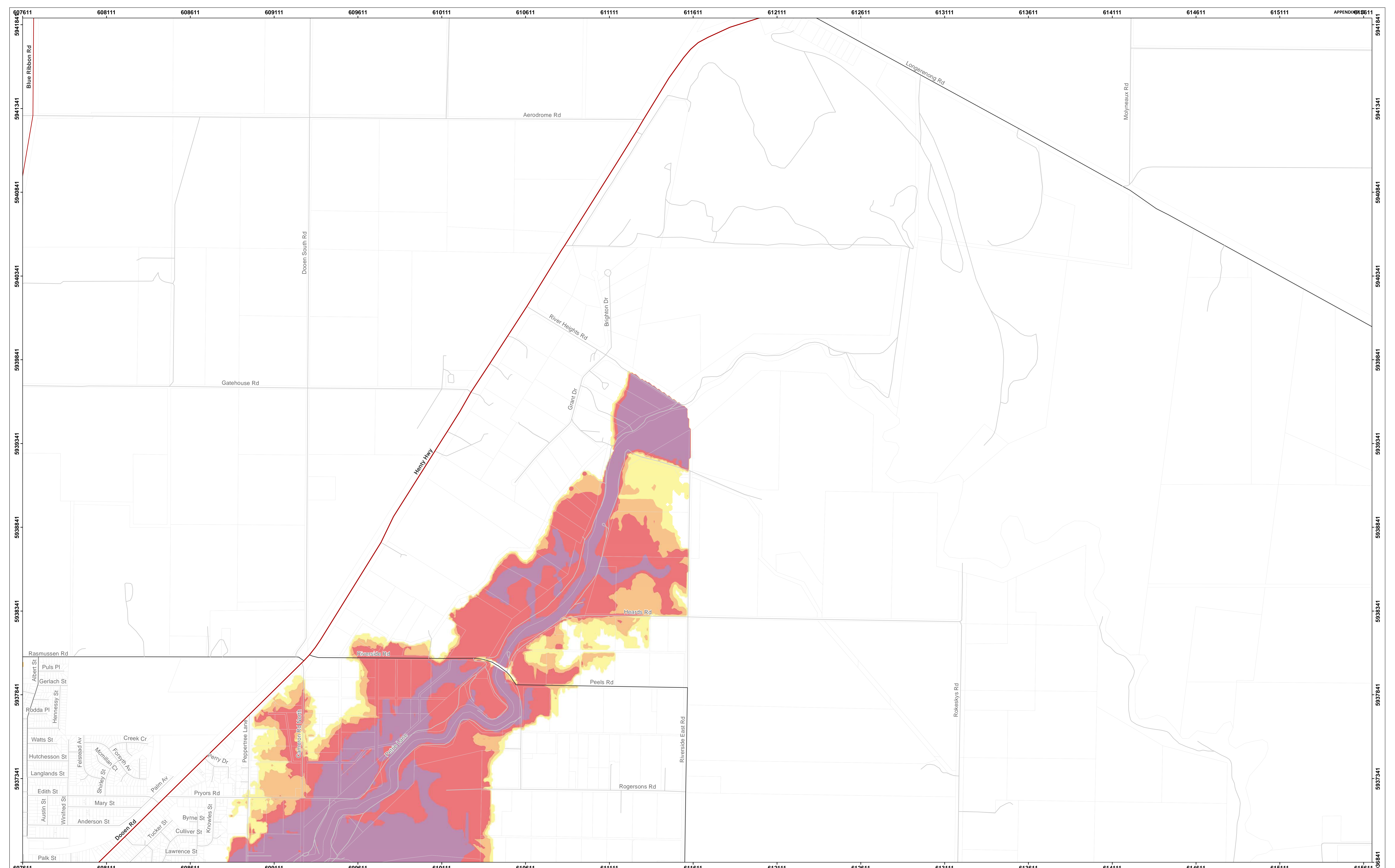
Legend		FOI (points)	
<0.25m	Highways	Fire station	School
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads	Police station	Aged care
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3	Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site
1m +	Minor Road Class 4		
Parcels	Minor Road Class 5+		
Major Towns			
Minor Towns			

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

2% AEP **Sheet: 1 of 3**



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



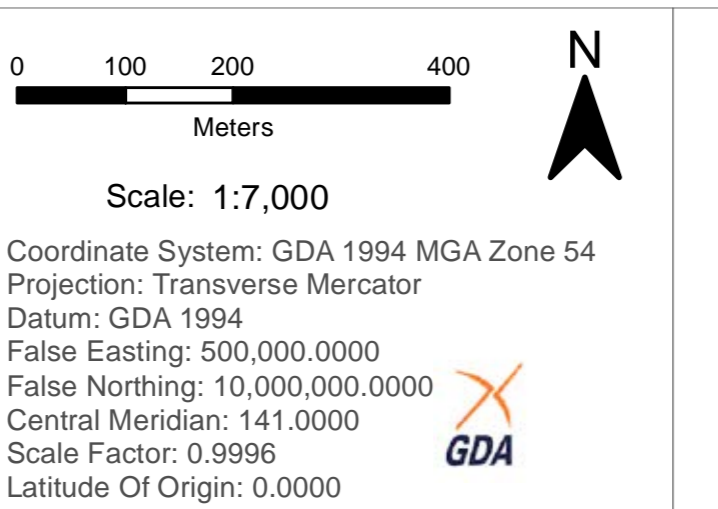
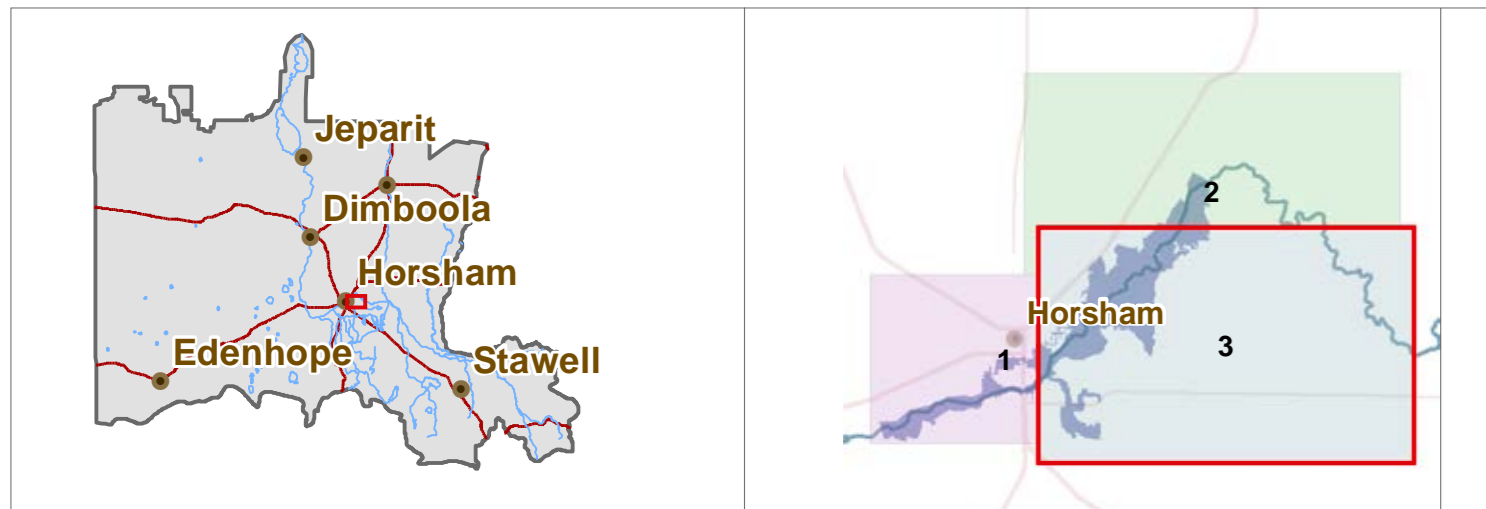
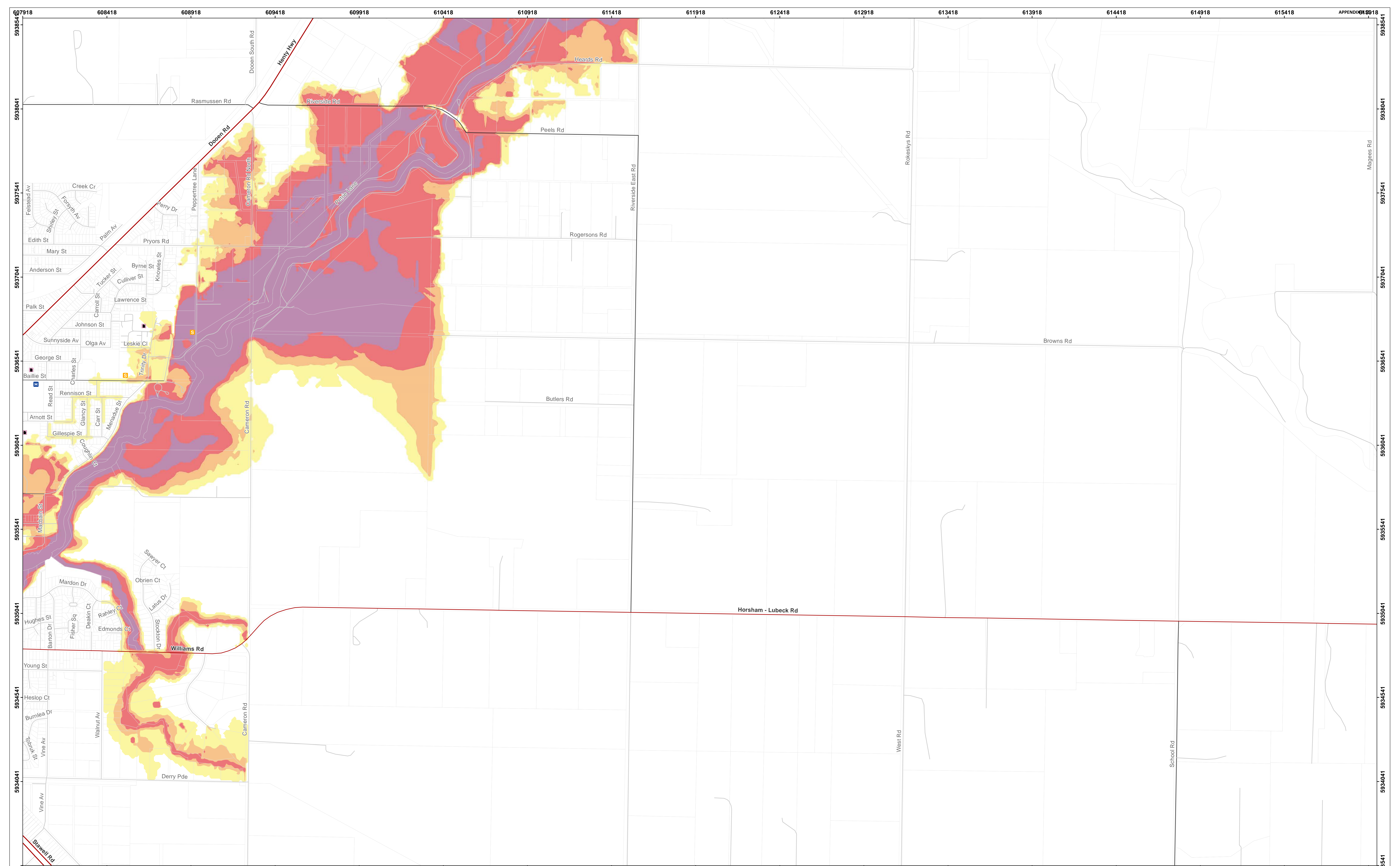
Legend	
<0.25m	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3
1m +	Minor Road Class 4
Major Towns	Minor Road Class 5+
Minor Towns	Fire station
FOI (points)	Police station
Emergency Hospital	School
	Aged care
	Caravan / Camp Site

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

2% AEP Sheet: 2 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Legend

<0.25m	Parcels	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Major Towns	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Towns	Minor Road Class 3
1m +		Minor Road Class 4
		Minor Road Class 5+

FOI (points)

Fire station	School
Police station	Aged care
Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

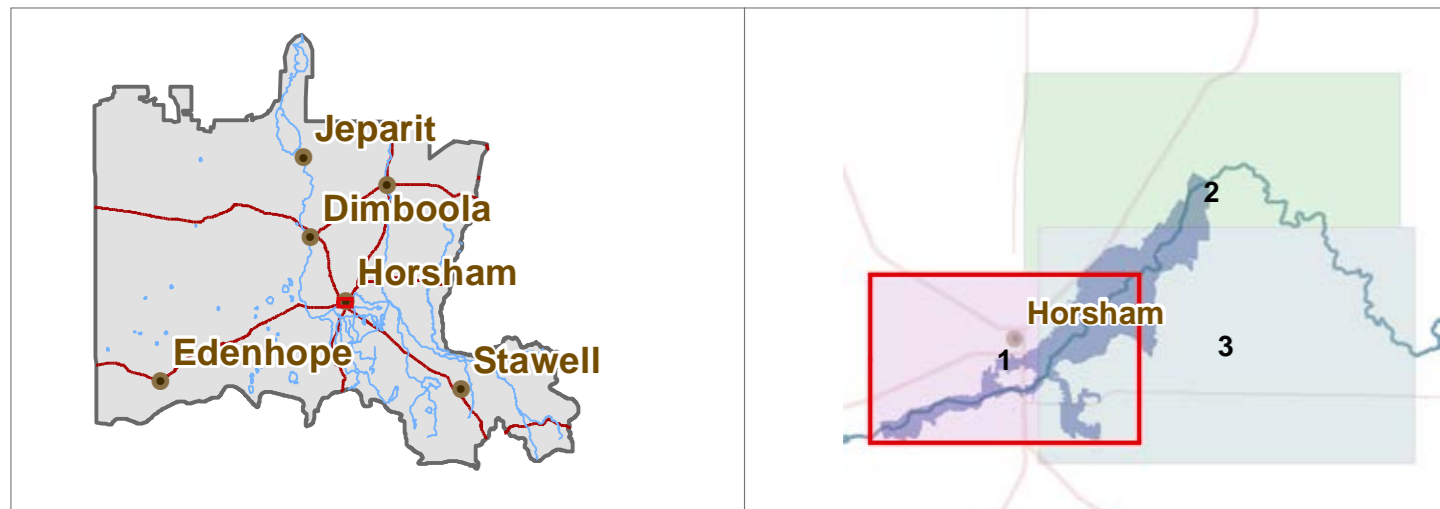
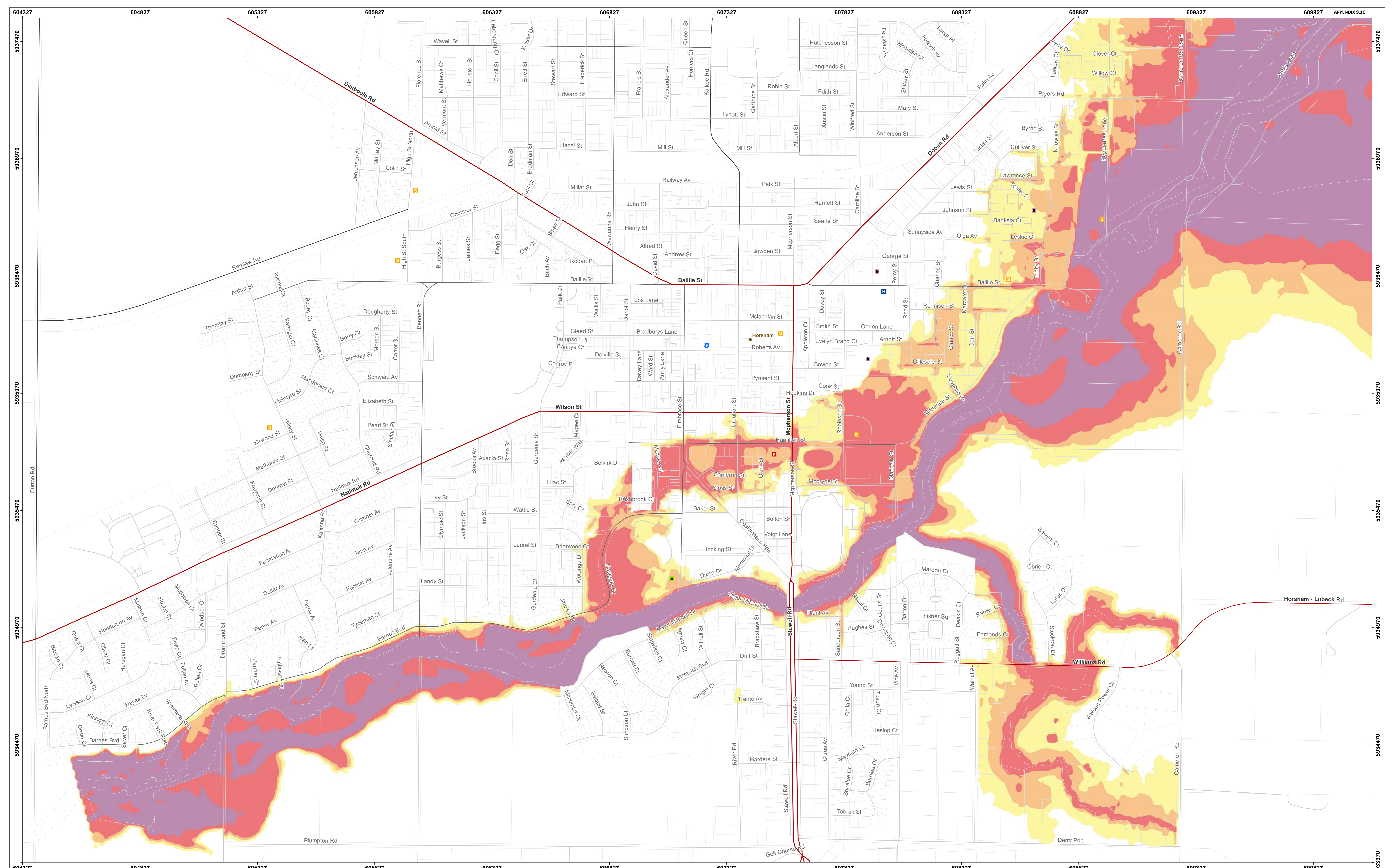
2% AEP

Sheet: 3 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.

FIGURE 23 1 IN 100 YEAR FLOOD



Scale: 1:5,000
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 1994
 False Easting: 500,000.0000
 False Northing: 10,000,000.0000
 Central Meridian: 141.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000
 Units: Meter

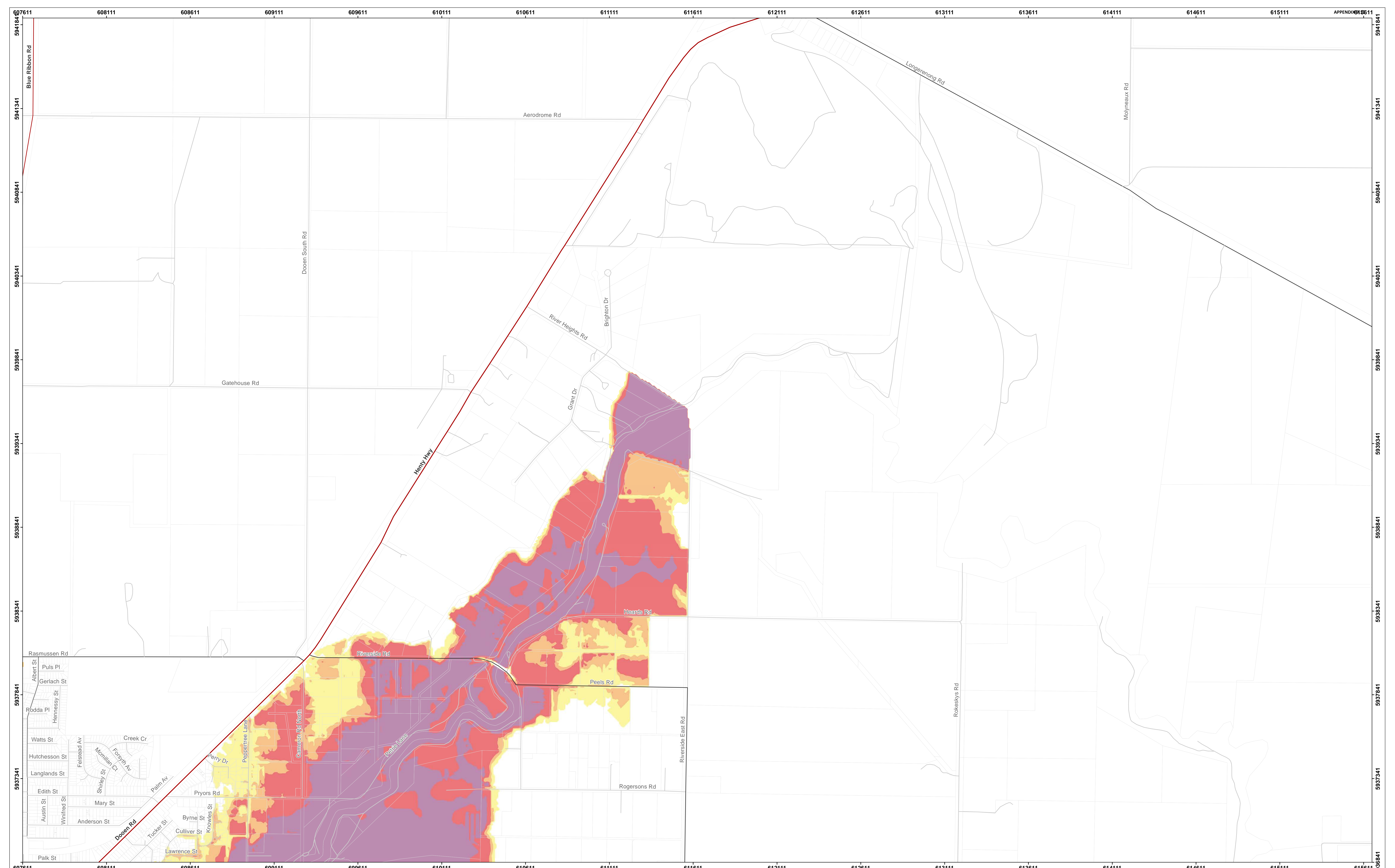
Legend		FOI (points)	
<0.25m	Highways	Fire station	School
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads	Police station	Aged care
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3	Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site
1m +	Minor Road Class 4		
Parcels	Minor Road Class 5+		
Major Towns			
Minor Towns			

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

1% AEP **Sheet: 1 of 3**



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Scale: 1:7,000

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 1994
 False Easting: 500,000.0000
 False Northing: 10,000,000.0000
 Central Meridian: 141.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000
 Units: Meter

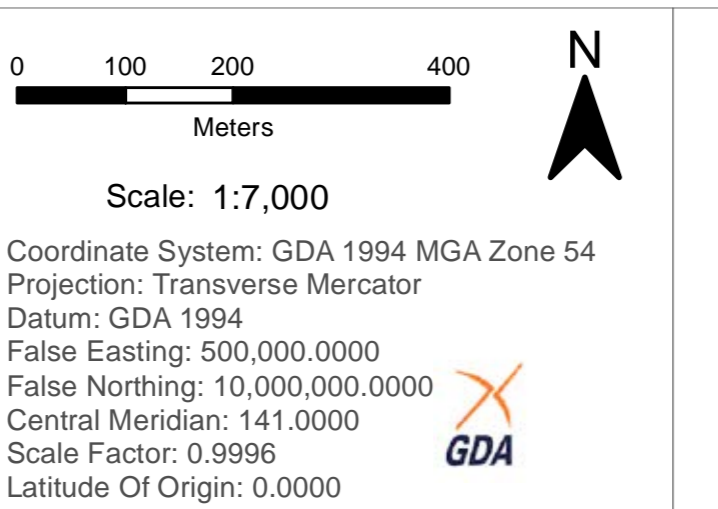
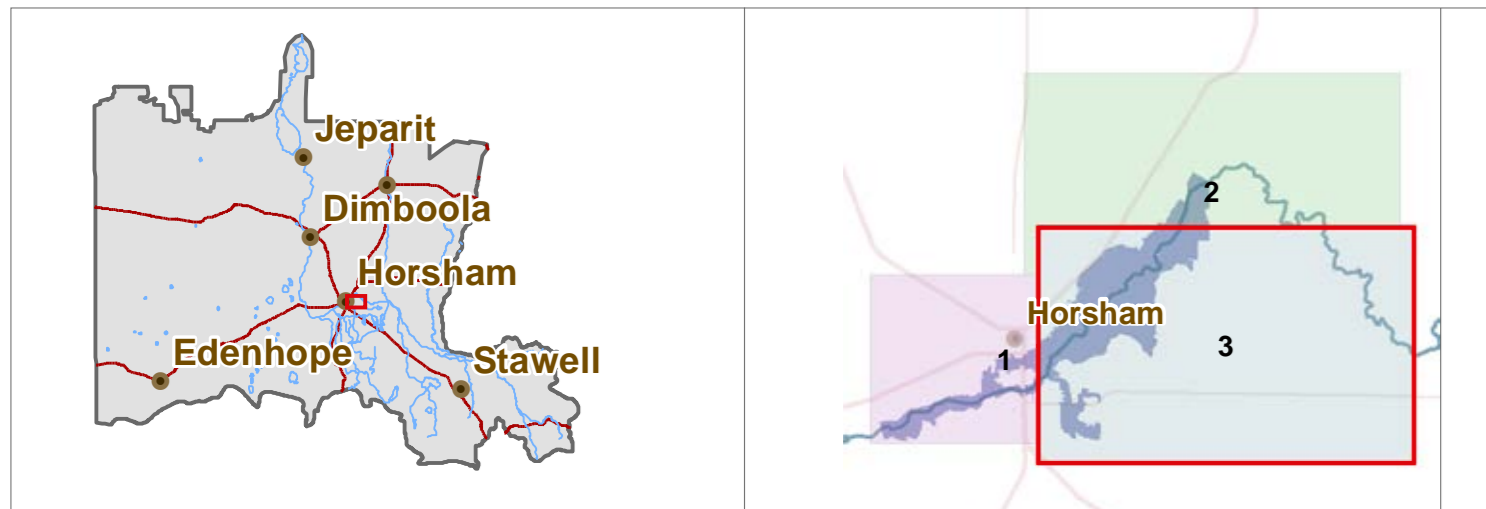
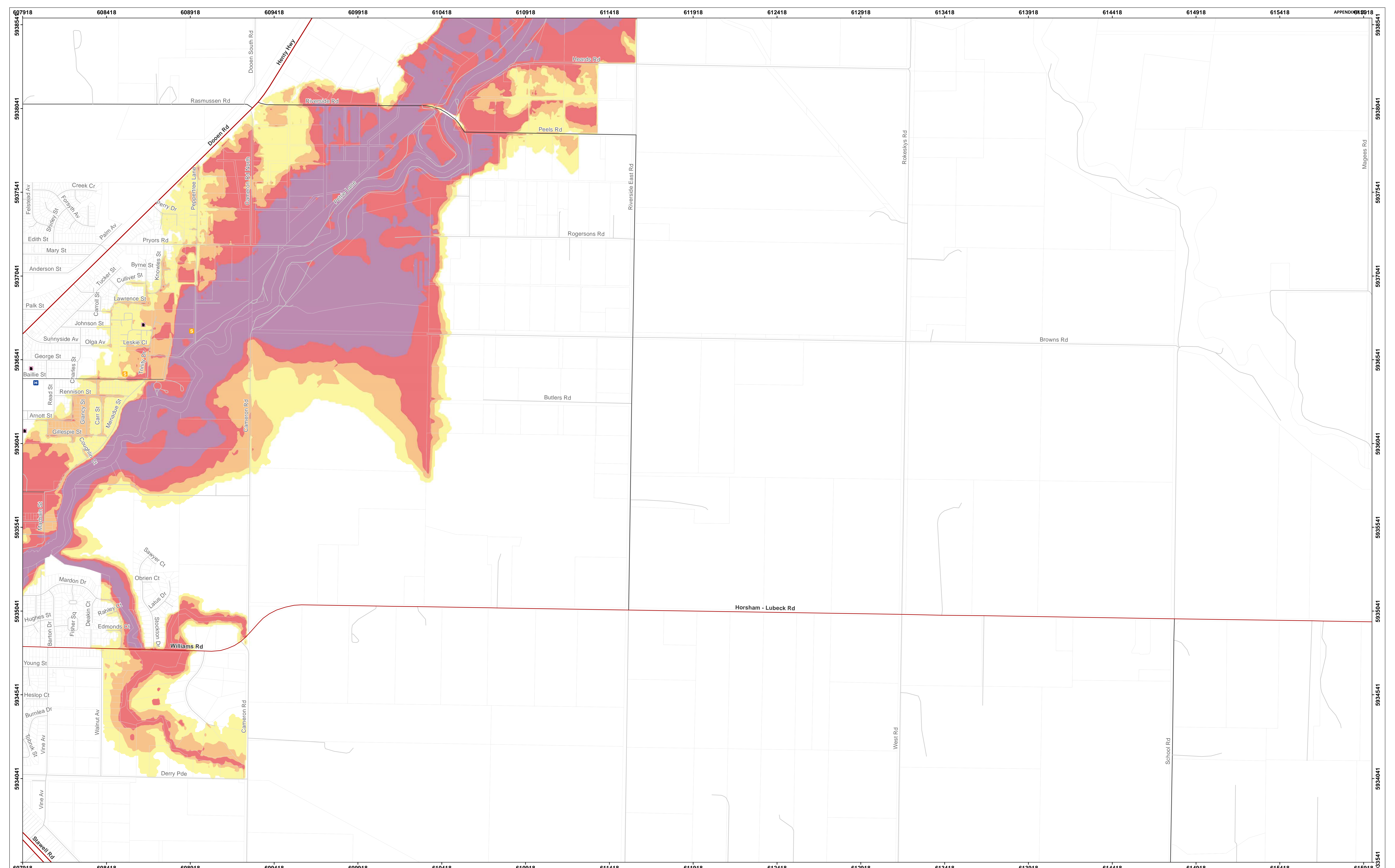
Legend

<0.25m	Parcels	Highways	Fire station	School
0.25 to <0.5m	Major Towns	Other Major Roads	Police station	Aged care
0.5 to <1m	Minor Towns	Minor Road Class 3	Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site
1m +	Minor Road Class 4	Minor Road Class 5+		

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

1% AEP **Sheet: 2 of 3**

DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Legend	
<0.25m	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3
1m +	Minor Road Class 4
Major Towns	Minor Road Class 5+
Minor Towns	Fire station
FOI (points)	Police station
Emergency Hospital	School
	Aged care
	Caravan / Camp Site

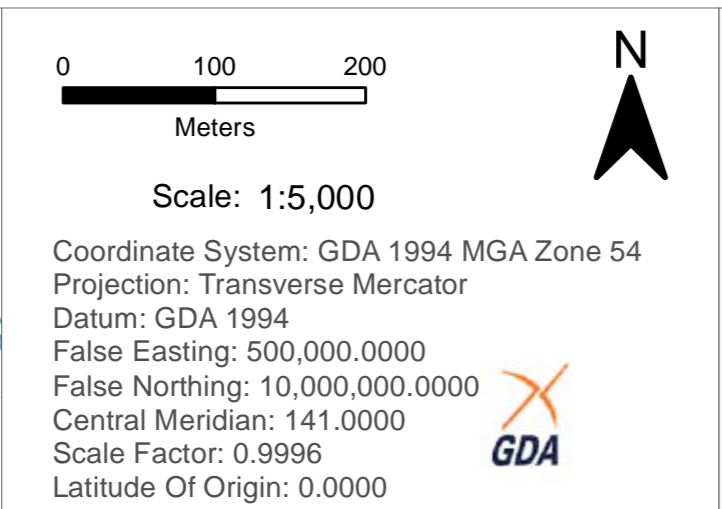
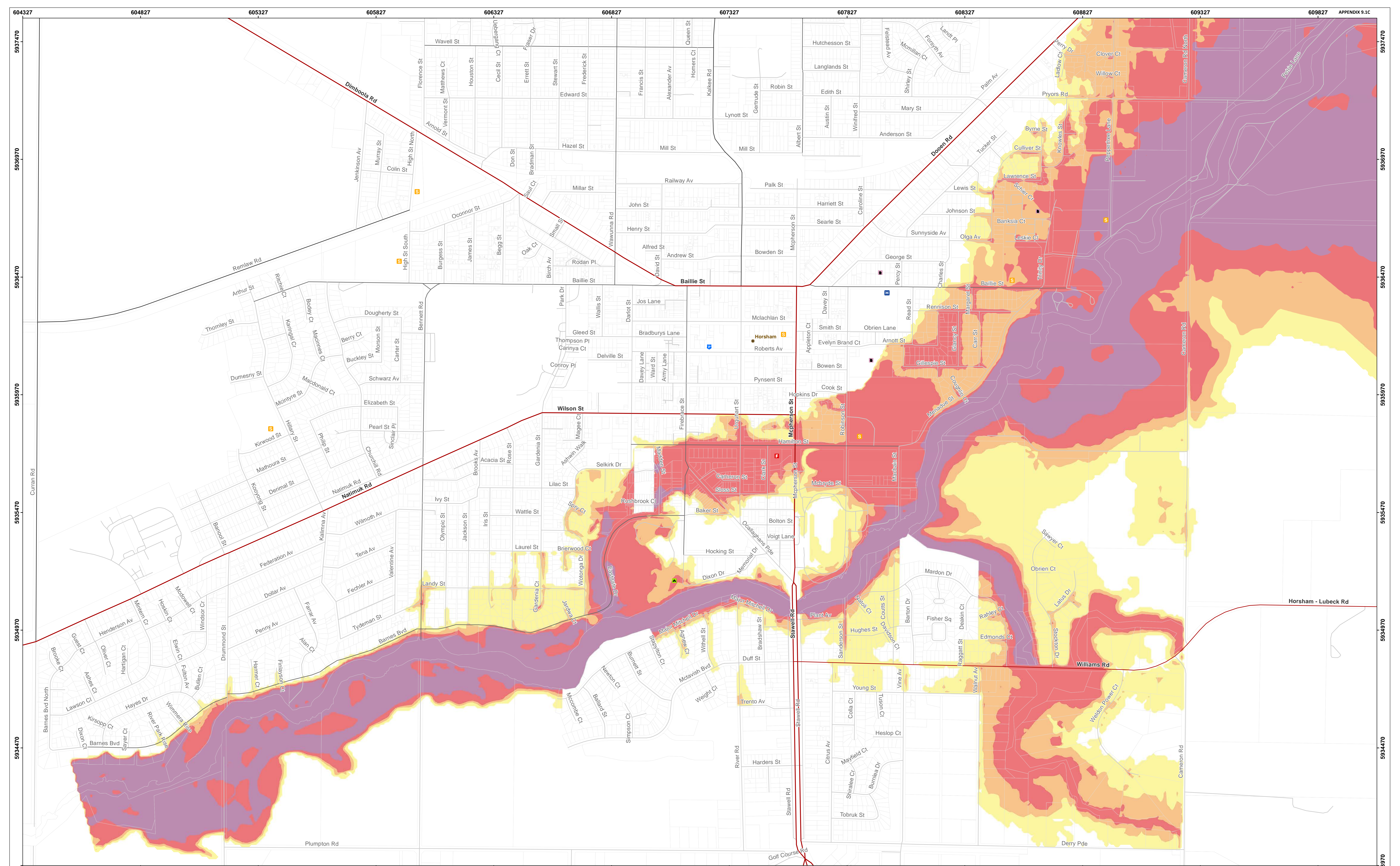
**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

1% AEP **Sheet: 3 of 3**



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.

FIGURE 24 1 IN 200 YEAR FLOOD



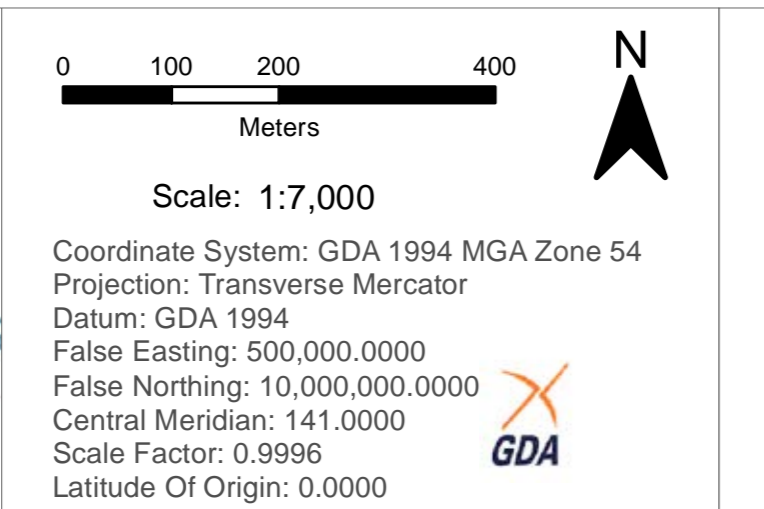
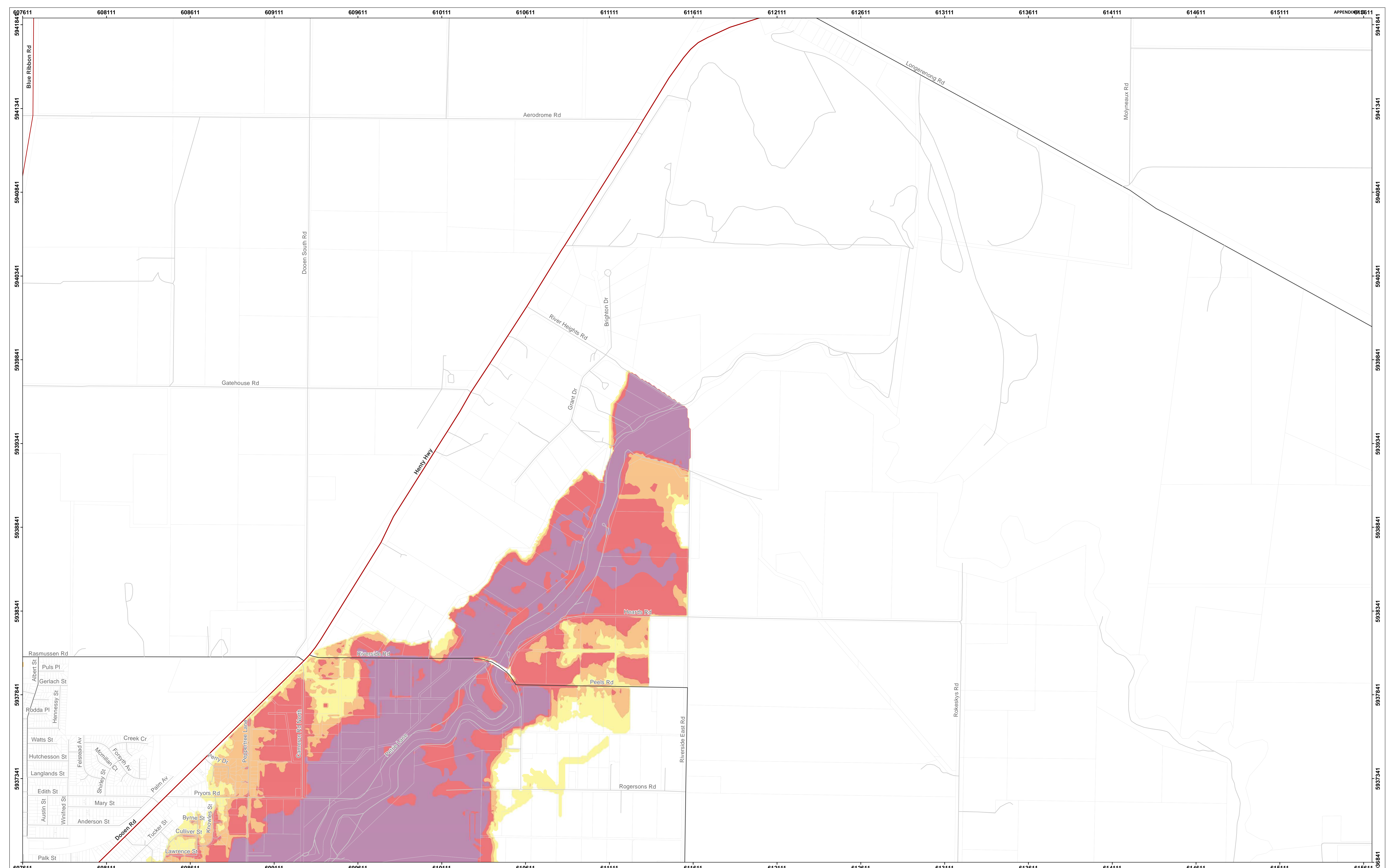
Legend		FOI (points)	
<0.25m	Highways	Fire station	School
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads	Police station	Aged care
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3	Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site
1m +	Minor Road Class 4		
Parcels	Minor Road Class 5+		
Major Towns			
Minor Towns			

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

0.5% AEP Sheet: 1 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



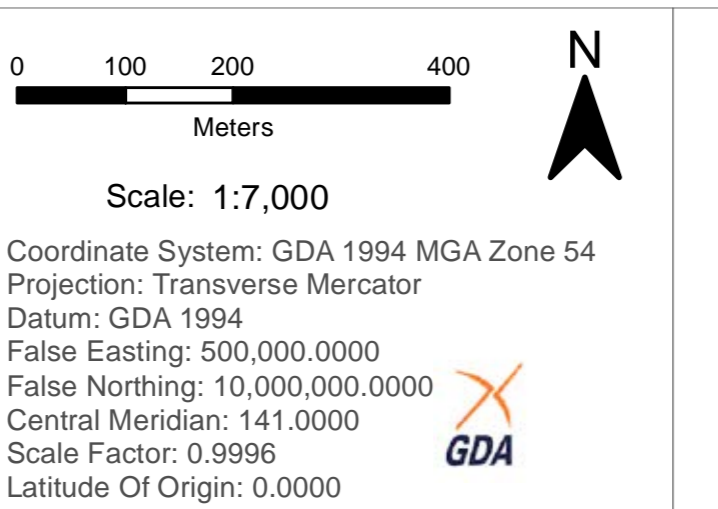
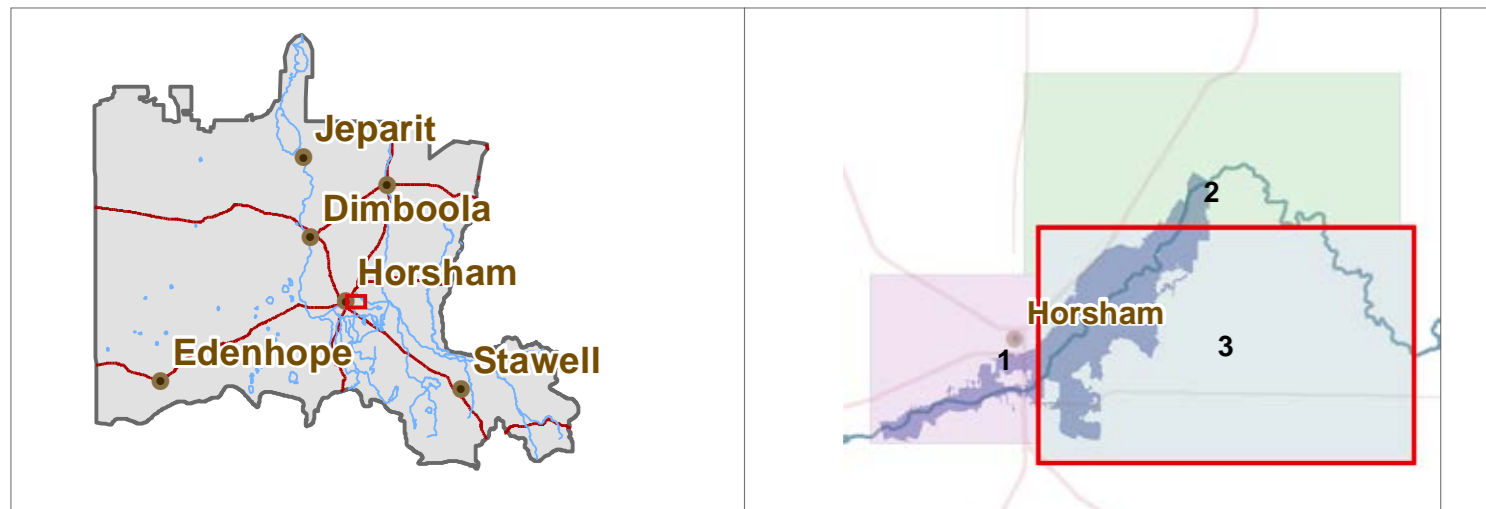
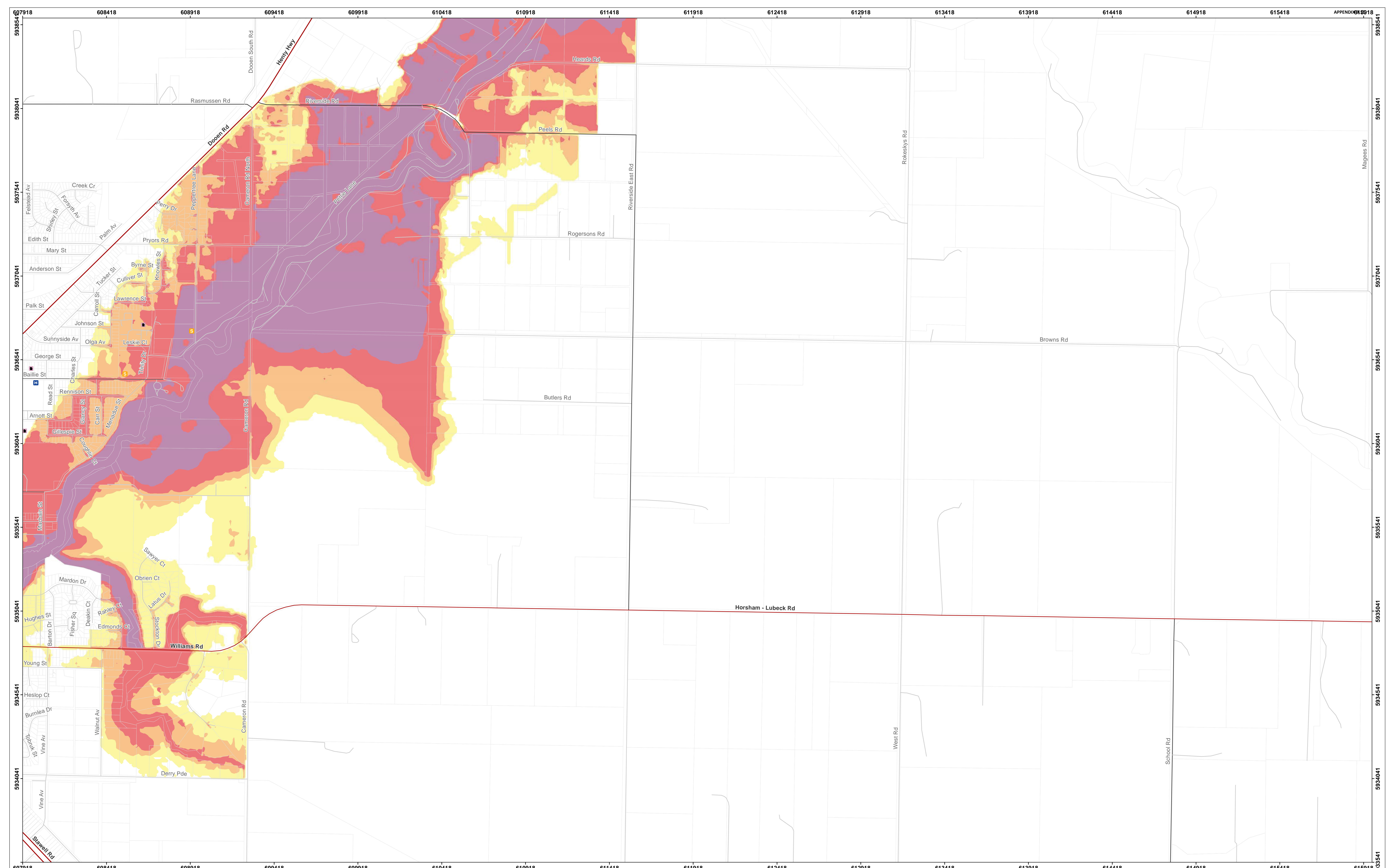
Legend	
<0.25m	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Road Class 3
1m +	Minor Road Class 4
Parcels	Minor Road Class 5+
Major Towns	Fire station
Minor Towns	Police station
FOI (points)	Emergency Hospital
School	Caravan / Camp Site
Aged care	

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

0.5% AEP Sheet: 2 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.



Legend

<0.25m	Parcels	Highways
0.25 to <0.5m	Major Towns	Other Major Roads
0.5 to <1m	Minor Towns	Minor Road Class 3
1m +	Minor Road Class 4	Minor Road Class 5+

FOI (points)

Fire station	School
Police station	Aged care
Emergency Hospital	Caravan / Camp Site

**Flood Investigation:
Horsham 2002**

0.5% AEP

Sheet: 3 of 3



DISCLAIMER: This map is provided for general community information purposes only. Flood levels and floor levels are determined from information available at a particular time and actual levels may exceed those shown. For information about flood conditions and restrictions affecting a particular property, contact WCMA or the relevant council. Neither WCMA nor the State of Victoria claim or warrant that the information in this map is accurate, complete or up to date, and neither WCMA nor the State shall be responsible or liable in respect of any use of or reliance placed on it by any person. This map is copyright of Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the State of Victoria. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of study, research or otherwise as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this map may be reproduced, copied, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of WCMA.

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS
1989-2019

urban planning
enterprise economics+tourism

HORSHAM SPORT FACILITIES DEMAND STUDY

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL | MAY 2019



www.urbanenterprise.com.au

AUTHORS

Todd Ainsaar

Urban Enterprise

Planning, Economics & Tourism

Level 1 302-304 Barkly Street, Brunswick VIC 3056

(03) 9482 3888

www.urbanenterprise.com.au

© Copyright, Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd, 2018

This work is copyright. Apart from any uses permitted under Copyright Act 1963, no part may be reproduced without written permission of Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd.

FILENAME: Horsham-Sporting-Facilities-Demand-Assessment-V4.docx

VERSION: 1

DISCLAIMER

Neither Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. nor any member or employee of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. takes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person or organisation (other than that for which this report has been prepared) in respect of the information set out in this report, including any errors or omissions therein. In the course of our preparation of this report, projections have been prepared on the basis of assumptions and methodology which have been described in the report. It is possible that some of the assumptions underlying the projections may change. Nevertheless, the professional judgement of the members and employees of Urban Enterprise Pty. Ltd. have been applied in making these assumptions, such that they constitute an understandable basis for estimates and projections. Beyond this, to the extent that the assumptions do not materialise, the estimates and projections of achievable results may vary.

CONTENTS

PART A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1	5.2. FACILITIES	17
1. INTRODUCTION	1	5.3. REGIONAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS	35
1.1. BACKGROUND	1	5.4. KEY FINDINGS	37
1.2. PROJECT SCOPE	1	6. AFL	38
1.3. CONCURRENT WORK	2	6.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	38
1.4. METHOD	2	6.2. PARTICIPATION	39
1.5. CONSULTATION	2	6.3. FACILITIES	39
2. STRATEGIC LITERATURE REVIEW	3	6.4. AFL KEY FINDINGS	43
2.1. INTRODUCTION	3	7. CRICKET	44
2.2. NATIONAL	3	7.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	44
2.3. STATE	4	7.2. PARTICIPATION	45
2.4. REGIONAL	5	7.3. FACILITIES	46
2.5. LOCAL	6	7.4. CRICKET KEY FINDINGS	50
2.6. KEY FINDINGS	9	8. FOOTBALL (SOCCER)	51
3. SPORT PARTICIPATION CONTEXT	10	8.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	51
3.1. INTRODUCTION	10	8.2. PARTICIPATION	52
3.2. SPORT PARTICIPATION IN VICTORIA	10	8.3. FACILITIES	52
3.3. KEY FINDINGS	12	8.4. SOCCER KEY FINDINGS	55
4. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS	13	9. TENNIS	56
4.1. INTRODUCTION	13	9.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	56
4.2. POPULATION	14	9.2. PARTICIPATION	57
4.3. AGE PROFILE	15	9.3. FACILITIES	57
PART B. OUTDOOR SPORTS	16	9.4. TENNIS KEY FINDINGS	60
5. FACILITIES	17	10. NETBALL	61
5.1. INTRODUCTION	17	10.1. LITERATURE REVIEW	61

10.2. PARTICIPATION	62	15.6. SITE LOCATION ASSESSMENT	86
10.3. FACILITIES	62	15.7. KEY FINDINGS	88
10.4. NETBALL KEY FINDINGS	67	PART D. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	89
11. LITTLE ATHLETICS	68	16. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	90
11.1. PARTICIPATION	68	16.1. INTRODUCTION	90
11.2. FACILITIES	68	16.2. SUMMARY	90
11.3. LITTLE ATHLETICS KEY FINDINGS	70	17. RECOMMENDATIONS	93
12. RUGBY LEAGUE	71	17.1. OVERVIEW	93
12.1. PARTICIPATION	71	17.2. RECOMMENDATIONS	93
12.2. FACILITIES	71	APPENDICES	97
12.3. RUGBY KEY FINDINGS	72	APPENDIX A INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM LOCATION ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM	97
13. HOCKEY	73		
13.1. PARTICIPATION	73		
13.2. FACILITIES	73		
13.3. HOCKEY KEY FINDINGS	75		
14. LAWN BOWLS	76		
14.1. INTRODUCTION	76		
14.2. LITERATURE REVIEW	76		
14.3. PARTICIPATION	76		
14.4. FACILITIES	76		
14.5. LAWN BOWLS KEY FINDINGS	78		
PART C. INDOOR SPORTS REVIEW	79		
15. INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES REVIEW	80		
15.1. INTRODUCTION	80		
15.2. EXISTING REPORTS	80		
15.3. EXISTING FACILITIES	83		
15.4. PARTICIPATION	84		
15.5. CONSULTATION	85		

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 AGE-SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VICTORIA	10
FIGURE 2 AGE SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VIC REGIONS	10
FIGURE 3 PARTICIPATION RATES	11
FIGURE 4 VIF POPULATION DATA AREA	13
FIGURE 5 AGE STRUCTURE	15
FIGURE 6 MAIN FACILITIES	18
FIGURE 7 AFL FACILITIES	40
FIGURE 8 CRICKET FACILITIES	47
FIGURE 9 SOCCER FACILITIES	53
FIGURE 10 TENNIS COURTS	58
FIGURE 11 NETBALL FACILITIES	64
FIGURE 12 HOCKEY PITCHES IN THE NORTHWEST REGION	73
FIGURE 13 LAWN BOWLS FACILITIES	77

TABLES

TABLE 1 PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY - TOP 15 ACTIVITIES (ADULTS)	11
TABLE 2 ORGANISE PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY – TOP 10 ACTIVITIES (CHILDREN)	12
TABLE 3 HORSHAM POPULATION	14
TABLE 4 WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE POPULATION PROJECTIONS	14
TABLE 5 HORSHAM SPORTING FACILITIES	17
TABLE 6 CITY OVAL	19
TABLE 7 SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX	21
TABLE 8 RACECOURSE RESERVE	23
TABLE 9 HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)	25
TABLE 10 HORSHAM COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX	27
TABLE 11 HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE	29
TABLE 12 DUDLEY CORNELL	31
TABLE 13 COUGHLIN PARK	33
TABLE 14 REGIONAL OUTDOOR SPORT REQUIREMENTS	35
TABLE 15 AFL FIELDS	39

TABLE 16 AFL PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION	41
TABLE 17 PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN COUNTRY DISTRICT	45
TABLE 18 CRICKET FIELDS	46
TABLE 19 CRICKET PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION	48
TABLE 20 SOCCER PITCHES	52
TABLE 21 SOCCER PROJECTED NUMBER OF PITCHES	52
TABLE 22 TENNIS FACILITIES HIERARCHY	56
TABLE 23 EXISTING TENNIS FACILITIES	57
TABLE 24 HORSHAM MEMBERSHIPS, 2015	62
TABLE 25 EXISTING NETBALL FACILITIES	62
TABLE 26 PROJECTED NUMBER OF NETBALL COURTS	65
TABLE 27 POPULATION PER COURT WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE	65
TABLE 28 INDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION SUMMARY	84
TABLE 29 RESULTS OF SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX	86
TABLE 30 DEMAND SUMMARY	91
TABLE 31 SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	98

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Urban Enterprise would like to gratefully acknowledge all those that provided input to the preparation of this study including representatives from various sporting bodies, associations and clubs.

PART A:
**INTRODUCTION AND
BACKGROUND**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Urban Enterprise was engaged by Horsham Rural City Council (**Council**) to prepare a sporting facilities demand study for the Council area. Council requires an up to date and evidence based understanding of the current and future participation and demand for outdoor sporting facilities in the City.

This report will be used to inform Council's decisions on provision of sporting facilities for sports clubs and associations, and active recreational use in the municipality. The outcomes of this study will assist in informing the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Study and the Horsham CAD and Wimmera Riverfront Framework Plan.

This report specifically looks at the provision of outdoor sports in the City of Horsham. The outdoor sports included in the scope of this project include:

- AFL;
- Athletics;
- Cricket;
- Lawn Bowls;
- Netball;
- Rugby League;
- Soccer; and
- Tennis.

The following facilities are the key facilities considered as part of the scope for this project:

- City Oval;
- Coughlin Park Sports Complex;
- Dudley Cornell Complex;

- Haven Recreation Reserve;
- Horsham Community Oval Complex;
- Horsham Lawn Tennis Facility;
- Racecourse Reserve Complex (including Central Park Tennis Courts and Netball Courts); and
- Sunnyside Sports Complex.

This project also includes a peer review of the *Horsham Multi-use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan- Phase One Feasibility Study* (2016) and the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design* Report (2017) and update based on any new key information.

1.2. PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the project is to address:

- A sports facilities demand study for Horsham Rural City Council for field and court based sports facilities only, with a focus on tennis, athletics, AFL, soccer, lawn bowls, rugby league, cricket and netball (this excludes sporting activities such as swimming, running, cycling and BMX for example).
- The geographic areas for the study is Horsham Rural City Council with reference to sports facilities in adjoining municipalities.
- Consideration of local, district and regional facilities, public and private sporting fields and courts and indoor and outdoor sporting fields and courts.
- The demand assessment having consideration of facility needs to 2033.
- A peer review of existing work related to the provision of indoor sports in the municipality.
- Reference to the State sporting facilities plans and key principles including:
 - Inclusive consideration of a broad range of stakeholders;

- Preference for the joint provision and shared use of facilities;
- Equity and fairness on overall resource allocation.

The scope of this project does not include specific recommendations regarding facility upgrades. The project includes an assessment of the sporting facilities context (with a focus on facilities within the town of Horsham) and assess current and future demand to make recommendations in regard to the general sporting facility needs of Horsham and set the strategic direction for sports facility provision.

1.3. CONCURRENT WORK

This project is being undertaken concurrently with the Horsham CAD and Wimmera River Framework Plan and the Horsham Open Space Strategy. The outcomes and recommendations of this report will be used to partially inform these projects and vice versa.

1.4. METHOD

- Demand:
 - **Consultation** – Determining needs through consultation with sporting associations and clubs.
 - **Participation and membership** – determining current membership and participation and trends.
 - **Provision Ratios** – The use of population provision ratios is a commonly used planning tool to assess the current or future potential need for community facilities and infrastructure within a catchment area. For example, this may include the provision of a field or court per determined head of population. This method has been adopted for the purposes of this study.
 - **Site Visits** – Site visits of key sporting facilities to assist in determining current issues and constraints with facilities.
 - **Alignment to Horsham as a regional City** - Ability for current provision to meet the current and future needs of Horsham as a regional city.

1.5. CONSULTATION

Consultation has provided a key input to the preparation of this report. Consultation activities have included:

- **One on One / Small Group Meetings** – one on one or small group meetings with sporting associations and clubs in Horsham including representatives from the following sporting **organisations/associations** Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, Horsham Cricket Association, Horsham Table Tennis Association, Little Athletics, AFL Wimmera Mallee, Central Wimmera Tennis Association, Basketball Victoria, Netball Victoria and from **local sporting clubs** including cricket, AFL, Lawn Bowls, Soccer and Tennis.
- **Online Survey** – An online survey of sporting clubs, which attracted 27 complete responses including from the following sports Rugby League, Football, Tennis, Netball, Cricket, Volleyball, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Athletics and Soccer.
- **Indoor Sports Workshop** – a workshop with representatives from the Project Control Group, Council staff and Councillors relevant to the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design project* (William Ross Architects, 2017).
- **Council Workshop** – a workshop with relevant Council managers and staff.
- **Site Visits** – site visits to all eight sporting reserves in central Horsham with a representative from Council.

2. STRATEGIC LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a review of documents relevant to the preparation of this study.

2.2. NATIONAL

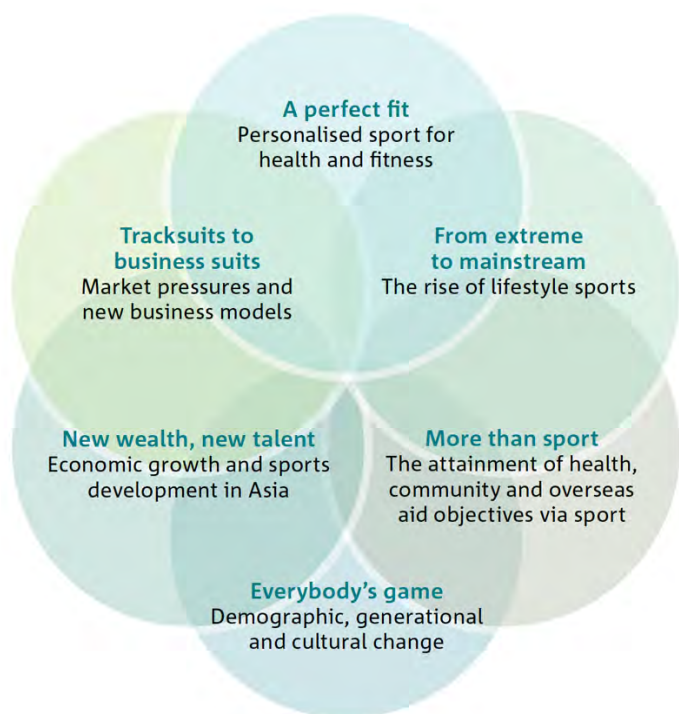
THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT (2013)

This report by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission identifies six megatrends likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years. These are shown in the diagram to the right and summarised as follows:

- **A perfect fit** – People are increasingly opting to go for a run with headphones rather than commit to a regular organised sporting event. Australians are becoming more health conscious. We are increasingly playing sport to get fit, rather than getting fit to play sport.
- **From extreme to mainstream** – the rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular with younger generations (e.g. skateboarding, rock-climbing, mountain biking, BMX). These sports are likely to attract participants through generational change and greater awareness via online content.
- **More than Sport** – Sport can help to achieve wide ranging objectives including mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development, and international cooperation, reducing chronic illness and obesity.
- **Everybody's Game** – Australian faces an ageing population. This will change the types of sports we play and how we play them. There are indications Australians are embracing sport into their old age. Sports of the future will need to cater to

senior citizens. Sporting organisations will be challenged with capturing the interest and involvement of diverse cultures.

- **New Wealth, New Talent** – As disposable income grows in Asian countries, the populations of Asian countries are becoming more interested in sport. This may create new markets for sport television, sport tourism, sports equipment, sport services and sport events.
- **Tracksuit to Business Suits** - Sports with higher salaries may draw athletes away from those with lower salaries. Loosely organised community sports associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems in light of market pressures. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.



Source: CSIRO, The Australian Sports Commission (2013)

2.3. STATE

ACTIVE VICTORIA: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SPORT AND RECREATION IN VICTORIA 2017-2021

Relevant strategic directions to this project include:

1. Meeting Demand:

- Increasing capacity of facilities and infrastructure;
 - New and existing infrastructure that 'works harder for longer'. This includes lighting, more durable turf/synthetic/hybrid surfaces, and multi-sport spaces.
 - **High-capacity regional sport and active recreation facilities and infrastructure complementing local community facilities.**
 - Designing infrastructure in accordance with universal design principles and to be resilient to future risks.
- Create flexible and innovative participation options.
- Find new sources of investment.
- Invest in a network of international, metropolitan, regional and local infrastructure.

2. Broader and more inclusive participation:

- Build inclusion into the system.
- Provide affordable participation options.
- Address racism, discrimination and harassment.
- Continue investment in female participation.
- Support increased participation of Aboriginal Victorians.
- Provide support and flexible participation options for other under-represented communities including people with disability, LGBTI people and disengaged youth.

3. Additional focus on active recreation:

- Create a model that supports the structure and needs of active recreation.

- Provide information and encouragement to support non-organised and unstructured physical activity.
- Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation.
- 4. Build system resilience and capacity:**
 - Support volunteers and the sport and active recreation workforce.
 - Encourage good governance and diverse leadership.
 - Develop a strong evidence base and analytical capacity.
 - Address reputational risk and threats to integrity.
- 5. Connect investment in events, high performance and infrastructure:**
 - Invest in state and regional facilities that underpin Victoria's event calendar.
 - Create new trade and business opportunities through 'sport diplomacy'.
 - Strengthen linkages between events and high performance sport and grassroots sport.
 - Develop pathways to excellence.
 - Provide new and integrated support for high performance athletes across the Victorian Institute of Sport, regional academies and sports.
- 6. Work together for shared outcomes:**
 - Develop agreed priorities for collaborative action.
 - Ensure complementary investment to create collective impact.

SPORT FACILITY PROVISION RESEARCH REPORT (2014)

Sport and Recreation Spatial prepared a research report into sport facility provision in Victoria. The report found that there were considerable differences in the provision of facilities and courts per players and per the population across Victorian LGAs.

The report found that there was a positive correlation between the provision of courts per 1,000 persons and the sport participation rate (e.g. LGAs with higher rates of participation tend to have more sport facilities per head of population and vice versa).

The benchmark for an LGA to be in the top two-thirds of LGAs with regard to provision of facilities was 100 players per facility for all LGAs, 255 players per facility for metropolitan LGAs and 77 players per facility for non-metropolitan LGAs.

2.4. REGIONAL

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN (2014)

The Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) Regional Growth Plan provides a regional approach to land use planning across the region. The WSM includes the municipalities of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.

Horsham is identified as the only **Regional City** in the growth plan, supporting all Council's. Regional Cities in neighbouring regions include Bendigo, Ballarat, Warrnambool and Mildura.

The vision for the region includes:

"The Wimmera Southern Mallee is a prosperous region which uses its natural advantages of a healthy environment, extensive spaces and a range of urban and rural lifestyle opportunities to attract more residents, businesses and visitors."

Increased primary production remains an important focus of the region, but a more diverse and innovative economy, including new agricultural commodities, industry, tourism, research and education means the community can adapt to changing economic and environmental conditions."

Key principles to achieve this vision, which are particularly relevant to the provision of sporting facilities include:

- **Key centres** should be a focus to **manage population change and access to services**;
- The region's assets should be used to **facilitate the diversification of the economy and ensure a resilient community**;
- Planning should **support adaptation to changes in climate**;
- **Opportunities for growth should be identified to facilitate appropriate local development**;
- **Infrastructure required to support growth should be identified.**

Specific recommendations for Horsham include:

- **Support development and investment that is consistent with Horsham's status as a regional city and the largest town in Wimmera Southern Mallee.**
- **Consolidate the regional significance of the Horsham central activities district** by providing additional retail and office space over the life of this plan.

In regard to social infrastructure (including sports and community facilities), the future directions for the region as outlined in the Plan include:

- Encourage **social infrastructure that is well located and accessible** to residential development, public transport services, employment and educational opportunities.
- Support **multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable health and education infrastructure.**

2.5. LOCAL

COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2022

The Council Plan sets the strategic direction of Council, linking the community's vision to long term community goals. Key goals in relation to sports and community infrastructure include:

- **Goal 1: Community and Cultural Development:**
 - Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community;
 - Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation;
 - Contribute to cultural activities that enhance the community;
 - Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Goal 2: Sustaining the Economy:**
 - Cultivate opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development;
 - Increase visitors to the municipality;

- Promote Horsham as a regional city.
- **Goal 3: Asset Management:**
 - Determine infrastructure needs and expectations through consultation with developers and the community.
 - Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety.

SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2013-2018 (2013)

The Sport and Recreation Strategy was prepared in 2013 by SGL, the Strategy identifies and evaluates existing sports and recreation needs and the delivery of these services.

The strategy identified a number of priority issues, including:

- The main sporting precinct in Horsham is the areas encompassing Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, City Oval, the Showgrounds, Basketball Stadium and Coughlin Park. Currently it is a disjointed precinct with limited integration. The opportunity exists to continue developing the area as a major focus of sport and recreation participation. In other words the primary hub of activity in Horsham.
- Linear trails cater primarily for walking and cycling, two of the most popular physical activities in Australia. They are facilities with high levels of use and cater for a range of demographic groups. A key feature is that they are "free" to use. Potential exists to expand existing trails and create linkages between trails and to open spaces or areas of cultural or historical interest.
- Open space areas are highly valued by residents, including passive recreation parks and sporting reserves. Potential exists to enhance larger parcels of open space by developing them as multi-functional areas. In particular the development of quality play spaces in major open space nodes will increase the effective use of Council resources by consolidating facilities. The outcome will be open spaces which are attractive to a wider range of demographics, especially young families. When located in high profile sites, they will benefit both residents and visitors.
- Whilst a number of sports halls exist in Horsham, except for the basketball stadium, they are single court facilities. Consequently, sports have difficulty

hosting major events, due to lack of multiple courts in a single location. Many sports do not want to share their facilities, protecting “their patch”. This approach has ensured that developing a cohesive long term strategy has not occurred.

- Relocation of the rail freight yards and closure of the rail line through Horsham will provide the opportunity to redevelop this strategically located parcel of public land as valuable open space.
- The aging profile of the Horsham community indicates that greater priority should be given to meeting the needs of older adults.

The Strategy recommended a series of strategies, actions and priorities for sport and recreation provision in Horsham between 2013 and 2018. These include:

- **Leadership** – Council take a stronger, more strategic leadership role in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities, particularly regarding the management and use of its sport and recreation assets.
- **Funding Priorities** - Council use the following criteria to assess the level of resources provided to sport and recreation facilities, programs or services:
 - Demonstrated community need;
 - Sustained community support;
 - Caters for multiuse and/or multiusers;
 - A regional focus and capacity to host major events;
 - Social value or benefits delivered;
 - Availability of Government funding;
 - Availability of local/community funding.
- **Quality Sport and Recreation Facilities** – recommended that Council:
 - Ensure its **premier facilities are developed and maintained to a standard adequate to host sports tourism events;** and
 - Continue to upgrade existing facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- **Indoor Sports** – Horsham cannot cater for events requiring multi courts, and both table tennis and squash currently occupy poor quality facilities. It is recommended that Council:

- **Proceed with plans to develop a multi-purpose indoor sport and recreation centre, located as close as possible to the existing Basketball Stadium, either adjacent to, or on the Showgrounds.**
- A management body be established to manage the Basketball Stadium (when the current lease expires) and the new venue.
- **Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multipurpose, multi-user venue, over a single purpose facility.**
- A detailed indoor sports centre strategy and feasibility study be commissioned. Consideration should be given to including:
 - At least two and up to four additional sports courts, with one being a show court with significant spectator seating.
 - Squash courts (number to be determined based on demand).
 - Table tennis hall to accommodate 10 tables.
 - Gymnastics hall.
- **Playing Fields** – adequate playing fields exist in Horsham to cater for existing demand, however, they are not appropriately equipped to ensure optimum use. Recommendations relating to playing fields includes:
 - Directly allocate and schedule use of City Oval, Dudley Cornell Oval, College Oval and Sunnyside Oval;
 - Reduce use of City Oval by restricting football training sessions;
 - Allocate equal training times to all football clubs using City Oval;
 - **Upgrade College Oval, Sunnyside Oval and Dudley Cornell Park with floodlights adequate for training and appropriate change rooms and toilets;**
 - A feasibility study be commissioned to assess the viability, sustainability and location of constructing a multipurpose synthetic turf playing field;
 - **Proceed with development of a playing field, including change rooms and floodlights, at Haven Recreation Reserve when College Oval and Sunnyside Oval have been upgraded,** all playing fields are used to their optimum level and demand for an additional field has been proven.
- **Rural Communities** - Rural communities have a reasonable expectation that they will have a level of sport and recreation access commensurate with their

population. Generally speaking, the larger communities have a football/cricket oval, netball courts, tennis courts and appropriate amenities including club rooms. Smaller communities tend to have less facilities which may include hard courts and community meeting space or hall. It was recommended that:

- Annually review the sport and recreation component of the Community Action Plan for each of its rural communities in association with each community;
- Support the upgrading of amenities at Laharum Recreation Reserve;
- Support the upgrading of amenities at Pimpinio Recreation Reserve.
- Single Purpose Sports Facilities – It was recommended that:
 - Do not provide any additional resources for tennis facilities until a strategic plan is developed which **addresses the potential demand for a major regional tennis complex and use, maintenance and redevelopment of existing courts;**
 - **Support bowling clubs which plan to convert turf bowling greens to synthetic grass,** subject to a business plan being prepared;
 - Continue to liaise with all sporting clubs regarding the maintenance, use and development/redevelopment of their facilities.
- **Trails** – It was recommended that Council implement recommendations relating to recreational off road trails and paths identified in the Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012 – 2016.
- **Specific Issues** – It was recommended that Council:
 - Offer leases of up to 5 + 5 years over recreation and sport assets to local incorporated bodies which have exclusive use of the asset and are totally responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the asset;
 - Do not provide ongoing operational funding for leased assets;
 - Offer seasonal occupancy agreements or licenses to groups using multipurpose and multiuser sport and recreation assets;
 - Allocate resources to sporting facilities based on management or business plans;
 - Demolish the outdoor swimming pool at the Horsham Aquatic Centre;

- Develop a significant regional passive recreation park in the northern suburbs including play equipment for toddlers, primary school age children and teenagers, toilet and shade amenities, picnic/BBQ facilities and walking/cycle paths;
- Determine the best location for the northern passive recreation park when the future of the rail yards and relocation of the Rasmussen Road Campus of Horsham 298 Primary School has been finalised, and compared with the merits of the Police Paddocks;
- **Encourage the installation of tennis and lawn bowls floodlights to enable training and competition in the evenings, during the summer months.**

HORSHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2017-2021)

The aim of the Horsham Economic Development Strategy is to strengthen, enhance and further diversify the existing economic, tourism and industrial base in Horsham, which leads to sustainable growth that improves the wealth and wellbeing of the community. Key recommendations in relation to sporting infrastructure include:

- Deliver the multi-use indoor sports facility;
- Ensure Horsham's CAD is considered the prime location for future development in retail, commercial office, entertainment and community land uses.
- Develop Horsham's calendar of festivals and events (including supporting infrastructure improvements to facilitate sports tourism).

2.6. KEY FINDINGS

The following key findings relate to the strategic literature review:

Relevant findings from **State** strategic literature includes:

- There is an increasingly number of people participating in non-organised sport.
- Sport provides a number of benefits including mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development, reducing chronic illness and obesity.
- New infrastructure should ‘work harder for longer’, including through consideration of more durable surfaces, synthetic surfaces and multi-sport venues.
- Regional venues and facilities should support and complement local level facilities
- Facilities should be designed with universal access principles.
- Invest in regional facilities that support Victoria’s events calendar.

Relevant findings from **regional** strategic literature include:

- Horsham is identified as the only regional city in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. As a regional city it has a role to support a range of opportunities to attract residents, visitors and businesses.
- There is a need to diversify the economy.
- Investment that aligns to Horsham’s status as a regional city should be supported.
- Encourage social infrastructure that is well located and accessible.
- Support multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable health and education infrastructure.

Relevant findings from **local** strategic literature includes:

- Ensure premier facilities are developed and maintained to a standard adequate to host sports tourism events.

- Continue to upgrade existing facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Develop multi-purpose sports facilities.
- Give priority to funding the capital and ongoing maintenance of a multi-purpose, multi-user venue over a single purpose facility.
- Adequate playing fields exist in Horsham to cater for existing demand, however, they are not appropriately equipped to ensure optimum use. It was recommended to upgrade key sporting reserves in Horsham including College Oval, Sunnyside Oval and Dudley Cornell Park.
- Ensure Horsham’s CAD is considered the prime location for future development including community land uses.
- Develop Horsham’s calendar of festivals and events (including supporting infrastructure improvements to facilitate sports tourism).

3. SPORT PARTICIPATION CONTEXT

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a general overview of sport participation in Victoria to provide context to the study. Specific demand information for each sport (membership and participation data) is provided for each sport in following sections.

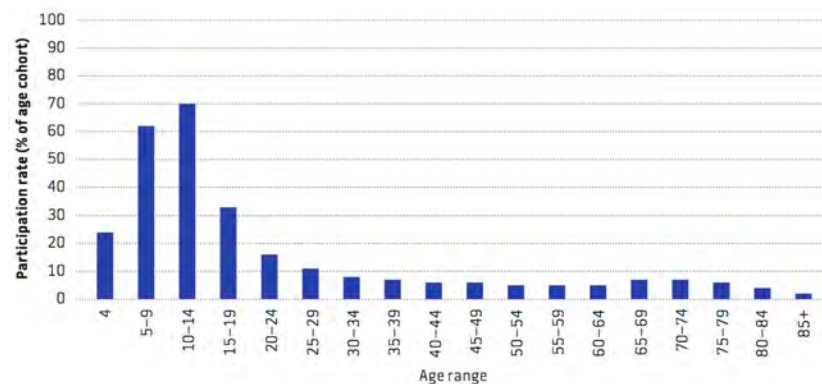
3.2. SPORT PARTICIPATION IN VICTORIA

The following outlines the key findings from the VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria research (2016) into organised community sport participation in Victoria across Australian Rules Football, basketball, bowls, cricket, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics, hockey, netball, sailing, swimming and tennis)¹:

- Sport participation rates are highest among Victorians aged between 5 and 14 years old and drop off significant from the age of 15 (see Figure 1)
- Participation rates are higher for males than females in all age groups.
- Higher participation rates in sport were noted in regional Victoria, compared to metropolitan Melbourne (see Figure 2).
- The rate of overall participation in organised community sport increased between 2015 and 2016. This was driven by increases in male and female participation rates, with male growth much higher than female growth.
- Growth in the participation rate between 2015 and 2016 was highest in the 10–14 years and 15–19 year age groups, growing by 2.8% and 3.6% respectively.

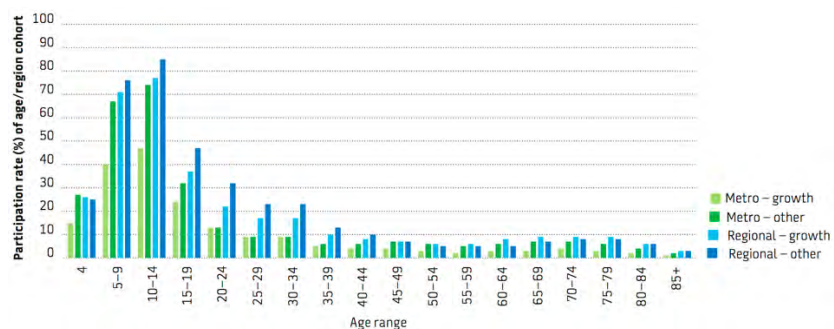
¹ The data includes participants registered in club competitions, junior or modified sport programs and social programs. The data excludes participants registered in school programs or school competitions.

FIGURE 1 AGE-SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VICTORIA



Source: Sport Participation in Victoria, 2016 – Research Summary

FIGURE 2 AGE SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES, 2016, VIC REGIONS



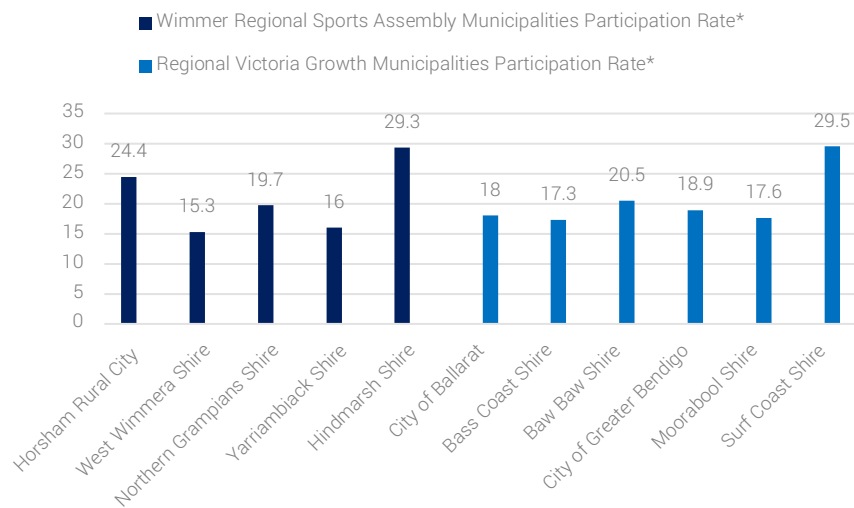
Source: Sport Participation in Victoria, 2016 – Research Summary

PARTICIPATION BY LGA

The participation rates for municipalities within the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly Area are shown in Figure 3, benchmarked with regional Victoria growth municipalities. The data shows that participation in Horsham is estimated at 24.4 residents per 100 residents, higher participation than the majority of regional growth municipalities (excluding Surf Coast Shire). This suggests there is a strong involvement from residents in sport, highlighting a need to cater to a willingness and appetite to be involved in sport in the City of Horsham.

The research shows that out of 80 Victoria Councils (metropolitan and regional), **Horsham was ranked number 17 in terms of highest participation.**

FIGURE 3 PARTICIPATION RATES



Source: Sport participation in Victoria, 2016. Research summary

*Participation Rate is player registrations per 100 residents

ORGANISED PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY (ADULTS)

Table 2 highlights the top 15 most participated in sporting activities by adults in 2017/2018. Sports relevant to this study include athletics (15.5% total participation); tennis (4.6%), basketball (4.5%), Australian Rules Football (3.9%), cricket (3.0%) and netball (2.9%).

TABLE 1 PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY - TOP 15 ACTIVITIES (ADULTS)

	Total	Males	Females
	Participation rate (%)		
Walking (Recreational)	45.0%	34.7%	54.9%
Fitness/Gym	35.3%	30.5%	39.9%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	15.5%	17.7%	13.4%
Swimming	14.0%	12.8%	15.1%
Cycling	12.4%	16.8%	8.3%
Golf	5.5%	8.7%	2.5%
Yoga	5.4%	1.1%	9.5%
Bush walking	5.2%	5.1%	5.2%
Tennis	4.6%	6.0%	3.2%
Basketball	4.5%	6.4%	2.7%
Australian football	3.9%	6.4%	1.5%
Pilates	3.9%	0.9%	6.8%
Football/soccer	3.7%	5.9%	1.7%
Cricket	3.0%	5.0%	1.1%
Netball	2.9%	0.5%	5.2%

Source: AusPlay Survey Results July 2017-June 2018

ORGANISED PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY (CHILDREN)

The top sporting activities participated in by children relevant to this project include Australian Rules Football (15.8%), basketball (12.4%), soccer (8.4%), netball (7.4%), tennis (7.3%), cricket (6.3%) and athletics (4.7%).

The data shows that children participate in organised sport at a higher rate than adults.

TABLE 2 ORGANISE PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY – TOP 10 ACTIVITIES
(CHILDREN)

	Total	Males	Females
	Participation rate (%)		
Swimming	34.1%	32.6%	35.9%
Australian football	15.8%	26.2%	3.5%
Basketball	12.4%	14.2%	10.3%
Dancing (recreational)	8.6%	2.4%	15.9%
Gymnastics	8.5%	4.5%	13.1%
Football/soccer	8.4%	13.1%	3.0%
Netball	7.4%	0.4%	15.6%
Tennis	7.3%	8.2%	6.2%
Cricket	6.3%	11.0%	0.8%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	4.7%	4.8%	4.6%

Source: AusPlay Survey Results July 2017-June 2018

3.3. KEY FINDINGS

Key findings relevant to sport participation in Victoria include:

- Participation in sport in Victoria is highest for people aged between 5 and 14 years old and growth in participation was highest for people aged between 10-14 years and 15-19 years.
- People in regional Victoria participate in sport at a higher rate compared to metropolitan areas;
- Horsham was ranked number 17 out of 80 Victorian LGAs for sport participation.
- The sport participation rate for Horsham Rural City was 24.4 out of 100 residents. The participation rate was also high for Hindmarsh Shire (29.3 residents out of 100) and Northern Grampians Shire (19.7 residents out of 100) but lower for West Wimmera (15.3 residents out of 100) and Yarriambiack Shire (16 residents out of 100).
- Well participated sports in Victoria relevant to this project include Australian Rules Football, basketball, soccer, netball, tennis, cricket and athletics.

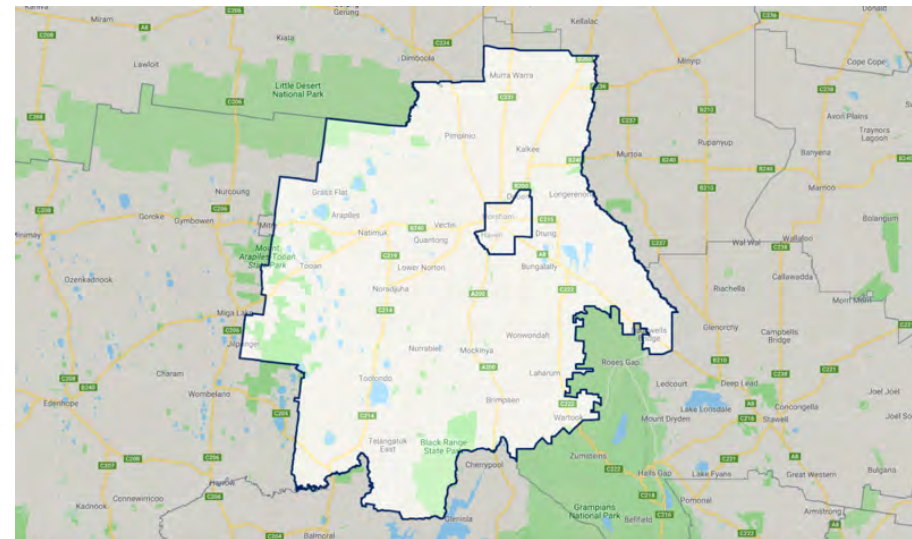
4. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an overview of key population and demographic statistics as they relate to the Sporting Facilities Demand Study.

Victoria in Future (VIF) provided the official publication of current and projected population growth across Victoria. Figure 4 shows the Victoria in Future Statistical Areas (VIFSA) for Horsham, including the statistical boundary of the central Horsham area, referred to as 'Horsham Town'² and the remaining rural areas, referred to as 'Horsham Rural'.

FIGURE 4 VIF POPULATION DATA AREA



Source: Remplan, Map Builder

² Note: 'Horsham Town' includes key sporting facilities as part of this scope, including City Oval; Coughlin Park Sports Complex; Dudley Cornell Complex; Haven Recreation Reserve; Horsham Community Oval Complex; Horsham Lawn Tennis Facility; Racecourse Reserve Complex and Sunnyside Sports Complex.

4.2. POPULATION

HORSHAM RURAL CITY

The table below shows the population for Horsham Rural City, including a breakdown of 'Horsham Town' (central Horsham) and 'Horsham Rural'. The data shows that Horsham Town is projected to grow at a rate of 0.8% per annum to 2031 whilst Horsham Rural is projected to decline at a rate of -0.5% per annum to 2031.

Applying these growth rates, the population of the Horsham Town area is expected to reach 19,069 people by 2033 (+2,463 residents) and the population of the Horsham Rural area is expected to reach 3,000 residents by 2033 (-281 residents).

The increasing population of central Horsham may increase demand for new or upgraded sporting facilities in or near the town, whilst a declining population in the rural areas of Horsham is likely to reduce the need for additional facilities in rural areas.

TABLE 3 HORSHAM POPULATION

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2033*	Growth (#)	AAGR
VIFSA							
Horsham Town	16,606	17,347	18,061	18,761	19,069	2,463	0.8%
VIFSA							
Horsham Rural	3,281	3,144	3,068	3,032	3,000	-281	-0.5%
Horsham (RC)	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	22,069	2,182	0.6%

Source: Victoria in Future, 2016

*Urban Enterprise projection based on application of VIFSA growth rate

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE REGION

Sports facilities (particularly of regional scale) not only support populations in the City of Horsham but also support wider regional populations. This is particularly relevant given Horsham's designation as the only Regional City within the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region.

Therefore, it is also important to consider the regional population catchment. Table 4 shows the Victoria in Future population projections for each of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Government Areas.

The data shows that Horsham is the only Local Government area that is projected to increase in population size by 2031. This is significant as it confirms that Horsham should be the focus for regional investment into facilities that service the region and highlights the importance in investing in infrastructure that will promote liveability, population retention and growth.

TABLE 4 WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2016	2021	2026	2031	AAGR%
Horsham (RC)	19,887	20,492	21,129	21,793	0.6%
Hindmarsh (S)	5,393	5,130	4,883	4,641	-1.0%
Northern Grampians (S)	11,420	11,119	10,931	10,820	-0.4%
West Wimmera	3,811	3,471	3,210	2,988	-1.6%
Yarriambiack	6,645	6,254	5,931	5,618	-1.1%
Total	47,156	46,466	46,085	45,860	-0.2%

Source: Victoria in Future, 2016

4.3. AGE PROFILE

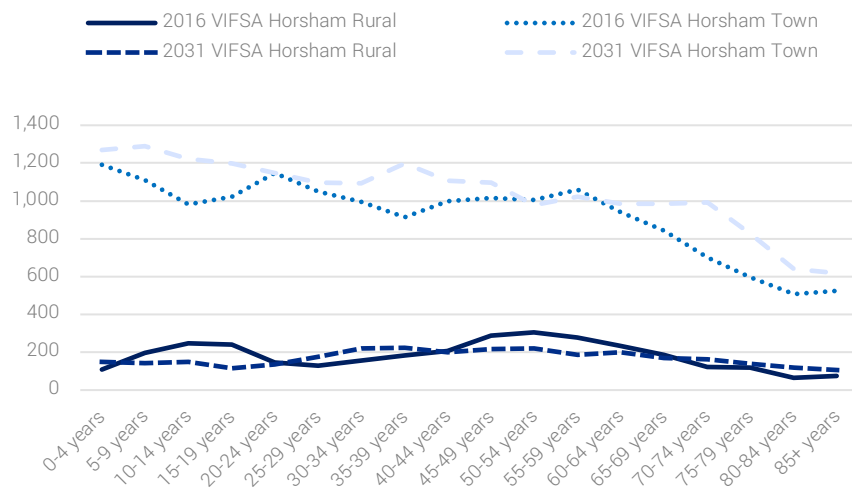
Figure 5 shows the age profile of residents in ‘Horsham Town’ and ‘Horsham Rural’ in 2016 and projected to 2031.

The data shows that the age profile is likely to change in the future. Generally, the age profile of residents in ‘Horsham Town’ is likely to age, with an increase in people aged over 60 years. Importantly, there is projected to be an increase in residents aged between 25 to 39 years and 5-14 years, which could typically be classified as the family market. As previous research has shown, people aged in this age bracket are more likely to be involved in sport through an organisation or venue compared to older segments of the population.

The ‘Horsham Rural’ population is projected to see a decline in the family market.

This changing age profile will have implications for the need and type of sporting facilities in the future.

FIGURE 5 AGE STRUCTURE



Source: Victoria in Future, 2016

4.3.1. KEY FINDINGS

Key findings relevant to the population and demographic analysis include:

- Horsham’s population is expected to grow at a rate of 0.6% per annum to 2031. Population growth is expected within the central areas of Horsham, whilst the population in rural areas is expected to decline.
- Regionally, Horsham is the only municipality whose population is expected to increase, meaning there Horsham will need to be the focus of investment in facilities that service the wider region.
- There is also forecast to be growth in the family market, including children aged 5-14 years. Participation in organised sport is highest for children in this age bracket.

PART B: OUTDOOR SPORTS

5. FACILITIES

5.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an overview of existing facilities used for outdoor sports in the City of Horsham, with detailed consideration given to the following facilities:

- City Oval;
- Coughlin Park Sports Complex;
- Dudley Cornell Complex;
- Horsham Community Oval Complex;
- Horsham Lawn Tennis Facility;
- Racecourse Reserve Complex (including Central Park Tennis Courts and Netball Courts); and
- Sunnyside Sports Complex.
- Haven Recreation Reserve.

Site visits were undertaken to each of the above facilities with Council staff.

5.2. FACILITIES

Table 5 provides an overview of key outdoor sporting locations and the sports catered for across the municipality. Key facilities included as part of this project are highlighted in grey in the table. Please note, this does not include consideration of school facilities.

TABLE 5 HORSHAM SPORTING FACILITIES

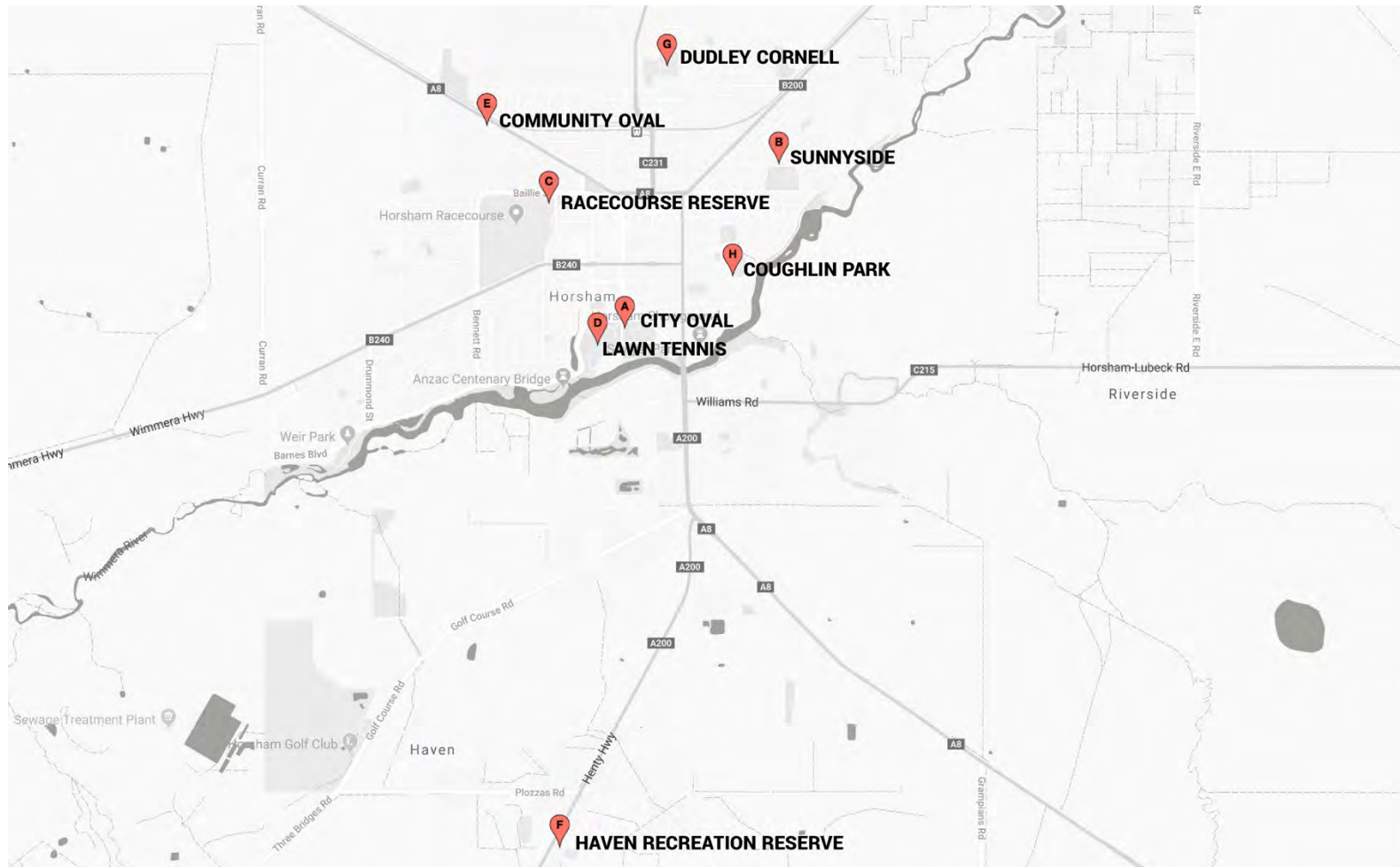
Facility Name	Sports Catered For
City Oval	AFL, Cricket, Netball
Sunnyside Sports Complex	Cricket, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, AFL
Horsham Racecourse Reserve (includes surrounding facilities)	Netball, Rugby League, Soccer, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Croquet
Horsham Lawn Tennis and Horsham Croquet	Tennis, Croquet
Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion	AFL, Cricket, Hockey, also used for After School Care
Haven Recreation Reserve	Tennis, Football (training)
Dudley Cornell Complex	Cricket, Soccer, Little Athletics
Coughlin Park Sports Complex	Tennis, AFL, Cricket, Lawn Bowls
Laharum Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Tennis, Netball
Horsham Golf Club Bowling Association	Lawn Bowls
Horsham Velodrome	Cycling Velodrome / HPV Training
Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Quantong Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Kalkee Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Pimpinio Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Netball, Tennis
Clear Lake Recreation Reserve	AFL, Cricket, Tennis
Brimpaen Recreation Reserve	Tennis
Douglas Tennis Courts	Tennis
Noradjuha Recreation Reserve	Cricket, Tennis, Netball
Telangatuk Recreation Reserve	Tennis
Toolondo Recreation Reserve	Cricket, Tennis

Source: Audit prepared by Urban Enterprise, 2018

MAIN FACILITIES LOCATIONS

The key facilities as part of the scope of this work are shown in Figure 6, with details for each facility provided on the following pages.

FIGURE 6 MAIN FACILITIES



5.2.1. CITY OVAL



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 6 CITY OVAL

Facility Name	City Oval
Address	123 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400
Sports Catered For	AFL, Cricket, Netball
Clubs	Horsham Demons Football and Netball Club Horsham Cricket Association Inc.
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X1 football/cricket oval (grass field with turf wicket) X1 netball court (hard court)
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Crown Land
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	Yes (150-300 Lux)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	X1 Grandstand X1 Clubrooms (two storey building upstairs licenced to

	Horsham Demons) X1 Netball Clubrooms
Car Parking	Yes (some onsite parking around the ground and offsite, on street parking)
Other Facilities	Digital Scoreboard Broadcasting Box Toilet Block Halls (Horsham Pipe Band Inc. & Horsham City Brass Band Inc) Playgrounds
Other Comments	Considered the premier venue in Horsham for football and cricket matches.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of the field is too small for hosting premier matches. • Limited area for runoff between boundary and fence. • Short boundary length for cricket. • Incorrect field orientation for cricket. • Pavilion is ageing and is over two levels. • No Universal access (no lift to second storey). • Horsham Demons Football/Netball Club have exclusive use over second storey of the Pavilion. • Insufficient number of public toilets and poorly accessible. • Universal access not provided to grandstand. • Facility is generally not open to the public. • Onsite parking is generally not allowed. However, access to onsite parking is provided for people with a disability. • Accessibility/scheduling of use of the facility for different sports i.e. Football / Cricket • Grandstand subject to cold southerly winds in winter (steel seating is cold). • Current location of pavilion is not ideal.

**CITY OVAL
FACILITY PHOTOS**



Main clubrooms and pavilion.



Publicly accessible toilet.



Boundary and view toward grandstand (not universally accessible)



Netball court and club rooms.

5.2.2. SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

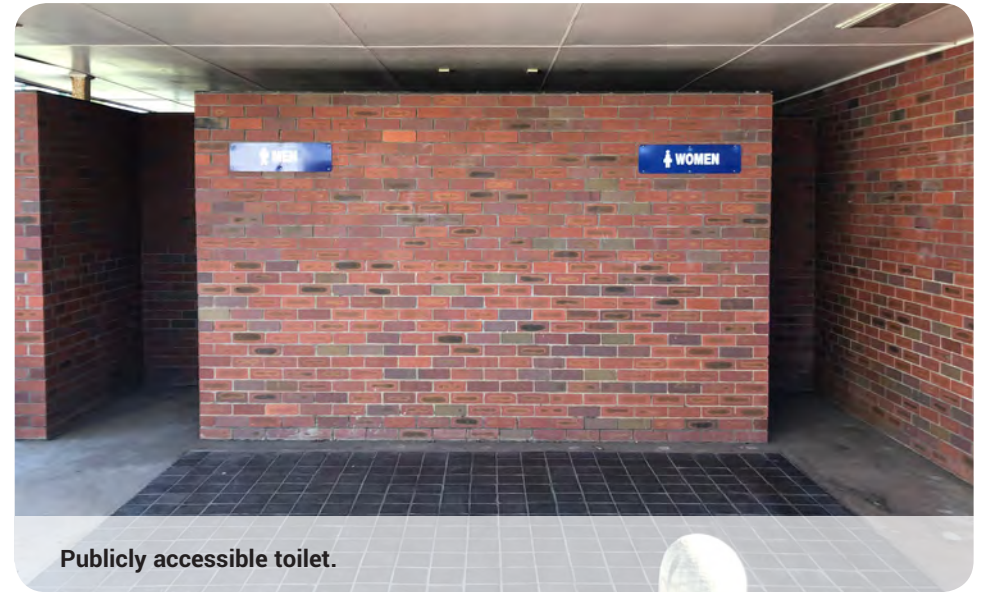
TABLE 7 SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Facility Name	Sunnyside Sports Complex
Address	8 Olga Avenue, Horsham VIC 3400
Sports Catered For	Cricket, AFL, Tennis, Lawn Bowls
Clubs	Homers Cricket and Tennis Club Sunnyside Bowls Club Kalkee Football and Netball Club
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X3 tennis courts (hard courts) X1 football/cricket field X1 bowling club (X4 rinks - grass. Plans to upgrade two to synthetic surface)
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Cricket/Tennis - Horsham Rural City Council Lawn Bowls - Private
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	X2 lights (cricket) No lights tennis Lawn Bowls X1 Rink lights
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Cricket/Tennis Club Pavilion (b. 1982) Lawn Bowls Pavilion/Club Room (b. 1960)
Car Parking	On and off site parking
Other Facilities	Storage shed Public toilet block Playground
Other Comments	
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with the quality of the turf cricket wicket. • Field doesn't drain well, particularly around the square. • Quality and size of community pavilion/clubroom. • Public toilets are ageing and unsafe. • Limited lighting (2 lights). • Size of field cannot accommodate A-Grade Games and should not be scheduled at Sunnyside.

SUNNYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX
FACILITY PHOTOS



Clubroom bathroom.



Publicly accessible toilet.



Tennis courts.



Main oval view toward goals.

5.2.3. HORSHAM RACECOURSE RESERVE



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 8 RACECOURSE RESERVE

Facility Name	Horsham Racecourse Reserve (includes surrounding facilities)
Address	Central Park, Horsham VIC 3400
Sports Catered For	Rugby League and Soccer (inside of track). Netball, Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Croquet (outside or around track)
Clubs	Central Park Tennis Club Horsham City Netball Association Horsham City Netball and Fire Brigade Association Horsham Panthers Rugby League Horsham City Bowls Club (off site on private land) Kalimna Park Croquet Club (off site) Horsham West Bowling Club

Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X12 Tennis Courts (hard courts) X2 Multipurpose Courts (Netball/Tennis) - (hard courts) X5 Netball Courts (Asphalt) X1 Rugby League Field X1 Soccer Field (not utilised) X4 Bowls Rinks (Horsham City) - 3X Grass / 1X Synthetic X1 Bowls Rink (Horsham West) - Grass X1 Croquet Court
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training, matches
Land Ownership	Crown Land managed by Council as the Committee of Management
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	Rugby - no Tennis - 2 courts Netball - 2 Courts
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Tennis – Community Pavilion/Clubroom Netball - Clubroom Rugby – Community Pavilion/Clubrooms Tennis - Clubroom Croquet - Clubroom Bowls (Horsham City) - Clubroom
Car Parking	On site and off site car parking
Other Facilities	On racecourse land. Netball courts are part of the CFA training grounds.
Other Comments	Horsham Soccer Club planned to move to this facility. The move has yet to occur.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and quality of club pavilion. • Access issues to fields in the middle of the racecourse. • No lighting on fields. • Soccer was supposed to move to this facility, however, this site was not considered suitable by soccer due to the facility characteristics. • Netball courts are not compliant in regard to runoff, surface types etc. However, this is currently the largest netball facility in Horsham for netball events. • Not universally accessible.

HORSHAM RACECOURSE RESERVE FACILITY PHOTOS



Community Pavilion utilised for Rugby clubrooms.



Field used for Rugby (in middle of racetrack)



Asphalt Netball Courts (Source: Horsham City Netball Association)



City Netball Courts / Clubrooms and Fire Brigade Training Area

5.2.4. HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 9 HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS (AND CROQUET)

Facility Name	Horsham Lawn Tennis and Horsham Croquet
Address	Horsham Botanic Gardens
Sports Catered For	Tennis, Croquet
Clubs	Horsham Lawn Tennis Club
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X24 Courts - grass (approx. 16 courts maintained) X1 Croquet Court
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training, matches
Land Ownership	Crown Land managed by Council as the Committee of Management
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	No (recent application for funding for lighting)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Clubrooms
Car Parking	Yes on site parking
Other Facilities	Co-located with Horsham Croquet Club.
Other Comments	
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all courts are maintained. Courts are difficult to maintain and costly to maintain. • Currently no lighting. • No formal licence in place. • Pavilion has no accessible toilets. • Roadway between community pavilion and courts which accesses car parking and playground.

HORSHAM LAWN TENNIS AND CROQUET FACILITY PHOTOS



Tennis Courts / External Fence



Overflow Car Parking Area



Croquet Club



Access Road between Tennis Courts and Croquet Club

5.2.5. HORSHAM COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 10 HORSHAM COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX

Facility Name	Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion
Address	59 Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC
Sports Catered For	AFL, Cricket, Hockey (training only).
Clubs	Jung Tigers Cricket Club Horsham Hockey Club Wimmera Umpires Association
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X1 AFL/Cricket sized field
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Horsham Rural City Council
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	Yes (150-300 Lux)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Shared Club and Community Pavilion (recently located on site)
Car Parking	Yes on site and off site car parking
Other Facilities	Located adjacent to Horsham special school.
Other Comments	Pavilion also used for after school care.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor drainage at the southern end of the field. • Highly utilised/booked field and pavilion.

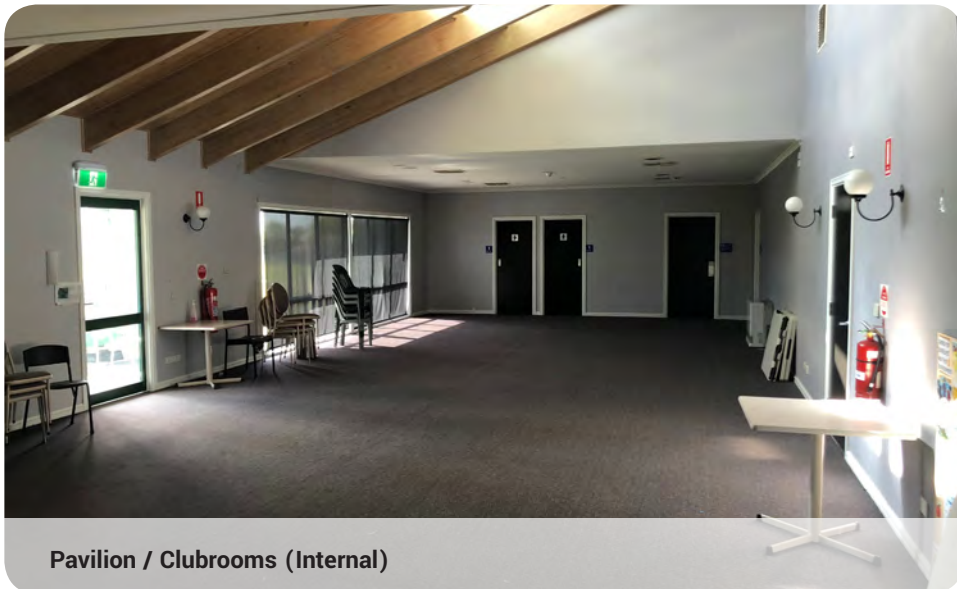
**COMMUNITY OVAL COMPLEX
FACILITY PHOTOS**



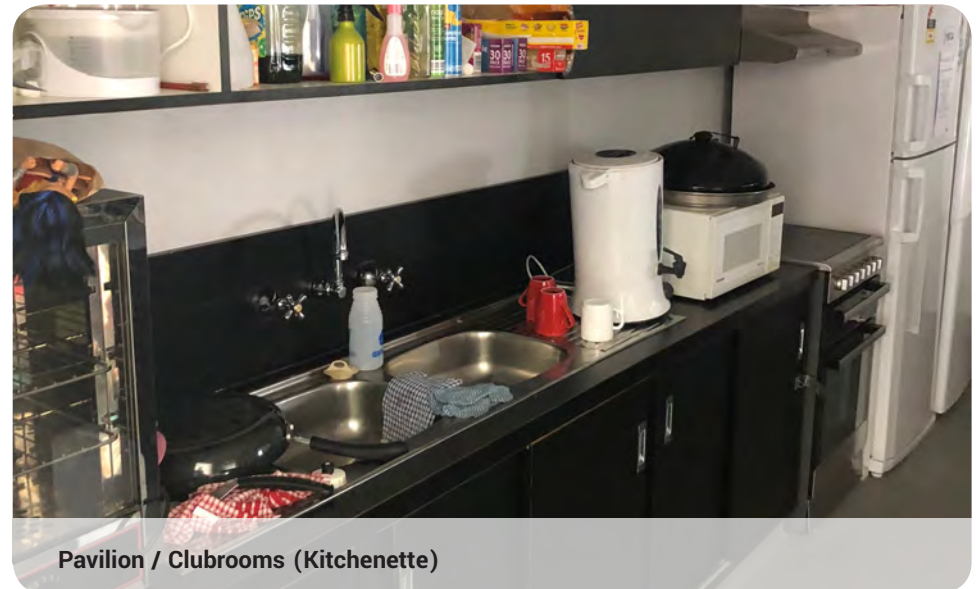
AFL Field Goals



Pavilion / Clubrooms



Pavilion / Clubrooms (Internal)



Pavilion / Clubrooms (Kitchenette)

5.2.6. HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 11 HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE

Facility Name	Haven Recreation Reserve
Address	4378 Henty Highway, Haven VIC 3401
Sports Catered For	Tennis, Football
Clubs	Haven Tennis Club Football Training at Haven
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X12 courts (8 Plexipave / 4 hard courts)
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Horsham Rural City Council
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	No
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Tennis Pavilion
Car Parking	Yes on site car parking
Other Facilities	Located adjacent to Haven Primary School. Other uses in precinct include dog obedience school, monthly market, indoor bowls, fly fishing club, tae kwon do, playgroup.
Other Comments	Tennis courts have space between them for spectators including shaded areas.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall is a shared use facility, which is partly used as club rooms.

**HAVEN RECREATION RESERVE
FACILITY PHOTOS**



Tennis Courts at Haven

5.2.7. DUDLEY CORNELL



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 12 DUDLEY CORNELL

Facility Name	Dudley Cornell Complex
Address	Dudley W Cornell Park, Horsham VIC 3400
Sports Catered For	Cricket, Soccer, Little Athletics
Clubs	Horsham Little Athletics Colts Cricket Club Horsham and District Soccer Club School Athletics Sports
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X2 Fields (Cricket/AFL Fields - grass - used for Athletics track) Large field - turf wicket Small field - hard wicket X2 long/triple jumps

	X2 cricket nets Asphalt area for spectators.
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Horsham Rural City Council
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	Yes (large field)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Club pavilion
Car Parking	Some on site car parking.
Other Facilities	Located adjacent to Kalkee Road Children's & Community Hub.
Other Comments	Small field used by little Athletics for Javelin and Shotput and soccer.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking capacity issues. Cars spill onto streets during games. Streets are narrow and not suited to this level of car parking. • Highly utilised facility. Some scheduling conflicts. • Irrigation issues. Limited access to water for second field. • No female changerooms (incorporated into draft landscape plan). • Light spill occurs into neighbouring properties. • Netball court not used. • Age, quality and accessibility of clubrooms/pavilion. • Issues with the surface, has poor drainage. • Can't get a full sized soccer pitch at Dudley Cornell reserve. • Limited visitor infrastructure. • Size of field to accommodate a full-size athletics running track (8 lanes) with current boundary fence. • No permanent soccer goals. • Long and triple jump pits into fence. • Quality of storage spaces for soccer.

DUDLEY CORNELL RECREATION RESERVE
FACILITY PHOTOS



Pavilion



Second Oval



Cricket Nets and Long / Triple Jumps



Main Field

5.2.8. COUGHLIN PARK



Source: Google Maps (please not aerial is for general illustrative purposes only and may be outdated)

TABLE 13 COUGHLIN PARK

Facility Name	Coughlin Park Sports Complex
Address	14 Hamilton Street, Horsham VIC 3400
Sports Catered For	Tennis, AFL, Cricket, Lawn Bowls
Clubs	Horsham Saints Football Club Coughlin Park Bowls Club Horsham Saints Cricket Club St Michaels and Johns Tennis Club
Number of Courts/Fields/Rinks	X1 AFL/Cricket field (grass with turf wicket) X2 Bowls Rinks (grass) X6 Tennis Courts (plexipave) X3 Cricket Nets
Main Purpose	Club grounds, training and matches
Land Ownership	Privately Owned
Playing Arenas Indoor / Outdoor	Outdoor
Lighting	Yes (50-99 Lux)
Clubrooms/Pavilion	Newly constructed shared use pavilion
Car Parking	Onsite parking available.
Other Facilities	Located adjacent to St Brigid's College Scorers/Broadcast Box
Other Comments	Recently redeveloped club/community pavilion.
Key Facility Issues Identified through Consultation and Site Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility has recently been upgraded.

**COUGHLIN PARK
FACILITY PHOTOS**



5.3. REGIONAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

Table 14 summarises the general facility requirements for hosting regional level events for outdoor sports considered as part of this project and benchmarks these facility requirements with the current level of provision in Horsham. The analysis shows that there are currently no sporting facilities in Horsham that align to the general facility requirements for regional sporting facilities.

TABLE 14 REGIONAL OUTDOOR SPORT REQUIREMENTS

Sport	Requirement for Regional Events Facility	Provision at Single Facility Most Aligned to Regional Facility	Facilities Aligned to Regional Requirements	Reason for non-alignment to regional level sporting facilities.
AFL ³	Field Size (between 135-185m in length and between 110-155m in width) (min. 4 metres runoff, 5m preferable) Player Toilet/Showers – X2 at 25m2 (cubicle showers to improve flexibility for mixed gender use. Urinals should be replaced by an additional toilet pan or be appropriately screened) Change Rooms – X2 at 55m2 to 75m2. External Covered Viewing Area – 75m2 Kitchen Kiosk – 30m2 Office/Administration – 20m2 Public Toilets – Male / Female (15m2 each) + Disabled Toilet (5m2) Storage – 20m2+ (internal and external) Social/Community Room – 150m2 Umpires Rooms (incl. showers and toilet) – 30-40m2	City Oval 1 field	No	Short boundary too short (inadequate area for runoff + min. field width requirement – City Oval approx. 171m X 110m fence to fence). Inadequate external covered viewing area (excludes Grandstand) Club/social rooms not universally accessible. Need for compliant interchange area, umpires box, accessible toilets, all gender facilities. Community accessible spaces.
CRICKET ⁴	Fields orientated in a north-south direction Playing field dimensions of 65-75m from centre of pitch being used. Appropriate support amenities and infrastructure.	City Oval 1 field	No	Inadequate north-south boundary length (approx. 55m from centre of pitch to rope)
SOCCER ⁵	Field with dimensions of 105mX68m (+3m buffer zones) Appropriate support amenities and infrastructure.	Horsham Racecourse Reserve 1 field (not currently utilised)	No	Access arrangements to field (over a racecourse) Supporting infrastructure and amenities

³ Facility requirements sourced from AFL, Preferred Facility Guidelines for State, Regional and Local Facilities, 2012

⁴ Facility requirements sourced from Cricket Victoria, Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028

⁵ Facility requirements sourced from Football Victoria, Facility Guides

TENNIS⁶	X16 hard courts Appropriate provision of support amenities and infrastructure.	Haven (X12 Hard Courts) & Wimmera Lawn Tennis (X24 courts, however, X16 Grass Courts maintained)	No	Lack of appropriate number / type of courts Lack of appropriate support facilities and infrastructure (i.e. clubrooms / pavilion, carparking).
RUGBY⁷	Lighting – 50 Lux (training), 150 Lux (competition) Changing rooms – 45m2 X 2 Showers – 15m2 X 2 Toilets – 10m2 X 2 Referees Room – 15m2 Scorer and Timekeeper Box – 15m2 Kitchen and Kiosk – 30m2 Social/Community Room – 125m2 Admin Area – 15m2 Accessible Public Toilets – 35m2 Storage and other areas.	Horsham Racecourse Reserve 1 field	No	Lack of appropriate infrastructure and amenities (clubroom/pavilion).
HOCKEY⁸	Hybrid synthetic field (capacity for some use by other sports) Lighting 250 Lux Player change rooms, team benches Viewing areas, scoreboard, parking	None (college oval used for training only)	No	No hockey pitch in Horsham.
NETBALL⁹	Minimum 8 courts Recommended 300 Lux for indoor courts, (500 Lux for competition), 100 Lux for outdoor training and 200 Lux for outdoor competitions.	Horsham City Netball 7 courts (5 asphalt / 2 hard court netball/tennis)	No	Insufficient courts Do not meet compliance standards (e.g. court runoff areas, court surface, lighting). Lack of supporting infrastructure and amenity (spectator facilities, club rooms).
LAWN BOWLS	3-4 greens ¹⁰ Support amenities and infrastructure	Sunnyside Bowls Club (4 greens – 3 being used) Horsham City Bowling Club (4 greens)	No	Support Facilities Car Parking
LITTLE ATHLETICS	Regional Track and Field championships generally held on 8 lane synthetic tracks, with event facilities for discuss, long and triple jump. ¹¹ Support amenities and infrastructure	Dudley Cornell Reserve	No	Current oval is not larger enough to fit an 8 lane running track.

⁶ Facility requirements sourced from Tennis Australia, Tennis 2020 Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis, 2012

⁷ Facility requirements sourced from NRL, Preferred Facility Guidelines for Grassroots Rugby League, 2014

⁸ Facility requirements sourced from Hockey Victoria, Strategic Facilities Master Plan, 2015

⁹ Facility requirements sourced from Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy 2015

¹⁰ Based on facilities that have hosted regional events including Moama Bowls Club (4 greens) and Murray Downs Golf and Country Club (3 greens)

¹¹ Based on facilities that have hosted regional events including in Warrnambool and Berwick

5.4. KEY FINDINGS

The following key findings are based on assessment of existing facilities in central Horsham:

- Generally, there appears to be a good provision of outdoor sporting facilities across Horsham (this is further investigated as part of the demand assessment for each sport), however, there are extensive issues with the quality of facilities.
- Generally, there are issues with the quality of facilities to service club needs and that meet modern day design standards. This includes the quality and design standards of club rooms/pavilions and support infrastructure such as lighting and car parking.
- City Oval is considered the premier facility in Horsham for cricket and football. Although this facility is well presented and maintained, its infrastructure is ageing and is insufficient to cater to large scale events. The pavilion and grandstand are not universally accessible. Further, there are issues with the size and orientation of the field, which hinders capacity to host major events.
- There is very limited consolidation of sporting infrastructure and co-location of infrastructure that can cater to multiple sports and users.
- The Coughlin Park pavilion provides a good examples of a recent multipurpose community sporting pavilion.
- The netball courts at the racecourse reserve are asphalt and are non-compliant courts, including court runoff areas. This is the largest netball facility in Horsham.
- The middle of the racecourse reserve is utilised for rugby and is the designated area for soccer (however, soccer still remains at Dudley Cornell Reserve). There are access issues with this location having to cross the race track to access the fields. There is also very limited support infrastructure (pavilion/clubrooms with view of the fields, lighting).
- Dudley Cornell and the oval at the Community College complex are highly utilised facilities and do not have further capacity.
- There are currently no facilities that meet regional facility requirements for AFL, Cricket, Soccer, Tennis, Rugby, Hockey or Netball.

6. AFL

6.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The following provides a review of key literature relevant to the provision of AFL fields and facilities, including review of sporting associations key strategic plans.

GROWING THE HEARTLAND: FOOTBALL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2017-2022)

The report notes the following key findings in relation to existing football facilities across the state:

- 93% of grounds are shared with cricket;
- 55% of venues do not have female friendly umpire change facilities;
- 79% of venues do not have female friendly player change facilities;
- 61% of LGAs rated player change rooms particularly catering for women as the key football facility issue in their municipality followed by oval surface issues and training lights;
- 39% of lit grounds in country areas do not meet minimum training standards (50 lux).

LGA identified facility challenges and opportunities in Country areas include:

- 46% of country LGAs would consider synthetic football / cricket grounds;
- 56% of country LGAs indicated that accessing school grounds would help deal with the demand for football grounds.

Key influences of facility provision:

- **Two oval or multi-use sites** – Natural turf can sustain a finite number of hours before starting to deteriorate. Turf experts advise that this is around 20-25 hours per week. Two oval (or multi oval) sites are being developed to support more viable and sustainable clubs. Two oval sites provide the ability for a club to grow

and spread the usage across two grounds. A single pavilion is also able to be developed which supports two ovals.

- **Ground Surfaces and Synthetic Surface Use** – AFL Victoria is promoting the use of approved synthetic grass surfaces (in appropriate locations and settings) to assist in managing use and ground capacity, and in reducing the reliance on water and irrigation to maintain surfaces to optimum playing condition.
- **Ground lighting** – Regional facility planning has highlighted the need to meet minimum lighting standards to maximise ground use opportunities and better cater for participation growth and support more flexible game scheduling and competition structures. AFL Victoria will advocate for minimum 50 lux lighting for training and 150+ lux lighting for match conditions at strategically located community football venues across the state.
- **Facility Hierarchy** – The strategy notes the following hierarchy in relation to AFL facilities:

Facility Hierarchy level	State	Regional	Local
Principle purpose of provision	Primarily to service VFL clubs.	Each league (Metropolitan and Country) requires access to at least one region venue per division.	Local level programs and competitions.
Core football uses	VFL and TAC Cup. Community league finals. Football events and carnivals.	Talent squad training. Home and Away matches and club training. Community league finals.	Home and Away matches. Club training.
Description	Applies to the second highest level of competition	Service a collection of suburbs or geographic areas	Designed to cater to local level competition,

below the AFL competition (VFL and TAC cup). Generally service entire municipal catchments and beyond. Usually nominated facilities for competition finals.	within a municipality (or across municipal borders) and usually cater for more than one code or activity. Regional venues should have perimeter fencing, capacity to host competition finals and surface equality maintained to a high standard.	including junior competition within individual suburbs, townships and municipalities. Venues are usually the 'home' of one seasonal club. Facilities and playing surfaces are provided to home and away competition standard.
---	--	---

The strategic priorities are identified as follows:

1. Increase the quality / functionality and maximise the carrying capacity of existing facilities;
2. Plan and develop new facilities in key growth areas across the state;
3. Capitalise on opportunities to create administration centres/regional hubs, provide venue for talent pathway programs and competitions and protect landmark sites in key locations;
4. Ensure facilities are catering for the diversity of participants, particularly female participants;
5. Continue to enhance the relationship with Government (particularly local Government) in the planning and provision of facilities.

6.2. PARTICIPATION

Consultation provided a number of insights on AFL participation within Horsham Rural City, including:

- There are approximately 20 clubs across the Wimmera Mallee region;

- Approximately 5,000 members (including males and females);
- Over 50% of membership comes from Horsham.
- Generally, membership is sustained. However, slight drop off at 15-16 years of age (this is generally an issue around the state);
- There are approximately 800 children that participate in AusKick across the region.
- There has been growth in female participation in recent years.
- Clubs recruit from outside the region for senior levels.

6.3. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

There are 12 fields in Horsham used for AFL (training and games). Key facilities in central Horsham include City Oval, Coughlin Park and Community Oval (training only).

There are another 9 facilities in the rural areas of Horsham used for AFL.

The majority of facilities in Horsham could generally be classified as 'local' level facilities, with the potential exception of City Oval. That being said, the facilities at City Oval are not commensurate with modern day regional facilities.

TABLE 15 AFL FIELDS

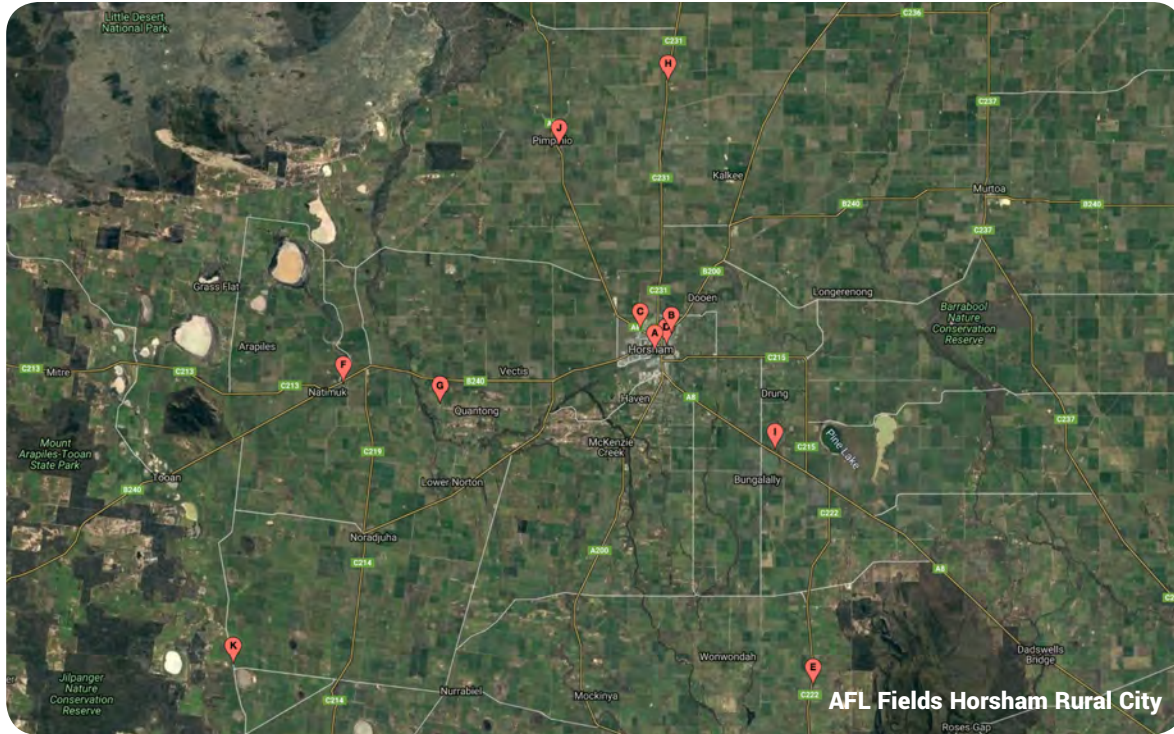
	Central Horsham	Rural Horsham	Total
Number of Fields Used for AFL	3	9	12

A map of existing and planned facilities within Horsham Rural City is shown on the following page.

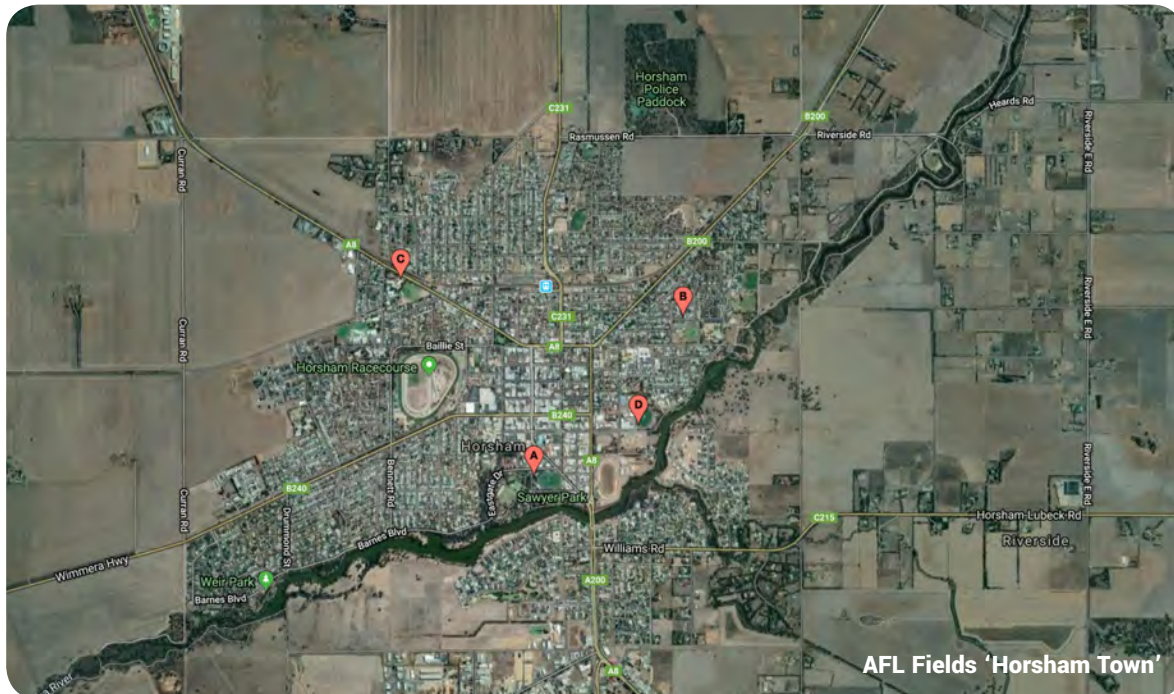
PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new AFL fields planned for the City of Horsham.

AFL Facilities



Map Key	Facility
A	City Oval
B	Sunnyside Sports Complex
C	Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion
D	Coughlin Park Sports Complex
E	Laharum Recreation Reserve
F	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve
G	Quantong Recreation Reserve
H	Kalkee Recreation Reserve
I	Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve
J	Pimpinio Recreation Reserve
K	Clear Lake Recreation Reserve



FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

When planning for the provision of community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas, provision ratios are often used to determine the number of fields required in the catchment. Previous research has shown that the provision rate for AFL fields can range from around 1 field to every 5,500 residents to 8,500 residents, depending on the location.

The current provision ratio (2016) of AFL fields to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 field to every 4,152 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 field to every 469 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 field to every 1,808 people.

The rate of provision of fields to rural populations is clearly very high relative to typical provision, however, this is likely to be the case given local communities are typically supported by local recreation facilities. Typical facility provision to population is therefore not an appropriate benchmark for Horsham's rural areas.

The provision ratio for the 'Horsham Town' area is similar to that of benchmarking ratios.

Given the higher historic provision of AFL fields in Horsham, relative to growth areas provision, adopting a provision ratio of 1 field for every 5,000 residents for the 'Horsham Town' area, is therefore likely appropriate for the purposes of this analysis.

Based on this provision ratio, the expected number of AFL fields required within the Horsham Town area by 2033 is 3.8 fields, as shown in Table 16, this suggests that there may be adequate provision of AFL fields when College Community Oval is considered. However, as College Community Oval is currently only utilised for training purposes, this may suggest a potential undersupply of fields by 0.8 for matches by 2033.

TABLE 16 AFL PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Fields (Ratio 1:5,000)
Current Supply		4*
2016	16,606	3.3
2033	19,069	3.8
Additional Fields Required by 2033		-0.2 / +0.8 (match fields)

*Includes Community College Oval, which is used for training purposes only.

In areas where rural populations continue to decline, the viability of supporting clubs may also decrease. This may provide future opportunity for potential consolidation of teams and which could lead to an increased demand for facilities to be provided within the 'Horsham Town' area.

CONSULTATION

Consultation in regard to AFL facilities revealed the following key findings:

- **General:**
 - Increasing costs of irrigation can be restrictive for clubs;
 - There are generally a lack of female changerooms;
 - There is a push toward the use of synthetic surfaces;
 - Horsham don't currently have a smaller ground that caters to younger leagues (under 10s);
 - Mars stadium in Ballarat may be soaking up demand for a large scale premier AFL facility in the western region.
- **City Oval:**
 - Limited access to the oval.
 - The facilities including clubrooms, canteen require upgrading.
 - The grandstand has issues with orientation, accessibility and seating materials.
 - Only one netball court, which is insufficient. Require an additional court.

- Five cricket pitches on the field makes for a hard centre square.
- Facility hosted a Western Bulldogs community camp in the past. However, City Oval is limited in the events it can hold because the facilities are not up to standard.
- Parking is an issue on major event days (district grand final).
- Needs universally accessible toilets.
- **Community oval:**
 - Currently used for training only.
 - The facility has good lighting and the clubrooms are adequate.
 - Capacity issues, with limitations on availability, however the facility can have shared usage.
- **Coughlin Park:**
 - Only facility that has female change rooms.
 - New clubroom and pavilion.
- **Facility Needs:**
 - There may be need for another facility in central Horsham to cater to potential future opportunities. This could include consideration of utilisation of existing venues (not currently used for AFL) or new facilities.
 - A new regional scale facility in a central location would provide opportunity to host higher level events.
 - There is a need for facilities to cater to female players, including through provision of female friendly changerooms.
 - There is a move toward synthetic playing surfaces. There are examples of these facilities in metropolitan areas that are used for multiple sports, including soccer, hockey and athletics.

KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were 2 relevant responses to the online survey that related to football. Please note, one respondent includes netball results, due to being a football and netball club. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – one respondent expects membership to increase and one respondent expected membership to stay the same of the next 5 years.
- **Member Gender** – Approximately 50% of members are male and 50% female.
- **Member Age** – On average, 22% of members were aged between 0-14 years, 61% between 15-29 years, 12% between 30-44 years and 5% between 45-59 years.
- **Seasonality** – The most common months were football facilities were used included January to September.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – constraints to hosting regional events identified include lack of sufficient facilities and size of facilities.
- **Quality of facilities** – One respondent rates facilities as ‘poor’ standard and one respondent rated facilities as ‘good’ standard.
- **Improvements** – areas where facilities could be improved identified by respondents include:
 - Female change rooms;
 - Improvements to facilities to attract regional events.
- **Facility Requirements** – both respondents expected there would be a need for expanded or additional facilities in the next 5 years.
- **Priority** areas identified by respondents include:
 - Facilities to host premier events;
 - Female change rooms;
 - Parking.

6.4. AFL KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Football is one of the largest sports in terms of participation in Horsham and across the Wimmera region.
- Membership has generally been steady in the region but there is a slight drop off in participation aged 15-16 years.

FACILITIES

- Three facilities are currently utilised for AFL purposes in the central Horsham, including City Oval, Community Oval (training) and Coughlin Park.
- The rural areas of Horsham are well supplied in the provision of fields.
- A number of factors suggest there may be demand for an additional AFL field in central Horsham, including:
 - Existing facilities in central Horsham are highly utilised facilities, with little existing capacity for expansion of training or matches.
 - Access to City Oval is currently limited for training and matches.
 - As rural populations decline, the viability of supporting AFL teams in these areas may reduce, leading to consolidation and increased demand for facilities to be provided within central Horsham.
 - Consultation has identified the anecdotal need for an additional facility for AFL needs in the short to medium term.
 - Scheduling conflicts, particularly in accessing grounds for pre-season training.
 - Based on population provision there is likely to be demand for an additional 0.8 AFL fields by 2033.
- New AFL fields in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. There may also be future opportunities for consolidation of facilities in rural areas to enable the delivery and maintenance of higher quality facilities as opposed to a higher quantity of facilities.

7. CRICKET

7.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The following provides a review of key literature relevant to the provision of AFL fields and facilities, including review of sporting associations key strategic plans.

VICTORIAN CRICKET INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2018-2028

The Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy provides a detailed assessment of the Victorian cricket facility landscape and identified future venue planning and development priorities for the period 2018 to 2028.

Horsham is located within the 'Western Country' region, which comprises the municipalities of Buloke Shire, Corangamite Shire, Glenelg Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, Horsham Rural City Council, Moyne Shire, Southern Grampians Shire, Warrnambool City Council, West Wimmera Shire, Yarriambiack Shire.

Participation

In 2016/17 there were a total of 4,713 members/participants in 'Western Country'. Across the region there was a decline of 2 members since 2014/15.

Facility Provision

The report identified an average provision of cricket grounds across the state of 1:2,603 people in 2016, this was 1:3,345 in metropolitan Melbourne and 1:1,860 in country Victoria.

In Western Country the provision was 1:1,127 people.

Facility Challenges

The Strategy identifies a number of state-wide facility challenges, including:

- Flexible use and capacity of cricket grounds, including to accommodate non-traditional forms (i.e. T20);

- Female friendly and inclusive facility design;
- Training net design, condition and renewal;
- Programming in synthetic pitch upgrade and renewal into capital works planning;
- Widening and lengthening of synthetic pitches to meet Cricket Victoria's guidelines.
- Approach to turf or synthetic pitches;
- Increasing overlap of winter and summer sporting codes;
- Matching facilities with club needs.

Specific challenges faced by country Victoria, include:

- On an off-field facility and supporting infrastructure quality and condition;
- Travel time and facility location;
- Population and participation challenges;
- Limited regional level indoor facilities in Country Victoria;
- Higher provision of turf wickets and sustainability of turf wickets by location.

The Strategy notes that the Western Country Region is one of the more established and stable regions across the State. The region has a population penetration rate almost double that of Cricket Victoria's country region average (3.19% compared to 1.88%) and the second highest female participant base across the State, including Metro Regions (333 total).

Cricket Participation is highest in the Warrnambool District (1,149 players) and Hamilton District (811 players).

The report notes that short-medium term facility planning and development priorities (subject to local demand pressures) should be concentrated on improving the condition and carrying capacity of existing cricket venues (e.g. female friendly

facilities, umpire change rooms, supporting amenities and improved pavilion condition).

The key strategic priorities for the Western Country District include:

1. Deliver and activate a regional level cricket and community centre;
2. Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design;
3. Improve condition of umpire change rooms facilities and supporting amenities;
4. Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities;
5. Increase support and education in playing field surface management;
6. Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal alignment with population change.

The Strategy also notes a facility hierarchy. This is summarised below:

- **First Class** – Examples include the MCG, Etihad Stadium etc. Facilities include multiple turf wickets, indoor and outdoor training, player change rooms, official's change rooms, media and administration, spectator accommodation, VIP accommodation, medical amenities, match day amenities
- **Regional Cricket and Community Centre** – Examples include Western Country (Hamilton), North East Country (Wodonga). Facilities include minimum one ground (preferably two), indoor and outdoor training, turf and synthetic training, player change rooms, official's change rooms, viewing vantage points, dedicated car parking, on - site administration, clubrooms with social area, first aid and medical, temporary event capacity, access to fitness, aquatic and education facilities
- **Premier / Regional** - 43 venues identified as being used for Premier Cricket in Melbourne and in Geelong and Frankston (Country Regions). Facilities typically include multiple turf wickets, turf and synthetic training, player change rooms, official's change rooms, first aid and medical, clubrooms with social area, viewing vantage points, dedicated car parking, match day amenities.
- **Local Club** – Facilities typically include turf or synthetic pitch, minimum one ground (preferably two), synthetic training nets, clubrooms with social area, player change rooms, umpire change rooms, shade for spectators, dedicated car parking.

- **Satellite** – Facilities typically include turf or synthetic pitch, minimum one ground, access to toilets/water, access to shaded area.

7.2. PARTICIPATION

Table 17 shows cricket participation in the Western Country District by demographic characteristics. There was strong growth in female participation between 2014/15 and 2016/17, with an increase of 109 players. Other areas which had the highest growth included juniors (12-17 years / +34) and seniors (18+ years / +27).

TABLE 17 PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN COUNTRY DISTRICT

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	4,715	4,713	-2	0.04%
Introductory (2-11 years)	267	273	6	2.3%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,338	1,372	34	2.5%
Senior (18+ years)	3,093	3,066	27	-0.9%
Females	224	333	109	48.7%
Female Participation Rate	4.8%	7.1%	2.3%	48.7%
% overall state participation	5.56%	5.40%	-0.2%	-2.9%

Source: Cricket Victoria, Victoria Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028

Consultation provided a number of insights on participation within Horsham Rural City, including:

- Junior cricket participation is growing. Saturday morning cricket is nearing facility capacity.
- There is growth in social cricket, including T20 matches. These short forms of the game can be played after work on non-traditional cricket days (Saturday and Sunday).
- Senior cricket participation has plateaued but generally remains steady.
- There have been some regional consolidations of teams in the past.

7.3. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

15 cricket fields were identified in Horsham Rural City, comprising 6 in central Horsham and 9 in the rural areas of Horsham.

Cricket fields within central Horsham include City Oval (1), Sunnyside Sports Complex (1), Horsham Community Oval (1), Dudley Cornell (2) and Coughlin Park (1).

It should be noted that this audit includes the second oval at Dudley Cornell. Although technically classified as a cricket field, the oval has limited access to irrigation and due to its size is not appropriate for many matches.

The audit also excludes school facilities. However, there is a cricket wicket located at Haven Primary School and Horsham College.

All cricket facilities could generally be classified as either 'Local Club' or 'Satellite' fields based on the facility hierarchy published in the *Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2028*.

TABLE 18 CRICKET FIELDS

	Central Horsham	Rural Horsham	Total
Number of Cricket Fields	6	9	15

A map of existing facilities within the Horsham Rural City is shown in the following page.

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are no currently no new cricket fields planned for the City of Horsham.

Although not located in Horsham Rural City Council, the proposed Western Country Regional Cricket Hub, an elite cricket training facility, will be built at Monivae College in Hamilton Victoria.

The Regional Cricket Hub will create a new indoor and outdoor cricket facility. It will feature a main pavilion with scorers' box, indoor training centre with a minimum of four pitches, sports science technology and office accommodation for Cricket Victoria representatives. New unisex change-rooms and umpire rooms, public toilets and spectator seating, will also be built. Outdoors, there will be irrigated ovals, new training nets, and 8-10 fully enclosed turf practice and hard wickets.¹²

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.789 million. This facility responds to the strategic priority for Western Country for the establishment of a regional level cricket facility and community centre.

¹² Southern Grampians Shire

Cricket Fields Facilities



Map Key	Facility	No. Fields
A	City Oval	1
B	Sunnyside Sports Complex	1
C	Horsham Community Oval and Pavilion	1
D	Dudley Cornell Complex	2
E	Coughlin Park Sports Complex	1
F	Laharum Recreation Reserve	1
G	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	1
H	Quantong Recreation Reserve	1
I	Kalkee Recreation Reserve	1
J	Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve	1
K	Pimpinio Recreation Reserve	1
L	Clear Lake Recreation Reserve	1
M	Noradjuha Recreation Reserve	1
N	Toolondo Recreation Reserve	1
Total	14	15



FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of cricket fields to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 field to every 2,768 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 field to every 365 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 field to every 1,326 people.

If the second field at Dudley Cornell is removed from the analysis, the provision ratio in central Horsham increases to 1: 3,321.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne’s growth areas has shown that cricket fields are typically provided at a rate of between 1 field to every 4,000 to 6,000 people. As was noted in the Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy, the Western Country District has a high provision of cricket fields and that the focus should be on improving existing facilities.

Like AFL fields, the provision of cricket fields is high in rural communities.

Given the historically high provision of cricket fields in the region, it is recommended a facility provision ratio of 1 field to every 3,500 residents be adopted for the purposes of this analysis.

Based on a population provision ratio analysis, the expected required number of cricket fields within central Horsham by 2033 is 6.4 fields, which suggests that there are unlikely to be any new cricket fields required in the short-medium term in central Horsham, however, that there is likely to be a growing need for additional fields in the longer term.

TABLE 19 CRICKET PROVISION RATIO PROJECTION

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Fields (Ratio 1:3,000)
Current Supply		6
2016	16,606	5.5
2033	19,069	6.4
Additional Fields Required by 2033		0.4

CONSULTATION

Consultation in regard to Cricket facilities in Horsham revealed the following key findings:

General Comments:

- The Cricket Association doesn't have a home for administration/meetings etc.

Coughlin Park:

- Coughlin Park was formerly a hard wicket. This field has recently been converted to a turf wicket. This has led to the potential undersupply of one hard wicket in central Horsham.

Dudley Cornell:

- Has two fields, which works well as it allows for two games to be played at once, however, the second field is undersized.
- The facility works well from a local standards view.
- Issues with access to water on the second oval, due to decision to prioritise irrigation of main oval.
- A master plan has been prepared but clarity is required in regard to the status of the master plan.

City Oval:

- The oval has good lighting and can be used for night matches.
- Access to the facility can be an issue, particularly due to scheduling of winter and summer sports.
- The size and orientation of City Oval is an issue, particularly due to the short boundary.
- Cricket can't access the upstairs club rooms of the pavilion. There is also no disability access provided to the pavilion.
- The facility generally doesn't meet current day standards.
- The scoreboard is located in the wrong position for cricket games.

- There are currently 5 turf wickets at City Oval, three wickets are maintained to a high standard.
- Costs to utilise the facility increase each year and it can often be difficult to forward plan.

Sunnyside Sporting Complex:

- Issues with the drainage of the ground, particularly around the wicket, therefore there are some quality issues with the wicket. Anecdotally, this facility can host B-Grade matches but not A-Grade matches.
- Changerooms require upgrading.

School Facilities:

- There are wickets located at Horsham College and Haven. Horsham College has been used for under 12's cricket on Saturday mornings, however there is limited infrastructure to accommodate club matches.
- There is also a wicket at Haven Primary School. Haven is an active hub on Saturdays and could work well as a location for a cricket wicket and associated club.

Rural Facilities:

- Rural facilities have been utilised to assist with scheduling pressures.
- Quantong and Natimuk – watering over summer at these grounds is an issue. The cost of water can be cost prohibitive for cricket clubs. Quantong receives funding support for watering. Typically, there is only green grass around the centre square.
- There was previously a hard wicket located at Kalkee Recreation Reserve, however, this has been removed.

Events:

- Junior cricket week attracts between 7-8 teams to Horsham (approximately 100 cricketers). Have had issues in the recent past with accommodating cricketers due to lack of appropriate facilities, including accommodation. Anecdotally, these cricketers have stayed on site at Dudley Cornell in the past.

Other Facilities:

- An indoor training facility could be considered as part of a multi-use indoor facility.

Summary of Key Facility Needs:

- An additional 'hard' wicket field in the 'Horsham Town' area. This would assist with scheduling as well as promoting more social forms and shorter forms of the game.
- Clarity in regard to the Dudley Cornell Reserve Master Plan.
- Upgrade of turf wicket at Sunnyside Recreation Reserve.
- Clarity around the future of City Oval, particularly in regard to the orientation of the field, access to club rooms and boundary length.
- Multi-purpose indoor training facility attached to an outdoor cricket field.

KEY RESULTS FROM SURVEY

There was only one response to the online survey relevant to cricket in Horsham. Key findings include:

- **Membership Expectations** – membership is expected to increase;
- **Member Gender** – Approximately 89% of members are male and 11% are female.
- **Member Age** – 68% of members were reported to be between 0-14 years, followed by 9% between 15-29 years, 9% between 30-44 years, 10% between 45-59 years and 3% 60+ years.
- **Seasonality** – Facilities were reported as being utilised from September to April.
- **Quality of Facilities** – Facilities were identified as being of a poor standard.
- **Improvements** – clubrooms/changerooms were identified as needing improvement.
- **Accessibility** – some, but not all areas were identified as being universally accessible.

- **Facility requirements** – expanded or additional facilities were identified as being required.

7.4. CRICKET KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Participation has generally been steady, with growth in junior members and a plateauing of senior members. Increase in junior members is positive, with growth in young cricketers having the potential to translate to more senior members in years to come.
- Growth opportunities exist in short forms of the game/social cricket (i.e. Twenty 20 and 10 over cricket) as well as in female participation.

FACILITIES

- There are currently 15 cricket fields in Horsham Rural City. Horsham is well supplied in the provision of cricket fields, which is consistent across the Western Country region. The rural areas of Horsham are well supplied in the provision of fields based on population, which is generally expected of smaller towns.
- There may be demand for an additional hard wicket in central Horsham based on anecdotal demand.
- Based on population provision rates, there may be demand for an additional 0.4 cricket fields in central Horsham by 2033.
- Generally, existing cricket facilities in central Horsham are at capacity. This has led to the use of Community College and Haven and rural facilities to assist with scheduling.
- As rural populations decline, the viability of supporting cricket teams in rural areas may reduce, leading to consolidation and increased demand for facilities to be provided within central Horsham.

- There are issues with existing facilities including the number of hard wickets, quality of some turf wickets, size and orientation of grounds (City Oval / second oval at Dudley Cornell), access to water, ground/wicket drainage, quality of clubrooms and facilities including female change rooms, access to facilities and scheduling conflicts between winter and summer sports.
- There may be opportunities for increased participation in shorter forms of the game, however, appropriate facilities would be required.
- There are no cricket grounds in Horsham that are appropriate for hosting regional events.
- New cricket fields in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. There may be opportunity for consolidation of facilities in rural areas to enable the delivery and maintenance of higher quality facilities.

8. FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

8.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA STATE FOOTBALL FACILITIES STRATEGY TO 2026

The State Football Facilities Strategy was prepared by @Leisure planners. The Strategy projects the required number of pitches by Local Government Area to 2026 based on current participation and current facilities.

Horsham was projected to not require any additional pitches by 2026 based on current provision and projected demand from FFV registered players.

Importantly, the report notes that the FFV will focus on activating football in LGAs where there are currently no pitches for football (Ararat, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack), which have been projected to each require 1 pitch by 2026.

This projection relates to grass pitches only, where as an artificial pitch will have the carrying capacity of two grass pitches.

The current limited supply of pitches in adjoining municipalities to Horsham may mean that Horsham is currently servicing a larger catchment than its own LGA through the provision of soccer pitches. This is particularly relevant for adjoining municipalities including West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack and Northern Grampians.

The Strategy includes a number of overall goals, these include:

7. More Pitches:
 - Provide new venues and additional pitches
 - Target growth areas
 - Develop additional pitches at existing venues
 - Investigate infill sites and Parks Victoria land
 - Target new schools and community access to existing schools
 - Provide at least one pitch in every local government area
 - Be innovative where pitches are provided.
8. Increase the carrying capacity of pitches:
 - Provide lights on all new pitches and upgrade existing standards
 - Increase the proportion of artificial surfaces
 - Better drainage/turf quality
 - Increase intensity of management
 - Improve club and facility management
9. Venues and pitches suitable for all levels and forms of the game”
 - More and better quality regional venues
 - Provide female friendly/gender neutral and accessible facilities
 - Retrofit venues to be inclusive accessible and code compliant
 - Increase the number of competition compliant pitches

The report also notes a number of priorities by region. Horsham is not specifically mentioned in relation to priorities for the Grampians Region.

8.2. PARTICIPATION

The Horsham and District Soccer Club recorded 90 members in 2018. The Horsham and District Soccer Club participate in the Ballarat and District Soccer Association. Soccer is a grass roots and emerging sport in Horsham and the region.

8.3. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

There are currently no formalised or permanent rectangular soccer fields in Horsham. A grant was received by Sport and Recreation Victoria for a soccer pitch to be set up at the Racecourse Reserve. Although the Racecourse Reserve has been utilised for pre-season training, it is not used for matches.

Dudley Cornell Reserve is currently the primarily venue used for soccer, with training two nights a week and games on the weekend.

As the Racecourse Reserve is currently the only venue in Horsham capable of accommodating a full-sized soccer pitch, this is considered the only pitch in Horsham.

TABLE 20 SOCCER PITCHES

	Central Horsham	Horsham Rural	Total
Number of Soccer Pitches	1*	0	1

*Horsham Racecourse (not currently utilised but only current location capable of accommodating a full sized pitch).

A map of existing and planned facilities is shown on the following page.

Other facilities/clubs in the region include"

- Stawell Soccer Club (created in 2018) and participate in the South West Victorian Football Association league which competes in Warrnambool and Corangamite. The club utilises the middle of the athletics track at North Park in Stawell.

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new soccer facilities planned in Horsham Rural City.

FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of soccer pitches to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 field to every 16,606 people;
- Horsham Rural: 0 field to every 3,281
- Horsham Rural City: 1 field to every 19,887 people.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas has shown that grass soccer pitches are typically provided at a rate of between 1 field to every 4,000 to 8,000 people (depending on the location) and around 1 synthetic field to every 12,000-15,000 people. As was previously noted, synthetic fields have the carrying capacity of two grass pitches.

Adopting a facility provision ratio of 1 pitch to every 8,000 residents would be a typically low provision rate for the provision of soccer pitches (particularly in metropolitan areas). If this rate were adopted, approximately 2 pitches would currently be required, which would be capable of accommodating population growth to 2033. However, given the historically low provision of soccer pitches in Horsham and the fact that soccer is a small and developing sport in Horsham, this provision rate is likely on the high end. It is likely that currently, 1 full sized soccer pitch would meet local demand for soccer in Horsham with opportunity to grow to 2 pitches in the longer term (alternatively one synthetic pitch would have the carrying capacity of 2 pitches).

TABLE 21 SOCCER PROJECTED NUMBER OF PITCHES

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Pitches (Ratio 1:8,000)
Current Supply		1
2016	16,606	2.1
2033	19,069	2.4
Additional Required Fields by 2033		1.4

Soccer Pitches

Map Key	Facility	No. Fields
A	Dudley Cornell Complex	1*
B	Horsham Racecourse	1**

*Utilise a cricket/football field. Pitch is not full size.

**Set up for a soccer pitch but currently not utilised.



CONSULTATION

- **General Comments**
 - Neither Dudley Cornell or Racecourse Reserve are currently adequate to cater to the needs of soccer in Horsham.
- **Dudley Cornell**
 - Poor quality surface;
 - Poor surface drainage;
 - Boundaries are not compliant;
 - Not big enough for a full-sized pitch within the current boundary fence.
 - Issues in presenting the sport in a professional manner due to the quality of the facilities.
 - Don't use the second oval at Dudley Cornell as it is has limited access to water due to HRCC preference to irrigate main oval.
 - Quality of the storage has been an issue in the past. Storage is not always waterproof and sometimes the equipment is mouldy;
 - Change rooms are not up to standard. Privacy issues with the male changerooms; and
 - Limited areas for supporters.
- **Racecourse Reserve**
 - Access issues to the ground;
 - No lighting (soccer is a winter sport and requires lighting for training);
 - No fencing around the field so easy to lose balls off the field.
- **Opportunities**
 - Showgrounds may provide opportunity for a regional multi-purpose facility;
 - Two full sized pitches, to allow for future growth;
 - Need a short-term solution to ease the issues and a longer-term response;
 - Rugby, soccer and hockey are generally compatible sports and could be co-located at a facility, if the right infrastructure and servicing was provided;

- A new greenfield facility, with multiple playing facilities are playing areas would be welcomed.

KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There was one respondent to the online survey relevant to soccer. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – membership is expected to stay the same in the next 5 years.
- **Member Gender** – 85% of members are male and 15% are female.
- **Member Age** – 55% of members were reported to be aged between 0-14 years, 35% between 15-29 years, 5% between 30-44 years and 5% between 45-59 years.
- **Seasonality** – Facility usage from April to September (with pre-season and clinics in Jan-March).
- **Quality of Facilities** – Facilities were identified as being of a poor standard.
- **Improvements** – facility improvements identified include:
 - Social room upgrades including tv screens for presentations;
 - Storage areas;
 - Canteen.
- **Accessibility** – Facilities were identified as not being universally accessible.
- **Facility Requirements** – same as today (i.e. one pitch) but with improved quality of facilities.
- **Priorities** identified by soccer include:
 - A training ground available in the off season;
 - Lighting and spectator access;
 - Club room improvements.

8.4. SOCCER KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Soccer is a small yet developing sport in Horsham, with 90 members in 2018. Participation is expected to grow, as the sport becomes more established in the region.

FACILITIES

- There are currently no formalised soccer pitches in Horsham and no locations with permanent soccer goals set up. The inside of the track at Horsham Racecourse Reserve is the current location capable of accommodating a full-sized soccer pitch, however, there are issues with this facility including access to the field (need to cross the race track), universal access, spectator areas, lighting and club/community pavilions.
- Dudley Cornell Reserve is currently being utilised for soccer purposes, however, there are also issues with this facility (not large enough for a full-sized pitch, changeroom facilities, storage, spectator/visitor areas). It is apparent that currently, neither the racecourse reserve or Dudley Cornell are fully satisfying the needs of soccer in Horsham.
- From a population provision ratio, there would be a need for 1.6 soccer pitches in Horsham by 2033.
- The characteristics, qualities and infrastructure at current facilities (Dudley Cornell and the inside of the Horsham Racecourse) are not meeting the needs of soccer and are prohibitive to the development of the sport.
- At a minimum, one full-sized soccer pitch should be provided in Horsham, which meets the facility needs of Horsham District and Soccer Club.
- There is a need to ensure soccer facilities are multipurpose so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports.

9. TENNIS

9.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

TENNIS 2020: FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR AUSTRALIAN TENNIS

Tennis Australia release the Tennis 2020: Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis in 2008 and updated in 2012. The Plan is driven by the needs of tennis providing a community health and wellbeing service, participation programs, elite player development and tour events.

The Plan includes an overview of the tennis facility hierarchy, this is shown in Table 21 below.

TABLE 22 TENNIS FACILITIES HIERARCHY

Facility Hierarchy	Description
National Tennis Centres (20 courts +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter/national tournaments and events • High performance training environment • Sustainable tennis development objectives • Sustainable economic development objectives • Showcase for tennis
Regional Tennis Centres (16 courts +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National/state based tournaments • High performance training and talent feeder focus • Resource for smaller centres, clubs and associations • Economic driver • Grass roots development • Sustainable tennis development objectives • Community health and wellbeing objectives
Large Community Tennis Centres (Sub Regional) (12 Courts +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intra/Inter club tournaments • High performance training feeder and focus

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource for smaller centres, clubs and associations • Grass roots development • Sustainable tennis development objectives • Community health and wellbeing objectives
District Tennis Centres (8 Courts +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interclub • Tournaments • High Performance • Training Feeder • Grass roots development • Sustainable tennis development objectives • Sustainable community health and development objectives
Local Tennis Centres (4 Courts +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interclub tournaments • High performance training feeder • Grass roots development • Sustainable tennis development objectives • Sustainable community health and development objectives
Public Access Centres (1 Court +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis engagement opportunities • Health and social objectives • Public accessible venues • Community development objectives

Source: Tennis 2020 Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis

9.2. PARTICIPATION

- There are 13 clubs under the Central Wimmera Tennis Association.
- There are approximately 500 children registered with approximately 300 of these playing members and approximately 225 registered seniors.
- Senior membership has been stable for 2-3 years, was previously declining, however, some organisation changes meant membership stabilised.
- There has been growth in junior members, due to the 'Hot Shots' program.
- In the recent past there hasn't been a permanent tennis coach in Horsham, however, Tennis Victoria are now funding a permanent coach.

9.3. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

16 tennis facilities (locations) were identified in Horsham Rural City, equating to 83 courts. There are 5 tennis facilities in central Horsham, equating to 49 courts. There are 8 locations in the rural areas of Horsham, comprising 34 courts. The courts in rural areas service these outlying communities.

Tennis facilities in central Horsham include Sunnyside Sports Complex, Central Park Tennis (Horsham Racecourse), Horsham Lawn Tennis, Haven Recreation Reserve and Coughlin Park Sports Complex.

The audit also excludes school facilities.

Based on existing court provision, the largest facility in Horsham is the Lawn Tennis Club, with 24 courts, however, only 16 of these courts are maintained and used. This facility could be classified as a regional tennis centre (based on its court provision of 16+ courts), however, the facility is not comparable to a regional facility. Central Park Tennis and Haven Recreation Reserve both have 12 courts. These facilities likely fall under the category of local to district level facilities.

TABLE 23 EXISTING TENNIS FACILITIES

	Horsham Town	Horsham Rural	Total
Number of Tennis Facilities	5	7	12
Number of Tennis Courts	49	31	80

Other facilities/courts identified in the Wimmera region include:

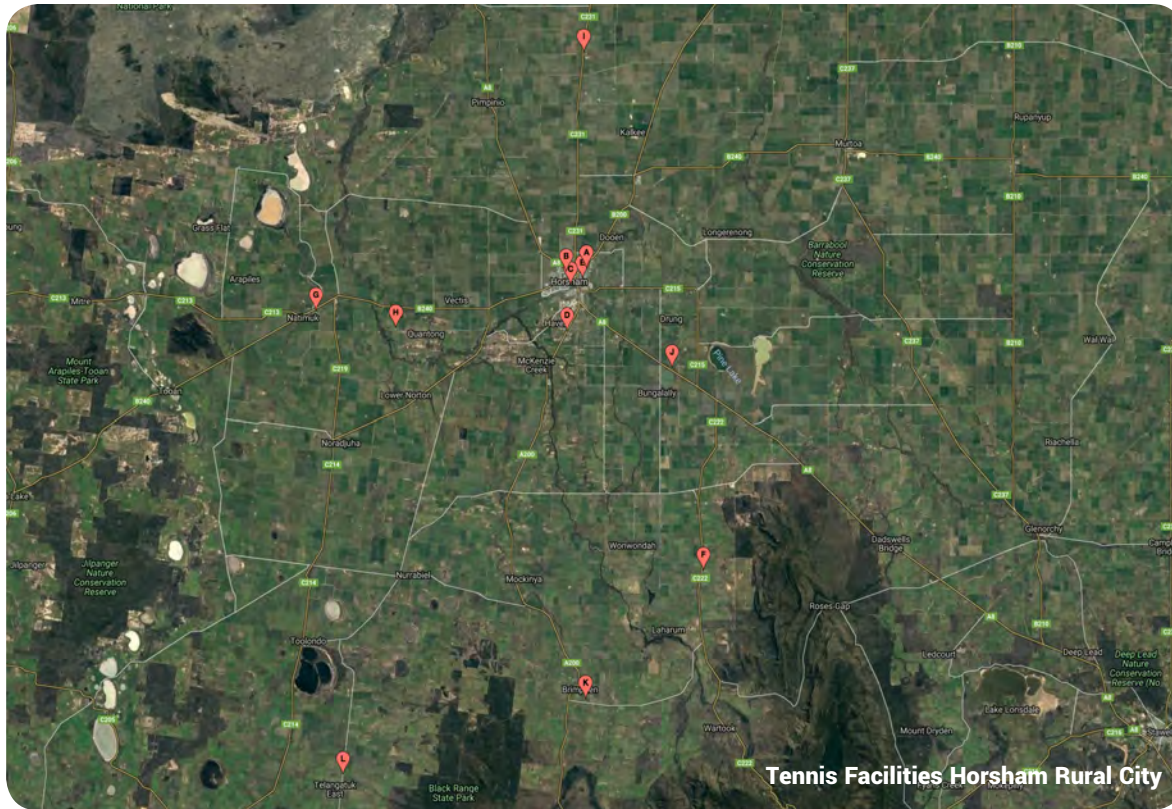
- Anzac Park Tennis Club – Warracknabeal (Yarriambiack Shire) – 9 hard courts;
- Brim Tennis Club – Brim (Yarriambiack Shire) – 3 outdoor hard courts;
- Nhill Local Tennis Club– Nhill (Hindmarsh Shire) – 12 outdoor hard courts;
- Stawell Tennis Club (Northern Grampians Shire) – 12 outdoor synthetic courts;
- Landsborough Tennis Club (Northern Grampians Shire) – 2 outdoor hard courts;
- Ararat City Tennis Club (Ararat Rural City) – 8 outdoor synthetic courts;
- Arkona Tennis Centre, Dimboola (Hindmarsh Shire) – 12 outdoor synthetic grass courts;
- Jeparit Tennis Club (Hindmarsh Shire) – 4 outdoor hard courts;
- St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club (Northern Grampians Shire) – 17 outdoor grass courts / 2 outdoor synthetic courts.
- Marnoo (Northern Grampians Shire) – 3 outdoor hard courts;
- Charam Tennis Club (West Wimmera) – 3 outdoor hard courts;
- Crossroads Tennis Centre (West Wimmera) – 3 outdoor hard courts.
- Harrow Tennis Club (West Wimmera) – 3 outdoor hard courts.

The largest facility in the region outside of Horsham is the St Arnaud Lawn Tennis Club, which has approximately 17 grass courts and 2 synthetic courts. This facility is similar to the Horsham Lawn Tennis Club.

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new planned tennis facilities in Horsham Rural City.

Tennis Facilities



Map Key	Facility	No. Courts
A	Sunnyside Sports Complex	3
B	Horsham Racecourse Reserve	12
C	Horsham Lawn Tennis and Horsham Croquet	16*
D	Haven Recreation Reserve	12
E	Coughlin Park Sports Complex	6
F	Laharum Recreation Reserve	4
G	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	6
H	Quantong Recreation Reserve	4
I	Kalkee Recreation Reserve	2
J	Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve	6
K	Brimpaen Recreation Reserve	6
L	Telangatuk Recreation Reserve	3
Total	12	80

*24 courts but only 16 courts maintained and utilised.



FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of tennis courts to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 court to every 339 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 court to every 106 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 court to every 249 people.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas has shown that tennis courts are typically provided at a range of between 1 court to every 2,500 to 4,000 people. One 24 court facility is typically provided per LGA. However, tennis court provision is generally higher in regional areas.

The current provision of courts in Horsham is significantly higher than existing benchmark ratios. If a rate of 1 court to 2,500 people were to be adopted, there would be a current theoretical significant oversupply of approximately 40 courts by 2033.

Tennis facilities are highly disbursed in Horsham. This may suggest there could be opportunity for the consolidation of tennis facilities to enable higher quality provision.

CONSULTATION

Key points from consultation in regard to Tennis include:

- Each individual club has their own tennis facility, which generally meets the needs of each individual club.
- There are limited opportunities to bring large events to Horsham due to a lack of facilities with a critical mass of courts (i.e. 20+ courts).
- The Horsham Lawn Courts is the largest facility (total of 24 courts but only 16 courts maintained), however, this facility is generally not up to standard to host regional events, including due to the condition of the courts, lack of lighting and a road that runs between the clubrooms and courts.
- Central Park Tennis Club have two courts with lights, however, the lights are not 100 lux. Two courts under lights is insufficient to host regional events. The clubhouse is also not universally accessible. Central Park Tennis would like to

deliver lighting for another two courts and shade structure on some courts and a verandah on the clubhouse. Courts 1 to 4 also require resurfacing.

- Haven is a large facility, providing 12 courts, however, none of the courts have lighting and the surface of two of the courts 'bubbles'. There are also no change rooms. The club use the hall, which has inaccessible club rooms and uncompliant toilets, no canteen or office space or storage and no facilities for larger social events. The courts are separated, allowing for spectator areas. There may also be opportunity to retrofit courts to allow for netball to utilise the courts.
- Horsham has hosted larger events in the past, however, they couldn't have all games in the one location.
- A large tennis facility could also be multipurpose and host netball events.
- Night tennis is an important consideration for ensuring ongoing participation, particularly in more social forms of the game, including week night participation.
- Tennis Victoria have an accommodation requirement of approximately 2,000 accommodation beds in the town, in order to service regional events.

KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were a total of 7 responses to the online survey that related to tennis. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** - 38% of respondents expect membership will increase in the next 5 years, 25% expect membership will stay the same and 38% expect membership to decrease.
- **Member Gender** – Approximately 52% of members are female and 48% are male;
- **Member Age** – There was generally a reported even distribution of members across age groups including 0-14 years (34%), 15-29 years (19%), 30-44 years (18%), 45-59 years (25%) and 60+ years (5%).
- **Seasonality** – The most common months of the year where tennis facilities were utilised was from October to March.

- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – constraints to hosting regional events identified by some survey respondents included a lack of appropriate quantity of courts at one facility, quality of courts and lighting.
- **Quality of facilities** – 3 respondents rated their facilities as either ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’ standard, 2 respondents rated their facilities as ‘adequate’ standard and 2 rated their facilities as either ‘good’ or ‘very good’ standard.
- **Improvements** – areas where facilities could be improved identified by respondents include:
 - No change rooms; uncompliant toilets; lack of amenities (canteen, office space);
 - Lack of areas for storage;
 - Need for new club rooms;
 - Lights;
 - Accessible facilities;
 - Resurfaced courts.
- **Accessibility** – 1 respondent listed their facilities as being universally accessible, while 6 respondents listed either ‘none’ or ‘only some’ of their facilities as being universally accessible.
- **Facility Requirements** – 4 respondents expected their facility requirements would be the same in the 5 years’ time, 2 respondents expected their facilities would require facility upgrades and one expected there to be a need for expanded facilities.
- **Priorities** identified by respondents include:
 - Facility light upgrades;
 - Multi-purpose courts;
 - Multi-purpose community pavilions/clubrooms;
 - Improved courts;
 - Car parking upgrades.

9.4. TENNIS KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Tennis membership across the region is generally strong, with recent growth in junior members through the ‘Hot Shots’ program and a stabilisation of senior members.
- There is some uncertainty from clubs in regard to membership expectations, with some clubs expecting an increase and some expecting a decline.

FACILITIES

- There are a significant number of facilities/courts, which are highly disbursed across Horsham Rural City.
- There is very limited consolidation of facilities and no facility that is capable of hosting regional events in the one location.
- From a quantitative perspective, there appears to be a significant or even ‘over supply’ of tennis courts in Horsham based on application of a population provision ratio.
- Current facilities do not allow for the hosting of regional events and there is limited sharing and/or multipurpose venues accommodating multiple clubs and different sports (including netball).
- There may be opportunity to upgrade an existing facility to enable the hosting of regional level events or create a new regional tennis facility. New or upgraded facilities could involve the consolidation of existing facilities to improve ongoing viability and assist in ongoing maintenance costs.
- New tennis courts in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. Opportunities for consolidation of facilities in rural areas could also be explored.

10. NETBALL

10.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

NETBALL VICTORIA STATE WIDE FACILITIES STRATEGY VOLUME 1

The Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy was published in 2015 and provides strategic direction to the planning and development of netball facilities in Victoria.

The Strategy notes the following factors impacting demand for facilities:

- **Positive Influences:**
 - Victoria's growing population;
 - Growing popularity of men's and mixed netball;
 - The introduction of modified games and programs such as Fast5, Rock Up Netball, Net4Kids, and additional junior participation programs;
 - The growth and advancement of female sports participation;
 - The physical accessibility of facilities – whether they are located within a reasonable driving distance, located near public transport, located on or near a walking or cycling track, have ample car parking.
- **Negative Influences:**
 - Victoria's aging population;
 - Changing profile of the workforce;
 - Growing competition from other sports and activities;
 - Changing leisure preferences with more people opting to participate in informal recreation rather than structured sport; and
 - Inability for Netball Victoria to capture the participant data of unaffiliated netball activities across the state.

The Strategy notes the following in terms of facility hierarchy:

- **Local:** 1-3 courts. Activities include:
 - Modified games and programs
 - Junior participation and skill development
 - Training and competition
 - Community use
 - Regional Victorian Netball League
- **Sub-Regional:** 4-7 courts. Activities include:
 - As per local facility
 - Schools championships
 - National titles
- **Regional:** 8+ courts. Activities include:
 - As per local and sub regional facility;
 - Associate championship;
 - State Titles.
- **Elite:** Minimum 2+ indoor courts. Activities include:
 - Victorian Netball League
 - Australian Netball League
 - National Netball League
 - International Tournaments

Lighting for local, sub-regional and regional courts is recommended as 300 Lux for indoor courts (500 Lux for competition) and 100 Lux for outdoor training and 200 Lux for outdoor competitions.

Indoor lighting for an elite facility is recommended as 750 Lux.

10.2. PARTICIPATION

Anecdotally, Netball is one of the most popular winter sports in Horsham. Table 24 outlines netball membership in Horsham according to the *Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy* (2015). There were approximately 861 members, 42% of which were junior members, 39% senior members and 18% 'NetSetGo' members (5-10 years).

TABLE 24 HORSHAM MEMBERSHIPS, 2015

	AA	Junior	Life Members	NetSetGo	Off the Court	Senior	Total
Horsham	4	358	0	158	4	337	861

Source: Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy Volume 1

Across the Wimmera Mallee¹³ region, there were a total of 2,027 members. Horsham Rural City therefore accounts for 42% of membership across the region.

10.3. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

There were 8 netball facilities identified in Horsham Rural City, 2 of which were in central Horsham area and 6 in the rural areas of Horsham.

The two facilities in central Horsham include City Oval and the Horsham Racecourse Reserve. The Horsham Racecourse Reserve is currently the only location for larger scale netball events, with 5 individual hard courts and 2 multipurpose courts (shared with tennis). The five courts are outdoor asphalt courts and are part of the Fire Brigaded training area. These courts do not meet current day standards for surface quality or runoff areas.

¹³ Includes the Councils of Horsham Rural City, West Wimmera Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Hindmarsh Shire and Yarriambiack Shire.

There netball facilities in the rural areas of Horsham service outlying towns.

TABLE 25 EXISTING NETBALL FACILITIES

	Horsham Town	Horsham Rural	Total
Number of Netball Facilities	2	6	8
Number of Netball Courts	8	8	16

REGIONAL FACILITIES

Facilities in the Wimmera Regional Netball Association area (outside of Horsham), include:

- Alexandra Oval, Ararat (Ararat Rural City): 4 hard courts;
- Anzac Park, Warracknabeal (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court;
- Beluah Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court;
- Brim Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court;
- Central Park Stawell (Northern Grampians Shire): 1 hard court;
- Davis Park, Nhill (Hindmarsh Shire): 2 hard courts;
- Dimboola Football/Netball Club (Hindmarsh Shire): 1 hard court;
- Hopetoun Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 2 hard courts;
- Minyip Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court; and
- Murtoa Recreation Reserve (Yarriambiack Shire): 1 hard court.

The largest netball facility outside of Horsham in the Wimmera Regional Netball Association region is Alexandra Oval in Ararat, confirming Horsham's role in providing facilities that cater to regional demand for events.

PLANNED FACILITIES

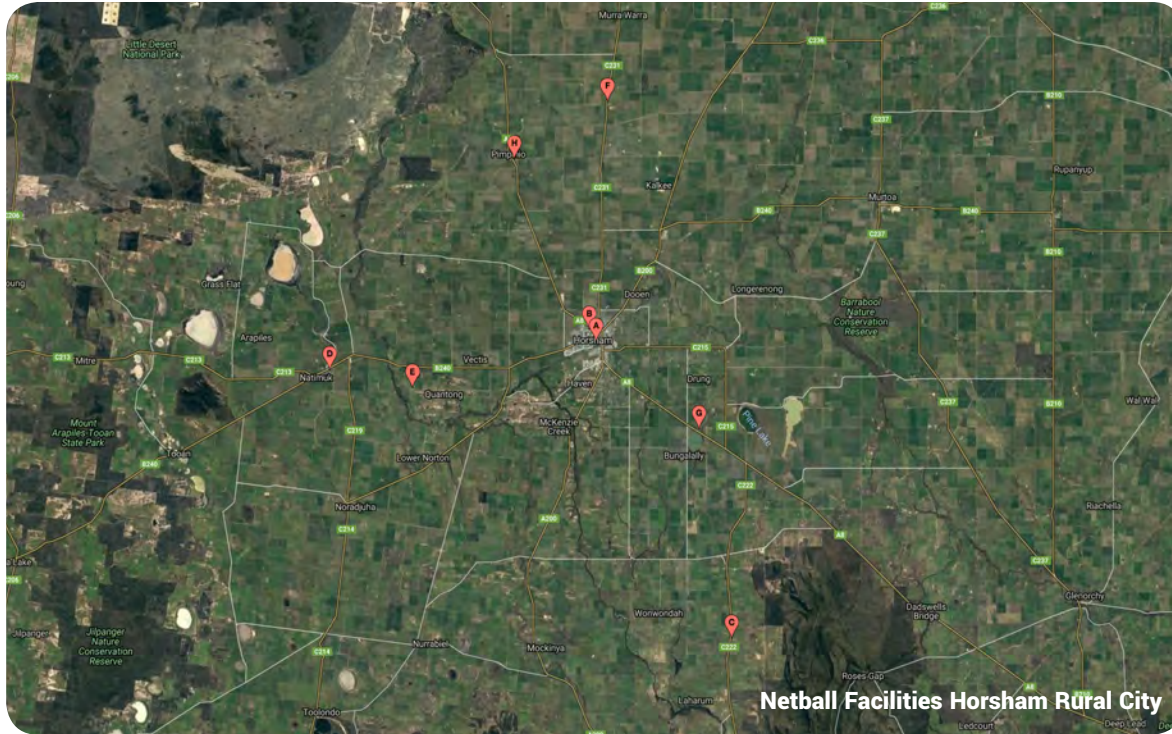
There were 5 new outdoor courts planned as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium concept.

The *Netball Victoria Statewide Facilities Strategy (2015)* noted that some LGAs indicated that they were considering the development or redevelopment of new 6-8 court venues (Geelong, Horsham, Ballarat, Bendigo and Southern Grampians).¹⁴

A map of existing netball facilities is shown on the following page.

¹⁴¹⁴ Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy Volume 1

Netball Facilities



Netball Facilities Horsham Rural City

Map Key	Facility	No. Courts
A	City Oval	1
B	Horsham Racecourse Reserve	7
C	Laharum Recreation Reserve	2
D	Natimuk Showground Recreation Reserve	1
E	Quantong Recreation Reserve	2
F	Kalkee Recreation Reserve	1
G	Taylors Lake Recreation Reserve	1
H	Pimpinio Recreation Reserve	1
Total	8	16



Netball Facilities 'Horsham Town'

FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio (based on 2016 population figures) of tennis courts to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 court to every 2,076 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 court to every 410 people;
- Horsham Rural City: 1 court to every 1,243 people.

Previous research and planning for community infrastructure in Melbourne's growth areas has shown that netball courts are provided at a provision rate of approximately 1 court to every 3,500 people. Given the current level of provision to population, adopting a provision rate of 1 court to every 2,500 people.

Based on this provision ratio, approximately 6.6 courts would be required in the 'Horsham Town' area to service local demand and a total of 7.6 courts by 2033. Across the municipality, there would be a requirement for 8.8 courts by 2033.

However, the *Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy* recommends a ratio of 1 court to 60 players. **Based on this benchmark, it was determined that there was a need for 14.4 outdoor courts to be provide in the City of Horsham.**

TABLE 26 PROJECTED NUMBER OF NETBALL COURTS

	Population (Horsham Town)	Required Courts (Ratio 1:3,500)
Current Supply		8
2016	16,606	6.6
2033	19,069	7.6
Additional Required Fields by 2033		-0.4

The Netball Victoria State Wide Facilities Strategy Volume 1 (2015) also prepared an assessment of the number of courts per population in Horsham and in the wider Wimmera Southern Mallee region. This analysis found that there was a higher number of people per court (based on a population provision rate) in Horsham and the Wimmera Southern Mallee region compared to regional Victoria, however, a lower member to court provision rate. This confirms the high level of netball participation and membership in the region and the potential need to provide courts above standard population provision rates.

TABLE 27 POPULATION PER COURT WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE

Region	Population per indoor court	Population per outdoor court	Population per court	Netball Victoria members per court
Horsham	19,772	1,041	989	43
Wimmera Southern Mallee	6,821	809	723	31
Rural and Regional Victoria	6,499	1,405	1,155	37

Source: Netball Victoria, Statewide Facilities Strategy Volume 1

CONSULTATION

- Netball is one of the largest winter sports in the region in terms of membership and participation.
- Generally, the facilities across the Wimmera Mallee are not up to standard.
- Netball can't host carnivals or regional events because of the lack of appropriate facilities. Issues included the number of courts, lighting, number of compliant courts, lack of associated infrastructure and support amenities. A minimum of 8-10 compliant courts (indoor and outdoor) with associated infrastructure are required to host regional competitions. A minimum of 4 compliant indoor courts are required to host certain state significant events.
- Netball Victoria as a peak sporting body is unable to attract events to the region to improve pathway, leadership and pre-elite opportunities for its members, particularly women and girls but also for the growing number of boys who are choosing to play the sport, which limits the sports attraction to those players who are interested in pursuing a full pathway locally.
- There is a need for indoor multi-purpose courts. This would enable Horsham to host carnivals, which have the potential to bring in a significant number of people to the region.
- **Racecourse Reserve (City Netball):**
 - Courts are not up to standard. They are asphalt courts and don't have the runoff required to meet standards.
 - The courts have not been upgraded for 25 years;
 - The courts are not compliant and can only be accessed when they are not required by the CFA.
 - This facility is not suitable to be used as a regional facility. It does not cater to the required pathway opportunities for netballers in the region.
- **Coughlin Park:**
 - The indoor stadium has been used for netball, anecdotally these courts do not have the required runoff areas.

- The league and other clubs would like Coughlin Park to have an outdoor netball court.

- **City Oval:**

- Only one court at this location and the facility is not up to standard.
- There is a need for a second netball court to be provided at City Oval.

KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were two survey responses relevant to netball. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – one respondent expected membership to increase and one expected membership to stay the same.
- **Member Gender** – Majority of members were reported as being females, although male participation is growing.
- **Member Age** – 38% of members were reported as being aged between 0-14 years, 46% between 15-29 years, 12% between 30-44 years and 4% between 45-59 years.
- **Seasonality** – respondents indicated usage of facilities from April to October for games.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – Number of courts (including complaint courts), associated infrastructure and amenities.
- **Quality of facilities** – one respondent rated facilities as being of a 'poor' standard and the other as being of a 'good' standard.
- **Improvements** – facility improvements identified, included:
 - Additional netball courts;
 - Female change rooms;
 - Court compliance;
 - Lighting;
 - Support amenities and infrastructure.
- **Accessibility** – Generally facilities were identified as not being universally accessible.

- **Priority** areas identified include:
 - Regional facility with 8 courts (mix of indoor and outdoor courts);
 - Second court (Horsham Football Netball Club).

10.4. NETBALL KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Netball is one of the largest winter sports in Horsham, with 861 members in 2015, 60% of which were either junior or 'net set go' members, providing confidence in the future growth of the sport as young members transition to senior membership.
- Across the region there are over 2,000 netball members. Horsham accounting for over 40% of members.

FACILITIES

- Netball facilities in Horsham are provided to a poor standard. The Horsham Racecourse is the largest facility in terms of court provision, with 7 courts (5 of which are asphalt courts and 2 multipurpose netball/tennis courts). The 5 asphalt courts are not up to standard, with limited areas for runoff and only two courts being under lights. Fr
- Based on population provision benchmarks there would appear to be sufficient courts to meet local demand, however, the Netball Victoria Strategy shows that Netball participation in the region is higher than other regional areas and recommends a need for the provision of 14.4 courts in Horsham. In this case there would be a current undersupply of courts.
- Existing courts are disbursed and not up to quality or compliance standards.
- From a regional perspective, there are no facilities that can host larger, regional events. Further, there are no indoor courts available for premier or 'show' games.

- A regional facility is required with approximately 8 courts, which could be delivered as a mix of indoor and outdoor courts.
- Horsham Demons also require a second netball court, however, there is currently limited site capacity to deliver a second court on site.
- New netball courts in rural areas are unlikely to be required. Facility upgrades in rural areas should be assessed and undertaken on an as needs basis. Opportunities for consolidation of facilities in rural areas could also be explored where appropriate.

11. LITTLE ATHLETICS

11.1. PARTICIPATION

There are 134 members registered in Little Athletics in Horsham, which has increased from 100 members 5 years ago. Membership has increased partly due to increased promotion of Little Athletics in Horsham. Membership is expected to increase in the next 5 years based on stakeholder views.

Approximately 51% of members are male and 49% are females.

Schools also participate in Athletics carnivals that require athletics facilities.

11.2. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

Dudley Cornell Reserve is currently the only venue utilised for Little Athletics and school athletics events in Horsham.

The large oval is currently utilised as a grass athletics track, however, the size of the oval is restrictive as it cannot accommodate an 8 lane running track.

The reserve also includes 2 long/triple jump pits. The second field is utilised for javelin, discus and shot put.

The venue is used for local sporting events and for the open day for athletes from little athletics centres and non-little athletics members.

Other Little Athletics facilities in the Western Country region within 100km of Horsham include:

- Dimboola Little Athletics at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College (Hindmarsh Shire) – grass track;
- Stawell Little Athletics (Northern Grampians Shire) – synthetic track;

- Edenhope Little Athletics (West Wimmera) – synthetic track;
- Ararat Little Athletics (Ararat Rural City) – grass track.

Currently towns outside of Horsham are providing the equivalent or greater quality athletics facilities. Therefore, there is a mismatch between the facilities in Horsham and its designation as a regional City.

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no planned Athletics facilities in Horsham.

FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

Facility provision ratios are not necessarily an appropriate method for determining the need for athletics facilities with limited recognised industry benchmarks, however, in planning for facilities in Melbourne's growth areas a catchment population of 100,000-150,000 residents has been utilised to justify a regional athletics facility including lit synthetic track, events field, spectator viewing areas, pavilion and social areas. Horsham's population is unlikely to meet this trigger, which supports the need for facilities to be multi-purpose and could suggest that an athletics facility with a grass athletics track could be a considered alternative to a synthetic track, particularly if catering primarily to little athletics and school uses.

The nearest synthetic tracks to Horsham include Edenhope and Stawell. It is therefore likely than any athletics tracks in Horsham of regional scale would draw on populations from outside the municipality.

CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Athletics facilities, key points include:

- Existing Facility (Dudley Cornell Reserve):

- Little Athletics and schools utilise Dudley Cornell Reserve for Athletics;
- The location is suitable;
- Facilities are in need of attention;
- Currently utilise grass running track. The field is too small to accommodate an 8 lane running track.
- Car parking is an issue, a lot of cars park off site on the street;
- A landscape plan prepared for Dudley Cornell to improve facilities for existing user of the space doesn't include provision of a running track, impacting the future of this venue (and Horsham) to support Little Athletics and school athletics competitions if it is not provided for.
- 100 metre track is run inside the track on the field.
- Second field is used for javelin and shot put, as it needs to be away from other events. There are no permanent areas of protection for discus or shot put.
- The facility has electric timer gates, which can be positive as it takes out the need for the use of volunteers. Sourcing volunteers can sometimes be problematic.
- **Facility Needs and Aspirations:**
 - A synthetic athletics track in an appropriate location would be an aspirational objective for athletics in Horsham, which would better meet the needs of Little Athletics in the future and enable Horsham to host regional championships.
 - An 8 lane track would be an ideal running track.
 - Permanent high jump mat with a sliding cover.
 - It would be possible for Athletics to be co-located with other sports.
 - Grass tracks can be favourable if it translates to keeping costs down for members.
 - It would be possible to host regional events on a grass track.
 - Javelin and shotput couldn't be located near turf cricket pitches in the centre of fields.
 - Larger area with all-weather protection for events.

- **Regional Competitions:**
 - Horsham does not host many regional competitions due to facilities. Warrnambool and Ballarat generally host the western country region Little Athletics events.
- **Priorities:**
 - The top three priorities include a synthetic athletics track, improved high jump facilities and improved all abilities access.

KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were two survey responses relevant to Little Athletics. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – membership is expected to increase in the next 5 years;
- **Member Gender** - Approximately 51% of members are male and 49% are females.
- **Member Age** – 97% of participants are aged under 14 years;
- **Seasonality** – facility usage from October to March.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – lack of suitable facilities (including synthetic athletics track) for hosting events.
- **Quality of Facilities** – Facilities were identified as being of a 'poor' standard.
- **Improvements** – areas where facilities could be improved include:
 - Both female and male change rooms;
 - Upgrading support facilities and clubrooms;
- **Accessibility** – some but not all areas where identified as being universally accessible;
- **Priority** areas identified by respondents include:
 - Synthetic track;
 - Improved competition facilities;
 - Increase all abilities access;

11.3. LITTLE ATHLETICS KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Participation in Little Athletics has been stable over a ten-year period, with a recent increase in membership (134 members). Schools also participate in Athletics days and carnivals.

FACILITIES

- Dudley Cornell Reserve is the only facility used for Little Athletics in Horsham. There are some existing issues with this facility for athletics use, including:
 - The size of the field is too small to accommodate an 8 lane grass running track.
 - There is no permanent infrastructure for high jump, shotput, javelin or discuss.
 - The current long and triple jump pits abut a fence.
 - A master plan that was prepared for Dudley Cornell Reserve did not include provision of a running track. If this master plan is implemented, it would impact the ability to hold athletics training and events.
- Horsham requires dedicated athletics facilities to enable the continuing operation of Little Athletics, school carnivals and competitions, to enable juniors to progress through to more senior levels in the sport and to provide greater opportunity for Horsham to host regional level events.
- A suitable venue is required capable of accommodating athletics facilities, including an 8 lane running track to service the needs of the local and regional population.
- In regard to Athletics, there is a need to ensure facilities are multipurpose so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports. Given Horsham's population, consideration should be given to the use of grass Athletics tracks over synthetic tracks, particularly if used primarily for little Athletics and school groups.

12. RUGBY LEAGUE

12.1. PARTICIPATION

There is one rugby league club in Horsham (the Panthers Rugby League Club). The club formed in 2014 and has one team.

The club had 28 members as of 2018. As of 5 years ago, the club had 26 members.

The club expects membership to increase over the next 5 years.

12.2. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

The Panthers Rugby Club currently use the Horsham Racecourse Reserve as their club grounds. The field is located inside the racetrack, with the club rooms located on the outside of the track.¹⁵

The club use this facility for training, matches, club social events, clinics, administration (committee meetings, league meetings) and education (coaching and sports training courses).

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are no new rugby league fields planned for Horsham.

¹⁵ Council advise that the club were discouraged from using the Racecourse Reserve (with Haven recommended), however, the club's preference was for use of The Racecourse Reserve.

FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

As there is only one facility, the current provision based on 2016 population is 1 field to every 19,887 people across the City of Horsham.

In parts of Melbourne's growth areas, rugby league fields are typically planned at 1 field for every 60,000 - 75,000 people in the catchment¹⁶.

Horsham's population is unlikely to meet this trigger, which supports the need for facilities to be multi-purpose so that they can cater to a number of sports, maximising the use of infrastructure.

CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Rugby League, key points include:

- The current facility is suitable for local level sporting events;
- Membership is low but numbers are steady and expected to grow;
- Approximately 80% of members are males and 20% females;
- Majority of members are aged between 15-29 (50%), followed by 30-44 years (35%), which is an older demographic compared to a other sports such as football.
- The current pavilion/club room is a constraint to hosting large scale regional or state events. This facility was rated as being of a very poor standard and unsuitable from both a size and quality perspective.
- Facilities are generally utilised between August and December;
- Key facilities that require improvements include larger changerooms and toilets for both males and females; the canteen/kitchen space is too small;

¹⁶ ASR Research – Wollert and Quarry Hills PSP, 2012 / City of Casey Provision

there is limited access to storage space; facilities are not universally accessible; and the field surface requires improvements.

- The club expects that expanded or new facilities are expected to be required in 5 years' time.
- Key priorities for facilities over the next 5 to 10 years include the changerooms/toilets and surface of the fields.

12.3. RUGBY KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Rugby League is a grass roots sport with one club in Horsham, which has 28 members. Growth is expected in the next 5 years, although is coming off a low base to is expected to be limited.
- There are limited members under 15 years old.

FACILITIES

- Rugby League utilise the Horsham Racecourse Reserve for both training and matches. From a facility provision perspective, one facility for rugby league is adequate and there is a need for facilities to be multi-purpose to ensure infrastructure use is maximised (particularly given the provision rates are around 1 field to 60,000-75,000 residents)¹⁷. However, there are issues with the current facility including inadequacy of the clubrooms/pavilion and accessibility (including having to cross a racetrack to get to the field).
- One facility in Horsham should be maintained for Rugby League. Given only one club exists, Rugby league is a key sport that could share its facilities with other sports. This arrangement was envisaged for the existing racecourse reserve (rugby and soccer) but has yet to be implemented.

- There are existing constraints at the current facility (quality of clubrooms/toilets and amenities, access across the racetrack to access the field, and provision of local events only). Investing strategically in facilities that will meet the long term needs of the sport as well as be multi-use facilities should be the priority.

There is a need to ensure rugby facilities are multipurpose so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports, particularly when assessed against typical population provision ratios.

¹⁷ Range for metropolitan Melbourne growth areas

13. HOCKEY

13.1. PARTICIPATION

There were 22,389 members of Hockey Victoria in 2016. Within the North West Regional Zone (which includes the City of Horsham), there were 2,122 registered players.

There is one Hockey Club in Horsham (Horsham Hockey Club). The club consists of 4 teams (Hurricanes (men’s), Jets (women), Bombers (under 16 mixed team), and Black Hawks (under 12 mixed team)).

Survey respondents estimated that membership ranged from 75-100 members in 2018 and that membership had grown from 5 years ago (60-70 members). Approximately 50% of members are male and 50% are female.

Growth in membership has been based on the successful introduction of a under 12s program in the last few years.

Survey respondents also expect membership to increase in the next 5 years.

13.2. FACILITIES

EXISTING FACILITIES

The Horsham Hockey Club currently utilise the Community College Oval as their club grounds. This is a grass football/cricket oval. There is no synthetic hockey field or appropriately sized grass hockey field in Horsham.

Hockey Victoria identified 14 hockey pitches in the North West region. These are shown in Figure 12.

FIGURE 12 HOCKEY PITCHES IN THE NORTHWEST REGION



Source: Hockey Victoria, Strategic Facilities Master Plan, 2014

The closest hockey facility to Horsham is the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre (Hindmarsh Shire). This facility includes 2 full sized artificial hockey fields with lighting. The Dimboola and Horsham Hockey Clubs host their home rounds at this centre.

Although the Horsham Hockey Club utilise the community college oval for their club grounds and training, this is not a formal hockey field and is not used for matches, is not the appropriate shape (rectangular). The Horsham Hockey Club travel to Dimboola for both their home and away matches.

The club cannot host any level of hockey sporting event in Horsham.

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are no hockey facilities planned for Horsham.

FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

As there are no formalised hockey fields in Horsham which are used for matches, it is considered that there are no hockey facilities in Horsham.

Planning for facilities in Melbourne's growth areas has adopted a catchment population range of approximately 100,000 residents for a synthetic hockey field.

Horsham's population is unlikely to meet this trigger, which supports the need for facilities to be multi-purpose so that they can cater to a number of sports, maximising the use of infrastructure.

CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Hockey facilities in Horsham, key points include:

- The Horsham Hockey Club does not have access to any facilities that are capable of hosting events including no access to an artificial playing surface.
- All home games are hosted in Dimboola. Home games can attract over 300 players and spectators. This is a significant number of annual visitors that Horsham misses out on every year.
- Anecdotally, the lack of facilities in Horsham has affected membership.
- Horsham would like to see a new all-weather artificial turf facility in Horsham, which is a multi-purpose shared facility.

KEY RESULTS FROM ONLINE SURVEY

There were four responses relevant to Hockey. The following summarises the key findings:

- **Membership Expectations** – 50% of members expect membership to increase and 50% expect membership to stay the same.
- **Member Gender** – 53% of members were reported as being males and 47% were reported as being females;
- **Member Age** – 42% of members aged between 0-14 years; 33% aged between 15-29 years; 15% aged between 30-44 years; 7% aged between 45-59 years and 3% aged 60+ years.
- **Seasonality** – Facilities generally utilised between March and September.
- **Constraints to Hosting Regional Events** – Currently no facility in Horsham capable of hosting home and away games, let alone larger events. Synthetic field is required with appropriate support services and infrastructure.
- **Quality of facilities** – There were mixed views in regard to the quality of facilities ranging from 'very poor' to 'good' standard.
- **Improvements** – new synthetic fields capable of hosting home and away matches.
- **Accessibility** – Facilities (clubrooms) were identified as being universally accessible;
- **Priorities:**
 - New all-weather artificial surface (X2 pitches) with suitable lighting in Horsham;
 - Resolution of the college oval drainage;
 - An enclosed viewing area delivered in conjunction with the all-weather artificial surface.

13.3. HOCKEY KEY FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- There is one hockey club in Horsham.
- There are approximately 75-100 members of Horsham Hockey Club. Consultation shows that membership has generally increased over the previous 5 years.

FACILITIES

- The Horsham Hockey Club utilise the Community College Oval as their club grounds and for training but not matches. The pavilion is of a good standard, however, there is no appropriate playing surface in Horsham. All “home” games are played in Dimboola.
- There is a need to provide a synthetic playing field for hockey in Horsham to enable the club to play home games in Horsham and provide a good quality facility for training and the hosting of regional events. A sand based synthetic pitch would likely be a preferred surface type due to its compatibility with other sports including soccer. It also does not have ongoing watering requirements.
- The provision of two synthetic pitches would assist in scheduling and could enable the synthetic surface to be used for other sports with larger playing field requirements, such as soccer. This could form a consideration in facility planning and design.
- There is a need for any synthetic Hockey facilities in Horsham to be multi-purpose and shared with other sports, so that infrastructure use is maximised by catering to a number of sports, particularly when assessed against typical population provision ratios.

14. LAWN BOWLS

14.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides an overview of Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham, including facility issues and opportunities.

14.2. LITERATURE REVIEW

NATIONAL FACILITIES AND RETIREMENT/LIFESTYLE VILLAGES STRATEGY, 2017

Key relevant learnings from case studies contained in the strategy include:

- Consolidation of facilities and club mergers can provide new opportunities to grow participation, attracting events and securing additional funding for facility upgrades.
- Some clubs have repositioned themselves to offer a complete bowls experience that attracts younger age groups within a more social environment. However, this is not a single business model solution, as each region varies significantly in demographics and market dynamics.

BOWLS VICTORIA STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022

Goals of the strategic plan include:

1. Promote participation – create and implement initiatives that grow participation in bowls inclusive of all;
2. Support clubs – develop strong viable clubs through employing best practice governance and supporting an engaged volunteer network;
3. Strengthen connections – Enhance our community profile through effective communication, positive media presence and commercial growth.

14.3. PARTICIPATION

There is limited available data on Bowls participation in Horsham, however, two of the larger clubs in Horsham (Horsham City Bowls and Sunnyside Bowls Club) have around 300 combined members.

14.4. FACILITIES

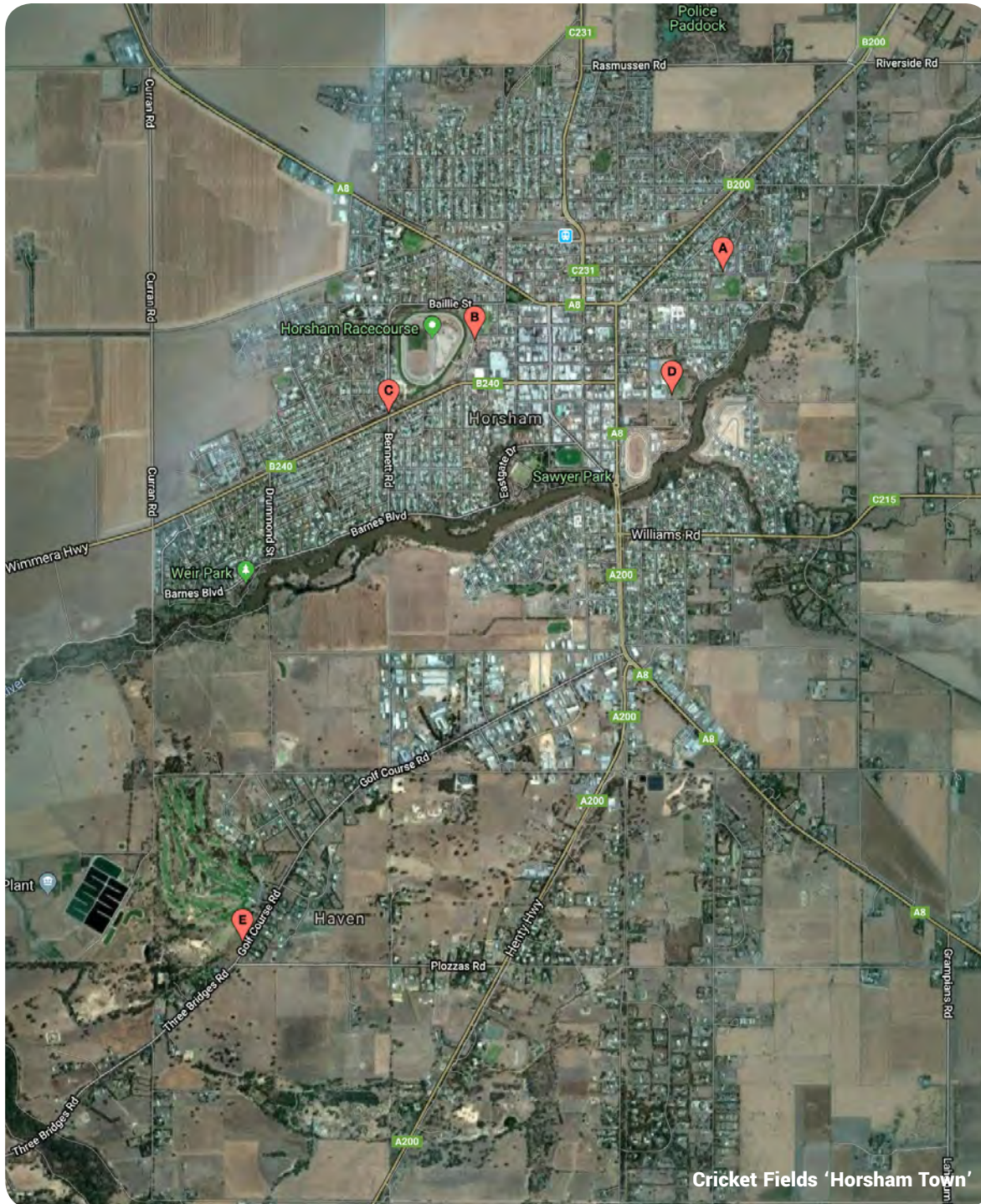
EXISTING FACILITIES

There are 5 facilities used for Lawn Bowls in Horsham. Larger clubs include Sunnyside Sports Complex, Horsham City Bowls Club and Coughlin Park Sports Complex. A map of facilities, including the number of greens is shown on the following page.

PLANNED FACILITIES

There are currently no new lawn bowls facilities planned for the City of Horsham.

Lawn Bowls Facilities



Map Key	Facility	No. Fields
A	Sunnyside Sports Complex	4
B	Horsham City Bowls Club	4
C	Horsham West Bowls Club	1
D	Coughlin Park Sports Complex	2
E	Horsham Golf Club Bowling Association	1
Total	5	12

FACILITY PROVISION RATIOS

The current provision ratio of bowls greens (2016) to population in Horsham is as follows:

- Horsham Town: 1 green to every 1,510 people;
- Horsham Rural: 1 green to every 3,281 people; and
- Horsham Rural City: 1 green to every 1,657 people.

This is a relatively high provision of greens to population, particularly by way of comparison with planning for facilities in Melbourne's growth areas, where provision of greens is typically planned for at a rate of 1 green to every 15,000 residents.

This suggests that there may be potential for clubs to form partnerships or for a reduction of bowls greens or opportunities to consolidate clubs to improve the quality of facilities, increase participation and support ongoing viability. This was a key learning from case studies from the *National Facilities and Retirement/Lifestyle Villages Strategy (2017)*.

CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of outcomes from consultation in regard to Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham, key points include:

- Members are generally ageing but membership is generally stable;
- Generally, participation in pennant lawn bowls is declining, however, social bowls participation is on the rise;
- Delivery of synthetic greens delivers significant annual cost savings to clubs through not having to water and maintain the greens. Anecdotally there is a three year payback period on converting grass to synthetic greens.
- Covered or shaded greens would be appropriate in Horsham, enabling games to be played in all weather conditions;
- There are four main bowls clubs in central Horsham that are competing against one another for members, however, Horsham West Bowls Club has a very small membership base.

- The social aspect of bowls is a very strong driver of participation;
- Generally, around four synthetic greens would be required to host pennant championships.

14.5. LAWN BOWLS KEY FINDINGS

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

- It is estimated that two of the larger bowls clubs (Horsham City and Sunnyside Bowls Club) have a combined membership base of 300 members.
- Members are generally ageing, however, there are opportunities to promote the more social forms of the game to attract younger members.

FACILITIES

- No additional greens are required in Horsham.
- There may be opportunity for the strategic consolidation of clubs in Horsham to improve membership numbers, the quality of facilities, participation and assist in ongoing financial sustainability.
- Clubs have been progressively updating their greens to synthetic greens. Synthetic greens provide a cost saving to clubs and a consistent playing surface.
- There is potential for one club in Horsham to be upgraded to enable regional events to be held, this would generally require four synthetic greens and support amenities and infrastructure. An upgraded regional facility could also have consideration of a covered green and shaded areas so the facilities can be utilised in all-weather conditions.

PART C: INDOOR SPORTS REVIEW

15. INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES REVIEW

15.1. INTRODUCTION

A significant body of work has been undertaken in recent years assessing the need for Horsham to cater to the needs of indoor sports, through provision of a multi-purpose indoor facility.

Urban Enterprise was engaged to undertake a peer review of existing work relating to the provision of indoor sports. Consultation was also undertaken with key proponents of indoor sports to confirm or update any findings relevant to the provision of indoor sports facilities in Horsham.

15.2. EXISTING REPORTS

The following summarises the key findings and recommendations of recent reports relating to indoor sport provision.

HORSHAM MULTI-USE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM PLAN – PHASE ONE: FEASIBILITY (2016)

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility* was prepared by Insight Leisure Planning. The report assessed the demand for new indoor facilities, including the ability to continue to service and increase regional scale sport events, activities and uses.

In relation to demand for new indoor sporting facilities, the report noted the following key points:

- Demand for new, or additional, indoor stadia facilities in Horsham is not being driven by increases in local participation demand or requirements to address anticipated demand associated with future population growth.
- There is an adequate number of indoor courts currently available to address the indoor sport needs for local standard participation.
- Existing facilities do not meet contemporary standards or recommended facility guidelines in terms of playing areas and support amenities.
- Existing facilities (i.e. Basketball Stadium, squash courts, table tennis and gymnastics) are all over 40 years old.
- New facilities will be required in order to meet the contemporary needs of the community, including recommended facility standards and guidelines, in order to continue to service the needs and expectations of the community for the next 50+ years.
- Current facilities are used for a variety of regional and even State level events/activities despite current limitations, however it can be expected that such uses will not be supported in these venues in the longer-term if the facilities continue to fall below contemporary standards and expectations.
- New facilities are being planned for construction in other regional centres (i.e. Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Mildura) over the next five years that will further increase competition for hosting of such activities.
- Demand for new facilities is being driven by requirements to provide appropriate facilities that are capable of maintaining (and enhancing) current levels of participation, including the capacity to continue to host a range of regional and state standard events, uses or activities over the next fifty years.
- Contemporary facilities will be required to cater for basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, squash and to a lesser extent gymnastics.

WIMMERA SPORTS STADIUM BUSINESS CASE AND CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT (2017)

William Ross Architects prepared a Business Case and Concept Design report for a multipurpose indoor sports facility at McBryde Street in Horsham.

The key findings of the report include:

- Regionally, the closest indoor multi-use stadiums with more than 2 courts are Hamilton (130km), Ballarat (187km), Bendigo (215km), Warrnambool (228km) and Mildura (310km).
- The **benefits** of a multi-use stadium for Horsham community include:
 - **Increased participation** in sport and recreation activities by users of all abilities;
 - **Increased number of people joining clubs** or groups operating from the centre;
 - **Compliant and safer facilities;**
 - **Equitable use of the facility** to further social inclusion;
 - **Additional regional events** locally that **can be accommodated by the larger facility;**
 - **Opportunities to cross market sports** and active recreation activities to attract new participants;
 - Establishment of a **Sports House to support sports development and enhance relationships** between various associations and organisations.
 - **Further enhancement of the sport and recreation hub at the showgrounds,** including the Agricultural Society and the Greyhound facility;
 - A potential **increase in the diversity of activities and opportunities available** at the stadium and adjoining Showgrounds land;
 - Increased **health and wellbeing** benefits;
 - Opportunities to develop **social connections;**
 - Create a **sense of local pride** in the development;
 - **Economic benefit** and **increase in the visitor economy** from the attraction of more events / tournaments;
 - Contribute to **Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.**
- The facility is proposed to attract a wide variety of different uses, including:
 - Basketball;
 - Badminton;
 - Volleyball;
 - Squash;
 - Netball;
 - Regional Sports Assembly, sports organisations, clubs and associations office space;
 - Event hire;
 - Meeting room hire;
 - Tournaments;
 - Casual usage / informal programs;
 - Special events e.g. expos, markets, concerts etc.
- The facilities proposed included:
 - **Sports Hall with 3 new indoor sports courts** designed to competition standards. Each court to be line marked for netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton.
 - Space for **X12 table tennis tables;**
 - **X6 squash courts;**
 - **X6 squash courts** and support facilities;
 - **X5 outdoor netball** courts to bring total courts compliant with Netball Victoria requirements to 8, which is the minimum number required for Association Championships and other Netball Victoria events;
 - **Fixed spectator seating for 400,** an increase on the approximate 350 existing capacity of the existing Stadium at McBryde Street
 - Space for **further temporary tiered spectator seating**
 - **Large meeting room,** to also provide a **small function space**
 - **X2 Consulting Suites,** available to allied sports and other services
 - Additional **shared office space for local sporting clubs and associations**
 - Additional **player amenities to accommodate the multisport nature of the venue**



Wimmera Sports Stadium Proposed Site Plan

Source: Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design, 2017

HORSHAM INDOOR MULTI-USE STADIUM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT (COMMUNITY VIBES, 2017)

An extensive level of stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken in relation to the proposed multi-use indoor stadium project in Horsham. The project includes the key objectives of providing a recommendation of the preferred location for the stadium; and to develop concept plans for an indoor sports stadium.

To assist in delivering on these objectives, consultation was undertaken with stakeholders and the community to identify a preferred site for the indoor sports stadium. The following three options were considered as part of the consultation:

- Option A: At Horsham Showgrounds between the velodrome and the greyhound racing track;
- Option B: A new facility at Horsham Showgrounds between the river and the greyhound racing track;
- Option C: A new facility along the former railway corridor in Mill Street.

An allowance was also made for an Option D, if survey respondents weren't sure of their preferred location.

Consultation included:

- Community surveys (372 responses);
- Listening Posts (5 sessions / 48 participants);
- Written submissions (10 written submissions received);
- Site visits by key stakeholders (16 participants);
- Surveys from potential user groups of the stadium (5 responses); and
- Receipt of delegation (6 people).

Based on a summary of all consultation types the preferred location identified was the Horsham Showgrounds area currently occupied by the basketball stadium (i.e. between the Showgrounds and the velodrome).

In regard to usage, survey respondents said they would primarily use the stadium for activities such as taking part in functions / events, taking part in programs such as yoga, watching sports or using the facility for meetings. Most stated they would use the stadium several times per week or at least once per week.

15.3. EXISTING FACILITIES

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility* includes an overview of existing indoor facilities in Horsham. These are summarised in the Table below.

Existing Facilities	Description
Horsham Basketball Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council owned. • Existing 2-court stadium, approx. 40 years old. • Spectator seating to ne court (approx. 150 200 people). • Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard. • Limited run-off or circulation space around courts.
Holy Trinity Lutheran School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School owned • multi-use court, approx. 5 years old. • Small climbing wall • Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard
Horsham 298 Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School owned • multi-use court • 3/4 court at Rasmussen. • Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.
Horsham College Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School owned • multi-use court • Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.
Horsham College – Maroske Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School owned • / size indoor hall, approx. 40 years old. • Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.
St. Brigid’s College (P-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School owned • multi-use court, approx. 11 years old. • Amenities and support infrastructure are provided at a basic standard.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectator seating approx. 150 people.
Horsham Showgrounds Maydale Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural society owned. • Maydale pavilion is one of the original agricultural sheds. • Support facilities are limited to rudimentary public toilets.
Horsham Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privately owned 6- court venue on McPherson Street, Horsham. • The facility has been constructed in stages, however buildings appear at least 30-40+ years old.
Natimuk Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club owned facility in Natimuk, originally constructed in 1970. • The Club has recently completed a two-stage extension program to increase available space, roof height and support spaces.
Horsham Lanes and Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privately owned multi-sport venue (i.e. including ten pin bowling, indoor tennis (3), netball (2), soccer (1) and inflatables).

Source: Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility, Insight Leisure Planning, 2016

Since the preparation of the feasibility study, the Horsham Table Tennis Association has relocated from the Horsham Showgrounds Maydale Pavilion to a new property located at 11 Harriet Street, Horsham. The new premises is an ageing building, however, anecdotally it is superior to their former location at Maydale Pavilion. Based on discussions with Horsham Table Tennis, their new venue would be utilised for training and some games, however, they would still likely utilise a multipurpose indoor venue for larger table tennis events.

The *Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility (2016)* noted that **none of the current facilities meet recommended standards or contemporary facility requirements for elite level use or competitions despite the fact that the basketball stadium is currently used for selected elite level events, particularly for basketball and volleyball.**

15.4. PARTICIPATION

The following summarises indoor sports participation based on review of previous work. This has been updated based on recent consultation.

TABLE 28 INDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Sport / Activity	Membership and Trend (<i>Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan-Phase One: Feasibility</i>)	2018 Update
Basketball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012- 469 members 2013- 485 members 2014- 515 members 2015- 485 members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017-440 members (295 Male, 145 Female)
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Netball Association 2016 – 120 players registered with Netball Vic. The most members since 2002. District and Wimmera Netball Associations 2016 – approx. 1,000 players over 20 clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 861 members Horsham (358 junior, 337 senior, 158 net set go) Wimmera Mallee: 2,004 members (5 years ago); 2,027 members (current) Netball Victoria expect membership to increase in the next 5 years.
Badminton	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93 total 57 senior 12 ladies 24 juniors Membership steady – slight increase over the last 3 years. 	NA
Volleyball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The club re-established in 2001 and in 2016 had approx. 31 teams (200-230 players). Participation peaked in 2013 at 253 players. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 240 members (current); 200 members (5 years ago). Growth in membership due to growth in junior members. Membership expected to increase in the next 5 years.
Table Tennis	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 155 members total 	2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 members (current);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 senior members; 35 junior members; 30 players 65+ years old; 25 special needs players; 70 (casual school group competitions). Membership increased over the previous 3 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85 members (5 years ago). Growth due to program awareness. Membership expected to stay the same in the next 5 years.
Squash	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80-100 members (approx. 64 playing members) Membership declined from 3-5 years ago. 	NA
Carpet Bowls	2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-28 players from Horsham and 20 players from Haven. Membership stable for several years. 	NA
Rock Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arapiles Climbing Guides – commercial climbing company, average class size of 12 people. Approx. half of business is servicing school groups. 	NA
Gymnastics (Natimuk Gymnastics Club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership is strong and stables. 2016 – 130-140 participants, with a further 30-40 on waiting lists. 	NA
Roller Derby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 – 5 members; 	NA
Indoor Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casual use and pay as you go competition at Horsham Lanes and Games 	NA
Indoor Soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casual use and pay as you go competition at Horsham Lanes and Games 	NA

Based on available information relating to participation, indoor sports which have reported growth include netball, volleyball and badminton. Membership and participation for other sports is generally steady, with some sports reporting a slight decline.

15.5. CONSULTATION

The following provides a summary of consultation findings related to indoor sports in Horsham and the opportunity to deliver outdoor sports in a co-located precinct. Consultation included a selection of one to one meetings with clubs and associations, a workshop with the Project Control Group, Council managers and staff and Councillors for the *Horsham Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case* project (2017) and a survey of sporting clubs and associations.

- There have been very limited improvements to Horsham's indoor sports facilities in 40 years;
- Current provision of indoor facilities in Horsham are dispersed and generally ageing;
- Many facilities and amenities are uncompliant and are not suitable for hosting regional events;
- Horsham is not capable of attracting or hosting regional events due to current facilities provision;
- There is a need to ensure that any facilities developed are accessible to all community members, including through ensuring financially equitable access costs and membership costs;
- A regional facility would require 8 netball courts, which can be delivered as a combination of indoor and outdoor sports;
- Facilities are required to cater to all demographics, including the youngest of community members to the oldest;
- Use of any facilities would need to be designed to be maximised through appropriate programming and regular user groups;
- There is a need for organisations to maintain a level of autonomy;
- Potential to sell existing facilities if new facilities are developed;
- Need to assess traffic implications if proposing new facilities;
- There is opportunity to consider a variation of the proposed Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium concept that could align to stakeholders and user needs;

- The original proposed closure of McBryde Street was identified as an issue by some members of the community;
- Need for strategic planning to provide evidence-based justification of site selection.

ASPIRATIONS

As part of the workshop, the aspiration for the provision of indoor and outdoor sporting facilities for Horsham were workshopped with the group.

The following aspirations were noted for a hypothetical indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facility located near the Wimmera River and Showgrounds precinct. Please note that these have not been filtered for their practicality or appropriateness for delivery in Horsham or at specific sites, they are merely to demonstrate some views around the potential for regional indoor and outdoor facilities.

- Delivery of 8 netball courts, which can be delivered as a combination of indoor and outdoor sports;
- 3 show courts for basketball and netball;
- A new AFL and cricket ground and pavilion;
- Synthetic pitch for soccer and hockey;
- 8 bowling greens;
- Athletics track;
- Space for other outdoor events including markets;
- Offices, amenities and universally accessible facilities;
- Residential development opportunities along the river;
- Indoor rock-climbing wall;
- Cycling;
- Large play space with area for recreation;
- Tourism uses;
- Utilise open space recreation areas to store flood waters in emergency flood situations.

15.6. SITE LOCATION ASSESSMENT

Williams Ross Architects completed an independent assessment of 11 potential sites for the indoor sports stadium as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017). Sites assessed included:

- 1A: Basketball Stadium – 87 MacPherson Street;
- 1B: Velodrome – 87 McPherson Street;
- 2A: Showgrounds adjacent to McBryde Street;
- 2B: Showgrounds adjacent to the river;
- 2C: Showgrounds adjacent to McPherson Street;
- 3: Railway corridor (Mills Street);
- 4: Horsham Lanes, Jenkinson Avenue;
- 5: Horsham College – 310 Baillie Street;
- 6: Horsham Racecourse;
- 7: Sunnyside Sports Complex;
- 8: Hamilton Street

A robust site assessment matrix was used to assess the sites, including weighted criteria and scoring system. An outline of the criteria and criteria weighting is provided in Appendix A. Criteria were categorised under the categories of ‘urban design and locality’, ‘existing assets, site conditions and capacity’, ‘financial and time impacts’, ‘strategic and legislative/political considerations’.

The scoring included:

1. Unsatisfactory, fails required standard
2. Very Poor, below standard compliance with criteria
3. Poor compliance with criteria
4. Below average, just acceptable compliance,
5. Average compliance with criteria OR Not Applicable
6. Above average compliance
7. Average to good compliance

8. Good compliance, complies with criteria with deficiencies
9. Very Good - complies with criteria with only minor deficiencies
10. Excellent, fully complies with criteria

All sites were assessed in a site assessment matrix, resulting in the following outcomes (Table 29).

The top three sites identified included the Showgrounds Precinct (adjacent to McBryde Street), the existing Basketball Stadium Site and the Showgrounds site adjacent to McPherson Street.

TABLE 29 RESULTS OF SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Site	Weighted Score (Max. possible score 55)	Rank
1A: Basketball Stadium – 87 MacPherson Street;	37.6	2
1B: Velodrome – 87 McPherson Street;	35.7	5
2A: Showgrounds adjacent to McBryde Street;	39.3	1
2B: Showgrounds adjacent to the river;	32.3	8
2C: Showgrounds adjacent to McPherson Street;	37.0	3
3: Railway corridor (Mills Street);	35.9	4
4: Horsham Lanes, Jenkinson Avenue;	35.3	6
5: Horsham College – 310 Baillie Street;	30.9	10
6: Horsham Racecourse;	31.8	9
7: Sunnyside Sports Complex;	29.3	11
8: Hamilton Street	33.7	7

Source: William Ross Architects, 2017

The criteria utilised by William Ross Architects in their site assessment matrix are robust. In addition to the existing identified criteria, there are a number of other factors that could be considered which would support sites within the central area of Horsham, including:

- **Zoning and Land Use** - whether the site is currently zoned for the proposed land use and if an indoor sporting precinct is an appropriate land use having regard to the sites context. For example, appropriate zones would include the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).
- **Co-Location Opportunities** – Does the site enable co-location development opportunities? In the case of a regional indoor sporting precinct this could include outdoor sports uses, recreation (trails, passive open space), events spaces, tourism businesses (accommodation, functions/events, cafes/restaurants), allied health businesses.
- **Economic Development Outcomes** – Does the site enable economic development outcomes to be derived through development? For example, this could include hosting regional events, attracting new visitors and visitor expenditure. Sites that are closely located to the town centre generally provide strong flow on opportunities for visitor expenditure within businesses in the town centre such as cafes, restaurants, retailers and accommodation businesses.
- **City Presentation** – Is the site located in a visible location to promote the town’s contemporary infrastructure to visitors, the community and potential future residents? Sites that are well located and have good exposure to the community and visitors enable ‘advertising’ of the City’s major assets and capability. This is an important consideration for visitors and potential future residents.
- **Accessibility** – Is the site equitably located in the municipality to provide access to all residents? This would include consideration for access times for various areas of the municipality, having regard to the current and future urban growth areas of the municipality.
- **The Primacy of the CBD** – Does the site assist or detract from strengthening the primacy of the CBD? Ensuring a strong and sustainable CBD is a key strategic planning consideration. CBD primacy typically relates to the

provision of retail floorspace, however, major assets and activity nodes can assist in supporting the CBD in providing additional visitors and consumers for retailers and businesses within the CBD.

If the criteria/considerations above were to be included in a site assessment matrix, the results would give additional support to those sites that are centrally located within Horsham close proximity to the Horsham CBD (including businesses and active and passive open space), providing strong economic development outcomes and co-location opportunities.

Centrally located sites, in close proximity to the Central Business District provide a number of potential benefits, including but not limited to:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, which can produce spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre;
- Provides an equitable location from an access point of view;
- Generally, provides access to existing infrastructure and services;
- Consolidates and improves the role and primacy of the CBD;
- Provides opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

HORSHAM SHOWGROUNDS

The Horsham *CAD and Wimmera River Revitalisation* project (undertaken concurrently to this project) identified the Showgrounds and Wimmera River Precinct as providing a potential opportunity for future delivery of open space including active and passive recreation, tourism and sporting facilities. There are a number of benefits and opportunities that this location provides, including:

- The potential to co-locate regional sporting facilities.
- Co-location with the privately-owned Showgrounds land providing strategic opportunities for:
 - Creation of a major events precinct (sporting and non-sporting);

- Potential commercial and tourism development opportunities (accommodation, food and beverage);
- Potential for the Showgrounds to leverage off regional sports facilities, utilising shared access to infrastructure.
- Opportunity to improve the gateway entrance to Horsham, showcasing quality infrastructure.
- Enabling opportunities to link the precinct to existing and future recreation areas on and near the river.
- Proximity to the Wimmera River for irrigation.
- Opportunity to link the precinct with residential areas to the south and east of the river via a pedestrian bridge.

15.7. KEY FINDINGS

Based on review of existing assessments and reports related to indoor sports facilities in Horsham as well as consultation with key indoor sports stakeholders, the delivery of a multi-purpose indoor sports facility in Horsham at the McBryde Street site remains a required priority project for the City of Horsham and the region.

The criteria utilised to identify the preferred site is considered robust. Further additional support could be given to identified preferred centrally located sites within the Horsham Central Activities District due to the benefits these locations produce for existing and future businesses within the CAD, the improvements to city presentation, equitable access and co-location opportunities (businesses, recreation, tourism and events).

The facilities and sports proposed for the Wimmera Sports Stadium concept remain valid

There may be opportunity to review the indoor sports stadium concept in line with the other findings of this report and recent consultation outcomes, including:

- The *Horsham CAD and Wimmera River Revitalisation* project has identified the Showgrounds and Wimmera River Precinct as providing a potential opportunity for future delivery of open space including active and passive recreation, tourism and sporting facilities. The concept masterplan could be revisited so that it aligns with future opportunities for outdoor sports, tourism and events in the Showgrounds precinct.
- Many stakeholders identified a continued willingness to progress the development of an indoor sports facility in Horsham. There may be opportunity to progress previous concept options proposed as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design project (2017) based on stakeholder needs and support.
- Review of the needs of Horsham Table Tennis, based on their recent move to 11 Harriet Street. Based on discussions with Horsham Table Tennis, their new venue would be utilised for training and some games, however, they would still utilise a multipurpose indoor venue for larger table tennis events.

PART D:
SUMMARY AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

16. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

16.1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a summary of the key outcomes of the assessment and provides recommendations to address the sporting facility needs of Horsham.

16.2. SUMMARY

Horsham is the only designated regional City in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region. Its growth and development as a regional city is supported by both *Plan Melbourne* (2017) and the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan* (2014). As a regional city Horsham is expected to be the principal centre for higher order goods and services, including social and community infrastructure.

Horsham is the only municipality within the Wimmera Southern Mallee region that is forecast to experience population growth¹⁸. This population growth is also expected to only occur in the central area of Horsham, supporting the need for Horsham to provide services and facilities that cater to a growing local population, whilst servicing other outlying regional and rural towns within Horsham Rural City and surrounding municipalities.

OUTDOOR SPORTING FACILITIES

Current sporting facilities in Horsham are disbursed and primarily designated/used for individual sports, separate to other facilities. There are limited examples of co-location of sports beyond traditional relationships (e.g. Football/Netball clubs and Cricket). Generally, sporting facilities are ageing, not up to current day standards and are lacking in infrastructure. Although many clubs and sports have been able to 'make do' with these facilities, they are not

of a quality aligned to a regional City, nor are they of a quality which provides a platform for strong sporting participation or community development.

From the perspective of quantitative supply relative to population, there is generally a sufficient number of fields/courts/pitches to meet the current needs of the local community, however, this varies depending on the sport.

There are significant issues with the quality of a number of facilities in Horsham including the quality and size of playing surfaces, run-off areas, lighting, condition of clubrooms (lack of universal access, female inclusive facilities), storage, car parking and in some cases scheduling conflicts.

There are currently no outdoor sporting precincts in Horsham that align to sporting association requirements to host regional events.

City Oval is considered Horsham's 'jewel in the crown'. It is a well-maintained facility and the playing surface is in excellent condition. It has high grade lighting for night training and matches (300 Lux). Further, current upgrades to the second storey pavilion (undertaken by the Horsham Demons Football/Netball Club) will improve the quality of their club rooms, however, there are a number of underlying issues with this facility, including:

- No universally accessible clubrooms or pavilion. The current pavilion is over two storeys and is an ageing piece of infrastructure. There is no universal access to the second level of the pavilion and there are no universally accessible bathrooms in this building.
- The size of the field is too small to host premier regional events, including the required amount of space for runoff areas;
- The field is poorly orientated for cricket matches resulting in short straight boundaries;

¹⁸ Victoria in Future, 2016

- There is one publicly accessible toilet on site, which is an ageing piece of infrastructure;
- There is only one netball court;
- The spectator grandstand is orientated to the south and can be subject to cold southerly winds;
- There are issues with the gravel embankment surrounding the field, including the quality of the surface and in providing universal access;
- The club pavilion is not currently accessible to all clubs and users;
- Generally, there is limited access available to the public (perception of private facility).

Facility improvements are required to City Oval to elevate its standing as a regional sporting events precinct.

Generally, short-term and reactive approaches to facility upgrades and development may solve local facility problems and assist in club operation and provision (which in many cases is urgently required), however, these fixes will not address the overarching issue of Horsham’s lack of appropriate facilities that cater to both regional demand and align to facilities typically provided in a regional City.

A strategic, overarching approach is required for the future of Horsham’s sporting facilities including the delivery of strategic infrastructure to bring Horsham’s sporting facilities in line with current expectations of social infrastructure and aligned to its designation as a regional City.

OUTDOOR SPORTING FACILITIES DEMAND SUMMARY

Table 30 provides a snap shot summary of the demand assessment for outdoor sports. For further detail on each sport, please see each of the individual assessments in this report.

TABLE 30 DEMAND SUMMARY

Sport	Quantitative Demand Summary	Qualitative Demand Summary	Position on Need
AFL	Sufficient current provision of AFL fields. Requirement for an additional 0.8 fields by 2033.	There is short term demand for an additional AFL field or use of an existing field for AFL to cater for pre-season training and future opportunities for club matches. There is a need for an appropriate venue to host regional events.	Need for appropriate regional venue. Additional field required for AFL use in the medium term to cater to future strategic opportunities as well as cater to growth to 2033. The facility should be multi-purpose.
Cricket	Sufficient current provision of cricket fields. Requirement for an additional 0.4 fields by 2033.	There is a need for an additional 'hard wicket' facility in Horsham.	Potential for additional 'hard wicket' cricket field for cricket use, to assist with training and promoting short forms of the game and cater to growth to 2033. The facility should be multi-purpose.
Soccer	Demand for approximately 2.4 pitches by 2033.	Current facilities are not of an adequate standard. Minimum one full size field is required to cater to the needs of Horsham Soccer Club.	Adequate facility and pitch required to cater for soccer, with potential to grow to 2 pitches in the long term. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Tennis	Significant projected oversupply of tennis courts to 2033.	Adequate courts but require one venue capable of hosting regional events (16+ courts)	Need for one venue capable of hosting regional events. Opportunities to consolidate courts should be explored.

Netball	Netball Vic identified need for 14.4 courts.	Current facilities are not adequate. Need for suitable venue with minimum 8 compliant courts.	Need for one venue capable of hosting regional events. Need for suitable venue with minimum 8 compliant courts. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Little Athletics	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for Athletics facilities.	Need for suitable venue, including 8 lane athletics track, which can also accommodate regional events.	Need to address Athletics facility issues, including need for 8 lane track. Consideration should be given to 'grass' athletics tracks in the short to medium term. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Rugby League	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for Rugby facilities.	Current facilities are not of an adequate standard.	Adequate facility and pitch required to cater for rugby. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Hockey	Does not meet the 'typical' population provision trigger for synthetic hockey facilities.	There is no facility in Horsham for Hockey games. Need for a facility located in Horsham.	Hockey facility required in Horsham. Facility should be multi-purpose.
Lawn Bowls	Adequate supply of Bowls Greens.	Lawn Bowls facilities in Horsham currently competing against each other for members.	Adequate number of bowling greens with opportunity for consolidation. Potential to upgrade one venue to be capable of hosting regional events.

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES (REVIEW)

Review of existing reports relating to indoor sports facilities in Horsham and recent consultation with sporting associations and clubs provided a number of findings in regard to existing indoor sporting facilities.

Generally, there is an adequate number of indoor courts to support the needs for local standard provision, however, existing facilities are generally non-compliant, ageing, do not meet contemporary facility standards, do not cater to all demographics and cannot cater to regional events.

Previous work has determined that there is a pressing need to develop a multi-purpose indoor sporting facility in Horsham. A number of sites were assessed for this facility, with the McBryde street site identified as the preferred location through a robust site assessment matrix. Centrally located sites, close to existing businesses would be beneficial for an indoor sports stadium for a number of reasons, including:

- Enabling the consolidation of regional sporting infrastructure within the central area, producing spin off benefits for existing businesses within the town centre when events are hosted in town;
- Provides an equitable location from an access point of view for residents;
- Provides access to existing infrastructure and services such as accommodation, cafes and restaurants for events visitors;
- Consolidates and improves the role and primacy of the CBD;
- Provides opportunity to showcase modern infrastructure to both visitors and residents (existing and potential).

A concept masterplan and Business case was prepared for an indoor facility on McBryde Street in Horsham, adjacent to the existing basketball stadium. The need for multi-purpose indoor sports facility remains a key project for the City of Horsham and wider region.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1. OVERVIEW

The following recommendations for the provision of sporting facilities in Horsham are based on the demand assessment, consultation and assessment of existing facilities within Horsham. Whilst it is acknowledged that these recommendations will require time and funding to plan and deliver, the recommendations are designed to set Horsham on the “right path” in terms of the provision of sporting facilities and community infrastructure in the municipality. Quick fixes or reactionary approaches to facility provision have not worked in the past and if repeated will not achieve the best outcomes for current and future generations.

Further work is required to progress these recommendations, this may include the need to review/finalise existing concepts/designs, assessments of optimum sites, layout and components (including preparation of masterplans), and business cases to support funding and investment.

17.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Upgrade City Oval as Horsham’s premier regional AFL/cricket venue – Upgrade City Oval as required to enable it to host regional AFL and cricket sporting events and other non-sporting events. Upgrades required may include expansion of the size of the field to increase runoff, a new multi-purpose pavilion and clubrooms (including fully accessible and female friendly facilities) and covered spectator areas. Delivery of a second netball court would assist in club training and matches.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Utilisation of an existing asset and infrastructure.
- Key location adjacent to the CAD and Wimmera River precinct.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham’s designation as a regional City.
- To attract regional level sporting events driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- The need to provide compliant sporting facilities.
- Support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
- Improvement of integration with surrounding areas, in particular Sawyer Park and Riverfront precinct.
- Opportunities for use by other sporting codes for regional events and non-sporting events.

2. **Develop a Regional Indoor Sports Precinct** – development of a regional indoor sports precinct at the McBryde Street site, providing for basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball and squash. This project should build on the work completed as part of the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*, including the re-examining of proposed concepts based on outcomes of consultation with key stakeholders.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Demand from indoor sports for an appropriate facility to host training, events and matches.
- The need to provide compliant sporting facilities.
- The need to provide additional courts to meet current and projected demand.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
- Support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
- To attract regional level sporting events driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Opportunity to attract non-sporting events.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- The need to co-locate and share infrastructure so asset utilisation is maximised.
- Support and justification as identified through the *Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)*.

3. **Develop an outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct** – plan for and develop a new multi-purpose shared infrastructure outdoor sports precinct. The *Wimmera River and CAD Project* has identified the opportunity to transition the Crown land reserve at the Horsham Showgrounds precinct, currently occupied by the Horsham Greyhounds, to an active sports, passive recreation and tourism precinct, which aligns to the opportunity for a multi-purpose sports precinct. As a preliminary concept this should include provision of multipurpose sporting facilities. Key sports facilities considered for inclusion include Athletics (including 8 lane grass track and associated athletics facilities), soccer/rugby fields and a synthetic hockey pitch. Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of a shared use oval for AFL/Cricket training and matches, this could be delivered as part of a multi-purpose grass field that has the capacity to accommodate multiple sports (i.e. soccer, rugby, AFL, cricket). Consideration could also be given to the inclusion of tennis courts with the synthetic hockey facility, however this would require two hockey pitches to deliver the required amount of courts to service regional events (i.e. 16 courts) and would be subject to site capacity and appropriate shared surfaces. Any new tennis courts delivered at the Showgrounds would result in the need to consolidate existing tennis facilities in central Horsham due to the existing over supply of courts. Further work is required to deliver on this concept, including an assessment of facility and site requirements and the preparation of a masterplan and business case to support investment.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Demand from sports for appropriate and suitable facilities for training, matches and club facilities (little athletics, soccer, rugby and hockey).
- Demand for an additional AFL field for training, matches and catering for future growth opportunities.
- Demand from cricket for an additional 'hard wicket' facility.

¹⁹ Note: Recommendation 4 relates to the upgrade of an existing tennis facility, should new tennis facilities in this location not progress

- Demand from Hockey for a venue/surface capable of hosting matches in Horsham (currently utilise Dimboola for matches) and an appropriate training surface.
 - Demand from soccer for an appropriate venue for training and matches, including a full-sized soccer pitch.
 - Demand from tennis for a venue capable of hosting regional events.
 - The need to support increased participation for all ages and demographics, including through provision of universally accessible and all gender facilities.
 - Encouraging growth and participation in grass roots sports;
 - Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
 - To attract municipal level sporting events including creating new opportunities for little athletics, soccer, rugby events (and hockey if not delivered as part of Direction 2).
 - Driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
 - Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
 - The need to co-locate and share infrastructure so asset utilisation is maximised.
4. **Upgrade an existing tennis facility to enable hosting of regional events - If not possible as part of facilities at the Showgrounds (Recommendation 3),** an upgrade of an existing tennis facility such as Haven Tennis Courts should be explored. This could include delivering an additional 4 hard courts (to bring the total to 16 courts) and appropriate amenities and infrastructure to make it capable of hosting regional tennis events. A masterplan would need to be prepared to guide the upgrade, considering upgrades to the quantity of courts, clubrooms/pavilions, access and car parking needs.

Justification for Recommendation:

- There is a significant current supply/potential oversupply of tennis courts across the municipality.
- Maximise utilisation of existing infrastructure and existing assets.
- Opportunities exist for tennis that can be built on to enable the attraction of regional events.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
- To attract regional level tennis sporting events.
- Driving increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- There are currently 12 hard courts at Haven, which include shaded space between them for spectators, which is an important consideration for events.

5. **Upgrade an existing Bowls Club to enable hosting of regional events** – work in partnership with private Bowls clubs to upgrade an appropriate venue making it suitable to host regional events. Potential preliminary clubs for consideration include Sunnyside Bowls Club or Horsham City Bowls Club. A regional bowls facility could include four synthetic greens and required associated infrastructure and amenities including change rooms, social areas, shaded areas and car parking.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Although there are a significant number of bowling greens in Horsham, current facilities are inadequate to cater for regional events.
- Providing facilities that are commensurate with Horsham's designation as a regional City.
- To attract regional level Lawn Bowls events.

- Drive increased tourist visitation and expenditure and supporting the local economy.
- Delivering modern community infrastructure, which improves liveability and assists in the attraction and retention of population.
- Maximising the use of existing assets.

6. **Plan for existing sporting reserves within Horsham** - Assess the role of existing sporting reserves within Horsham once new facilities have been planned for and/or delivered. For example, if multi-purpose regional indoor and outdoor sports facility are delivered, potential future implications may include:

- The Horsham Racecourse would no longer be required for Rugby or Soccer sports.
- College Community oval would no longer be required for Hockey.
- Racecourse Reserve would no longer be required for Netball.
- Dudley Cornell would no longer be required for soccer or Little Athletics.

Further, in the short term (i.e. whilst planning is being undertaken for the long term delivery of a multi-purpose outdoor sporting precinct) facility upgrades could be considered at key reserves to improve the functionality for key sports, however, short term upgrades/facility improvements should not compromise the longer-term opportunity to deliver a multi-purpose outdoor sporting precinct.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Planning for key existing reserves once the provision for sports at new facilities is determined and planned for, enabling suitable planning for existing reserves.
- Enables potential exploration of re-use of some existing reserves for other sports or other opportunities, such as passive recreation or other community infrastructure needs.

- Exploration of potential opportunities for divestment.
- Allows for general local facility improvements without compromising on long term strategic directions.

7. **Rural facilities** – No additional provision of sporting facilities are recommended for Rural Areas, however, upgrades or additions to existing facilities in rural areas should be assessed on an ‘as needs’ basis, considering a range of local factors (e.g. area specific population and demographic data, membership, quality of facilities, utilisation, need etc.). Opportunities for consolidation of facilities could also be investigated if appropriate, if and when upgrades to rural facilities are proposed.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Generally, populations in rural areas of the City of Horsham are projected to decline, likely reducing future need for facilities.
- Opportunities for consolidation may improve the quality of facilities rather than providing many facilities of a lower quality.
- Assessment of upgrades or additions to facilities on an ‘as needs’ basis will ensure upgrades are required and justifiable.

8. **Structure Planning** – Identify additional demand for future sporting facility precincts through future greenfield structure planning, including the likely demand generated from residential growth and having regard to the existing sports facilities context.

Justification for Recommendation:

- Orderly planning of sporting needs for greenfield areas is undertaken during the formal structure planning process.
- New facilities in greenfield areas are strategically justifiable.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM LOCATION ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM

The following scoring system was utilised by Williams Ross Architects in assessment of potential sites. The scoring system included:

1. Unsatisfactory, fails required standard
2. Very Poor, below standard compliance with criteria
3. Poor compliance with criteria
4. Below average, just acceptable compliance,
5. Average compliance with criteria OR Not Applicable
6. Above average compliance
7. Average to good compliance
8. Good compliance, complies with criteria with deficiencies
9. Very Good - complies with criteria with only minor deficiencies
10. Excellent, fully complies with criteria

Criteria utilised included:

Urban Design and Locality (40% weighting)

- Compatibility of Recreation Use in the Neighbourhood
- Impact on Neighbourhood Amenity
- Accessibility - car access
- Healthy Place-making - e.g., connection to cycling and pedestrians paths, access to surrounding open space
- Proximity to potential facility users
- Proximity to support facilities - e.g. food and accommodation
- Site Capacity - for facility, on-site car parking, outdoor courts
- Site Capacity - for Expansion and Development Opportunities

Existing Assets, Site Conditions and Capacity (30% weighting)

- Existing Facility Condition
- Existing Facility - Regulatory Compliance
- Existing Site Condition
- Existing Services Infrastructure

Financial and Time Impacts (20%)

- Site Capital Cost to Council
- Financial (capital) Contribution of Existing Infrastructure / Facility on Project Cost
- Potential Impact on Timing of Project

Strategic and Legislative/Political Considerations (10%)

- Horsham Multi-Use Sports Stadium Phase 1 Report
- Local Policy Compliance - e.g. Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan; Horsham Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2018
- State-wide Health and Well-Being Policy Compliance - e.g. Healthy by Design - Heart Foundation; Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)
- Planning Policy Compliance
- Community Support

TABLE 31 SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Siting and Location Criteria	Performance Measure / Weighting
Urban Design & Locality	40%
Compatibility of Recreation Use in the Neighbourhood	A measure of whether the Recreation Use is compatible with the site location to a 1km radius
Impact on Neighbourhood Amenity	A measure of the impact of the future Recreation Use on local amenity (i.e., building bulk, traffic increases, weekend and evening use) (high score = low impact)
Accessibility - car access	A measure of the ease of traffic management and facilitating car / bus access onto site
Healthy Place-making - e.g., connection to cycling and pedestrians paths, access to surrounding open space	A measure of the site's connection to existing cycling and pedestrian access routes
Proximity to potential facility users	A measure of site's proximity to potential local users - i.e. schools
Proximity to support facilities - e.g. food and accommodation	A measure of site's proximity to support facilities e.g. food and accommodation (positive impact on local economy)
Site Capacity - for facility, on-site car parking, outdoor courts	A measure of the site's physical size and capacity for facility plus on-site car parking, say 4 x outdoor courts
Site Capacity - for Expansion and Development Opportunities	A measure of the future capacity of the subject site and facility for expansion and further development.
Existing Assets, Site Condition and Capacity	30%
Existing Facility Condition	A measure of the overall structural condition of individual building (where located on site), based on observations as well as Council documents
Existing Facility - Regulatory Compliance	A measure of how compliant the facility is with the following considerations: OH&S, DDA, Hazardous Materials, Building Regulations, Sports Court run-offs
Existing Site Condition	A measure of the risk of known site conditions e.g. site contamination, flood risk (high score = low risk)
Existing Services Infrastructure	A measure of the capacity of the site's existing services infrastructure (utilities)
Financial and Time Impacts	20%
Site Capital Cost to Council	A measure of the level of capital required by Council to secure the site. (high score = low cost)
Financial (capital) Contribution of Existing Infrastructure / Facility on Project Cost	A measure of the impact of existing site infrastructure and/or buildings on reducing the Project Cost (high score = high financial contribution)
Potential Impact on Timing of Project	A measure of the time it may take to secure site (i.e. purchase, re-zone) (high score = minimal impact)
Strategic and Legislative/Political Considerations	10%
Horsham Multi-Use Sports Stadium Phase 1 Report	A measure of the site's compliance with the Phase 1 Report
Local Policy Compliance - e.g. Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan; Horsham Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2018	A measure of the current facility's compliance with relevant Council Policies for the project area
State-wide Health and Well-Being Policy Compliance - e.g. Healthy by Design - Heart Foundation; Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)	A measure of the current facility's compliance with relevant State Government Policies for the project area (e.g. SRV)
Planning Policy Compliance	A measure of the current facility's compliance with the State and Local policy directions of the Horsham Rural Planning Scheme.
Community Support	A high level measure of the potential community support for the location of a Recreation Facility on this site (high score = high community support)

Source: William Ross Architects, 2017

Horsham Wimmera River Precinct & Central Activities District

Vision & Masterplan

JUNE 2019 | FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Horsham Rural City Council gratefully acknowledges the valuable contributions made by businesses, government and referral agencies, special interest groups, community representatives, traditional owners and residents for attending consultation sessions and providing input into this project.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali 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.



PROJECT CONSULTANTS:



© Copyright, Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd and HRCC, 2019

This work is copyright. Apart from any uses permitted under Copyright Act 1963, no part may be reproduced without written permission of Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd.

Contents

<u>Overview</u>	01
<u>Study Area</u>	02
<u>Vision Statement</u>	03
<u>Objectives</u>	04
<u>Masterplan</u>	09
<u>Transformative Projects</u>	15
<u>Land Use, Redevelopment and Investment</u>	16
<u>Staging</u>	21
<u>Where to From Here?</u>	22

Overview

Horsham Rural City Council is planning for the long-term future of the Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District (CAD). The aim is to transform and revitalise the area to make it a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in.

This project forms part of *Transforming Horsham*, a suite of projects being undertaken concurrently by Council with a view to creating a brighter future for Horsham over the coming decades. *Transforming Horsham* is about imagining together, talking together, working together and moving forward together.

This document is a long term Vision and Masterplan for central Horsham and will be used to guide the revitalisation of the area over the next 20 to 30 years. The Vision and Masterplan is informed by independent research, analysis and consultation with representatives of community groups, organisations, businesses, Government agencies and traditional owners.

To respond to research and analysis, initiatives were identified where they could materially improve one or both of the following principles:



Liveability

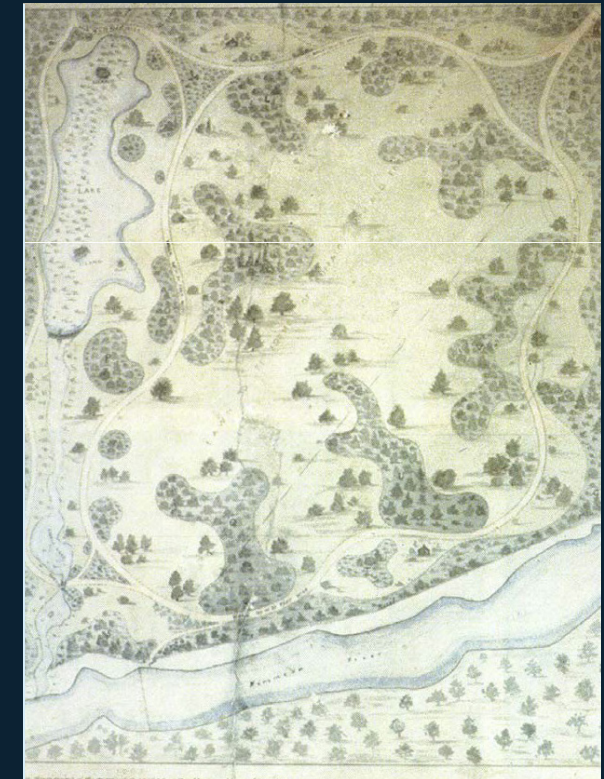
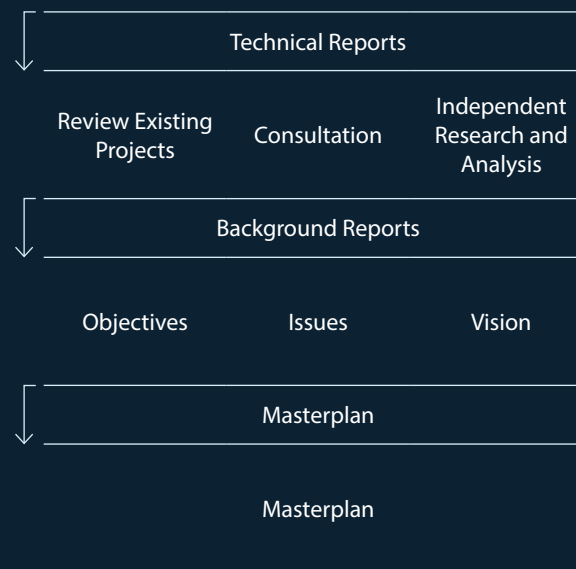


Economic Resilience

Council invites input and feedback from all members of the community on the content of this Vision and Masterplan.

THE PROCESS

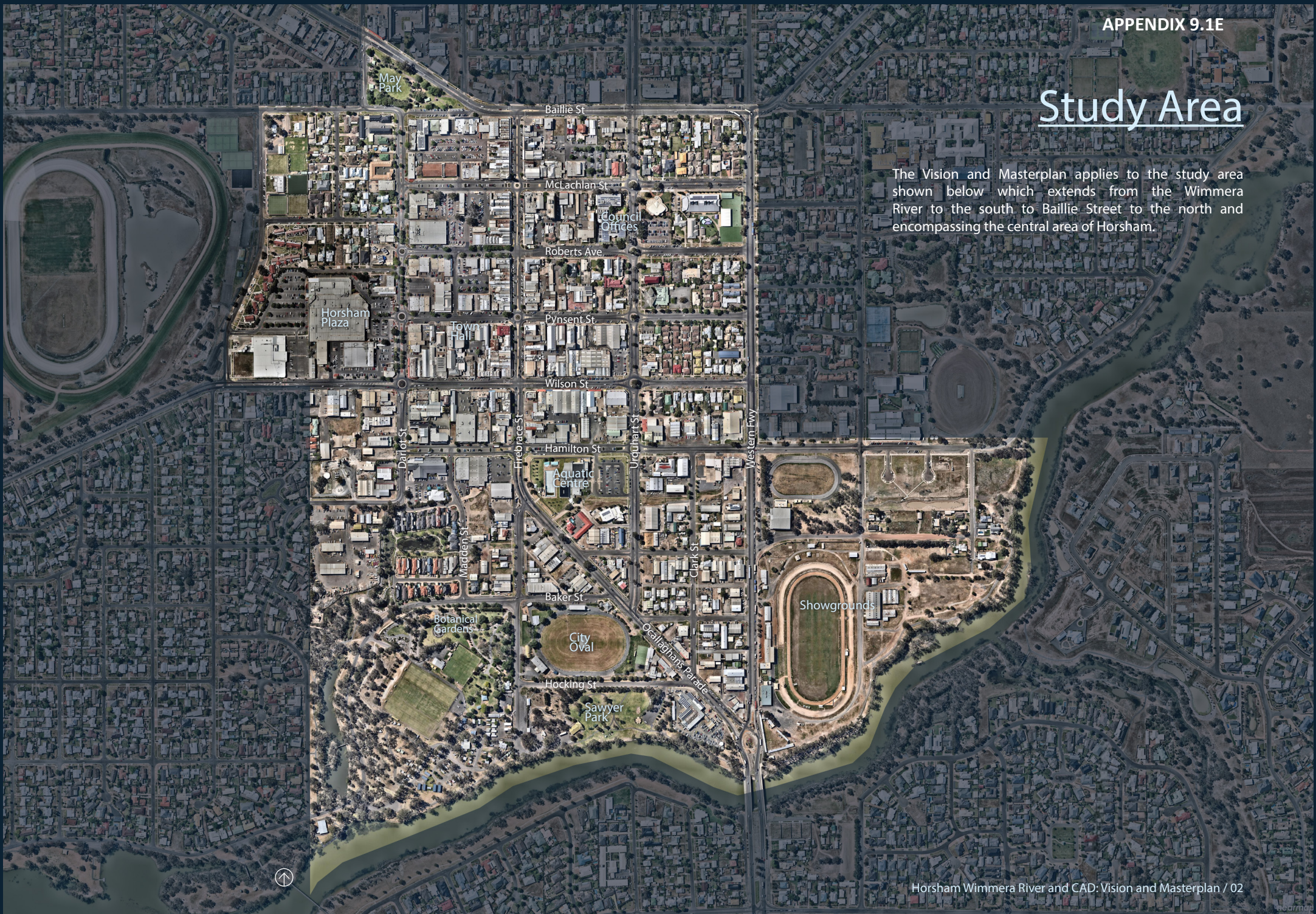
The Vision and Masterplan is the culmination of a series of steps depicted in the graphic below. The detailed research and analysis is included in the Technical Reports and Background Report.



William Guilfoyle's plan for the Horsham Botanical Gardens (1880)

Study Area

The Vision and Masterplan applies to the study area shown below which extends from the Wimmera River to the south to Baillie Street to the north and encompassing the central area of Horsham.



Vision Statement

Horsham is the heart of the Wimmera and supports the region's economy and communities. The success of the City is linked to its rich history, strong community and resilient economy.

The centre of Horsham is a thriving commercial, cultural, civic and recreation hub that will continue to evolve over time to meet the needs of the community, support and grow business activity and support and grow visitors to the region. The CAD will be better connected to highly accessible and quality open spaces, will incorporate substantially more shade and active transport opportunities and will accommodate more housing.

Horsham celebrates its connection to the Wimmera River, its greatest natural asset. The cultural, recreation and tourism potential of the riverfront precinct will be maximised to increase recreation, socialising, play, events, activities and infrastructure for visitors and residents. The riverfront will be better connected with surrounding areas, provide opportunities for public and private investment and creatively communicate the history and ongoing importance of Indigenous culture in the area.

By focusing on improvements which support liveability and economic resilience, the area will promote the attraction and retention of population and investment which will preserve the City's critical role for Horsham and the Wimmera region.

Together, the Horsham Central Activities District and the Wimmera riverfront will form an attractive, prosperous and sustainable destination that residents are proud of, businesses thrive within, investors covet, and visitors enjoy.



Objectives

The following objectives have been identified to guide the achievement of the vision across four main areas.

OBJECTIVE ONE

Wimmera River Precinct

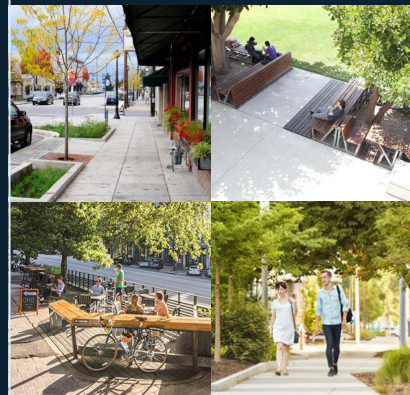
Activate, connect and add value to the Riverfront Precinct to establish an iconic community, recreation and tourist destination.



OBJECTIVE TWO

Horsham's Central Activities District

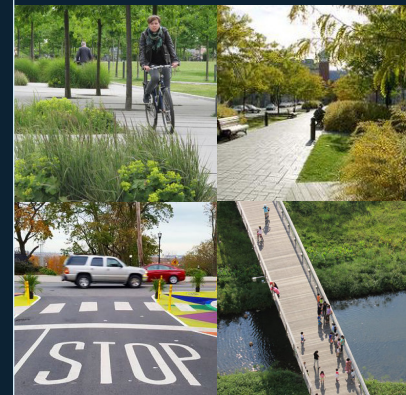
Improve the amenity of the CAD and the diversity of land uses to strengthen the existing business environment, attract more visitors and accommodate greater housing, hospitality, open space and events.



OBJECTIVE THREE

Transport and Connectivity

Better integrate and improve the connection between the CAD and the Riverfront and improve access to, and connectivity within the study area.



OBJECTIVE FOUR

Sport and Recreation

Adopt a long term strategic approach to developing sporting infrastructure that meets contemporary standards, promotes participation, accommodates regional events, makes efficient use of public land and integrates with urban and river areas.



OBJECTIVE ONE

The Wimmera River Precinct

A series of key directions are provided and are considered paramount to achieving and satisfying the objective for the Wimmera River Precinct.

1: Activate the riverfront to increase utilisation by residents and visitors:

- Construct a dedicated meeting place;
- Formalise and upgrade walking/cycling trails;
- Introduce a water play area;
- Develop and upgrade recreational fishing and boating infrastructure;
- Upgrade the soundshell at Sawyer Park;
- Public art and indigenous interpretive content; and
- Improve street furniture, upgrade lighting and public toilets.

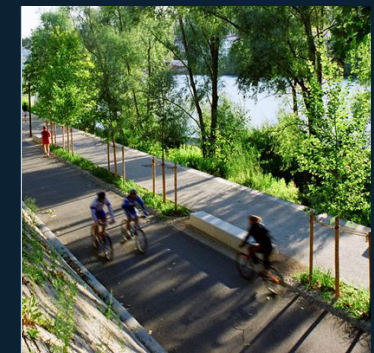
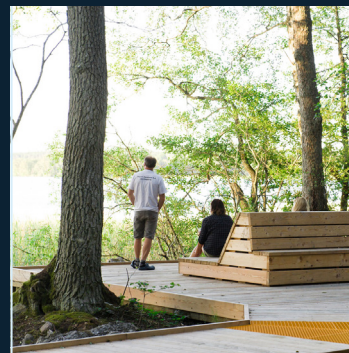
2: Improve the integration and accessibility of existing areas within the Riverfront Precinct

Including City Oval, Sawyer Park, Caravan Park, Botanic Gardens and the Showgrounds precinct and relocate existing uses to achieve optimal integration and accessibility.

3: Leverage activation to establish commercial and tourism development opportunities.

Identify sites and encourage development of:

- Hospitality – destination restaurant / café;
- Visitor accommodation;
- Business event facilities; and
- Arts and cultural spaces (e.g. Horsham Museum).



OBJECTIVE TWO

Horsham's Central Activities District

Five key directions have been identified to achieve the objective for the Central Activities District.

1: Implement the recommendations of the CAD Revitalisation Strategy

This includes improving streetscapes, prioritising pedestrian/cycling transport and connectivity and better integrating the CAD and the riverfront precinct with clear visual connections and landscaping.

2: Develop a series of meeting places in the CAD

Establish a series of meeting places in the CAD, which link with other CAD anchors including the Town Hall, May Park and the Riverfront.

3: Investigate the potential to redevelop/develop a high-quality purpose-built Government facility in the CAD

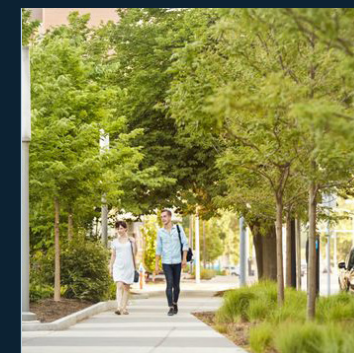
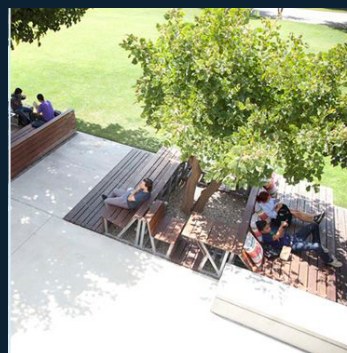
Co-locate a range of Government agencies (e.g. Local and State Government departments, agencies, Police).

4: Identify sites or precincts suitable for urban renewal between the riverfront precinct and Wilson Street.

These sites could both transition unsuitable industrial uses to other locations and accommodate new housing and commercial uses in the CAD. This includes relocating the Council Depot to an alternative location and encouraging land use transition along key pedestrian routes between the riverfront and CAD. Consider Burnt Creek Estate or Enterprise Estate as a location for any industrial uses wishing to relocate.

5: Transform the Wimmera Business Centre.

to meet contemporary business needs including reconsidering the operating model, physical requirements and optimum location. Potential to provide an integrated model that co-locates multiple uses including permanent and co-working office accommodation, temporary meeting rooms, community uses (e.g. small library space / gallery space / education facilities) and a café.



OBJECTIVE THREE

Transport and Connectivity

The following key directions are designed to support the objective for Transport and Connectivity.

1: Implement the transport recommendations of the CAD Revitalisation Strategy.

2: Create safe crossing points over the Western Highway and advocate for the downgrading of the road / creation of an alternative truck route

to remove large vehicles from the CAD given proximity to schools and the need to improve access to recreation facilities to the east of the highway.

3: Improve north-south routes connecting the riverfront with the CAD

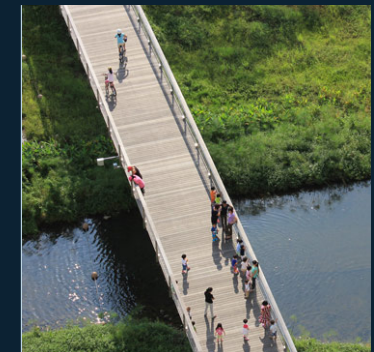
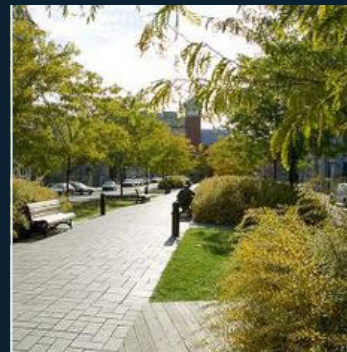
using existing road reserves as well as opportunities for 'off road' or laneway connections.

4: Establish an east-west linear trail along the existing drainage easement

commencing at Hamilton Street and extending in a south west direction past the Aquatic Centre to Madden Street.

5: Establish a pedestrian bridge at Hamilton Street

to provide an off-road connection between residential areas, schools, the river corridor and the CAD and to create a continuous north and south bank trail loop along the river in conjunction with the ANZAC bridge.



OBJECTIVE FOUR

Sport and Recreation

Three overarching key directions are identified to achieve the objective for Sport and Recreation.

1: Upgrade City Oval as Horsham's premier regional AFL/cricket venue

Upgrade City Oval to a regional standard to enable regional AFL and cricket sporting events and other non-sporting events to be hosted. Upgrades required are likely to include expansion of the size of the field, a new multi-purpose pavilion and clubrooms (including fully accessible and female friendly facilities) and covered spectator areas. Delivery of a second netball court would assist in club training and matches.

2: Develop a Regional Indoor Sports Precinct

Develop a regional indoor sports precinct at the McBryde Street site, providing for basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball and squash. This project should build on the work completed as part of the Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017) and reflect the outcomes of consultation with key stakeholders during 2019.

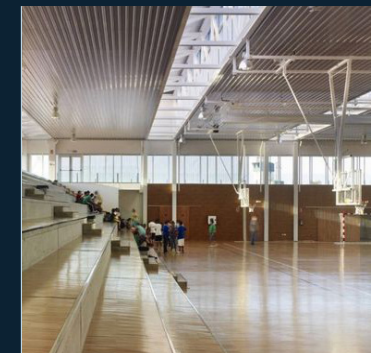
3: Develop an outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct

Plan for and develop a new multi-purpose shared outdoor sports precinct on the Crown land reserve at the Horsham Showgrounds precinct, currently occupied by the Horsham Greyhounds.

As a preliminary concept this should include provision of multipurpose sporting facilities. Key sports facilities considered for inclusion include Athletics (including 8 lane grass track and associated athletics facilities), soccer/rugby fields and a synthetic hockey pitch.

Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of a shared use oval for AFL/ Cricket training and matches, this could be delivered as part of a multi-purpose grass field that has the capacity to accommodate multiple sports (i.e. soccer, rugby, AFL, cricket). Consideration could also be given to the inclusion of tennis courts with the synthetic hockey facility.

Further work is required to finalise this concept, including an assessment of facility and site requirements and the preparation of a masterplan and business case to support investment.



Masterplan

A Masterplan for the study area has been prepared by landscape architects based on the vision, objectives and directions for the area.

The Masterplan shows the desired indicative long-term layout of the study area, in particular those areas that are proposed to transition from their existing uses to new or improved uses.

The Masterplan shows an indication of potential building locations, public realm upgrades, sporting precincts and other open space proposals, however the exact locations and layouts within each site may change depending on more detailed planning.

The most important role of the Masterplan is to show the desired long term direction for land within the area and an overarching physical aspiration that Council will seek to achieve through a range of actions, investment and partnerships over time.

Detailed elements of the Masterplan are shown on the following pages.



Legend

- 1 Firebrace Street redesigned to major pedestrian / shared space route
- 2 Precinct entry: junction remodelled
- 3 Baker Street remodelled. Parking
- 4 City Oval redevelopment to regional standard.
 - New Oval re-aligned and enlarged
 - Community netball courts
 - Improved pavilion and amenities
 - Public access through area increased
- 5 Hocking Street repurposed for car parking and shared use
- 6 New water play facility
- 7 New paths and connections
- 8 Explore commercial opportunities at Wilson Bolton site.
 - Iconic gateway building
 - Generous public riparian access
 - Building activation on Riverfront face
 - Public amenity
- 9 Events provision enhanced at Sawyer Park and connected to City Oval
- 10 Meeting Place and plaza.
 - Existing public toilets to be considered as part of redevelopment.
- 11 New cafe/ Restaurant on river-front
- 12 New waterfront destination
- 13 Improve integration and permeability of caravan park
- 14 New gardens and caravan park entry
- 15 Indigenous/cultural facility
- 16 New recreational fishing and boating infrastructure
- 17 Restored major pedestrian boulevard through gardens to river
- 18 Restored Botanic Gardens plan
- 19 New parking and shade planting
- 20 Existing caravan park.
 - Public through access with key avenues
 - Permeable and transparent boundaries
 - Services centrally located
 - Caravan park size reduced
- 21 Existing Playground
- 22 War Memorial retained



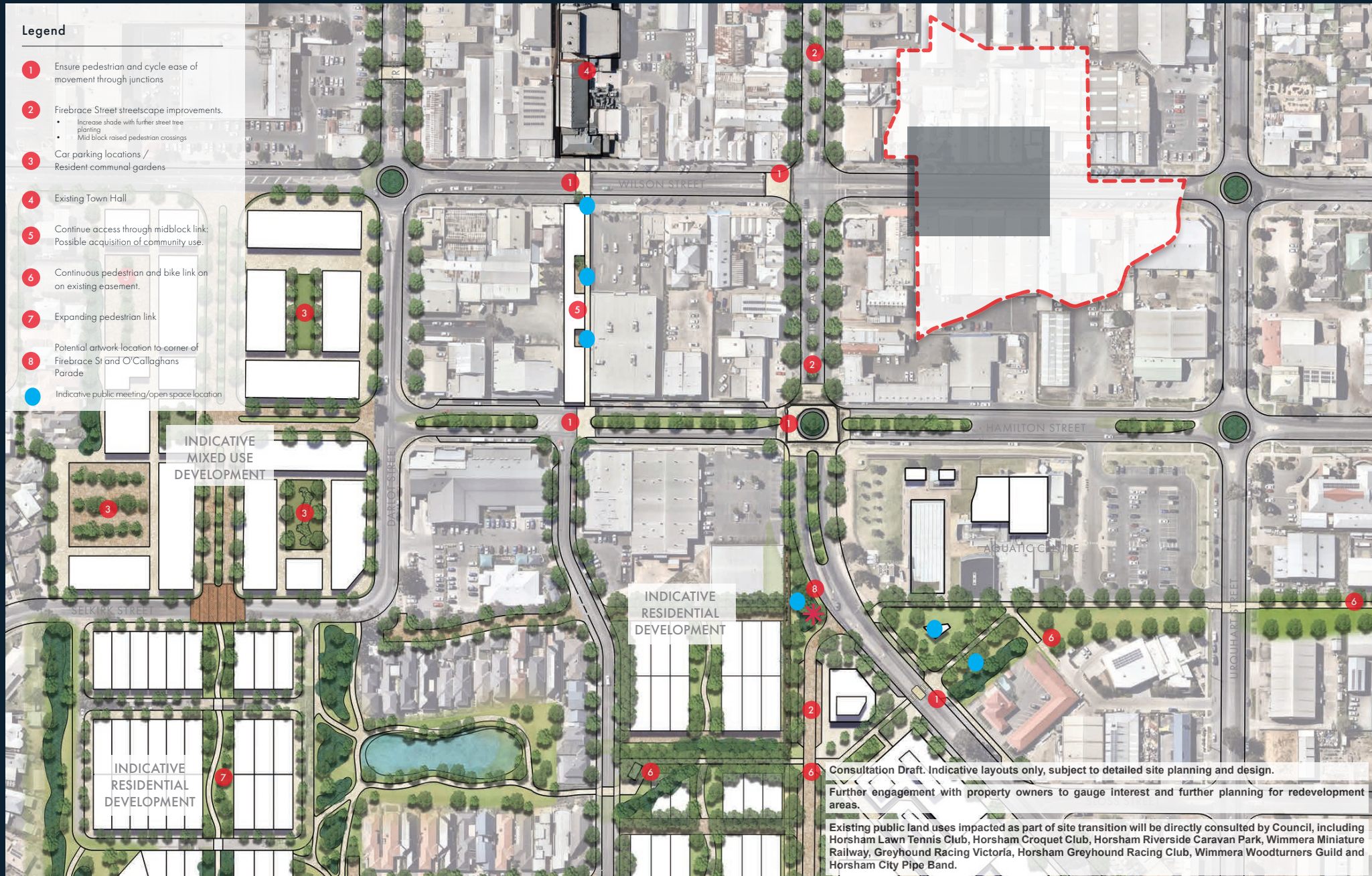
Further engagement required with Barengi Gadjin Land Council in detailed planning for riverfront precinct.



Source: Tract, 2019

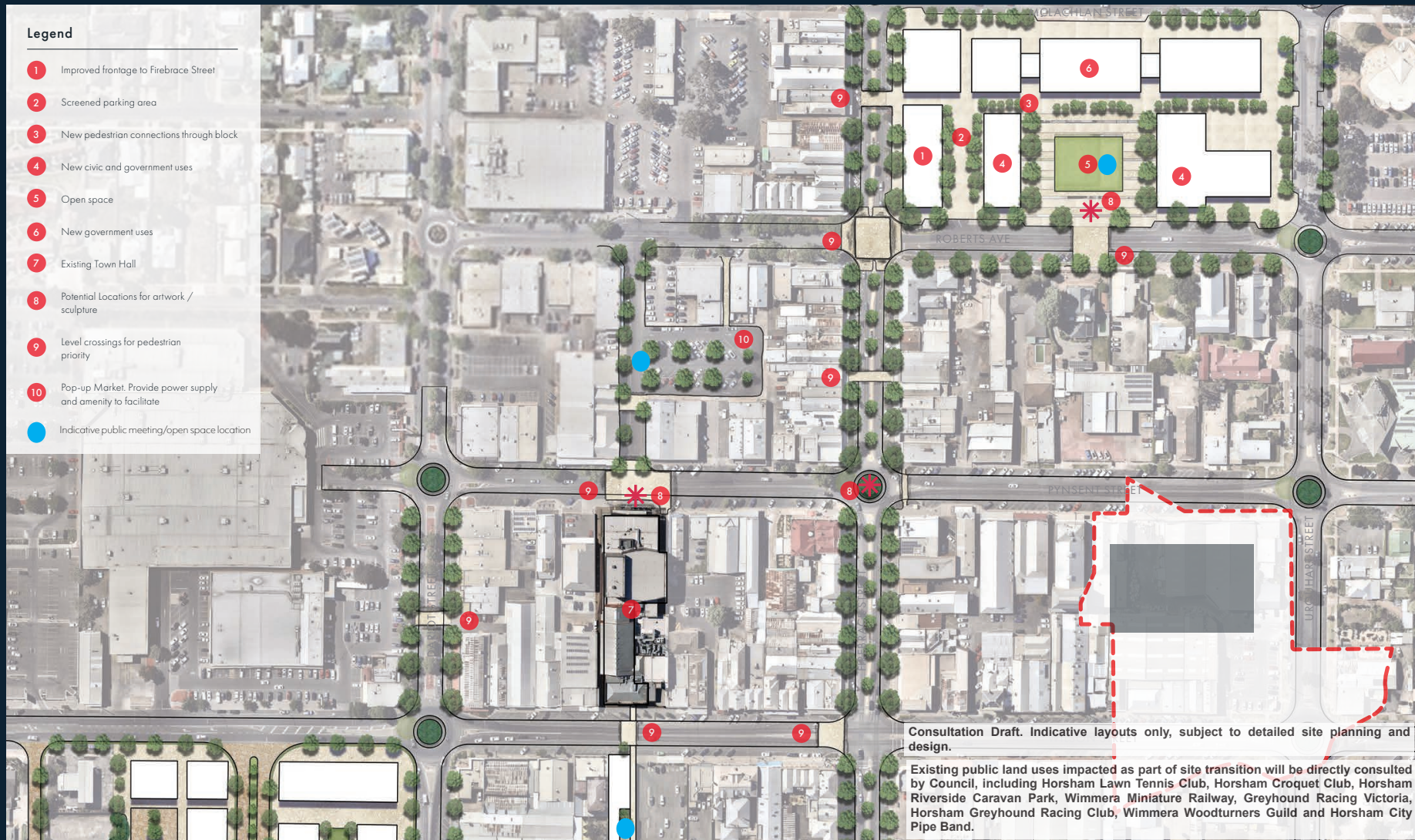
Legend

- 1 Ensure pedestrian and cycle ease of movement through junctions
- 2 Firebrace Street streetscape improvements.
 - Increase shade with further street tree planting
 - Mid block raised pedestrian crossings
- 3 Car parking locations / Resident communal gardens
- 4 Existing Town Hall
- 5 Continue access through midblock link. Possible acquisition of community use.
- 6 Continuous pedestrian and bike link on an existing easement.
- 7 Expanding pedestrian link
- 8 Potential artwork location to corner of Firebrace St and O'Callaghans Parade
- Indicative public meeting/open space location



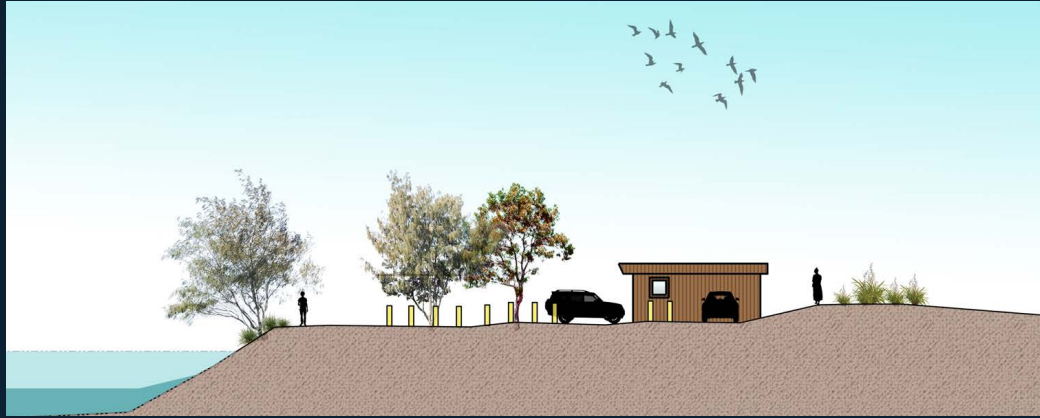
Consultation Draft. Indicative layouts only, subject to detailed site planning and design.
 Further engagement with property owners to gauge interest and further planning for redevelopment areas.
 Existing public land uses impacted as part of site transition will be directly consulted by Council, including Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, Horsham Croquet Club, Horsham Riverside Caravan Park, Wimmera Miniature Railway, Greyhound Racing Victoria, Horsham Greyhound Racing Club, Wimmera Woodturners Guild and Horsham City Pipe Band.

Source: Tract, 2019



Source: Tract, 2019

Riverfront Precinct



Before

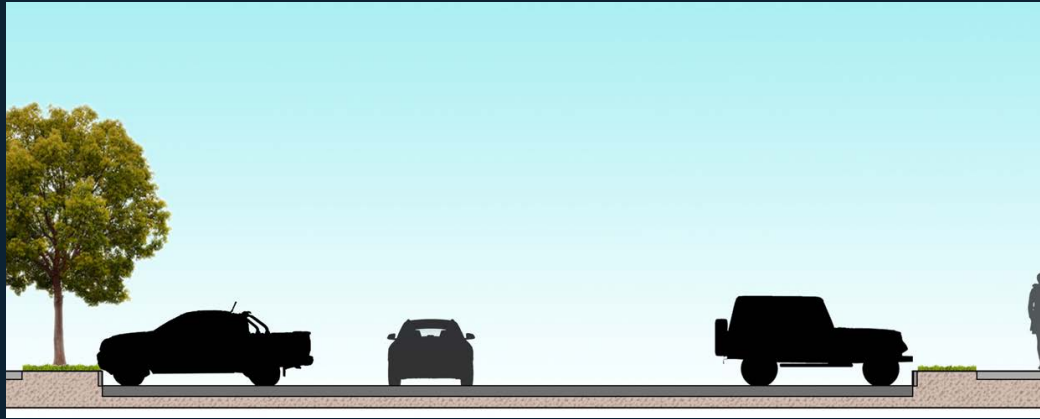
Source: Tract, 2019



After

Source: Tract, 2019

Firebrace Street (River End)



Before

Source: Tract, 2019



After

Source: Tract, 2019

Transformative Projects

A number of transformative projects are proposed as part of the Vision and Masterplan, particularly within public land near the Wimmera Riverfront.

Representatives of existing public land uses that will be impacted during implementation of the Vision and Masterplan will be directly consulted by Council in relation to the appropriate timelines and processes for the transition of public land use in the study area.

The following design principles should be followed for the major transformational projects:

City Oval Redevelopment:

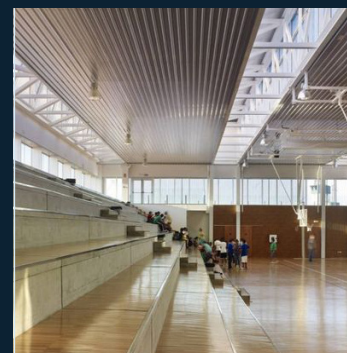
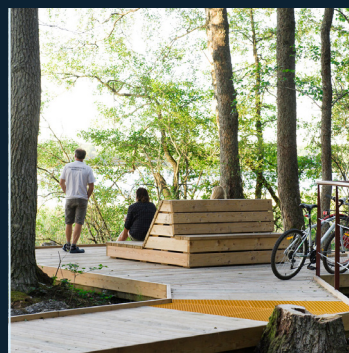
- Maintain the current sporting role and upgrade to meet all contemporary facility standards including Universal Design;
- Increase public access to and through the site by allowing greater permeability, removing fences, encouraging passive recreation and creating an inviting public realm and interface;
- Improve integration with surrounding areas including Swayer Park, the Riverfront and key pedestrian access routes to the CAD.

Riverfront:

- Maximise public use of the Riverfront for residents and visitors, particularly for passive open space, socialising, trails, play and events;
- Restore elements of the original Botanic Gardens Plan;
- Improve physical connections and integration with surrounding areas; and
- Incorporate Indigenous interpretation into design.

Showgrounds Precinct:

- Maximise shared use of public land for sports, passive open space and events;
- Make efficient use of shared facilities including car parking, pavilions and infrastructure;
- Consider the need to retain elements of cultural significance such as Showgrounds gates;
- Ensure a high degree of connectivity and integration between all elements of the precinct including velodrome, indoor stadium, outdoor sports, Riverfront and major tourism site;
- Establish an attractive southern gateway to Central Horsham and high quality interface with the Western Highway, including pedestrian access to the western side of the Highway.



Land Use, Redevelopment and Investment

The Horsham CAD and Riverfront Precinct currently accommodates a broad range of land uses. This diversity is a great strength which enables a variety of economic, civic and recreational functions to be performed within a relatively compact urban form.

The Masterplan identifies a range of major projects that will primarily occur within public land. Importantly, these projects are designed in many instances to improve investment conditions for the private sector to take advantage of greater activity and visitation. Investment could take a number of forms, including individual businesses or property owners making improvements or expansions to premises, right up to major redevelopment of key sites to establish new tourism, residential or hospitality facilities.

It is important that clear direction is provided to the market as part of this Vision and Masterplan. This includes identifying the type and location of land use and investment priorities that Council will encourage, support and facilitate over the planning period. This will provide greater direction and certainty to the business, property and investment markets when making decisions.

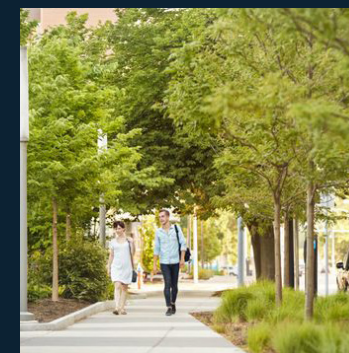
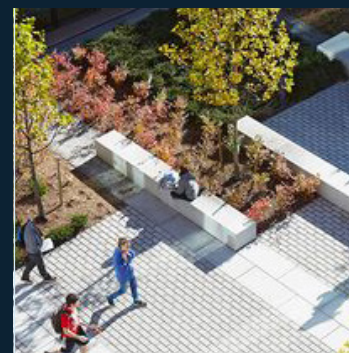
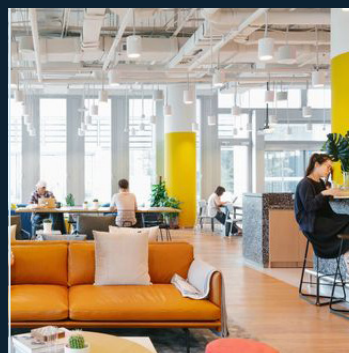
Research and consultation undertaken as part of this project and previous studies identified a range of opportunities to strengthen the land use mix to respond to market needs and capitalise on proposed public investment.

In particular, greater residential, tourism and hospitality uses have been identified as key opportunities for the area, while it is also important that existing retail, commercial, civic and business roles are retained and supported.

The land use priorities and key investment opportunities for each broad precinct as part of this Masterplan are shown in Figure 1.

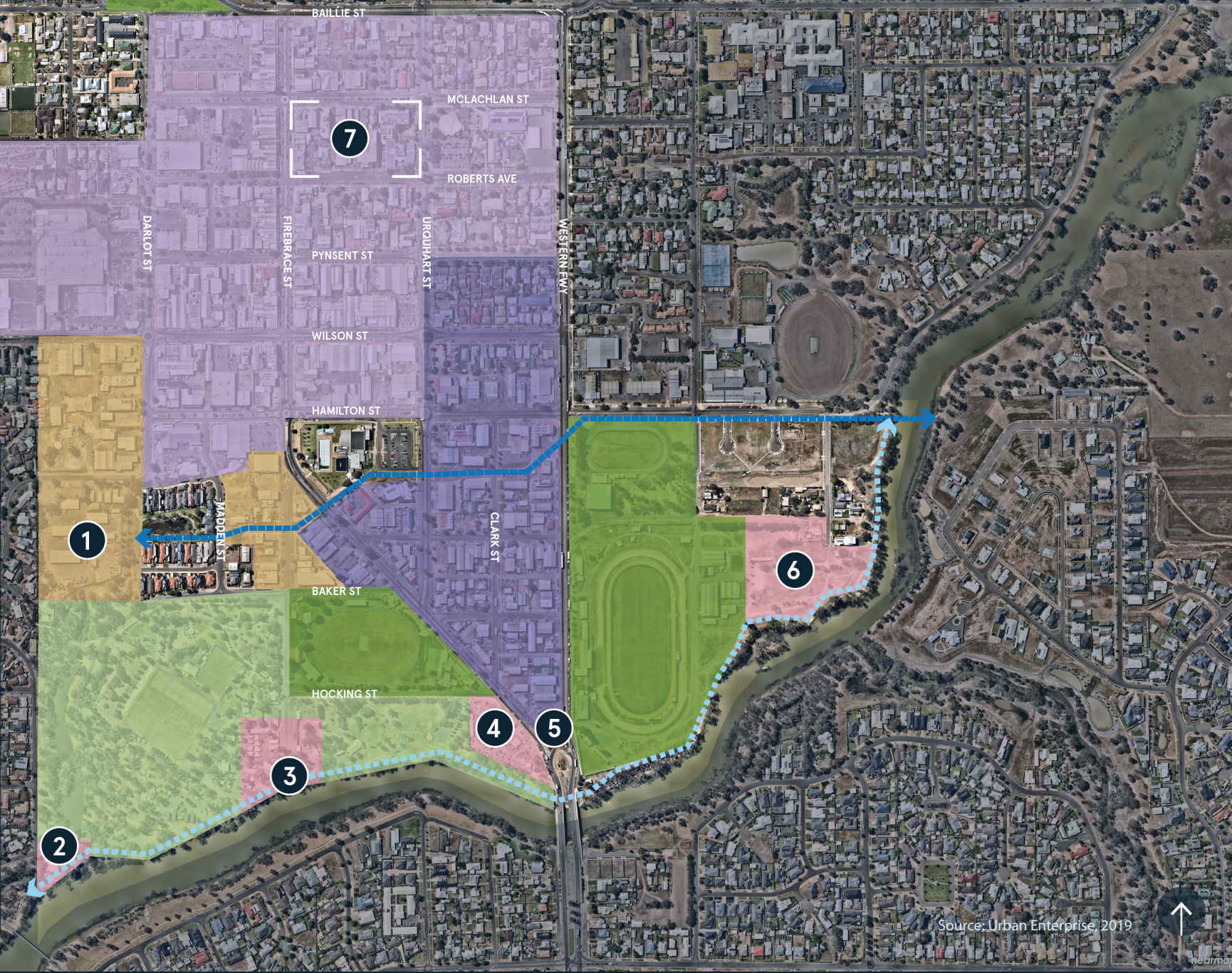
'Major sites' shown on the plan indicate the locations where particular developments could be undertaken to capitalise on the economic and tourism opportunities identified for the area, with a particular focus on creating new sites for tourism and hospitality investment in proximity to the Wimmera River.

A wide range of other sites across the Study Area will also be appropriate to accommodate redevelopment and investment.



LEGEND

- Tourism
 - Passive Open Space
 - Sports and Events
 - Retail/Commercial
 - Employment
 - Urban Renewal Opportunity
 - Pedestrian Connection
 - Riverfront Connection
 - Civic/Gov Hub
 - Major Sites
1. Council Depot & Batching Plant
 2. Rowing Club
 3. Firebrace St River Arrival
 4. Wilson Bolton
 5. Strategic Site
 6. Agricultural Society
 7. Government Hub



CAD RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL FOCUS

The CAD accommodates the majority of retail, commercial and civic land uses. It is important that a compact commercial core is maintained to encourage trip sharing and to enable a concentration of economic and social activity to occur within the central area.

Demand for new retail and commercial floorspace is not expected to result in the need for any significant extensions to the core area – therefore the vision for this area is to continue to improve the physical conditions and infrastructure for visitors and businesses through public realm and transport initiatives.

There are opportunities for the public realm to perform a greater linear open space role to promote recreation and social activity in appropriate locations in the CAD. This will encourage greater visitation, footfall and length of stay in the area, leading to greater private sector investment across a variety of retail, commercial, hospitality and creative opportunities.

Opportunities for commercial and retail uses to extend to the south towards the river precinct are proposed in the vicinity of Firebrace Street and Darlot Street as part of two mixed-use 'urban renewal' areas - this is discussed in the following section.

Artist's impression of Firebrace Street (toward riverfront)



Source: Tract, 2019

CAD TO RIVERFRONT TRANSITION AREA: BUSINESS AND URBAN RENEWAL

The section of land between the retail and commercial core and the Wimmera River (the 'transition area') currently accommodates a variety of industrial, commercial, retail and residential land uses. Land uses in this area are relatively inconsistent and there are a number of examples of sub-optimal interfaces, for example between heavier industrial and residential uses.

The land use vision for this area is provided in two parts:

- Land in the eastern section of the transition area has many attributes that support ongoing employment and retail-focused land uses, including good exposure and accessibility from main roads and separation from residential areas. The vision for this area is to remain as an employment area within the Commercial 2 Zone with existing businesses encouraged to continue operations and reinvest.
- By contrast, land in the western section of the transition area presents an opportunity for urban renewal. This could be achieved by replacing existing industrial uses with a mix of housing and business uses. These opportunities have been identified in two areas that are strategically located in close proximity to the retail core, open space and recreation assets, existing residential uses and proposed north-south and east-west linear open space connections through the precinct. This applies to:
 - Land currently occupied by the Council Depot and neighbouring concrete batching plant; and
 - Properties fronting Firebrace Street between Baker Street and Hamilton Street.

RIVERFRONT: RECREATION, EVENTS, TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY FOCUS

The land use and investment vision for the riverfront area is to establish a continuous corridor of complementary tourism, hospitality, recreation and events uses which capitalise on the substantial natural advantages offered by the Wimmera River.

Major improvements are proposed in the Masterplan to upgrade and activate the open space along the riverfront and improve and expand the sports and events infrastructure at City Oval, Sawyer Park and the Showgrounds. A number of opportunities have been identified for tourism and hospitality investment to occur on both public and private land in this precinct, with a focus on visitor accommodation and hospitality uses.

The catalyst for private sector investment in the riverfront precinct will be activation of the key public assets in the area to increase visitation, activities and events.

Council's role will focus on providing the strategic and policy support for this investment to occur and pursuing catalyst projects which can improve investment conditions for the private sector.

Artist's impression of the Riverfront Area



Source: Tract, 2019

Staging

The vision for the study area will require a broad range of projects and actions over a long period of time. It is important that these actions are delivered in a staged manner so that public projects can catalyse private sector investment, and to enable budget allocations to be staged.

INDICATIVE TIMING	CENTRAL ACTIVITIES DISTRICT	TRANSITION AREA	RIVERFRONT PRECINCT
Early			
	Deliver public realm and public space initiatives	Deliver east-west linear open space	Deliver early stages of riverfront works (Firebrace St entrance) and linear connections, including Hamilton Street Bridge
(0-5 years)	Plan for new north-south link	Plan for urban renewal	Redevelop City Oval
	Plan for government precinct		Plan for Showgrounds precinct
Medium term			
	Deliver new north-south link	Relocate Council depot	Deliver indoor sports stadium
(5-15 years)	Facilitate new civic precinct development	Finalise all urban renewal actions	Redevelopment of Wilson Bolton site
		Deliver all Firebrace Street public realm improvements	Establish tourism investment opportunity at Showgrounds
		Establish access improvements across Western Highway	Deliver remaining stages of riverfront works, including relocation of tennis courts
Long term			
(15+ years)	Realise government precinct outcomes.	Realise urban renewal outcomes	Deliver Showgrounds vision, including sporting infrastructure and relocated greyhounds and show site.

Where to From Here?

This Vision and Masterplan provides a clear blueprint for the future of the centre of Horsham. Without a long term vision and broad participation by the Horsham community, meaningful change, investment and improvement will not be possible.

Council invites input and feedback from all members of the community on the content of this Vision and Masterplan.

Following public exhibition, a detailed action and implementation plan will be prepared. Council will seek funding for major projects in partnership with other levels of Government.



Horsham Wimmera
River Precinct &
Central Activities District

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

PUBLIC COMMENT FEEDBACK

Ref	Comment	Change Required?	Still Relevant?	Completed in ROSP Amendments?	Comments	Received From
1.1.0	1.1 Broadly these are good strategic objectives as Horham is ideally suited for walking and cycling as it is relatively flat and the weather is generally good.	N	N			Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
1.1.1	Suggested that 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 should be joined	Y		Y	To combine or amend in line with ROSP's amendments	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.1.1	Rassmussen Rd school should be connected to the Police Paddock and from there to the river	Y		Y	To combine, amend or delete in line with ROSP's amendments	
1.1.1	Encourage means nothing	Y				Di Bell
1.1.1	Yes	N	N			Prue Beltz
1.1.2	Not required. Delete this recommendation	Y		Y	To combine, amend or delete in line with ROSP's amendments	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.1.2	No	N				Di Bell
1.1.3	Suggested this should be short term. Linkages between Police Paddock, Children's Hub and Cornell Park.	M		Y	Change to short term?	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.1.3	Create an all encompassing network to link open spaces in a safe and accessible way	Y		Y	Ensure action is broad to include 'identified routes at time of investigation'	
1.1.3	Nice idea. Dudley needs more car parking though. It is a well used facility and people travel from other towns to use it, we need more	N			Comment not relevant to this item	Prue Beltz
1.1.4	What are the existing?	N				Di Bell
1.1.4	Improve connection between north and south	N				Advisory Committee Workshops
1.1.4	Yes, and decorate the underpasses with murals or graffiti art. Need This particular item is of great interest to me and a number of people in Natimuk and would provide a good safe cycleway between Horsham and Natimuk and encourage commuting by bicycle for a number of people in town.	N			To be picked up in Public Art strategy or Creative Horsham	Prue Beltz
1.1.5	Identified that there are no safe bicycle routes in Natimuk for students to ride to school. Create rail trail stations – points of interest and to	N			Picked up in recommendations	Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
1.1.5	Makes sense, if achievable.	N			Part of Natimuk footpath upgrade prioritisation. Not part of OSS	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.1.6	1.1.6 & 1.1.7 These are of interest particularly if Mountain Biking infrastructure was part of the plan, as this would also be an attraction for recreational cyclists from other areas of the state, increasing tourism.	Y		Y	Ensure bike paths are recommended in Wartook / Grampians region	Prue Beltz
1.1.6	Yes nice idea	N				Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
1.1.7	This is very broad. There is also a walking trail at Zumsteins. Ensure there is access to the fire refuge at Wartook	N			Not within scope of OSS	Prue Beltz
1.1.7	Yes	N				Advisory Committee Workshops

APPENDIX 9.2A

1.1.8	This should be a short term action. Priority to ink up Cameron Oval, School and Hall at Laharum.	M		N	Change to short term?	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.1.8	Short timeframe	N			as above	Di Bell
1.1.8	Yes	N				Prue Beltz
1.2.1	From Weir to Sunnyside on East side	N			Too specific to add into action	Di Bell
1.2.1	Give priority to the south side of the river	N			Prioritisation will come into effect during action implementation. Should 'South Horsham' be listed as an	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.1	Ensure amenities are installed along walking tracks. Toilets, drinking, shade and seating	Y		Y	Include in actions an item covering amenities and prioritisation of amenities across the municipality	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.1	Yes, but need to have toilets and facilities they can use as well. From my time with the fishing comp this is an issue for us and our	Y		Y	encourage amenities along all areas of W. River in urban area	Prue Beltz
1.2.2	Need key paths (shared bike/ped/gopher) from all areas of City to river	M		Y	Action: Undertake a pedestrian network assessment?	Di Bell
1.2.2	Improve the walkability of Darlot St	N			Too specific to add into action. See above	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.2	Is this not already partially done with the underpass at wawunna road, extend that to the police paddock and voila. Just needs to be more inviting, a mural in the overpass, or some great graffiti art, even encourage graffiti as a every changing painting. And lighting good	N			Public art to be included in Public Art Plan	Prue Beltz
1.2.3	Install a side/safety rail for pedestrians crossing the overpass	M		Y	Too specific for OSS. Ensure safety is integral to pedestrian network upgrades.	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.3	This should be a short term action. Required for pedestrian safety	N	N			Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.3	West of the bridge there are 2 easy crossings at the weir and Anzac bridge. The only change there needed is a vehicle bridge. Mentioned above were potentially Hamilton or Baillie, I feel of those 2 Hamilton	N	N		Now removed from OSS. Vehicle bridge/access not included in scope of OSS - included in Urban Transport Plan scope.	Prue Beltz
1.2.4	No. Eastern end f Baillie St - pointless. Eastern end of Hamilton st - only if data supports. Change to long term. If River paths improves - they	N	N		Now removed from OSS. Vehicle bridge/access not included in scope of OSS - included in Urban Transport	Di Bell
1.2.4	Suggested that there is no benefit in having an additional river crossing for pedestrians. Need an additional bridge for cars.	N	N		Open Space relates to pedestrian and cycle networks. Not vehicles. This is covered in Urban Transport Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.4	This is long term, not medium for the extra river crossing.	N	N		Medium term required for better connections with Waterlinks estate (especially Hamilton st)	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.4	No point having both Hamilton St and Baillie St	N	N		Now removed from OSS. Vehicle bridge/access not included in scope of OSS - included in Urban Transport	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.2.4	I would think Hamilton street would be more accessible to housing on the South side of the river, and St Brigids and St Michaels, Bailie st is closer to 298, do many kids from south of the river go there? And Lutheran, if 298 is not in the feed area, Hamilton st is a better option.	N	N		Now removed from OSS. Vehicle bridge/access not included in scope of OSS - included in Urban Transport Plan scope.	Prue Beltz
1.2.5	Expected - why listed?	Y	N	Y	Remove - should be imbedded into principles	Di Bell
1.3.0	and gophers	N			Assumption that gophers are included	Di Bell
1.3.1	Again 2 separate areas, but a foot path the whole way would be nice. We don't have that at the moment. There should be a path all the way from firebrace to the river. I walk it with the band every Anzac day, and most who walk to the ceremony walk on the un paved side of the road, so a footpath near the railway and in front of the football oval would be good, as that suits the way the street moves better than	N			Is this being picked up by City to River. Maybe remove City to River reference and embed this into our own action. Include better pedestrian networks to river	Prue Beltz
1.3.2	Suggested that this should be a short term action	N	N		Now removed from OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops

APPENDIX 9.2A

1.3.2	Specific focus near Horsham Lutheran PS	N	N			Advisory Committee Workshops
1.3.2	Question: is it a priority to connect all to the river?	N	N		Yes it is. Encourage passive recreation	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.3.2	This should include installing or upgrading access and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles. Agree and Lighting. I walk my dogs at night, and walk at night a lot, lighting is an	Y		Y	Action: include lighting along river	Prue Beltz
1.3.2	Change to short timeframe	N	N		As above	Di Bell
1.3.3	Change to short timeframe. East side bridge and north side of river	Y			Change to short term. Maybe even remove this item.	Di Bell
1.3.3	Ensure elderly people are considered in all planning	Y		Y	Ensure elderly are addressed in design principles. Universal access. Added into principles	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.3.3	Improve all abilities access across the railway and the Western Highway	N			Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.3.4	Include a bike mountain track	N			Outside scope of OSS. Only if suggested after further investigation	Advisory Committee Workshops
1.3.4	Be nice in time	N				Prue Beltz
1.4.0	No to Ag society land - not sure of the other	N			Now removed from OSS.	Di Bell
1.4.1	Horsham to Quantong maybe, but just to have land there is no benefit for the dollars. Need to do something to the land if you buy it, a park	N				Prue Beltz
1.4.1	...through open and transparent engagement	N			Embedded into Council's engagement plan	Di Bell
2.0.0	2. The river corridor further out should also be considered for development in a number of locations with input from the BGLC, particularly where Native Title exists.	N	N		Recommendations amended to included all Wimmera River and tributaries. Ensure reference to Wimmera River is explicit when referring to urban area versus municipal-wide	Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
2.1.0	Once safe pathways to it and improved tracks along it, people will come. Fix pathways, add toilets, seating, drinking	N			Picked up elsewhere in recommendations.	Di Bell
2.1.1	Responsibility of WCMA	N			Not necessarily - the land along the river is managed by HRCC.	Advisory Committee Workshops
2.1.1	Define 'strategic acquisition'. Change to long term.	N	N			Di Bell
2.1.1	On-going	Y		Y	Changed	Advisory Committee Workshops
2.1.1	Yes you need to be aware of how infrastructure may affect flow of the river and the riverbank. But when things are used they are better cared for. You could set up groups to look after areas if you wanted. Like	N				Prue Beltz
2.1.2	On-going In partnership with WCMA	Y		Y	Mentioned in heading of action.	Advisory Committee Workshops
2.1.2	On-going and change to a short term action	Y		Y	Changed as it is stated as a key principle of OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops
2.1.2	Yes absolutely. Also info boards as to what birds and wildlife we have w	N			Same signs by CMA already exist along the river. Additional could be a more creative way of educating	Prue Beltz
2.1.2	Definitely. We do not want to lose the natural aspect of the river.	N				Prue Beltz
2.1.2	No brainer	N				Prue Beltz
2.1.2	No brainer	N				Prue Beltz
2.2.1	This may require the strategic acquisition of land to ensure minimum width standards for a shared path. Again if you are trying to get all abilities need suitable toilets as well. Riverside reserve would be the place in riverside and with rDa I assume already there.	N			Picked up elsewhere in recommendations.	Prue Beltz

APPENDIX 9.2A

2.2.2	No brainer	N				Prue Beltz
2.2.3	Respondent not clear about this recommendation	N				Advisory Committee
2.2.3	Yes an a track along it.	N			Picked up elsewhere in recommendations.	Prue Beltz
2.2.3	No right to ensure this if owner doesn't	N			Wording amended to imply more strategic acquisition.	Di Bell
2.2.4	Confusing because this is in contradiction with the City to River vision.	N			Recommendedation retained due to open space principles.	Advisory Committee
2.2.4	No. Tourist attraction in current position. - walk to shops all the time.	N			Economic benefit would be evaluated at new location	Prue Beltz
2.2.4	Agree that the caravan park should be moved.	N				Di Bell
2.2.4	Delete this recommendation	N				Advisory Committee
2.2.4	suggested that this be a short to medium action contradicts City to River plan	N				Workshops
2.3.1	Who is this aimed at?	Y		Y	Wording amended for clarity	Advisory Committee
2.3.1	Suggest: Design a program that encourages use of the river corridor	Y		Y	Wording amended for clarity	Workshops
2.3.2	Add toilets	N			Picked up elsewhere in recommendations.	Advisory Committee
2.3.3	I honestly see these as 2 separate areas. It is too far to walk to the river at lunchtime and have a sandwich there. When I use the river I go to the river, when I use the city I go to the city. I use them for different purposes and am in a different mindset when doing so. Nice to be accessible, but trying to connect the 2 as a go between for activities	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Workshops
2.3.4	Define?	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Prue Beltz
2.3.4	No time frame provided. Suggested Long. Duplicated in the River to City plan	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Di Bell
2.3.4	I do not even know what this means.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Advisory Committee
2.3.4	Absolutely, and need places to sit and eat. Honestly the main things we need along the river are places for families to allow kids to have a run, and be able to sit down for tea or lunch whilst they do it, and better lighting. These 3 things will get more people using it.				Amenities included elsewhere in recommendations	Workshops
2.3.5	Suggested that this should be a short term action	Y		Y	Agreed. Planning to be done before other items	Prue Beltz
2.3.5	Short term action	Y		Y		Advisory Committee
2.3.6	No. Don't include City Oval	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Workshops
2.3.6	This should be a short term action. Links with the City to River planning.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Advisory Committee
2.3.6	Delete – already in the City to River plan	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Workshops
2.3.7	Suggested that this should be a short term action	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Advisory Committee
2.3.7	Delete – in the City to River plan	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Workshops
2.3.8	Do not move out/ Good for economy - expos,exhibiting, other community events. Not sport	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Di Bell
2.3.8	Contradicts the City to River vision.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS	Advisory Committee

APPENDIX 9.2A

2.3.8	Delete – in the City to River plan Would be a fabulous spot to put the visitor information centre, the indigenous cultural centre, bbqs, lots of grass, parking for caravans and motor homes and potentially a café. Make this a spot for people travelling through to stop, get rid of the fences so people coming to Horsham see the river and see a spot to stop for lunch or a break.	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS	Advisory Committee Workshops
2.3.8	Playground for kids. It also encourages through traffic down the truck route. Much easier to attract people here than the Sawyer park site as it is hidden by Wilson Bolton and does not look inviting from the roundabout. We could pull people that way from the bridge roundabout. See this as a real potential for getting people to stop in	N		Picked up in City to River	Prue Beltz
2.4.1	I have list of ideas	N			
2.4.2	Delete. Not viable from a business point of view and concerned this will change the nature of the river experience	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up in City to River	Di Bell Advisory Committee Workshops
2.4.2	Delete – do not want commercial development along the river	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up in City to River	Advisory Committee Workshops
2.4.2	Don't believe patronage for success - Lift tourism first and see if investment comes with floating invertment	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up in City to River	Di Bell
2.4.2	Nice idea, but do not need to be too elaborate or expensive. Wonder with flooding risk whether it can be pop up arrangements or relocatable. Definitely need more seating and tables. Also Accessible toilets, we have a lack of accessible toilets on the river.	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up in City to River. Accessible toilets picked up elsewhere in OSS	Prue Beltz
2.5.1	First priority. Do this now. An on-going requirement	N			Advisory Committee Workshops
2.5.1	Should already be happening	N			Advisory Committee Workshops
2.5.1	Yes this is a no brainer. I really like the info boards and more of these could be utilised for this as well.	N			Prue Beltz
3.1.1	More specific				Di Bell
3.1.1	3.1.1 Agree Short Time	N			Lorraine Arnott Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.1	The cemetery should be used as a park – public open space, or new cemetery should be created next to it	N			Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.1	Cemetery is open space and should be developed	Y		Double check if Cemetery is included in Open Space listing	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.2	expected - shouldn't have to be listed	N		Items removed. Already completed prior to OSS	Di Bell Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.2	Respondent was not sure what this means	N		Items removed. Already completed prior to OSS	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.2	Yes	N		Items removed. Already completed prior to OSS	Prue Beltz Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.3	This should be incorporated immediately.	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.3	Short term action and on-going	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.3	Suggested this is a short term action	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.4	3.1.4 Agree i.e Bus stops to be easily accessed visually See through walls Perhaps Plexiglass or likes Short Time	N			Lorraine Arnott
3.1.4	Short term action (Now)	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.4	Short term action and on-going	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops

APPENDIX 9.2A

3.1.4	bus stops to be easily accessed visually – see through walls. Perhaps	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee
3.1.4	classless or similar. Short term time frame. Yes good idea.	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Workshops Prue Beltz
3.1.5	Expected	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Di Bell
3.1.5	Wanted more details of what this would mean for the strategy	N	N	Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.1.6	3.1.6 Agree Lots of opportunities North School Gym could be utilized need Education Dept guidelines Short	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Lorraine Arnott
3.1.6	Not sure what schools are being referred to for this.	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Advisory Committee
3.1.6	Which schools?	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Workshops Advisory Committee
3.1.6	What does this mean?	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Workshops Advisory Committee
3.1.6	Link the area to the Police Paddock	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Workshops
3.1.6	Isn't this already happening?	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Di Bell
3.1.6	recommend short term time frame. Lots of opportunities with the North School Gym. Need Education Dept guidelines	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Advisory Committee
3.1.6	Will it be supported if Dudley fixed?	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS.	Workshops Di Bell
3.1.6	This includes the existing North Gym, along with new walking trails, and passive open spaces. Nice idea and has potential. Would be a fantastic site for a sort of rustic playground come bootcamp type facilities, running through tires, nets to climbs, a real adventure park, where kids can feel free, and like nothing else in town so people will Be the best place to build a sporting precinct for Horsham, between college and the highway. Can be built in stages, would be able to be utilised by schools and out of school sports. So much potential here. The schools themselves are low in ovals for the size, so many more facilities for the schools closer to the river in this regard, but more students in Horsham West and a growth area., this is where a stadium, An opportunity at Haven for joint use of facilities to be developed.	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Play spaces for all ages picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Prue Beltz
3.1.6	Short, not long term.	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Prue Beltz
3.2.1	Not sure what assets would be identified	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Linkages picked up elsewhere in recommendations.	Haven Inc
3.2.1	Community to decide	N		Assessment required for this action	Advisory Committee
3.2.1	...with community	N		Assessment required for this action in collaboration with community	Workshops
3.2.1	I believe this is a huge priority, and I think community consultation needs to be sought on this. Use the Lower Topsis courts for example as	N		Assessment required for this action in collaboration with community	Di Bell
3.2.2	No. Prior to climate change	Y		Wording amended	Prue Beltz
3.2.3	The cost was queried with a suggestion to consider solar for lighting upgrades	N	N		Di Bell
3.2.3	Cost?	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Advisory Committee
3.2.3	Yes Yes Yes	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Workshops Advisory Committee
3.2.4	Cost was a concern	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Lighting picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Prue Beltz
3.2.4	See above and above, lighting is so important. I walk my dogs at night and also walk without them I feel safe except for the risk of tripping	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Lighting picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee
3.2.5	Respondent suggested not to focus on the Police Paddock	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Scope broadened	Workshops
3.2.5	Yes	N	N	Recommendation removed from OSS. Scope broadened	Prue Beltz

APPENDIX 9.2A

3.2.5	Is this highly utilised?	N				To increase usage	Di Bell
3.2.6	Isn't this done and one at Dudley. Still none at Sunnyside	Y			Y	wording amended in other recommendations to include all BOC	Di Bell
3.2.6	3.2.6 Agree A need for safety barriers on some parks that adjoin	N				Comment not relevant to 3.2.6	Lorraine Arnott
3.2.6	Langland's Park needs attention. Nothing there.	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.6	Create a walking track at Langland's Park	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.6	A need for safety barriers on some parks that adjoin roadways. (Kids running out to collect a ball or toy). Honestly, public bbqs, and picnic seating at any park is a good thing.	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.6	Give people easy access to places to have something to eat on a nice day	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Prue Beltz
3.2.7	Long term action	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.7	Long term action – need sports to relocate. Traffic is an issue	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.7	Little Ains needs a better facility. Absolutely agree, over near Horsham college and lanes and some would be an option. We need purpose	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Prue Beltz
3.2.7	To west precinct	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Di Bell
3.2.8	Not sure what this means. Isn't a water source already provided?	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.8	That is the on going issue with any wetlands in our dry climate. So we need to look at how important the wetland idea is and whether some	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Prue Beltz
3.2.9	3.2.9 Agree Is there any way BMX riders could use existing	Y				Amend 3.2.9 to allow scope to include other sites as options	Lorraine Arnott
3.2.9	M/Cycle track ? May need to develop Pump bike area Access to Dooen area is already in place with walking/bike track completed	N					Di Bell
3.2.9	Know some people with ideas. Great tourism boost. Think Tassie Suggested that the motocross track be used for the mountain bike track activity.	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.9	There is already a bike track in the area, closer to the river. There is already a walking/bike track completed in this area.	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.9	May need to further develop the pump track area?	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.9	I do not see this as a real need unless you are trying to bring mountain bike events to town and this would need to be driven by a club.	N	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Prue Beltz
3.2.10	3.2.10 Agree with bike/Walking track to Green Lake What is the Status of the Horsham /Natimuk Rail Trail that was talked about. Ideal place to start Short/Medium	Y				Make this Medium term	Lorraine Arnott
3.2.10	Re-write. Green Lake is to the east, whereas the Big Sky Trail is to the west.	Y			Y	Recommendations reworded to indicated 'key locations' rather than being so specific.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.10	Q: What is the status of the Horsham/Natimuk Rail Trail that was talked about? Ideal place to start	N				Picked up elsewhere in recommendations.	Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.10	Timeline should be short to medium.	N	N				Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.10	Agree that a bike track to Green Lake should be developed. Suggest	N	N				Advisory Committee Workshops
3.2.10	Need to work out how will be affected by bypass first. This is a place I can see people cycling to.	N					Prue Beltz
3.2.11	Good idea if can sort with VicTrack would make a huge difference. Start now. Lighting on path under the bridge.	N					Di Bell

APPENDIX 9.2A

3.2.11	Long and involved Need more information Big safety issue Short	N			VicTrack negotiations extended timeline. Cannot make it	Lorraine Arnott Advisory Committee
3.2.11	Put pressure on Vic Track to make a decision re: this.	N				Workshops Advisory Committee
3.2.11	Need more information. Big safety issues until trains are re-located	N				Workshops Advisory Committee
3.2.11	Was in a 2015 plan.	N				Workshops Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
4.1.0	4.1 In enhancing collaboration, including of other affected stakeholders should be considered where land managers are being engaged.	Y		Y	Wording broadened	
4.1.0	Reason for this?	N			Wording broadened	Di Bell
4.1.3	Cost to move them? Can money be better spend?	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Di Bell
4.1.3	They could also move to the above facility. There would be room there. Also a state quality footy ground.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside scope of OSS.	Prue Beltz
4.1.4	Yes, do not lose the natural experience, only improvement may be showers, but would prefer no showers than commercialising the	N				Prue Beltz
4.1.4	Consider any projects for the Haven Bushland Reserve. Short, not long	Y		Y	Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Haven Inc
4.1.6	Yes	N			Wording broadened	Prue Beltz
4.1.7	Also the users of these areas, so both sides are heard, respected and can develop ways to work together to see all needs are met.	N				Prue Beltz
4.1.8	Discuss better collaboration between sporting clubs to plan for the future ... shared facilities and co-location. Short, not long term. This is a cope out. Sorry, yes it does dry and refill naturally, but all the natural flows that traditionally went into the lake have been cut off, so	N			Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Haven Inc
4.1.12	not it is a lake that is dry, muddy or dry. It was the lifeblood of Natimuk and a real gem. If you steal the natural flows, you should ensure some artificial ones to replenish	N			Wording broadened.	Prue Beltz
4.1.13	Yes find ways of getting the flow there.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere	Prue Beltz
4.1.14	Yes, do not lose the natural experience, only improvement may be showers, but would prefer no showers than commercialising the mount	N				Prue Beltz
4.1.15	Environmental issues are the thing here. But something has to be done with this site. We do not want it to be dangerous for the people using it, but I would assume that a grassed park in many ways would have less long term contamination issues than a building as the grass and trees will help leech the soil more than concrete, but I don't know.	N			Environmental issues are being well considered	Prue Beltz
4.1.16	Lovely idea, but how, we keep hearing this but nothing ever seems to	N			Land acquisition with VicTrack takes time	Prue Beltz
5.1.0	5.1 Has the concept of an 'eat street' been considered where exclusion of vehicle traffic occurs either permanently or temporarily (target times) with improved outdoor seating, with eating places targeted and concentrated in one location?	Y			Action: Invesitgate shared pedestrian/vehicle zones and/or trials to activate open spaces within CAD.	Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235

APPENDIX 9.2A

5.1.0	Future development of the Haven Recreation Reserve and Anzac. Park should consider incorporating regional standard tennis facilities, upgrading the existing Activities Field, constructing a football/ cricket oval including a new Community Centre/Club Rooms, introducing walking and, cycle linkages to the Horsham CAD, enhancing the natural areas and surrounds, improving play spaces and the playground, and creating safer entry and exits from	N			Some items picked up in other recommendatins. Others - too specific for OSS	Haven Inc
5.1.2	This is the wrong way of looking at it, highway developments are not going to consider paths, we need to consider the highway.	N				Prue Beltz
5.1.3	...with community engagement In all future planning, consider open space areas for multiple uses, such as sports and	N			A given	Di Bell
5.1.3	recreation, active transport routes., wildlife corridors and flood storage basins. Short, not long term.	N			Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Haven Inc
5.1.4	No brainer, but infoboards on them is also helpful so people know	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up as natural	Prue Beltz
5.1.4	Identify and protect areas containing significant indigenous flora and fauna. Short, not long term.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Picked up as natural areas in other recommendations	Haven Inc
5.1.5	Good that we want to be leaders	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Not an action - embedded into policy	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.5	Would this make us leaders in the state?	N			Benchmarked against other councils	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.7	This should be a short term action.	N			Criteria picked up in other recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.7	Suggest this be a short term action	N			Criteria picked up in other recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.8	Not at all. At May Park and Weir Park					Di Bell
5.1.9	Expected	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Assessment to be	Di Bell
5.1.10	Regional sporting hub, indorrs and outdoor					Di Bell
5.1.10	This should be a long term action.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Embedded into principles	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.10	I agree, except people are not going to walk from the CAD to the Haven rec reserve. Maybe from Stawell rd, but it is a massive walk, would take over an hour, and then you need to get back again.	N	N		Recommendation removed from OSS. Embedded into principles	Prue Beltz
5.1.11	5.1.11 & 5.1.12 A regional network of off-road trails would be important to me as both a way to explore the area and for enhanced tourism.	N			Recommendation removed from OSS. Outside of OSS scope	Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
5.1.12	Seems to be repeated through out	Y		Y	Removed	Di Bell
5.1.12	Short term action. Big Sky trail needs significant improvement – seating, trees etc.	N			Removed. Also picked up in Urban Transport Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.12	Need to look at big picture and best outcomes, connections are	N			Recommendations removed from OSS. Picked up	Prue Beltz
5.1.13	Make sure that all wording re: active transport is inclusive of motorised mobility scooters as well as bikes and pedestrians	N			Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.1.13	Potential new home for Taylors Lake FNC, if they have to move due to	N			Outside OSS Scope	Prue Beltz

APPENDIX 9.2A

5.2.1	Delete – should be embedded in all planning	N		Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.2.1	Gardens	N		Embedded into principles.	Di Bell
5.2.1	Remove – as already covered in other areas of council	N		Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.2.2	Delete – should be embedded in all planning	N		Currently no plan/strategy im place - still required.	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.2.2	Remove as already covered in other areas of council	N		Currently no plan/strategy im place - still required.	Advisory Committee Workshops
5.2.2	Access water from the sewage treatment plants for use in parks and gardens	N		Currently no plan/strategy im place - still required.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.1	Suggested sparingly	N		Assessment for size/location will be undertaken	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.1	Shade in the CAD with relevance to places where people sit	N			Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.1	I don t see this as a huge need personally. We actually have a lot of green space withing close distance to the main street. We would be better making May Park and the area around the billabong at the end of Darlot street more user friendly as places to have lunch. Maybe some picnic tables near the Apex club rooms for example.	N		Recommendation refers to pocket parks, not large/local scale parks	Prue Beltz
6.1.2	6.1.2 Perhaps discuss with local Artists Indiginous and others	N		Too specific to add into action	Lorraine Arnott
6.1.2	Use local artists.	N	N	Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in Public Art Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.2	Discussions with local artists	N	N	Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in Public Art Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.2	Respondent said no, don't do this	N	N	Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in Public Art Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.2	Meander art through CBD to showcase businesses as well	N	N	Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in	Di Bell
6.1.2	Yep great idea and would suggest a moving display by local artists even	N	N	Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in	Prue Beltz
6.1.3	Great idea but must be cautious when selecting types Do not want to damage Infrastructure Short	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Lorraine Arnott
6.1.3	Make sure we plant suitable trees	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.3	Work with Native Plants Australia	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.3	Selection of trees to be done properly	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.3	Sort to medium timeframe	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.4	Yes Same as previous Short	N			Lorraine Arnott
6.1.4	Great idea but must be cautious when selecting types. Do not want to damage infrastructure.	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.4	Work with Native Plants Australia	N		Suitable species to be chosen based on OSS principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.5	Respondent said not needed	N			Advisory Committee Workshops

APPENDIX 9.2A

6.1.5	Identify linkages to connect existing open spaces	Y		Y	Amended wording	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.6	When replacing trees, don't cut all the trees at the same time. One side of the street only. Place seats in the shade, not in the open.	N			Embedded into principles.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.6	What is the point of this? Is this council's role?	N	N		Recommendations removed from OSS.	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.7	6.1.7 Yes same as 6.1.3	N				Lorraine Arnott
6.1.8	Suggested that this be a long term action	N			Recommendations removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.8	This will assist in enhancing usage and beautification of these spaces. We could also look into communal gardens in some of these areas.	N			Recommendations removed from OSS. Picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Prue Beltz
6.1.8	Simple solution to eyesores.	N			Recommendations removed from OSS. Picked up	Prue Beltz
6.1.9	Important - sicl of hearing this. Been all talk for years, even a committee for it. Involved community - I have lots of great pictures of unique and great entrances from travelling. Our brand is outdated.	N	N		Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in Public Art Plan	Di Bell
6.1.9	6.1.9 Yes Once again Consult Local Artists Short/Medium	N	N		Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in	Lorraine Arnott
6.1.9	Respondent said no, not required	N	N		Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in Public Art Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
6.1.9	Good idea. Consult with local artists. Short to medium timeframe.	N	N		Recommendations removed from OSS. To be included in Public Art Plan	Advisory Committee Workshops
7.1.0	7.1 All important elements.	N				Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
7.1.10	This is important as both the Grampins area and Mt Arapiles are as important to the rockclimbing community (locally, nationally and internationally) as Bells Beach is to the world surfing community. Engagement of climbing representatives (e.g. ACAV as well as the VCC and WVCC) to assist in determining the strategies and amenities will be Yes, and council needs to work at keeping climbing available for the climbers and facilitate good relationships between climbers and the indigenous groups so it is sustainable and viable.	N			General comment only	Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
7.1.11	There is a misconception about the relationship between the Aboriginal community and the climbing community, this has been dragged through the mud recently by proven false claims from Parks Victoria senior staff. Members of the climbing community are actively engaging with the BGLC to ensure that Dyurrite can be carefully and respectfully managed. The climbing community has been aware for a long time about the significance of the site, which can be seen in	N			Out of Council's control - sits with Parks Vic	Prue Beltz
7.1.4	Popular camping areas along here, with management should be able to Having very specific actions could be limiting to respond to changing community needs, grants etc. I would have thought having an action at the higher level (e.g. just 1.1 on pg.73 and not 1.1.1) would be good for a strategy and then an action/implementation plan developed underneath these. To commit to the more specific actions at a strategic level when further consultation with specific stakeholder may be required may be setting up for a challenge to achieve delivery of	N				Dr Mark Wood 18 Lake Road NATIMUK VIC 3409 Ph: 0419 540 235
7.1.6		Y		Y	Recommendations overall have been amended to sit at a higher strategic level	Prue Beltz
						Michelle Rethus

APPENDIX 9.2A

	<p>Given the specific nature of the actions I am surprised there is no reference to enhancing playgrounds and perhaps putting focus on one particular playground as a drawcard for visitors which is a good playground for all ages, could be artistic, promote nature play etc ... options are endless but there was no mention that i could see of this.</p>	Y	Y	Play space recommendation added	Michelle Rethus
	<p>Again given the specific nature of the actions there was no mention of how the river could be used for swimming. This already happens and I would have thought with feedback from the youth strategy engagement where youth often talk about fiishing and swimming there</p>	N		Water-based activities picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Michelle Rethus
	<p>was no reference as to how the river could be made safer for we write to you as a collective group of heaitn profesionais practising (or who have previously practised) in the Wimmera region. We wish to highlight the health-related importance of cost free access to our bushland spaces without undue restriction. We refer in particular to Mt Arapiles which falls under the Horsham Open Space Strategy. The individual and community health implications of restricting access are important considerations which</p>	N		Great comment	Lister House Medical Practitioners
	<p>have come to light in the setting of the recent climbing bans in the Grampians. We believe that keeping bush access open is essential to the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the patients we treat and As acknowledged in the Council's draft strategy, Arapiles is world famous for rock climbing. Climbing is a social activity that has pioneered an entire community and culture in Natimuk and to a lesser extent Horsham. A significant proportion of our local people are directly or indirectly involved with climbing and bushwalking activities at Mt Arapiles. Many rely on the business drawn by visiting and local climbers. We believe that divisive bush lockouts should not be applied to Arapiles as they are likely to threaten social cohesiveness among our small bush communities.</p>	N		Out of Council's control - sits with Parks Vic	Lister House Medical Practitioners
	<p>The freedom experienced by immersing oneself in the natural environment has profound benefits for mental health and wellbeing. Free and readily accessible natural spaces promotes physical activity, reduces depression and anxiety and allows for greater feelings of vitality and connectedness (1,2). Working locally we acknowledge the deficiency in mental health services currently available to citizens of the Wimmera region. We believe that such lack of services compounds the necessity for cost-free and accessible natural spaces for recreational activities that promote a healthy mind and body. Arapiles is a key location in our local region for such beneficial recreational</p>	N		Great comment. Enhancing natural areas is picked up elsewhere in recommendations	Lister House Medical Practitioners
pg 109	<p>Page 109 indicates that the reviewers are not recommending universal design principles. Women's Health Grampians believe that application of Universal Design principles is important to ensure that open space provision is equal for all people.</p>	Y	Y	Embedded into OSS principles	Marianne Hendron Women's Health Grampians 0419 185 777
pg 16	<p>Page 16 – would be good to see more inclusion of statistics by gender. Are the figures re safety correct – 87.1% males feel safe at night, 62.1% of females feel safe at night, yet the overall figure is 54.4% of adults as a whole</p>	Y	N	Equire with SBP - Double check stats pg. 16	Marianne Hendron Women's Health Grampians 0419 185 777

pg 18	<p>Page 18 – It is positive to see that there were a wide range of consultation methods used, which maximises opportunities for people to input into the development of the Plan. The background consultation report highlights that a higher percentage of women provided input through the consultation suggesting that open space design and provision is an important issue for women. It would be good to know if there were there any significant differences in</p>	M		Equire with SBP - Easy to split main differences in feedback between males and females?	Marianne Hendron Women's Health Grampians 0419 185 777
pg 35	<p>Page 35 – Horsham North - The plan acknowledges that Horsham North is underserved by publically accessible and activated open space. Foundry Park and Police Paddocks are two large open spaces within the Horsham North Area. These two parks contribute a substantial percentage of the open space in Horsham North and there are concerns regarding their safety in terms of passive surveillance, lack of amenities and activation meaning that they are less desirable for general use. The plan doesn't contain specific recommendations for Foundry Park. This is an issue of spatial equity. We suggest undertaking a CPTED analysis of Police Paddock and Foundry Park to see what options there are to improve safety and therefore useability of these areas. Because of this it is therefore important that the smaller pocket</p>	Y	Y	CPTED embedded into principles. Police Paddock and Foundry Park identified as locations to undertake gap analysis	Marianne Hendron Women's Health Grampians 0419 185 777
pg 4	<p>Page 4 Equity – should also consider equitable access to open space by all in the community in terms of nature of usage, not just geographic / spatial equity – i.e. ensuring open space is equitable to all women including women with a disability, women from culturally diverse</p>	Y	Y	Amended wording to include addressing diverse needs and cultures.	Marianne Hendron Women's Health Grampians 0419 185 777
pg 43	<p><i>In future planning, ensure that urban open space in Horsham South West provides for nature conservation, recreation and play, formal and informal sport, social interaction, opportunities to connect with nature and peace and solitude.</i> Yes, but the nature, peace and solitude are met with the river parks especially downstream of the weir.</p>	N		General comment only	Prue Beltz
pg 43	<p><i>Considering this locality borders the river, an improved bicycle network would be advantageous for the community to enhance connections to the river and the CAD. This should include identifying and developing all-abilities access locations to the corridor and the river, and upgrading access infrastructure and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles.</i> Too a large degree we have this with the track at the river, the race course and along Watonga</p>	N		Improved network still required to improve universal access	Prue Beltz
pg 47	<p><i>A shared trail connecting Golf Course Rd to the trail adjacent to Haven Primary School would assist in providing safe active transport connection to the Horsham township.</i> Yes it would, but it still wont really encourage cycling from Haven to Horsham, but a number of kids along the route would attend the Haven school, so that is an instant</p>	N		General comment only	Prue Beltz
pg 47	<p><i>Additionally, Hunts Road is also a well utilised road, and a shared cycling and walking track along this route would provide safe passage for the number of young families in the area.</i> Yes it would, nut needs to go to the school as well, or connect with a track that goes to the</p>	N		Picked up in recommendations table	Prue Beltz

APPENDIX 9.2A

pg 5	Page 5 – positive to see reference to barriers to open space and the need to address this – this includes more than physical barriers but also barriers relating to safety and perceptions of safety. As highlighted above, women often have a higher percentage reporting they feel	Y	Y	Safety embedded into principles	Marianne Hendron Women's Health Grampians 0419 185 777
pg 52	<i>Develop and implement a long-term revitalisation strategy for Dadswells Bridge. This will require a staged approach – and there must be a story about its significance and history to the region.</i> Went on a history tour there, amazing history that should be told.	N		Too specific for OSS	Prue Beltz
pg 52	<i>Invest in a major town entrance sign/feature at Dadswells Bridge celebrating that you have arrived in one of Victoria's most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham.</i> Nice idea, but how valuable?	N		To be picked up in Public Art Plan/Strategy	Prue Beltz
pg 53	<i>In line with the priorities from the Council Plan 2018- 2022, continue the ongoing development of community facilities at Cameron Oval.</i> Yes important to the community and region, also safety wise as I would assume it is a place of last resort.	N			Prue Beltz
pg 53	<i>Investigate opportunities to upgrade the landscaping at Cameron Oval with tree plantings, a community garden and picnic/BBQ facilities to enhance community use.</i> Yes, but bear I mind one of the few open areas in time of fire. Must stay a safe refuge.	N			Prue Beltz
pg 53	<i>Consider the removal of the old tennis court between the school and the Laharum Hall.</i> Potential to make into outdoor area for hall?.	N		Disposal of assets too specific for OSS	Prue Beltz
pg 53	<i>Engage with the Department of Education and Training about opportunities to acquire block of land on the northern boundary of Cameron Oval for the community. This block could be used for overflow and emergency parking around Cameron Oval.</i> Yes makes sense	N			Prue Beltz
pg 54	<i>Ensure the long history of indigenous culture is valued in any future planning applications or development.</i> Yes again info boards, make the	N			Prue Beltz
pg 54	<i>Encourage the provision of appropriately located picnic areas, toilets, bins, visitor information, tourist routes and viewpoints, particularly to the north and western fringe of the Grampians.</i> Yes and accessible	N		Accessible toilets to be picked up in Social Infra Plan	Prue Beltz
pg 56	<i>When considering future upgrades to recreation reserves, focus on enhancing community use through urban and landscape design.</i> Really this is doing nothing for Toolondo, you have no plan at all. Toolondo would benefit form some ongoing works around the lake, and provision for more water into the lake. Working with CMA and GWM water on a plan for water would stimulate the economy more than	N		Partnership/collaboration with stakeholders picked up in recommendations	Prue Beltz
pg 59	<i>Given low current and forecasted population, when planning for future open space in the McKenzie Creek region, consider the enhancement of natural areas for recreational use such as public amenities, visitor information and walking trails.</i> Again no plan. Cause it does not really	N		General comment only	Prue Beltz
pg 60	<i>Consider flood data when resolving any future developments in the</i>	N			Prue Beltz
pg 62	<i>Maintain the quality of the Pimpinio Sports and Community Centre and the Kalkee Recreation Reserve as these are key open space assets in the region.</i> Yes, all these sporting facilities are the lifeblood of the communities, you forgot this for Natimuk and Quantong as well	N		Not to be determined in the OSS - to be directed by Sports Facility Demand Study or Social Infr Plan	Prue Beltz

APPENDIX 9.2A

pg 62	<i>Raise awareness of numerous cultural heritage sites along the Wimmera River and assist in protecting them from impacts of inappropriate recreation (e.g. 4WD) . Info boards so people know the</i>	N		Picked up in recommendations	Prue Beltz
pg 63	<i>Continue to maintain the Jung Peppertree Park, and upgrade the play space to ensure that it meets the play space development standards for a neighbourhood play space. Yes</i>	N			Prue Beltz
pg 63	<i>When upgrading the play space at Peppertree Park investigate options which cater for children aged over 10 years, such as skate parks to cater for the high proportion of young people in the region. Yes</i>	N		Picked up as a broad action in recommendations	Prue Beltz
pg 75	Page 75 – Women’s Health Grampians supports inclusion of CPTED and Victorian Urban Design Guidelines into planning for open space.	Y	Y	Embedded into principles.	Marianne Hendron Women’s Health Grampians 0419 185 777
pg 77	Page 77 (5.1.9) – support inclusion of universal design in all play space and open space development, this could commence in short term.	Y	Y	Embedded into principles.	Marianne Hendron Women’s Health Grampians 0419 185 777
ph 61	Page 61 – see comments above re CPTED analysis of Police Paddocks	Y	Y	Embedded into principles.	Marianne Hendron Women’s Health Grampians 0419 185 777
	We are in need of a second netball court. We have 8 netball teams plus 14 modified netballers as well as younger net set go players (around 100 players) all training on one court on a Thursday night and playing on Saturdays. I have applied for many grants, video entries, pick my project and we’ve had no luck. Just wondering how we go about getting onto the list of open spaces to be prioritised?	Y	Y	Action: Develop a criteria matrix guidelines based on OSS principles for assessing and prioritising future provision, changes and/or developments to open space.	Shelly Stockdale Director of Administration Natimuk Untied Football Netball Club Inc PH: 0424 173 066
	Sport and Recreation Strategy 2009 The Sport and Recreation Strategy provides guidance to the sport and recreation advisory committee and the Council. The strategy was created to identify and evaluate existing sport and recreation needs, and service delivery within the municipality.	Y	N	Action: Develop a plan which guides organised sport activites for the next 5-10 years?? Query with ROSP/SBP	Shelly Stockdale Director of Administration Natimuk Untied Football Netball Club Inc PH: 0424 173 066
	The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are: • Priority Identification – Recognise the region’s funding requirements and prioritise the development proposals accordingly.	Y	Y	Picked up in recommendations	Shelly Stockdale Director of Administration Natimuk Untied Football Netball Club Inc PH: 0424 173 066

I moved to Natimuk in 1999 attracted by the rockclimbing and the community that had developed as a result of rockclimbing. I have been visiting the region for rockclimbing since 1991. In the context of the current restrictions around rockclimbing in the Grampians, I am writing to support your Open Spaces strategy, which recognises the importance of climbing to our community alongside the maintenance of environmental and cultural values. I am hoping that we can find ways in which these things can coexist and am pleased to see that the HRCC vision incorporates this. The continued vibrancy of Natimuk is dependant on both the resident and visiting climbing community. I have climbed extensively all over the world, and we have a unique natural asset in Mt Arapiles. The community that has developed here is also unique, but without the maintenance of Arapiles and the To HRCC,

thankyou for the posting the Draft Open Space Strategy. I live on Grahams Bridge Rd in Haven and am happy to see plans to expand on the bike/walking paths in the area. However I would strongly suggest that the shared cycling and walking track planned along Hunts Rd, continues along Holes Rd to Grahams Bridge Rd. We live on that corner, have 2 young children and most of our neighbors in all directions have children. Holes Rd gets a lot of traffic on it including heavy machinery and trucks at times and it only makes sense that if a path is built on hunts road that it continues on Holes rd. This will provide families and children who live on Grahams Bridge Road a vital safe passage to the facilities in the area and a link to the rest of the town. I would like to see a path built on Grahams Bridge Rd however do to drainage in the area I don't believe it is feasible. Therefore a path on Holes Rd would give families in the area a close safe link for walking, riding and intern would encourage them to get out and about improving health and fitness. It is discouraging when you walk on the side of Holes Rd with your kids and have a car, truck or farm machinery go passed without slowing down.

As an owner of a Natimuk property (not yet a resident) I would like to submit my vision for the Open Spaces Strategy. I know that most of my suggestions aren't around organised sport but please hear me out. As a keen rock climber, I see the value of climbing and believe that climbing/bouldering has the benefits of :

- A healthy way to exercise the human body without the high impact of other sports.
- Encouraging people to use natural open spaces with minimal impact to the environment and culturally sensitive areas.
- Bringing thousands of people to the area who will contribute as the biggest tourists group to the area.

N
Y
N

Y

General comment only

Ensure wording regarding Haven bike path allows for the extension of the path and not limiting in scope

General comment only

Wendy Eden
26 Station St
Natimuk 3409

Brett Moar
Mob: 0429 922 355
128 Grahams Bridge Rd,
Haven

Luke Weatherstone
0434193822

Outdoor gyms are good way to encourage people to get outside and use some strength because:

- They are cheap to build
- They take up little space
- They are open 24 hours.
- They do NOT attract the anti-social behavior such as skate parks can do.
- They can be used by any age group young and old (7 years - 80 years old)
- They can be used by organised sports as part of their training.
- They will give the climbers a place to train while on climbing trips to the area (Natimuk).
- They can be wood or metal, both neutral colours and bright colours to blend in with landscape.
- No mechanical parts

They can be built in few locations such as:

- Natimuk - for the climbers, near the kids park or further along
- Horsham - Riverside as a circuit with stations set up in various places, - Next to the skate park,

Here is link to what I'm talking about, some outdoor gyms have Other things I think would make Natimuk a better place would be a art gallery that was owned by the Horsham council. If they held art exhibitions it would put Natimuk and Horsham on the map as an arty Artificial climbing walls are great but can sometimes have councils worried about liability, traverse style climbing walls offer a safe alternative as they are approximately 2.4m high. A brick or concrete wall about 15m wide would look cool with the word Natimuk made from many coloured climbing holds. The coloured holds would be on both sides. Most visitors to Natimuk are climbers with lots of experience, so building a kiddie playground would not be favored by the community.

This should definitely not be considered as a replacement for the Natimuk has the nice small town appeal that would also do a very nice annual outdoor food and wine show.

THE CENTRAL PARK TENNIS CLUB (CPTC) COMMENDS THE HORSHAM RURAL CITY Council (HRCC) in developing plans for Horsham/surroundings and providing opportunity to comment on these plans.

Multi-purpose Sports Precinct

CPTC supports the consideration for tennis courts to be incorporated into the potential outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct.

Sixteen tennis courts have been proposed for this sports precinct. CPTC would recommend HRCC consider a 24-court complex, as this would future proof the venue.

The Horsham Sport Facility Demand Assessment (HSFDA) references CPTC as having 12 tennis courts. There are 14 (12 tennis, 2 tennis/netball) located at CPTC.

N

Investigate options for outdoor climbing structure or climbing specific exercise equipment. Exercise equipment not just to cater for older people. Currently being addressed. Added to Pipeline list

Luke Weatherstone
0434193822

N

Options for Silo Art around Horsham. Partnerships with rural town art galleries. To be picked up by public art plan/strategy

Luke Weatherstone
0434193822

N

Part of public art and future exercise equipment?

Luke Weatherstone
0434193822

N

Outside scope of OSS. Tourism/economic idea.

Luke Weatherstone
0434193822

N

Referred this feedback onto Justine for City to River/Sporting Facilities Demand Study feedback

Brendan Nitschke
President
Central Park Tennis Club Inc.
PO Box 806, Horsham 3402
Ph. 0438 821570
brendan_nitschke@hotmail.com

APPENDIX 9.2A

The HSFDA references that the lights at CPTC are under 100 lux. The court lights average 218 lux ranging from 180 on the outside of the courts to 330 in the centre of the court. One light at the far North West is faulty and is only producing 79 lux and is scheduled to be replaced. The CPTC is also planning on replacing the halogen globes with LED globes for increased brightness.

CPTC is in support of 'Further work is required to deliver on this concept, including an assessment of facility and site requirements and the preparation of a masterplan and business case to support If the multi-purpose sports precinct is not able to incorporate tennis courts, then CPTC would recommend HRCC include the CPTC facility in the regional standard tennis facilities assessment for the following reasons:

- CPTC is the largest hardcourt complex in the region with 14 courts
- the complex is located centrally
- easy access for participants
- Junior members walk/ride their bikes after school to the courts
- there are two courts with lighting, with the facilities in place to expand to the other courts
- there is room for an additional two courts (total 16) - refer to Figure 1
- excellent spectator viewing available around the perimeter of the courts

Recommend the opportunity to include users in co-design of spaces including women with children, young people, and women from diverse backgrounds to ensure future upgrades meet the needs of all and maximise the opportunity for participation.

I have read through the open spaces strategy and there are many positive aspects to the elements contained in the document. I will mainly respond to a couple of numbered items noted in the Vision section of the document that are important to me.

N

N

Y

N

Referred this feedback onto Justine for City to River/Sporting Facilities Demand Study feedback

Outside scope of OSS. Picked up briefly in SFDS. Possibility for CPTC as regional centre?

Change 'Participation' to: Provide for a range of passive and active participation opportunities for the community to use open space. Added to principles

General comment only

Brendan Nitschke
President
Central Park Tennis Club Inc.
PO Box 806, Horsham 3402
Ph. 0438 821570
brendan_nitschke@hotmail.com

Brendan Nitschke
President
Central Park Tennis Club Inc.
PO Box 806, Horsham 3402
Ph. 0438 821570
brendan_nitschke@hotmail.com

Marianne Hendron
Women's Health Grampians
0419 185 777
Dr Mark Wood
18 Lake Road
NATIMUK VIC 3409
Ph: 0419 540 235

Haven is the perfect location to live with beautiful bush land areas, trees and natural creeks, surrounded by wildlife and birds. a developing sport and recreation hub, a network of cycling and walking tracks ^ and all only ten minutes from the centre of I lorsham. Properties are being subdivided, new homes are being built, and our new primary school, built only ten years ago, continues to stretch to its capacity - the school needs more room to grow and flourish. 2015 statistics showed that Haven has above state percentages of young families living in the area, which is a very exciting situation for a rural area to be in.

N

General comment only

Haven Inc

At the Haven Recreation Reserve and surrounds, we have the perfect opportunity to develop a facility for the community, Horsham.. the Wimmerna and the Region to be proud of but we are in desperate need for our infrastructure to urgently commence..

We completed our Precinct Planning in 2015, with a few adjustments required.

We have letters of support from sporting associations, supporting the Haven Reserve to proceed. The 1IRCC Council Plan has Haven in its four year priority list.

Increased connectivity:

At Haven we have green/open spaces to develop, pedestrian and cycle networks to be extended and built, active transport linkages to be developed, traffic planning off the Henty Highway to be designed, lighting areas to improve safety, and strategic land acquisitions to be Redefine the Wimmera River:

N

Picked up in recommendations. Not specific to Haven as OSS is strategic level only

Haven Inc

We also have unlimited opportunities for pedestrian and cycle paths to link from the Wimmera River out to the Haven Bushland Reserves including the Bungalally and McKenzie Creeks to enjoy the natural trees, wildlife and view old mud brick cottages from years gone by We need to investigate potential locations for vehicle links across the river that connect the north and south sides and would welcome

N

Picked up in recommendations. Not specific to Haven as OSS is strategic level only

Haven Inc

upgraded cycle and pedestrian paths, provision for any off road walking and cycling paths along the Bungalally and McKenzie Creek areas_ Develop more community amenities around the Haven Wetlands eg picnic tables, seating and shade, and develop an improved Move Central Park tennis to a new regional tennis centre in a sporting hub at Horsham West

N

Picked up in recommendations

Haven Inc

Be careful of greening everywhere. Doesn't do well in summer or droughts then looks terrible.

N

Too specific for OSS. Outside of scope.

Di Bell

N

Environmental principles will be applied to all future development

Di Bell



Horsham Rural City
Council urban rural balance



HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – FINAL REPORT

2019 – COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Disclaimer

SBP have prepared this study solely for Horsham Rural City Council. The work informing this study was undertaken between November 2018 and May 2019. It draws on primary field work and information collected from publicly available secondary sources during this time.

Other than our responsibility to the Horsham Rural City Council, neither SBP nor any member or employee of SBP undertakes responsibility arising in any way from reliance placed by a third party on this report. Any reliance placed is that party's sole responsibility.

In addition to the inherent limitations outlined above:

This report does not represent a detailed technical report, but instead provides an overview of the process, methodology and outcomes of the investigation into Open Space within Horsham.

The methodology used to audit and assess open space and play spaces within the municipality has relied on currently available data and research. Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this report may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect the absolute figures.

The synthesis, analysis and interpretation of this information are entirely the work of SBP and copyright is asserted in this respect. All reasonable endeavours have been made to ensure that the contents of this document are factually correct, however SBP and its employees, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of or reliance on the contents herein.

Recognition of our land's traditional owners

Horsham Rural City Council recognises the five Traditional Owner groups of this land: the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa , Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples.

The development of this strategy was overseen by the Horsham Rural City Council's Project Control Group. A number of Councillors and Council staff outside of the Project Control Group also had input into the strategy



Introduction	4	Horsham West	49
Executive Summary	5	Haven	51
Strategic Guidelines to meet Open Space Principles	7	Riverside	52
Policy Context	12	Outlying Locality Analysis and Recommendations	53
Regional Context	15	Drung	55
Population and Demographic Profile	14	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	56
Community Health and Wellbeing	15	Wartook	58
Consultation Findings	19	Brimpaen	59
What Our Community is Telling Us?	20	Toolondo	60
Open Space in Horsham	21	Natimuk and District	61
Assessment Summary	22	McKenzie Creek	63
Open Space Supply and Demand	24	Quantong	64
Open Space Hierarchy	27	Vectis and Dooen	65
Categories and Sub-Categories of Open Space in Horsham	28	Pimpinio and Kalkee	66
Open Space and Play Space Development Guidelines	30	Jung	67
Horsham Locality Analysis and Recommendations	32	Play Spaces in Horsham	68
Geographical Area	36	Strategic Framework and Recommendations	74
Central Horsham	37	Appendix	84
Horsham North	39	Appendix I: Open Space Contributions	84
Horsham Inner North	41	Appendix II: Case Studies of Open Space Success	92
Horsham East	43	Appendix II: Open Space in Horsham	96
Horsham South	45	Appendix IV: Wimmera River Corridor Plan Documents	105
Horsham South West	47	Appendix V: Stakeholder Consultation Report	108

Purpose of the OSS

It is important to note that HRCC is only one of several open space managers in the region, and does not have jurisdiction over land it doesn't manage.

This Open Space Strategy will provide Council with strategic directions to determine priorities for the planning, provision and development of open space that is owned or managed by Council across the municipality.

How the OSS was developed

The following methodology was used to develop the Open Space Strategy:

- Project scoping and interviews with key stakeholders, HRCC staff and Councilors
- Desktop analysis including a document review, benchmarking HRCC open space provision against comparable local government areas and demographic analysis and forecasting
- Community and stakeholder consultation, including online surveys, interactive mapping feedback, depth interviews with key stakeholders, and community forums
- Strategic workshops with Council and the development of a draft Open Space Strategy

What is Open Space?

For the purpose of this strategy, open space is defined as "All freely accessible land owned/managed by Horsham Rural City Council used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes."

This document also makes reference to other government agencies involved in open space management including Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). These agencies play a role in

delivering quality open space, and partnering with council where necessary.

There are number of Parks Victoria managed parks and reserves in the municipality including State Parks, a Heritage River and numerous conservation reserves. Whilst the primary purpose of reservation is the conservation of natural and cultural values, these parks and reserves provide important recreational opportunities both now and into the future. Some of these activities include bush walking, cycling, camping, fishing, duck hunting, rock climbing, boating and other water sports, and, nature study.

School grounds, University and TAFE grounds, streetscapes, and private open space play a complimentary role to the open space network. They are considered ancillary open space, and are not the main focus of this strategy. However, strategic partnerships to enhance community usage of school-based assets is explored further in the recommendations.

Information contained within this strategy is based on an audit and assessment of Horsham's open space network as at May 2019. Any open space developments or data updates since this time have not been taken into account.

It is proposed that the Horsham Open Space Strategy is monitored on a regular and ongoing basis, with a review/refresh every 4-5 years. Progress and reporting towards the specific actions in this document should be reviewed and reported internally on an annual basis.

Why is Open Space important?

Open space plays an important role in our society by providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport. Parks, landscaped gardens, walking and cycling tracks, sports grounds and play spaces, provide spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing and good for physical and mental health.

Open space plays an important role in our society by providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport. As our communities grow and change, greater attention needs to be placed on planning our open spaces to ensure that they meet our current and future needs.

The Horsham Rural City Council has developed an integrated Open Space Strategy (OSS) to provide Council with strategic directions to determine priorities for the planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Establish a vision for Council for the provision of open space
- Establish an agreed hierarchy and definition of open space and play spaces to be applied to the municipality
- Establish benchmarks for Horsham



The overarching vision for open space in Horsham is:

“A leading regional community with an open space network that provides positive health and well-being outcomes for everybody.”

Key Trends and Issues

Some of the broader trends and issues that impact this strategy are:

- The ageing nature of Horsham's population. Between 2016 and 2031 the 65+ age bracket is expected to grow by 29% in Horsham.
- Horsham has a great year-round climate, however climate change is upon us and must continue to be addressed moving forward.
- Active recreation is growing at a rapid rate. It contributes more than sport towards Victorians achieving the national guidelines for physical activity each year.
- Traditional or organised sport is declining or stagnant (although women's sport continues to reach new heights).
- Changing lifestyles of regional residents, and many regional towns are undergoing change and transition.
- A focus on community spaces for all ages (multi-generational).
- The growth and desire for multi-purpose facilities for economies of scale and use.

Open Space Audit and Assessment

The audit and assessment of open space in Horsham found that there is 287 hectares (ha) of open space across Horsham. This excludes 55 ha of open space fronting the river (along Menadue Street, Barnes Boulevard, Major Mitchell Drive and Burnt Creek), 15 ha of drainage and stormwater reserves, and 13 ha of public halls. This equates to approximately 14.6 ha of open space per 1,000 people.

Although this ratio may indicate that there is a relatively high amount of open space provided, the quality and access to a diverse range of open space across the municipality is poor. Key issues identified within the existing open space network are outlined below:

- The quantity of open space in Horsham is considered "high or adequate" - however the quality of open space is poor on a number of fronts.
- Facilities and amenities around public open spaces are in decline or often non-existent.
- Accessibility to open space is inequitable across the municipality. Either physical barriers exist, or there is a perception that some open space is not open to the public.
- There are also some open spaces such as the Horsham Racecourse and the Horsham Showgrounds, where a large portion of the area is encumbered space and not able to be used by the broader community.
- Connectivity and way-finding is poor (cycling, walking, running and way-finding signage). This is consistent across most of the municipality, particularly in the Horsham Township, where there is a lack of linkages both across the city and between open spaces.
- Many open spaces in Horsham are considered ad hoc in a planning context, and distribution is not equitable across the town and localities.
- Horsham's fantastic network of rivers, lakes and water-bodies is underutilised and disconnected from the broader open space network.

As our community grows and changes, long-term thinking and planning of our play spaces and open spaces is required. We must ensure that all of our residents are active and are able to enjoy a variety of high quality open space and natural environments.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES TO MEET OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles have been developed to implement this vision in practice. It is intended that Horsham’s open space network will consider:

Equity	Provide equitable provision of open space across the municipality that accommodates all townships and community groups.	Improve open space provision in line with gaps identified in OSS and meet guidelines for size, amenity and spread of open space in each locality.
		Provide open space for a range of ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds, which address equity and equality.
Accessibility	Create an amenable open space network which includes formal and informal linkages to enhance accessibility in line with Universal Design principles.	Improve accessibility and connections into existing open space by removing barriers, increasing lines of sight and removing visual clutter.
		Provide open space within easy walking distance.
		Use Universal Design Principles (UDP) to enhance accessibility and connection between and into open spaces.
Health and wellbeing	Plan and deliver open space that contributes to the overall health of the community.	Encourage a range of physical activity opportunities through open space provision.
		Provide places and spaces which contribute to social cohesion, physical and mental health, engagement, human connection, cultural diversity and connection to nature to improve liveability and wellbeing.
Participation	Maximise community benefit from open space by providing a range of recreation opportunities to actively use the open space network.	Provide a diverse range of opportunities for quality active and passive recreation environments, including both organised sport and unstructured activities.
Sustainability	Plan for future growth and changes in population distribution.	Provide open space which responds to forecast population and demographics across all localities within the municipality.
		Ensure the economic sustainability of open space by considering tourism and partnership investments.
Safety	Provide environments that enable safe use of open space by the community.	Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in all future development of open space to create and sustain safe communities.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES TO MEET OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles have been developed to implement this vision in practice. It is intended that Horsham’s open space network will consider:

Adaptability	Ensure our open space offers flexibility in its use over time, and accommodates multiple uses and community groups both now current and in the future.	Respect and conserve character, historical and cultural heritage where appropriate whilst accommodating changes in functionality and usability of a space.
		Develop flexible, innovative and robust approaches to open space planning and design to include both temporary and permanent uses.
Efficiency	Manage an open space network that supports a variety of activities and optimises land use, efficiencies and increases functionality.	Ensure equitable provision and prioritisation of amenities across the municipality that enables a broad range of community uses.
Environmental Sustainability	Encourage sustainable design and management practices whilst protecting environmental and biodiversity values and mitigating climate change.	Ensure water sensitive urban design principles are applied to reduce, reuse and recycle water where possible.
		Increase the urban forest and natural shade through large canopy trees to reduce the Urban Heat Island effect.
		Incorporate mixed landscaping techniques where turf is prominent to reduce pressure on natural resources.
		Use energy efficient products and sustainable materials whilst considering their source, lifecycle and ongoing maintenance.
		Incorporate Ecological Design Principles (EDP) into future open space developments and upgrades.
Biodiversity	Ensure biodiversity values are implemented through location and planting to maximise habitat and wildlife corridors.	Protect, enhance and create natural environments to increase wildlife corridors.
		Restore and preserve existing bushland and remnant vegetation areas.
		Encourage a broad use of flora species to enhance biodiversity and ecological values.
Design and Place-making	Providing well designed and aesthetically pleasing open spaces for the community.	Ensure all existing and future open space is aligned with best practice and Victoria’s Urban Design Guidelines to ensure high quality spaces are achieved.
		Ensure a holistic approach to the design, functionality, quality, aesthetics and amenity of all open space.
		Incorporate place-making principles to active spaces in-line with community needs and wants.

The Horsham Open Space Strategy considers the open space network for Horsham overall, including the major centres of Horsham and Natimuk, as well as outlying townships and localities. The key strategic pillars are:



Increase connectivity



Redefine the Wimmera River



Improve open space



Enhance collaboration



Invest and plan for our future



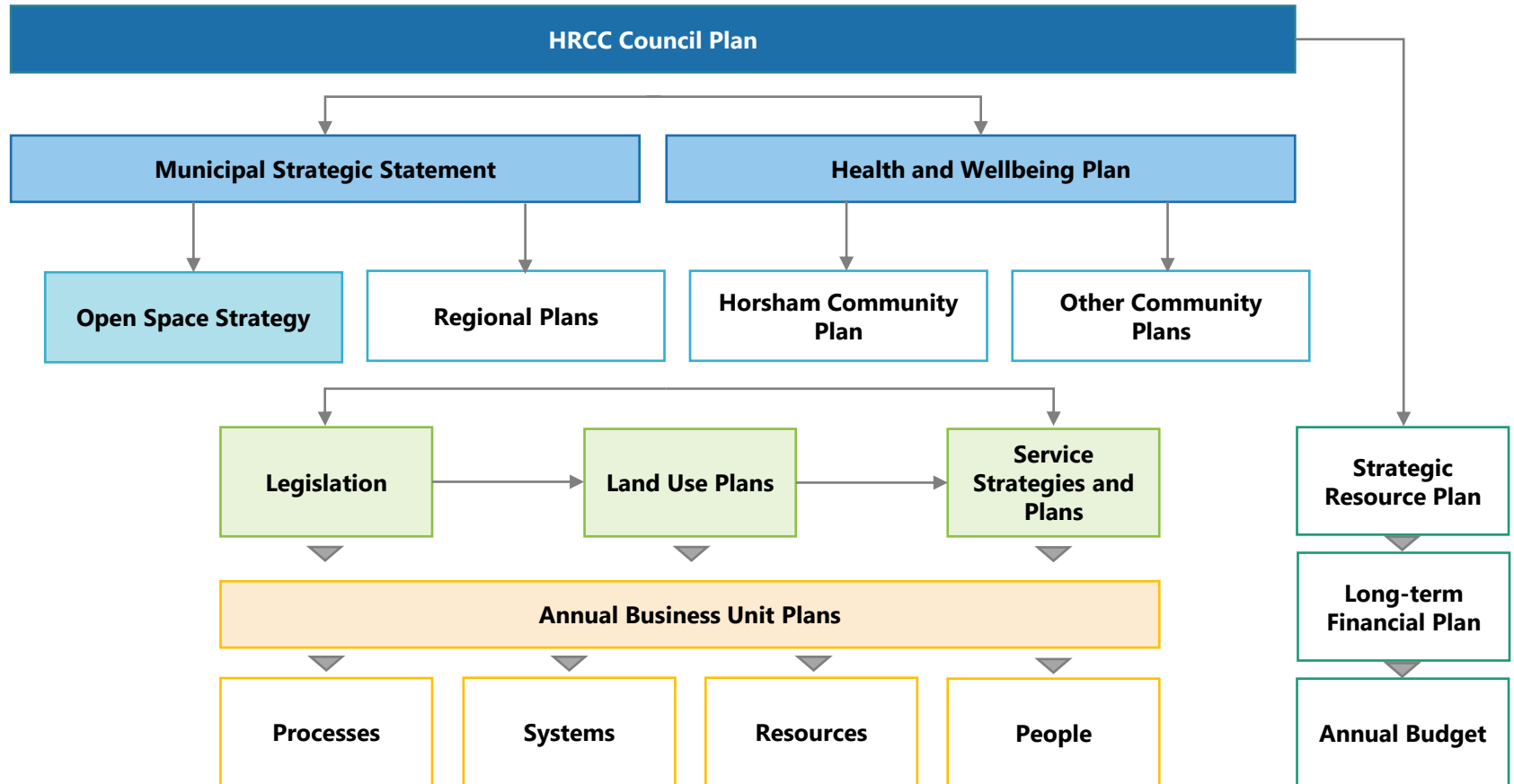
Colour and green our region



Recognise and celebrate culture

More detailed considerations regarding specific localities are provided throughout this document.

POLICY CONTEXT



The Council Plan covers all aspects of Councils operations and sphere of influence. Input is provided to the Council Plan from a variety of external documents and processes such as the Open Space Strategy, as well as legislation, regional plans, local community plans, documents and strategies from within the community more broadly. Two other key documents that take

direction from and give direction to the Council Plan and Open Space Strategy are the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Health and Wellbeing Plan. These documents are required under separate legislation and therefore are stand-alone documents in their own right, but they should not be developed without reference to the Council Plan, and vice versa.

In developing this strategy, a review of key documents was undertaken to provide a deeper understanding of Horsham Rural City Council's strategic direction, policies and practices. This included a review of 18 internal Council plans and policies, and 11 external documents from State Government, other LGA's and organisations to provide key learnings. A summary of the implications from key Council documents has been provided below.

Council Plan 2018-2022

The Council Plan 2018–2022 sets the strategic direction of Council over the next four years, linking the community's vision to long-term community goals, four-year outcomes and four-year priorities for Horsham Rural City Council.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Community and Cultural Development – Develop Horsham and the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.
- Asset Management – Meet community and service needs through provision and maintenance of infrastructure.
- Natural Environment – Lead in environmental best practice, create a municipality for the future, and plan for the impacts of climate change. Encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities within Council and the community, whilst planning for a growing municipality, and implement practices that minimise our environmental footprint and contribute to a sustainable future.

Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement acts as the Local Planning Policy for Horsham and serves as a reference point of expectation for any future planning and development decisions, as well as provides amendments to current active plans.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Developmental Adaptation – Acknowledge the demographic changes of Horsham, and work to include the diversification in future planning.
- Sustainable Preservation – While creating new plans, land use and environmental efficiency must be factored in and spotlighted.
- Community Considerations – Any and all planning should be with the intention of serving the population to the highest degree, and the recognised community needs should be top priority.

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

The Health and Wellbeing Plan was designed to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the Council by identifying issues and need within the community.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Health Priorities – Putting a focus on creating opportunities for residents of Horsham to lead a healthy lifestyle through the way they eat and live.
- Linkage Maintenance – Upkeeping and upgrading linkages such as walking trails and cycling paths will be critical to improving active living.
- Healthy Mindset – The mental health and community cohesion benefits that open space provides are also critical to improving health outcomes for the community.



Sport and Recreation Strategy 2009

The Sport and Recreation Strategy provides guidance to the sport and recreation advisory committee and the Council. The strategy was created to identify and evaluate existing sport and recreation needs, and service delivery within the municipality.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Priority Identification – Recognise the region’s funding requirements and prioritise the development proposals accordingly.
- Future Anticipation – Analyse the delivery of past services to identify the projection of the municipality’s imminent needs.
- Proactive Approach – Manage the assets in anticipation of dynamic changes and in the best long-term interest of the community.

Youth Strategy 2018-2028

The Horsham Rural City Council Youth Strategy contains Council’s strategic directions for the delivery of contemporary youth services. It provides a commitment to improving the lives of young people by helping them to realise their rights.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Landscape Recognition – Identify the gaps and opportunities for the provision and enablement of youth empowerment.
- Community Pulse – Include the youth population of Horsham and factor in their needs when making plans that will impact their wellbeing.
- Population Engagement – Distinguish the diversity in Horsham’s population and consider what will benefit the entire community rather than sole distinguished groups.

Disability Access and Action Plan 2013-2016

The Horsham Rural City Council Disability Access and Action Plan identifies and outlines steps to reduce barriers created by attitudes, practices and structures while recognising everyone’s responsibility to advocate for equal access, opportunity and participation.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Education and Application – Increase awareness of the community to promote inclusive practices.
- Environmental Mindfulness – Develop regional infrastructure to include and promote accessible options for everyone in the community, regardless of physical ability.
- Social Connection – Create meeting places through open spaces that allow all of the Horsham community to establish connections with one another.

Wimmera River Corridor Plan (Draft) 2018

The Wimmera River Corridor Plan provides guidance for future uses and developments of the Wimmera River while outlining how the river corridor can be developed to capitalise on its strengths as an asset.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Acknowledgement of Importance – The Wimmera River is a major asset to the city and an essential consideration to open space planning.
- Linkage Creation – A large component to all future planning must incorporate the development of linkages between the river and the rest of the township.
- Encourage Usage – Enhancing infrastructure, amenities and facilities along the river corridor will encourage increased community usage and activity.



Bicycle & Shared Path Plan (2012-2016)

The Bicycle & Shared Path Plan provides further analysis of the 2004 Horsham Strategic Bike Plan, and outlines planning recommendations for the implementation of a more extensive cycling network.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Safety Prioritisation – Reduce the perceived and actual dangers of cycling through the region, which will lead to an increased positive opinion and participation.
- Gap Analysis – Recognise the areas which have not progressed since the implementation of the 2004 Strategic Plan, improve connectivity, and consider future plans to improve cycling in Horsham.
- Promote Active Travel – Utilise the proximity of Horsham's facilities to its residents and encourage the highlighting of the mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The Horsham Rural City Council is located in the Wimmera region of Victoria, just under four-hours drive from Melbourne. The council is bordered by Yarriambiack, Northern Grampians, Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Hindmarsh Shires.

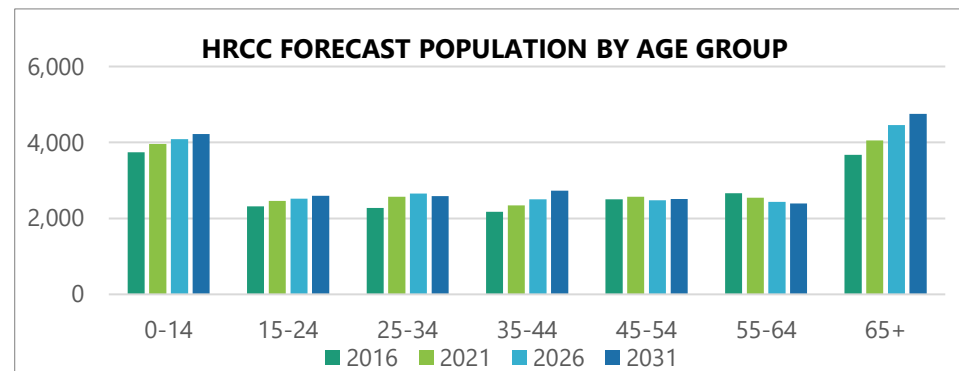
Horsham is the main population centre for the Wimmera and Southern Mallee region. At the time of the 2016 Census, the Shire's population was approximately 19,627. Of the 2016 population:

- 49% are male and 51% female.
- 19% of the population are aged 14 years or younger and 62% between 15 and 64 years.
- 82% of the population live within the Horsham Township.
- 298 people (1.5% of the local population) identified themselves as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Results from the 2016 Census, and future population projections reveal that Horsham will experience population growth over the next 15 years. **Between 2016 and 2031, the population is expected to grow by approximately 2,167 people**, with an additional 600 people added to the population every five years. In 2031, the estimated population is projected to reach 21,794.

While Horsham's population is projected to grow, it is important to recognise that the broader Wimmera region is experiencing population decline. Although Horsham will experience overall population growth over the next 15-years (11%), the extent of this growth is below the average for both Regional Victoria (18%) and Victoria (28%).

Source: ABS Census, 2016



HRCC 2016 POPULATION BY AGE									
Locality Name	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Brimpaen	55	22	15	35	26	26	27	7	4
Central Horsham	82	64	67	64	64	99	104	92	46
Drung	47	31	20	20	44	45	31	6	3
Haven	298	153	98	186	237	186	104	32	9
Horsham East	454	307	332	256	318	375	287	240	197
Horsham Inner North	191	175	179	142	130	164	143	86	50
Horsham North	692	445	465	321	353	463	302	204	64
Horsham South	362	214	229	227	213	180	153	108	28
Horsham South West	534	295	347	291	342	363	333	256	86
Horsham West	379	246	261	230	237	210	193	123	53
Jung	56	53	20	18	27	34	26	6	0
Laharum	28	27	15	19	36	47	26	11	5
McKenzie Creek	80	35	35	44	68	56	33	17	3
Natimuk	38	24	31	40	68	73	36	41	37
Natimuk District	55	19	12	36	34	31	20	10	6
Pimpinio and Kalkee	85	20	39	45	44	59	24	17	4
Quantong	53	44	29	41	57	38	34	12	3
Riverside	74	59	21	53	87	61	38	14	11
Toolondo	60	14	25	29	25	56	19	9	4
Vectis and Dooen	47	48	21	33	51	31	40	23	3
Wartook	70	19	15	40	37	63	44	15	7
TOTAL	3740	2314	2276	2170	2498	2660	2017	1329	623

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Knowledge of how the population age structure will change is important for planning open space.

There are **three key levers which influence population growth: births, net migration and deaths** (natural increase). The forecast age groups of the Horsham Rural City is a function of the current age of the population (people aging each year, being born and dying) as well as the age of people migrating into and out of the area. This in turn is driven by location, access to existing housing, the amount and type of new residential development and where the area is positioned in a cycle of change.

Some areas are more driven by one factor than others. Migration is largely driven by housing development and employment opportunities, whereas natural increase is a function of the age of the population.

- **In 2016, the age bracket with the highest proportion of the population was 0-14 years** (3,740 people), accounting for 19% of the total population (19,627).
- **The largest increase in people between 2016 and 2031 is expected in the 65+ age bracket** (29% total growth) followed by the 35-44 age bracket (26% growth).
- The population aged 55-64 is expected to decline by 10%.

These projections show **the current population of Horsham is ageing** which is primarily due to the high percentage growth of the 65 plus age segment. Over the next 20-30 years, Horsham is likely to see a significant increase in population of residents 60 years and over, and population decline of residents aged 50 or less.

FORECAST POPULATION AND BENCHMARKS – 2016 - 2031

		0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Horsham	2016	3,740	2,314	2,276	2,170	2,498	2,660	3,969	19,627
	2031	4,222	2,597	2,587	2,726	2,513	2,394	4,755	21,794
	% growth	13%	12%	14%	26%	1%	-10%	29%	11%
Ballarat	2016	20,170	15,362	13,779	12,758	12,671	11,820	16,690	103,250
	2031	27,128	19,086	18,166	17,873	15,479	13,884	25,258	136,874
	% growth	34%	24%	32%	40%	22%	17%	51%	33%
Bendigo	2016	21,504	15,287	13,898	13,298	14,038	13,725	18,695	110,445
	2031	27,685	18,363	18,323	18,655	16,480	15,374	29,753	144,633
	% growth	29%	20%	32%	40%	17%	12%	59%	31%
Regional Victoria	2016	264,219	171,966	157,327	167,700	190,441	192,513	276,427	1,420,593
	2031	297,665	188,492	187,222	200,272	191,352	200,167	409,328	1,674,497
	% growth	13%	10%	19%	19%	0%	4%	48%	18%
Victoria	2016	1,106,043	786,904	930,584	826,185	791,476	685,936	921,639	6,048,767
	2031	1,395,238	952,542	1,036,078	1,097,932	964,541	837,555	1,449,372	7,733,258
	% growth	26%	21%	11%	33%	22%	22%	57%	28%

Source: Victoria in Future 2016, DELWP

Open space has a variety of health and well-being benefits, including the provision of opportunities for social connection, places for formal and informal exercise, spaces to relax and unwind and opportunities to connect with the natural environment.

While Horsham residents are more active than the average Victorian population, there are still a number of areas for improvement pertaining to health and wellbeing which can be attended to through open space.

In Horsham:

- **Nearly half (48.5%) of HRCC residents are sufficiently active**, compared to only 41.4% of Victorians.
- Approximately **1 in 5 Horsham residents are classified as obese**.
- **49.9% of Horsham residents reported feelings of an adequate work-life balance** in Horsham.
- Only **54.4% of adults** – 87.1% of males and 62.1% of females – in Horsham **feel safe walking at night**.
- More **residents in Horsham (49.6%) are suffering from avoidable death by cardiovascular diseases** than the average Victoria population (33.8%).

Prioritising the mental wellbeing of Horsham residents (along with their physical health) will increase the livability and appeal of the region. It is important that future planning considers the development and promotion of open spaces that will encourage HRCC community members to be more active, provide feelings of safety and opportunities to escape from the pressures of everyday life.

HEALTH STATUS

Health Indicators	Horsham	Grampians Region	Victoria
Obesity	21.4%	25.0%	18.8%
Sedentary People reporting no physical activity during the week	1.8%	2.7%	3.6%
Insufficiently Active <150 mins or <2 sessions/wk	44.5%	50.9%	50.4%
Sufficiently Active ≥150 mins or ≥2 sessions/wk	48.5%	41.0%	41.4%

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Population Health Survey 2014

WELLBEING STATUS

Physical Activity	Horsham	Victoria
Mental Health Residents reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression	33.4%	25%
Work-Life Balance Percentage of population reporting adequate balance	49.9%	57.3%
Safety at Night Feelings of safety walking alone after dark	54.4%	55.1%
Cardiovascular Disease Rate of avoidable death	49.6%	33.8%

Source: HRCC Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021



CONSULTATION FINDINGS

WHAT IS OUR COMMUNITY TELLING US?

A variety of consultation methods have been undertaken to facilitate a high level of community engagement. This will promote an in-depth understanding of the issues and proposed directions for open space planning and provision in the municipality. This has included the following:

- **30 depth interviews** with identified stakeholders from various sectors, including government, healthcare, sport and recreation organisations, and other agencies, as well as personnel from within HRCC, including Councillors and key staff;
- An online survey with the local community and key stakeholders which received a total of **251 complete responses** (reportedly one of the highest response rates Council has had from the community);
- Community feedback via the Pozi interactive mapping tool, which had a total of **326 interactions** including 178 dropped pins, and;
- Two community forums, held on March 19th and March 20th 2019 at the Council offices with **20 attendees**.

Key findings from this process were:

- The town, its **open space and its iconic assets need regeneration** and investment to ensure they meet growing needs and changing demand. In order to re-position the town as a true hub for the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, the **icons of the region** need to be celebrated.
- **Tree canopy and shade including rest/relaxation spaces are lacking** in the CAD and throughout the whole municipality.
- Dedicated and signed **pedestrian and cycle linkages** are needed to connect the whole city.
- A **strong underlying connection to the river and lakes system** is not overt and the river precinct needs activating. The **river should be a key**

destination and needs several additions like family spaces, a splash park and permanent food, drink and entertainment.

- Shared **civic/community and green spaces** within walking distance of the CAD are missing.
- The **Entry/Exits to Horsham** need rejuvenation to demonstrate the community pride in the town and region.
- Many **natural areas and open spaces** don't have the right mix of **assets and amenities**, and local parks and passive recreation spaces need enhancement to encourage greater use.
- Some of the city's **key assets are perceived as closed most of the time/day**.
- The **Mount Arapiles-Toooan State Park is an icon** for HRCC. As an internationally significant destination for rock climbing, it has an enduring appeal that draws thousands of visitors from around the world each year.
- **Indigenous story-telling** is missing through much of the region and needs to be addressed.
- **Protecting nature reserves** and wildlife, and creating **more natural areas for families and children to play** are necessary to provide quality open spaces for future generations.
- North Horsham is **underserved by open space and linkages** between them.
- West and South Horsham are two of the growing localities of Horsham, and in some parts, **new housing developments have proceeded with inadequate consideration of open space**.



OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

Benchmarking

To plan the provision of open space, a benchmark of between 2.83 hectares (ha) and 5 ha per 1,000 people is used in most states. For Victoria, there is no consistent benchmark for open space provision that is commonly used across all municipalities. The 2.83ha figure is primarily used in NSW and is based on 0.8ha/1,000 for parklands and gardens and 2.0ha/1,000 for outdoor sports – it generally does not include drainage areas or natural areas.

In Western Australia, the requirement is that 10% of the gross sub-divisible area of a conditional subdivision shall be given up free of cost by the sub-divider for public open space. South Australia has a legislative requirement of '12.5% of land for open space' which equates to around 4 ha per 1,000 people in a lower density development area of 35 hectares (based on 15 dwellings per hectare and 1.9 persons per household). This figure is consistent with benchmarks used in the ACT (4ha) and Queensland (4-5ha) but greater than the NSW benchmark.

Current Situation

The municipality has approximately 287 ha of Council owned or managed public open space spread across 97 sites. This excludes open space fronting the river, drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls and equates to approximately 14.6 hectares of open space per 1,000 people (based on Horsham's population of 19,627 people, 2016). Within the Horsham Township area there is 158.8 ha of open space across 66 sites.

The open space within Horsham is complimented by close access to a number of Regional, State and National Parks. Within the municipality there is also 28,547 ha of open space that is managed by Parks Victoria. This includes nature conservation reserves, natural features reserves, state parks such as the Black Range State Park and national parks such as the Grampians.

Benchmarking comparisons for open space provision is provided in the adjacent table. As shown, Warrnambool has led the way in some LGA planning schemes and thinking – and Horsham is well below this specific benchmark.

OPEN SPACE PROVISION BENCHMARKS

	Local Government Area	Hectares per 1000 people
Regional	Greater Geelong	46
	Warrnambool City Council	32.5
	Surf Coast	23
	Latrobe (excluding rural)	17.6
	Horsham (Entire Region)	14.6
	Greater Bendigo	12.1
	Ballarat	9.7
	Horsham (Township)	8.1
	Metro	Melbourne
Moonee Valley		5
Port Phillip		4.9
Moreland		4
Maribyrnong		3.7
Yarra		3.1
Stonnington		2
Greater Dandenong		3.6
Knox		10

When planning public open space, the following standards should be followed:

- Local parks within 400m safe walking distance of at least 95% of all dwellings;
- Active open space within one kilometre of 95% of all dwellings;
- Linear parks and trails, most often along waterways, but also linked to vegetation corridors and road reserves within one kilometre of 95% of all dwellings;
- In residential areas, approximately 10% of the net developable area as total public open space

OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY SUMMARY

Hierarchy and Category

Horsham’s open spaces have been classified according to a system of two central classifications – hierarchy and category.

Four tiers of open space are proposed for Horsham: Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional. These outline the typical size and how far a user might travel to visit the site. These are outlined in further detail over the following pages.

Category is based on the primary intended function of an open space. Five categories have been developed for Horsham’s open space network: Sport grounds, recreation spaces, natural areas, linkages and civic spaces. Definitions of each are provided on page 28.

In assessing each open space, it became apparent that some areas have limitations around access.

It is not assumed that all open space will be able to match a specific definition. Categories and descriptions may need to be expanded or adapted within local policies to enable inclusion of specific sites, recognition of local characteristics and variation in application due to contextual setting (i.e. they can’t be rigid).

The Open Space Hierarchy will be used to inform the planning and management of open space, and as a tool to direct appropriate development and maintenance levels in different types of open space.

Current Supply of Open Space

A summary of HRCC’s current open space network by hierarchy and category is presented in the table on the following page.

- 23% of open space in Horsham is classified as neighbourhood.
- 32% of open space in Horsham is classified as natural areas.
- 27% of open space is sports grounds.

HIERARCHY EXAMPLES	
Local	
Neighbourhood	
Municipal	
Regional	

Future Demand for Open Space

Demand for open space is generally based on permanent residential population. However, a number of social and geographical inputs also affect the level of demand for open space, including:

- Age and population distribution.
- Housing type and access to private open space.
- Housing density.
- Tourism and visitation.
- Inputs such as natural and man-made geographic influences.

The potential future gap compares the 2031 projected population with the current open space footprint. In 2031, an additional 31.7 of open space will be required to maintain the current open space provision (of 14.6ha per 1,000 residents).

With Horsham West predicted to be the key locality attracting population growth, this area should also be the focus for any additional parklands and gardens.

While there is currently a good supply of outdoor sporting facilities across Horsham, there are currently no outdoor sporting precincts in Horsham that align to sporting association requirements to host regional events.

Future planning to maintain the current provision of open space should include the development of regional standard sports facilities, in line with the Sporting Facilities Demand Study.

OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BY HIERARCHY

Hierarchy	Current Supply (Ha)	Current Supply (per 1000)	Future Demand (ha)	Future Gap (ha)
Local	18.8	1.0	20.9	2.1
Neighbourhood	66.5	3.4	73.8	7.3
Municipal	51.7	2.6	57.4	5.7
Regional	149.7	7.6	166.3	16.5
Total	286.7	14.6	318.4	31.7

OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BY CATEGORY

Hierarchy	Supply (Ha)	Supply (per 1000)	Future Demand (ha)	Future Gap (ha)
Natural areas	91.8	4.7	101.9	10.1
Sports grounds	76.6	3.9	85.1	8.5
Other	71.5	3.6	79.4	7.9
Recreation spaces	44.9	2.3	49.9	5.0
Linkages	1.9	0.1	2.2	0.2
Total	286.7	9.9	318.4	31.7

OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND FUTURE DEMAND

CURRENT OPEN SPACE SUPPLY

	Local		Neighbourhood		Municipal		Regional		Total	
	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)
Brimpaen	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Central Horsham	6	4.8	2	8.0	1	11.4	0	0.0	9	24.2
Drung	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	5.3	0	0.0	2	6.3
Haven	3	1.8	1	2.0	2	15.6	0	0.0	6	19.4
Horsham East	6	2.4	6	12.8	0	0.0	1	21.8	13	37.0
Horsham Inner North	2	0.2	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.5
Horsham North	8	0.8	5	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	8.4
Horsham South	7	2.0	1	4.3	0	0.0	1	44.6	9	50.9
Horsham South West	9	0.9	3	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	4.0
Horsham West	6	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	32.3	7	32.9
Jung	1	0.7	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.8
Laharum	0	0.0	1	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.5
Natimuk	1	0.4	2	7.8	1	0.0	0	0.0	4	8.3
Natimuk District	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8
Pimpinio	2	1.2	2	7.8	1	12.1	0	0.0	5	21.2
Quantong	1	0.1	1	3.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.0
Riverside	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	7.2	0	0.0	2	7.9
Toolondo	1	0.2	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.4
Vectis	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	51.1	2	51.3
Total	58	18.8	28	66.5	7	51.7	4	149.7	97	286.7

CURRENT OPEN SPACE DEMAND AND FUTURE GAP

	Local		Neighbourhood		Municipal		Regional		Total	
	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap
Horsham (Township)	13.0	1.3	41.1	4.1	12.7	1.3	109.6	10.9	176.4	17.5
Horsham (Outlying Localities)	8.0	0.8	32.7	3.3	44.7	4.4	56.7	5.6	142.0	14.1
Total	20.9	2.1	73.9	7.4	57.4	5.7	166.3	16.5	318.4	31.7

OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

	Local	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional
Description	Provides at least enough space for two activities or groups to use the open space simultaneously, for example an open grassed area with seating and playground. Primarily used for recreation. frequent, short duration visits within a short walking distance of users.	Provides facilities and features that appeal to the neighbourhood population including a range of unstructured recreation and informal facilities. Intended for frequent, short duration visits within a walking or cycling distance of users.	Provides facilities and features that attract the municipal-wide population and/or protect biodiversity/heritage values. This can include structured sporting facilities, historical gardens or major recreation facilities including fitness equipment and multi-purpose courts. People may need to travel a short distance to reach them.	Primarily caters to the broader regional population and/or protection and enhancement of biodiversity values in a regional context. These parks attract users from within and beyond the municipality and cater for a broad cross-section of ages. Most people drive to these.
Activities	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's play spaces • Seating • Relaxation/resting spots 	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of open parkland and bushland • Sport and recreation facilities for unstructured activity • Spaces for casual play • Seating • Relaxation/resting spots 	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient space to accommodate a variety of concurrent activities • Children's play spaces • Seating May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of organised sports • Dog exercise areas 	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant environmental or tourism value • Seating • Public toilets • Drinking fountains May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural wetlands and reserves • Organised sports • Dog exercise areas
Typical Size	• 0.2ha – 1ha	• Minimum 1 ha	• Minimum 5 ha	• Any
Typical Catchment	• 300m – 500m safe walking distance from dwellings and workplaces	• 500m to 1km safe walking distance from dwellings and workplaces or approx. 10 minute walk	• Located within 2 km of 95% of dwellings • 500m walking distance applied for neighbourhood use	• Unlimited for regional visitors • 500m distance applied for neighbourhood use
Example for Horsham	• Charisma Park	• Natimuk Creek Reserve	• Haven Recreation Reserve	• May Park, Weir Park and Adventure Island

* Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

CATEGORY					
Sport grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic spaces	Other
Facilities used for competitive sport, including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as play spaces, seating, clubhouses and amenities.	Active or passive recreation spaces including parks with social areas such as BBQs, gardens, play spaces for young and old, walking tracks and fitness equipment, and dog exercise areas. Also includes unembellished parks.	Spaces managed to protect, enhance and create natural environments such as waterways (which include wetlands), increased habitat for wildlife, restoration and preservation of existing bushland areas and increased tree canopy coverage of the municipality.	Cycle and/or pedestrian paths that connect to other areas of open space or destinations such as town centres, schools and natural assets.	Spaces for community and civic events like town halls and community centres.	Types of open space that do not fit into any of the previous categories and do not have a distinct purpose, such as drainage reserves and stormwater basins.
Example: City Oval	Example: Weir Park	Example: Burnt Creek Reserve	Example: Barnes Boulevard Walking Track	Example: Telangatuk East Hall Reserve	Example: Osbourne Road Drainage Reserve

Note: Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

SUB-CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

SUB-CATEGORY							
SPORT GROUNDS	RECREATION SPACES		NATURAL AREAS		LINKAGES	CIVIC SPACES	OTHER
Sports fields and organised recreation	Parks and gardens	Transport reservations	Protected area estates	Natural and semi-natural open space	Recreation corridors	Civic squares and promenades	Drainage Reserves and Stormwater Basins
Areas primarily used for playing organised (often club-based) sport in an outdoor setting. These places can accommodate informal recreation activities, e.g. picnic areas, play spaces.	Landscaped areas that provide for a range of non-organised recreation and informal activities. Such areas can also have natural values and may provide pedestrian and or bicycle links between streets.	Areas of informal open space within or adjacent to an existing or future transport reservation. Such spaces can be of a temporary nature and subject to transformation in response to evolving transport priorities.	Areas set aside for the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems, landscape character and/or historical and scenic features. They are also for enjoyment through appropriate recreation. These are typically managed by Parks Victoria.	May include land managed for the conservation that is not included in Victoria's protected area system. Can include long, interconnected areas of open space which may provide visual buffers, movement corridors for pedestrians, cyclists) and/or flora and fauna.	Trails used for walking and/ or cycling that link areas of open space, and provide formal or informal connections between and within neighbourhoods and districts.	Major open areas used for non-organised recreation and informal activities, such as community gatherings.	A parcel of land set aside for drainage purposes. Drainage Reserves usually contain either a drainage basin or an open drain.
Example: Haven Tennis Courts	Example: Botanical Gardens	Example: Menadue Street Roadside Reserve	Example: Mitre Lake Flora and Fauna Reserve	Example: Haven Community Dam	Example: Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage	Example: Horsham Skate Park	Example: Burnt Creek Drainage Reserve

Note: Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

OPEN SPACE AND PLAY SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

The following table provides guidance for the upgrade and development of existing open space and play spaces.

	Local parks & play spaces	Neighbourhood parks & play spaces	Municipal parks & play spaces	Regional parks & play spaces
Play elements for different ages	Unlikely – focus on natural play/green space	✓	✓	✓
Open areas for informal play	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural play	Value add	Value add	✓	✓
Irrigated grass	Value add	Recommended	✓	✓
Landscaping – shrub vegetation/garden beds	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basketball goals/nets/hitting walls	✗	Value add	Recommended	Subject to demand
Accessible Equipment	Value add	Recommended	Recommended	✓
Pathways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Universal Access Design (UAD)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade	✓	✓	✓	✓
Structured shade/shelter	✗	✗	Might have shelter	✓
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic tables	Recommended	Recommended	✓	✓
Public toilets	✗	✗	✓	✓
BBQ's	✗	✗	Value add	✓
Access to water	✗	✗	✓	✓
Bins – Waste and Recycling	✗	Recommended	Both	✓
Lighting	✗	Recommended	✓	✓
Signage – Wayfinding and history	Recommended	✓	✓	✓
Car parking	✗	✗	✗	✓
Bicycle racks	Value add	Value add	Recommended	✓
Public art	Value add	Value add	Recommended	✓
Maintenance frequency	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Daily
Inspections	3 times per year	3 times per year	4 times per year	Monthly and annual
Access for maintenance vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend:
✓ = Compulsory
✗ = Not compulsory

Note: Fencing to be determined on a site-by-site basis and all future re-developments to be designed by a landscape architect

In addition to the Open Space and Play Space Development Guidelines on the previous page, the following Urban Design Guidelines and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines should be incorporated when designing, developing and upgrading open space and play spaces.

Urban Design Guidelines

The Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria support state agencies, local government and the urban development sector to deliver functional and enjoyable places for people to live, work, and spend leisure time. The guidelines are based around six key areas:

- **Urban structure:** Urban structure principles, activity centre structure, large development site structure, higher density residential precinct structure, and public realm structure.
- **Movement network:** Movement network principles, pedestrian priority streets, pedestrian and bicycle paths, pedestrian and bicycle crossings, major roads, public transport on roads, on-street parking, and car parking lots.
- **Public spaces:** Public space principles, street spaces and plazas, local parks, communal open spaces.
- **Public transport environs:** Public transport environs principles. railway station precincts, public transport interchanges, and railway corridor environs.
- **Buildings:** Buildings in activity centres, higher density residential buildings, large format retail premises, and car parking structures.
- **Objects in the public realm:** Principles for objects in the public realm, street and park furniture, trees and planting, barriers and fences, lighting, signs and way-finding, and small public buildings and structures.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

The aim of these Guidelines is to influence and inform decisions about designing and managing the built environment, so that our communities, towns and cities are safer. Each CPTED response needs to focus on:

- Local space
- Local people
- Local situations and solutions

Key CPTED principles to be incorporated into open space planning and Horsham's open space network are outlined below:

- **Natural Surveillance:** Criminals are less likely to commit a crime when there is a chance they may be seen. Likewise, members of the community are likely to feel safer if they can be seen. Landscape planning and urban design that enhances the chance of being seen is a form of natural surveillance.
- **Natural Access Control:** Part of creating a controlled open space is focusing on entry and exit points into parks, neighbourhoods and parking lots.
- **Space Activation and Management:** Well maintained open space creates a sense of place for the community and spaces that are well looked after send out messages to would-be offenders that the community cares.
- **Territorial Reinforcement:** The use of physical attributes creates defined lines between public open spaces such as low shrub plantings, lighting, signage and landscaping.



HORSHAM LOCALITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Horsham Rural City Council includes the major centres of Horsham and Natimuk, and the localities of: Arapiles, Blackheath, Brimpaen, Bungalally, Clear Lake, Dadswells Bridge, Dooen, Douglas, Drung, Duchembegarra, Grass Flat, Green Lake, Greenland Dam, Haven, Jilpanger, Jung, Kalkee, Kanagulk, Kewell, Laharum, Longerenong, Lower Norton, McKenzie Creek, Mitre, Mockinya, Mount Talbot, Murra Warra, Noradjuha, Nurrabiel, Pimpinio, Quantong, Riverside, St Helens Plains, Telangatuk East, Tooan, Toolondo, Vectis, Wail, Wartook and Wonwondah.

Differences between localities in a number of factors (age, demographics, landscape, land use, location and open space provision) mean that the open space network can vary quite vastly across the municipality.

Explanation of how locality names and boundaries have been selected:

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) provides a framework of statistical areas used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and other organisations to enable the publication and use of statistics that are comparable and spatially integrated.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) are designed to maximise the spatial detail available for Census data. Most SA1s have a population of between 200 to 800 persons with an average population of approximately 400 persons. SA1s aim to separate areas with different geographic characteristics within locality boundaries.

Within the Horsham LGA boundary, there are 49 SA1s. For the purpose of this strategy, Horsham has been divided into 19 different localities, based on the SA1 borders. This has allowed a more detailed analysis of the quantity and coverage of existing and future open space.

An explanation of how each SA1 region has been allocated within Horsham is shown in the table to the right and visually, on page 32 and 50.

Open Space Locality Name		ABS SA1 Code
Horsham Region	Toolondo	2138901
	Brimpaen	2138902
	Wartook	2138903
	McKenzie Creek	2138904
	Drung	2138905
	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	2138906
	Natimuk	2138907
	Pimpinio and Kalkee	2138908
	Jung	2138909
	Vectis and Dooen	2138910
	Quantong	2138911
	Natimuk District	2138912
Open Space Locality Name		ABS SA1 Code (21388XX)
Horsham Township	Central Horsham	03, 31
	Horsham North	02, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
	Horsham Inner North	21, 32, 33
	Horsham East	04, 07, 28, 34, 35
	Horsham South	17, 29, 30
	Horsham South West	05, 06, 16, 25, 26, 36, 37
	Horsham West	15, 22, 23, 24
	Riverside	18, 19, 20, 27
	Haven	01

LOCALITY ANALYSIS – PROVISION RATING

Each locality has been allocated a provision rating based on the ratio of open space within the region. The provision rating is based on the hectares of open space per 1000 people, as shown below:

Low: <4
Adequate: 4 – 20
High: 20 – 30
Very High: >30

A detailed breakdown of the provision ration for each locality is shown to the right. Horsham Inner North, Horsham North and Horsham South West are among the localities with a low provision of open space.

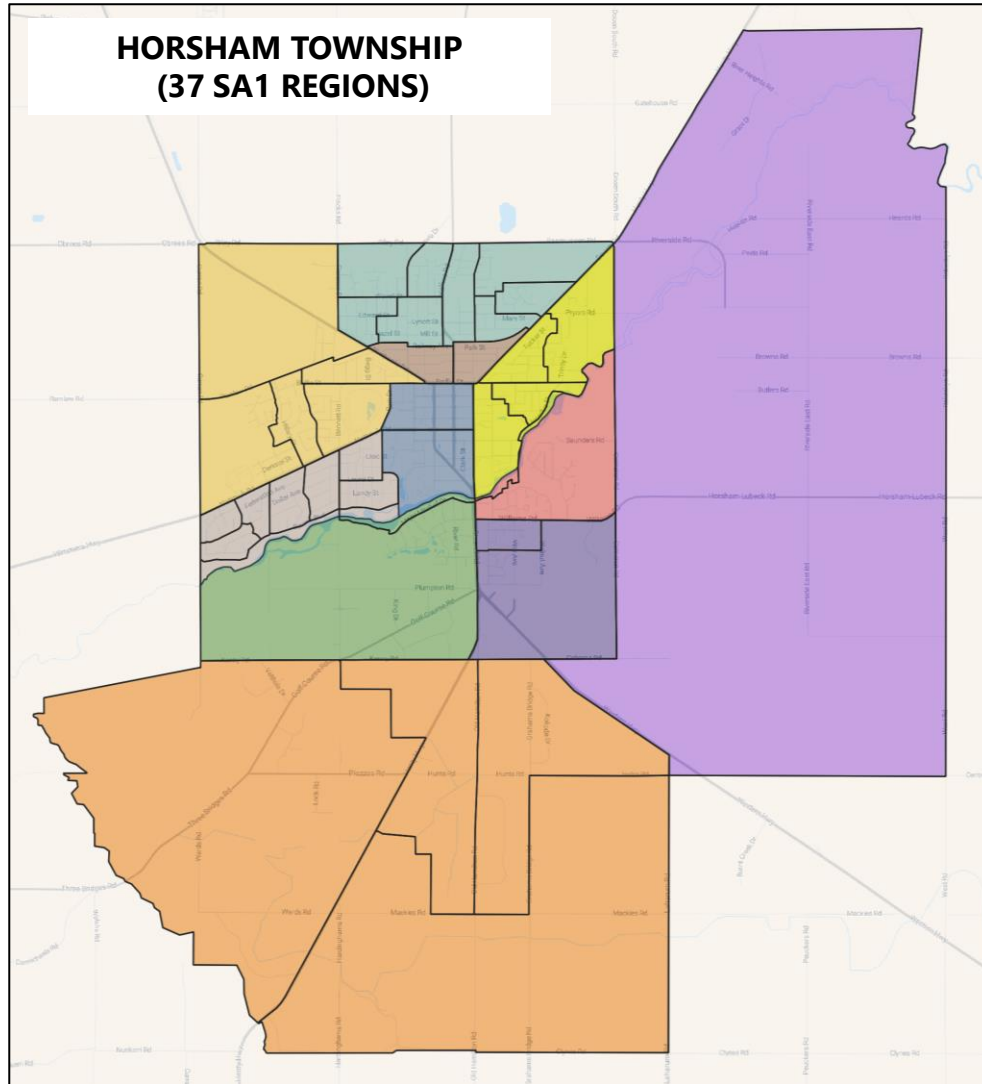
In contrast, Central Horsham, Pimpinio and Vectis have a very high provision of open space per 1,000 people.

	Open Space Provision (Ha)	Open Space Provision (Ha/1000 people)	Provision Rating
McKenzie Creek	0.0	0.0	Low
Wartook	0.0	0.0	Low
Brimpaen	0.0	0.1	Low
Horsham Inner North	1.5	1.2	Low
Horsham South West	4.0	1.4	Low
Horsham North	8.4	2.5	Low
Jung	1.8	7.5	Adequate
Toolondo	2.4	10.1	Adequate
Quantong	4.0	12.9	Adequate
Horsham East	37.0	13.4	Adequate
Natimuk and District	9.1	14.9	Adequate
Haven	19.4	14.9	Adequate
Horsham West	32.9	17.0	Adequate
Riverside	7.9	18.9	Adequate
Laharum	4.5	21.0	High
Drung	6.3	25.3	High
Horsham South	50.9	29.7	High
Central Horsham	24.2	35.5	Very High
Pimpinio	21.2	62.8	Very High
Vectis	51.3	172.7	Very High



HORSHAM TOWNSHIP LOCALITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



	Open Space Precinct/Region Name	ABS SA1 Code (21388XX)
Horsham Township	Central Horsham	03*, 31
	Horsham North	02, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
	Horsham Inner-North	32, 33
	Horsham East	28*
	Horsham North East	04, 07, 34*, 35*
	Horsham South East	29, 30
	Horsham South	17*
	Horsham South-West	05, 06*, 16*, 25*, 26, 36*, 37*
	Horsham West	15, 21, 22, 23, 24
	Haven	18, 19, 20, 27
	Riverside	01

* Denotes SA1 boundaries realigned with Wimmera River.

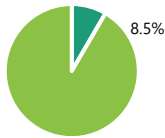
Specific Description of Open Space in Central Horsham

- Central Horsham is an established area based around the Central Activity District (CAD). Provision of open space in this locality is among the highest in the municipality, with 102 hectares per 1,000 people. This is due to the number of open spaces surrounding the river.
- Open space assets within this region include the Botanic Gardens, City Oval, Sawyer Park and the river foreshore. Together these form the iconic centre-piece of the open space network in Horsham, with high usage and visitation.

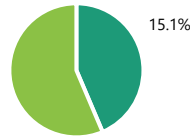
Fast Facts:



24.2 ha of open space in the locality



8.5% of all open space in Horsham



15.1% of the total locality area is open space



Local=20%
 Neighbourhood=33%
 Municipal=47%
 Regional=0%

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	3	3	2	1	0	0
Hectares	4.48	16.73	2.91	0.12	0.00	0.00
Proportion	18%	69%	12%	0%	0%	0%
2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating			
682	760	35.5	Very High			

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

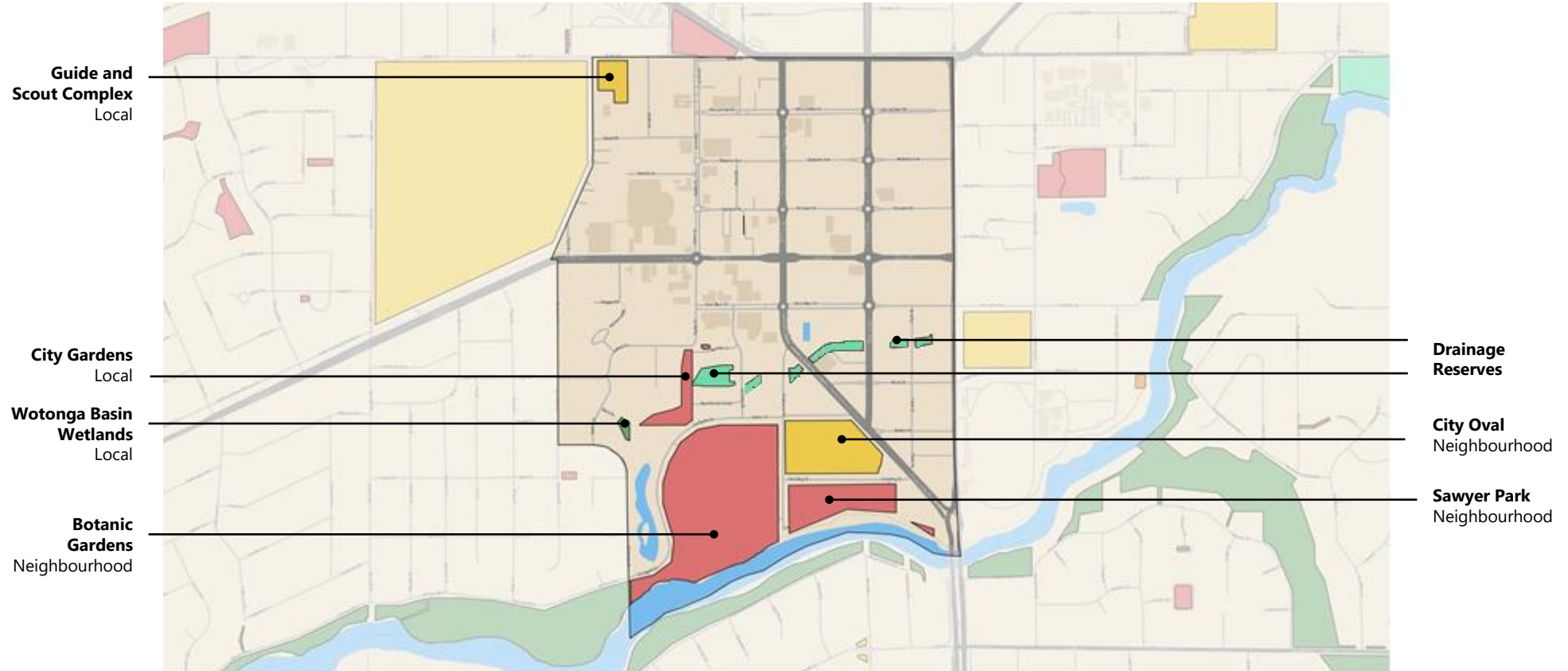
Key Issues

- While the provision ratio of open space per 1,000 people is very high, the actual use, connectivity and access to open space in the CAD is poor. Provision of, and access to civic spaces, such as community gardens is limited in the CAD and surrounding residential grid.
- City Oval is one of Horsham's key sport and recreational assets. However it appears closed off to the general public, and it is difficult to find usage times.
- The River Precinct is somewhat underutilised and has the potential to be a major destination for recreational and social enjoyment.

Future Considerations

- Develop a list of iconic assets and spaces that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for long-term reinvestment.
- Identify and develop a series of green space pockets throughout the CAD to increase opportunities for passive recreation.
- Enhance the streetscape through public art and sculptural pieces at road reserves in Pynsent Street, Wilson Street, Hamilton Street, Darlot Street and Urquhart Street presents opportunities to enhance public open space.
- Provide opportunities for improved integration of activities in the Horsham Central Activities District with the river corridor.
- Create and formalise linkages between the CAD and river corridor as identified through the Horsham CAD revitalisation project.
- Activate areas fronting the river to attract patronage and stimulate activity around the river corridor, such as the development of riverside catering/dining venues.
- Deliver public realm design outcomes along the riverfront to encourage and support increased recreational activity.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.

CENTRAL HORSHAM



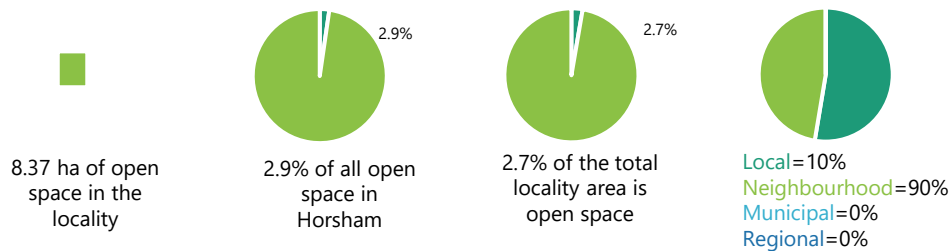
- Legend**
- Sports grounds
 - Recreation spaces
 - Natural areas
 - Civic spaces
 - Linkages
 - Other

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham North

- The major observation is that the North of Horsham is underserved by publicly accessible and activated open space.
- Horsham North has the highest population of all localities, however provision of open space is one of the lowest, with only 2.53 hectares per 1,000 people.
- Horsham North’s urban area is characterised by poor town planning outcomes, evident through the lack of a defined structure or hierarchy between places and connections.
- Dudley Cornell Park is the key open space asset in Horsham North, and is primarily used for athletics, cricket and soccer.

Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	11	0	0	0	1
Hectares	0.00	8.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35
Proportion	0%	96%	0%	0%	0%	4%
2016 Population	2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating	
3,309	3,689		2.5		Low	

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

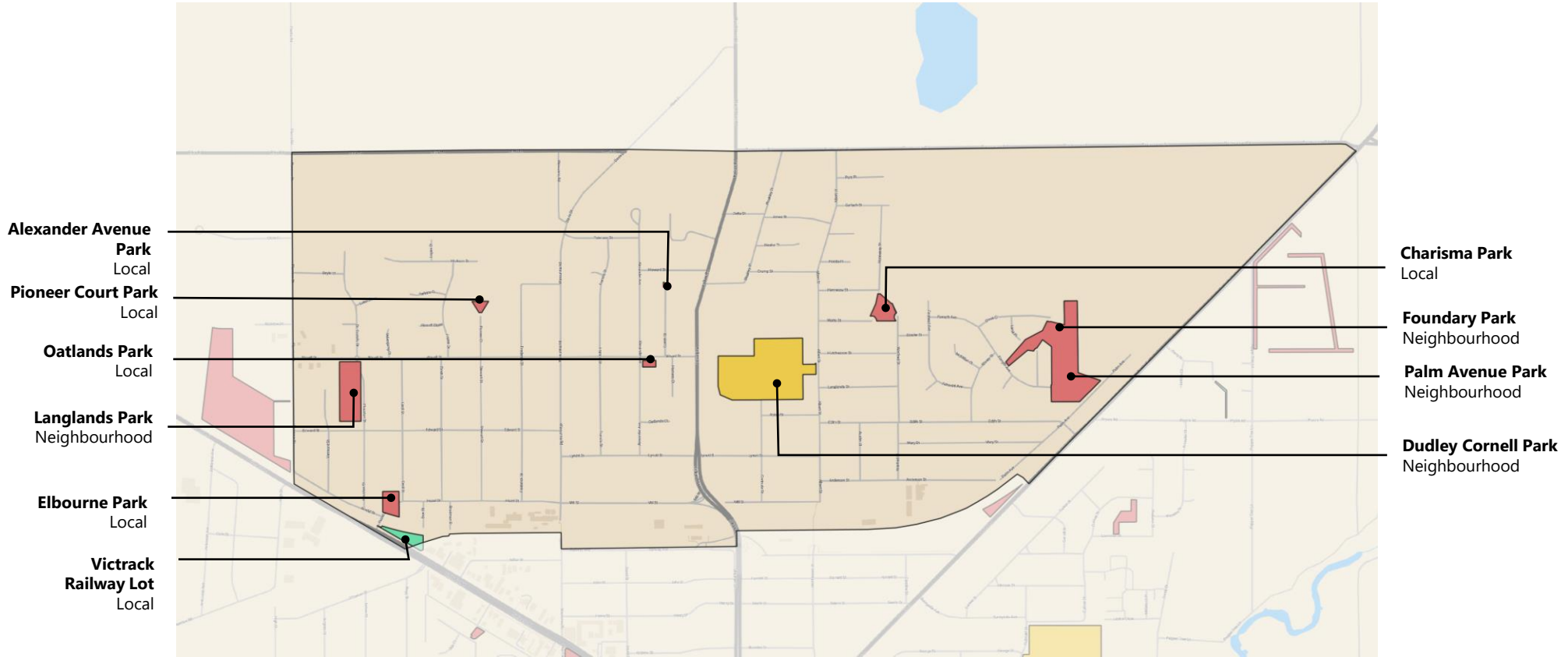
Key Issues

- Key public open spaces in Horsham North (Dudley Cornell Park and Foundry Park) are surrounded by backyard fences, which reduce the amenity, safety and character of these spaces.
- There is poor connectivity to the centre of the town with no formalised bike or pedestrian routes. This poses a safety risk for residents and limits accessibility.
- Horsham North is isolated and separated from the rest of Horsham by the railway corridor and adjoining land, and the poor quality connections across the railway. While the Railway Corridor restricts accessibility in some cases, it has the potential to provide the East/West connectivity and alleviate the barrier between North and South Horsham.

Future Considerations

- Activate existing open space with community amenities such as barbecues, picnic tables, public toilets at Languard’s Park and Charisma Park.
- Develop pedestrian and cycle links between the Kalkee Road Children’s Hub, Police Paddock and Dudley Cornell to provide connection between key open spaces in the North.
- Use Dudley Cornell Park for broader lifestyle and recreational use by local residents, with athletics relocated to another site (medium term).
- Develop initiatives to help re-integrate the urban areas on each side of the railway to change the dynamic of Horsham North.
- Investigate opportunities to redevelop the existing Horsham North Primary School site as a passive recreation space. This includes the existing North Gym, along with new walking trails, and passive open spaces.
- Create a series of “Safe Places” where residents can meet, or wait for public transport, in a safe environment. These Safe Places should be carefully designed with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles at key intersections and streets.

HORSHAM NORTH



- Legend**
- Sports grounds
 - Recreation spaces
 - Natural areas
 - Civic spaces
 - Linkages
 - Other

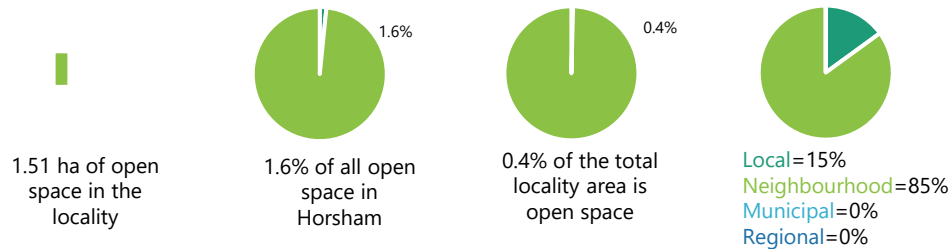
Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

HORSHAM INNER NORTH

Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham Inner North

- Horsham Inner North is a residential area that is bounded by the railway corridor land to the North and Baillie Street to the South.
- On the south side of the railway corridor, it does not have the same sense of separation and isolation as North Horsham, yet the railway corridor and adjoining land means there are poor quality connections to the open space network in the north of Horsham.
- May Park is the key open space asset within the locality. Birch Avenue also has a footpath reserve, which leads to an unnamed road bounded by backyard fences.

Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	3	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	1.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating			
1,260	1,405	1.2	Low			

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

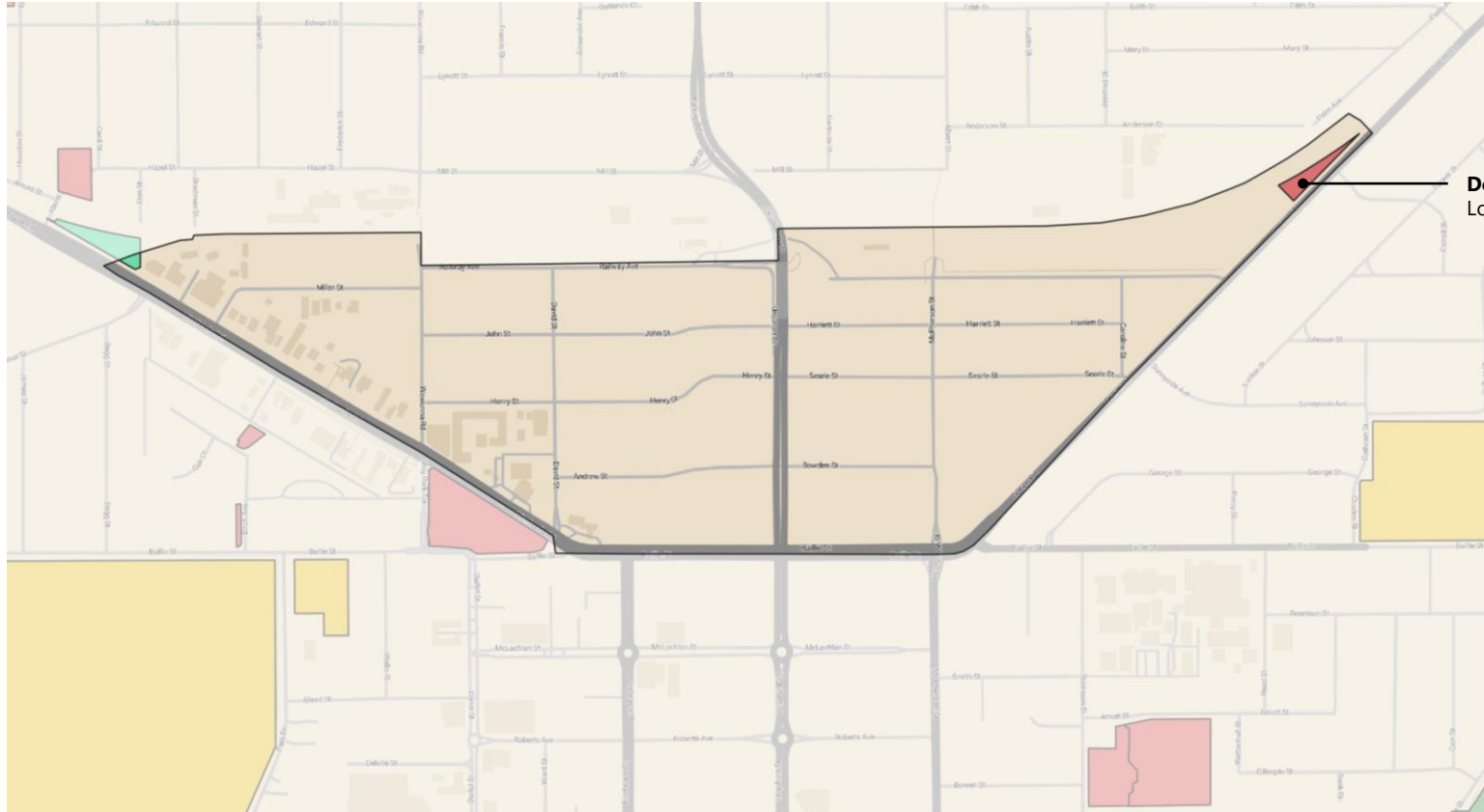
Key Issues

- The extensive area of underutilised land within the urban area, especially close to the railway line, creates unsightly gaps in the urban fabric, and prevents any sense of cohesion, intimacy or amenity in the area.
- Lack of linkages to the existing open space network – through dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes – hinders and prevents accessibility.

Future Considerations

- Strategically acquiring the railway corridor land will change the dynamics of the township, and this opportunity must be pursued to completion. This is assuming that environmental issues can be overcome.
- Connect public open space to the surrounding pedestrian network. Pedestrian and cycle paths that connect the river to May Park and Police Paddocks are needed to enhance connectivity and accessibility.
- As soon as practical, upgrade lighting at May Park to illuminate paths and areas for night-time use and to improve the perceived after-dark safety aspect.
- Improve existing pedestrian/cycle connections across the railway, and work with Victrack to improve underpasses between Horsham North and wider Horsham

HORSHAM INNER NORTH



Doonee Road Park Local

- Legend
- Sports grounds
 - Recreation spaces
 - Natural areas
 - Civic spaces
 - Linkages
 - Other

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

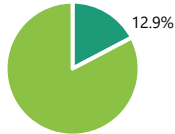
Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham East

- Horsham East is a residential area with a number of schools in the locality including St. Brigids College, Horsham 298 Primary School and the Lutheran Primary School.
- There is good provision of open space within Horsham East, with 16% of the total area classified as open space and a provision ratio of 22.72 hectares per 1000 people.
- Key open space assets within the locality include Sunnyside Park, Coughlin Park and the Menadue Street foreshore. A key natural asset is the Burnt Creek corridor from Williams Road to the confluence with the Wimmera River.

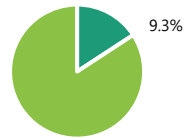
Fast Facts:



37.01 ha of open space in the locality



12.9% of all open space in Horsham



9.3% of the total locality area is open space



Local=7%
 Neighbourhood=35%
 Municipal=0%
 Regional=59%

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	4	5	0	1	0	3
Hectares	7.92	4.46	0.00	0.10	0.00	24.54
Proportion	21%	12%	0%	0%	0%	66%
2016 Population		2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating
2,766		3,084		13.4		Adequate

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Key Issues

- This locality is also home to the Horsham Showgrounds which houses the Horsham Greyhound track. Often described as an 'eyesore' by both visitors and the local community, this area has great potential to be opened up for better community use.
- There are a number of existing recreational paths along the river corridor, both formal and informal in nature. These do not yet form a consistent link along the corridor.
- There are no crossings towards the north eastern end of the river, and primary feedback from residents and stakeholders relates to the lack of connectivity across the river to the three local schools. The lack of dedicated pedestrian and cycle crossings is also major safety concern due to cyclists and pedestrians having to cross the highway and major roads.

Future Considerations

- Investigate additional river crossings to provide better connectivity and enhance safety and access between the CAD and the rest of the township.
- In conjunction with the Showgrounds Committee of Management and GRV, develop a 20-year strategy for the Showgrounds. The objective should be to open up this asset to the community, whilst ensuring the greyhound racing club activities are secured for the safety of the public.
- Ensure all land that abuts the Wimmera River and Burnt Creek is in public ownership.
- Upgrade and extend the existing all-abilities shared path network in the north-eastern direction along the river corridor within the urban area. This should include installing or upgrading access and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles.

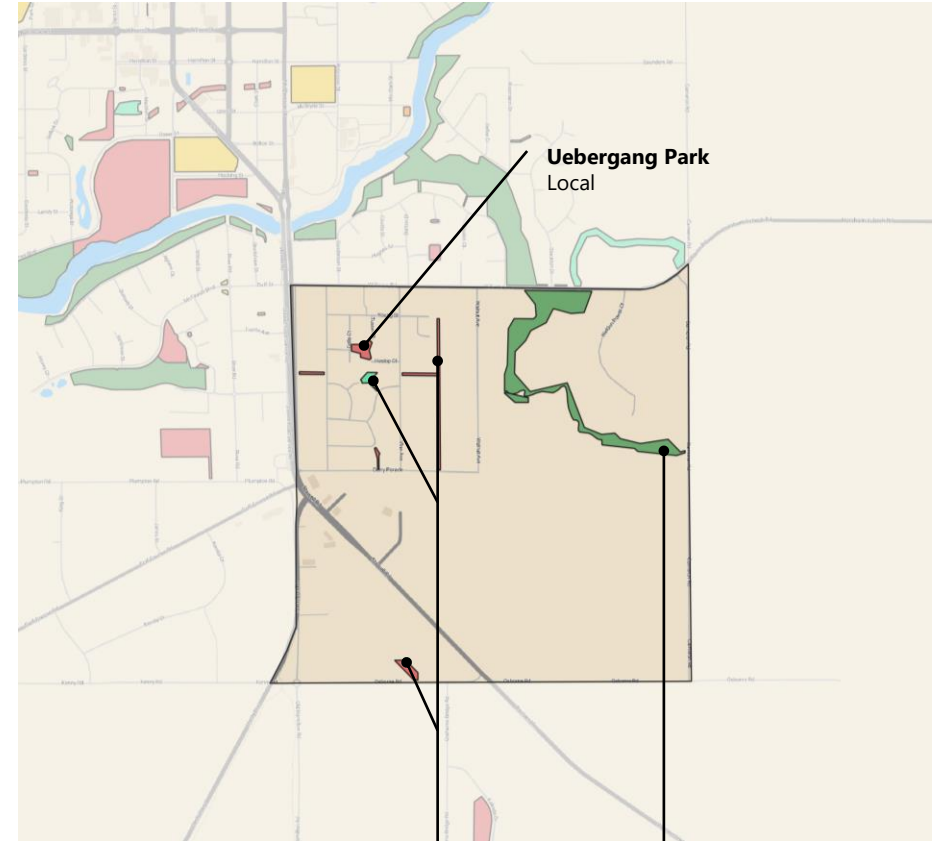
HORSHAM EAST



- Legend**
- Sports grounds
 - Recreation spaces
 - Natural areas
 - Civic spaces
 - Linkages
 - Other

Fisher Square
Local

**Burnt Creek
Drainage Reserve**



Drainage Reserves

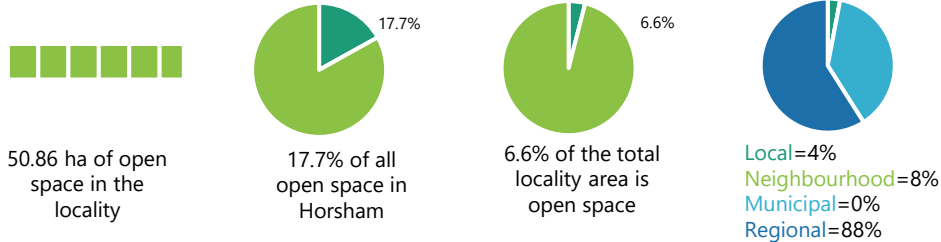
Burnt Creek Reserve
Municipal

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham South

- While there is an adequate provision ratio of open space per 1,000 people in this locality, new housing developments in Horsham South have proceeded with inadequate consideration of open space due to the lack of an HRCC open space contributions policy.
- Fisher Square provides a vital pocket of green space within walking distance of neighbouring houses, and the Barnes Boulevard river frontage on the north bank of the river is a vital natural and open space asset.
- The Wopet Bungundilar Cultural Place is one of the most significant areas of cultural heritage in Western Victoria and is situated in the locality.

Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	5	2	0	0	2
Hectares	0.00	0.71	5.53	0.00	0.00	44.62
Proportion	0%	1%	11%	0%	0%	88%
2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating		
1,714	1,911	29.7		High		

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

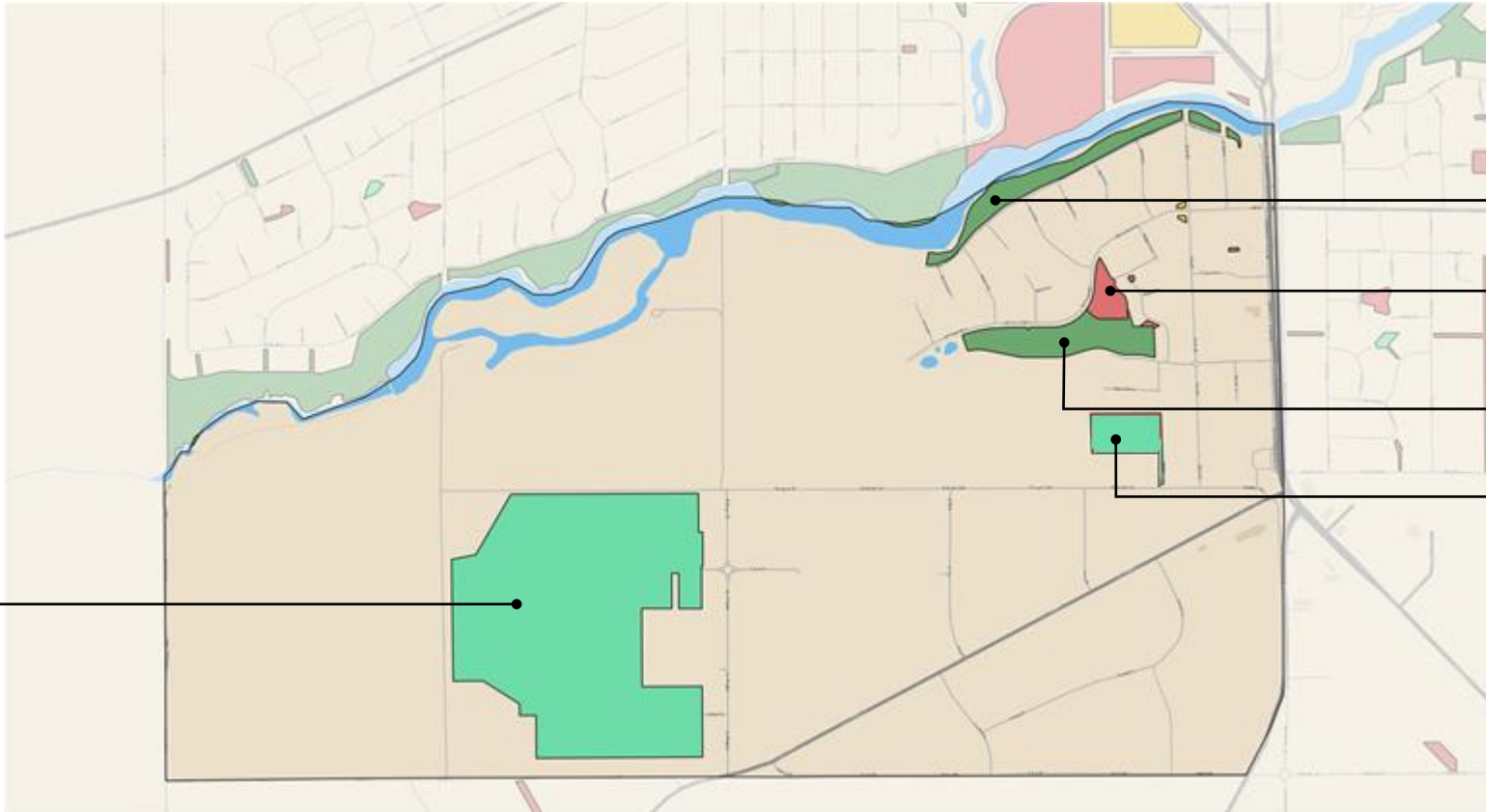
Key Issues

- Due to previous uncoordinated planning and inadequate planning controls for South Horsham, development has occurred in an ad hoc manner, with no overarching plan to provide guidance on infrastructure or open space provision.
- Transport and infrastructure linkages and connectivity between Horsham South and Horsham's other urban areas is also poor, with one vehicle river crossing and one pedestrian/cycle bridge connection servicing the locality.

Future Considerations

- Provide easy, continuous and universal access along both banks of the river within the wider river corridor.
- Establish new linkages across the river to better connect South Horsham with the rest of the urban area.
- Develop parklands with play areas on the south bank of the river to provide improved usage and facilities that will attract residents and activity, and take full advantage of these prime river corridor destinations.
- Provide lighting on the south side of river between pedestrian and vehicle bridges to address CPTED issues and increase evening use.
- Ensure all river access is sustainable and respectful of biodiversity, river health, Wotjobaluk and post-contact cultural heritage.
- Engage with the community, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, and other key stakeholders in determining the optimum location and design of access to the river.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.

HORSHAM SOUTH



Vacant Land

**Major Mitchell Drive
River Frontage
Reserve**
Local

**McTavish Boulevard
(north east swale)**
Local

**McTavish Boulevard
(south swale)**
Neighbourhood

Drainage Reserve

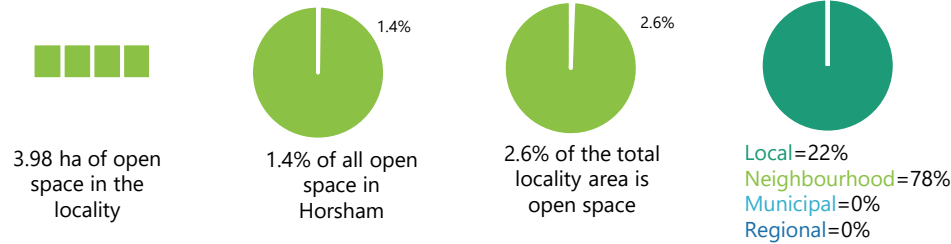
- Legend
- Sports grounds
 - Recreation spaces
 - Natural areas
 - Civic spaces
 - Linkages
 - Other

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham South West

- Horsham South West is a residential area in close proximity to the Horsham CAD. It has the lowest provision of open space across all localities, with a provision ration of 0.31 hectares per 1,000 people.
- Population growth across the municipality is primarily focused on Horsham West, however this will also impact the future of Horsham South West.
- Open space in the locality is characterised by drainage reserves and small pocket parks such as Drummond Park, Dawson Court Park, Windsor Court Park, Hartigan Court Park and Gardenia Street Park.

Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	8	1	1	0	2
Hectares	0.00	2.58	0.16	1.00	0.00	0.24
Proportion	0%	65%	4%	25%	0%	6%
2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating			
2,847	3,174	1.4	Low			

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

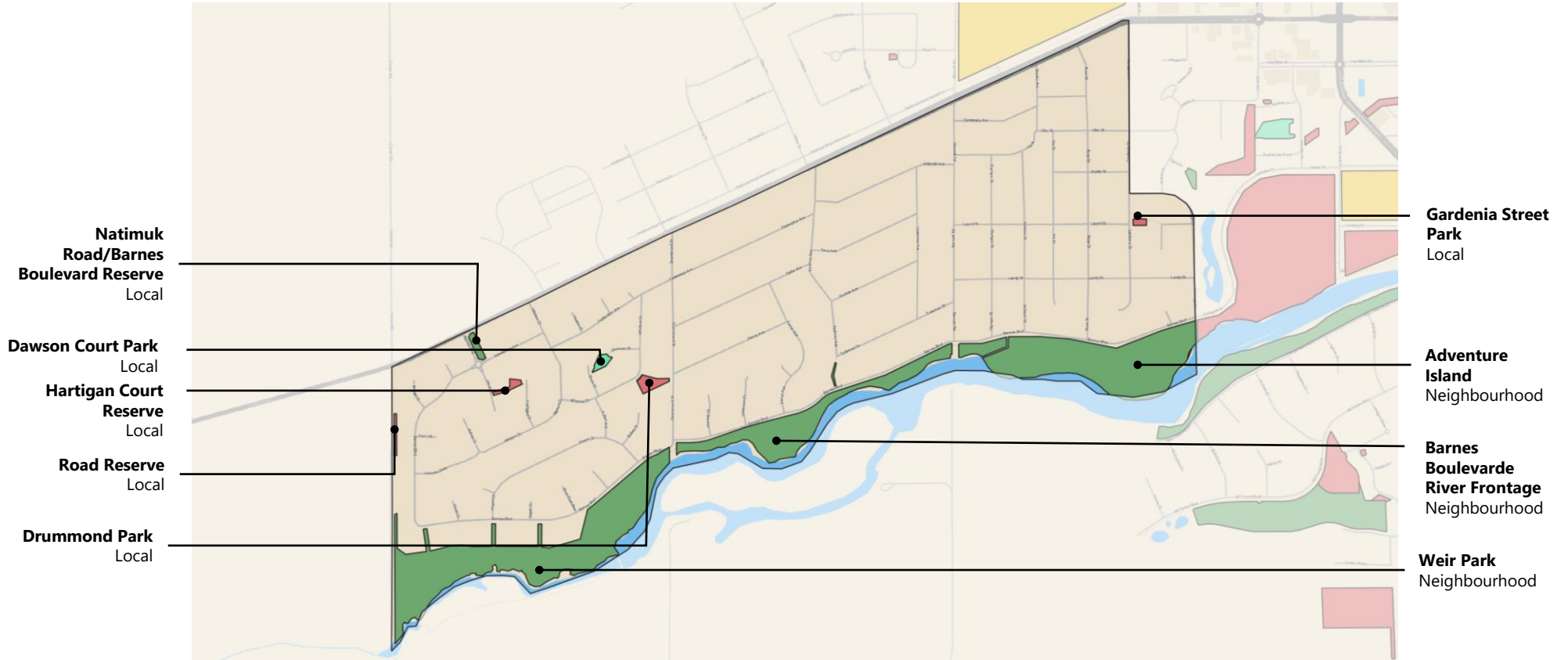
Key Issues

- There is a distinct lack of purposeful green and open spaces in the locality, and there are poor cycling linkages to the rest of the township.
- There are no sports grounds, linkages or civic space in Horsham South West.

Future Considerations

- In future planning, ensure that urban open space in Horsham South West provides for nature conservation, recreation and play, formal and informal sport, social interaction, opportunities to connect with nature and peace and solitude.
- Transform road reserves into purposeful spaces by selecting Indigenous planting and landscape elements that support the existing or preferred future character of the area. This will assist in enhancing usage and beautification of these spaces.
- Considering this locality borders the river, an improved bicycle network would be advantageous for the community to enhance connections to the river and the CAD. This should include identifying and developing all-abilities access locations to the corridor and the river, and upgrading access infrastructure and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles.

HORSHAM SOUTH WEST



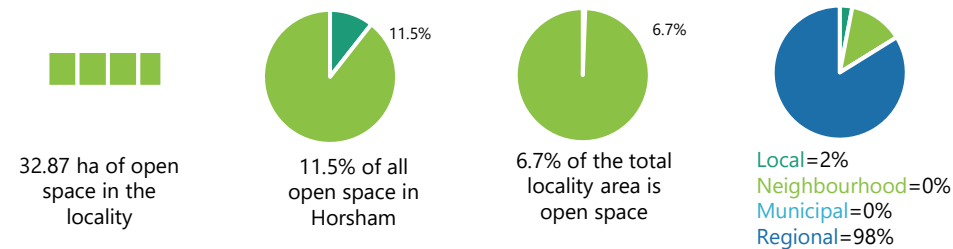
- Legend**
- Sports grounds
 - Recreation spaces
 - Natural areas
 - Civic spaces
 - Linkages
 - Other

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham West

- Horsham West is a residential area in close proximity to the CAD, and is considered the growth area of Horsham. Similar to Horsham South West, there are a number of drainage reserves and pocket parks including Dumesny Sreet Park, Bodey Court Park and Carter Street Park.
- The major open space asset in Horsham West is the Racecourse Reserve, accounting for 84% of all open space in the locality.
- With Horsham College, Horsham West Primary School, the Special School and Federation University TAFE, this locality is home to a number of school based assets that are underutilised.

Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	5	0	0	0	1
Hectares	32.32	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Proportion	98%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating		
1,932	2,154	17.0		Adequate		

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

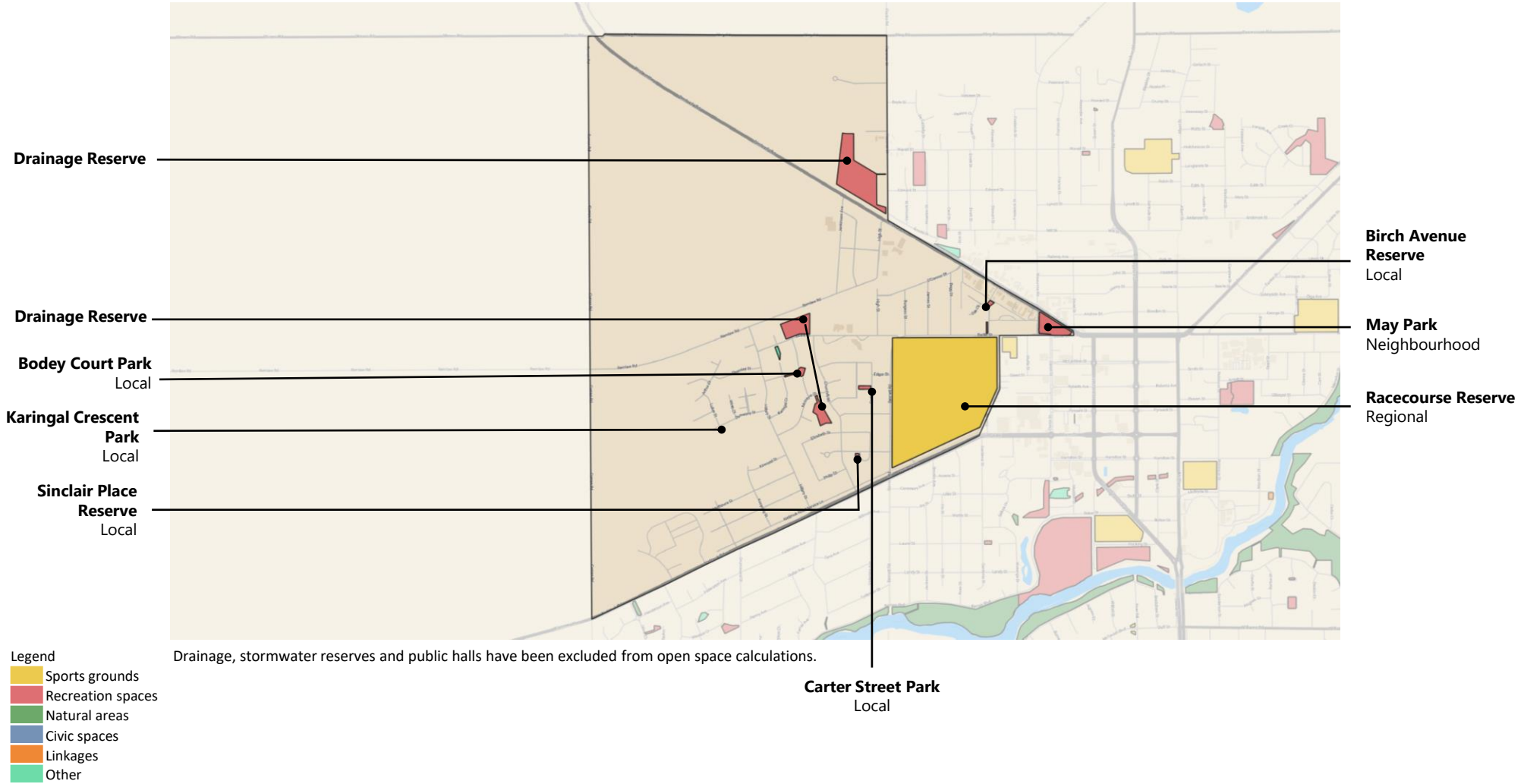
Key Issues

- 82% of the total area of the Racecourse Reserve is encumbered space and unable to be used by the broader community. This significant area of open space is under-utilised, and could provide a key recreational asset and home to a sporting club(s) if developed to standard.
- With some forward thinking that is aligned to community needs, school-based assets could offer the community recreational and health benefits.

Future Considerations

- In alignment with the Jenkinson Estate Staging Plan, develop Freeman Street/Arthur Drive into a single loaded street so that an open space area can be created to adjoin the pre-existing rail corridor.
- Secure a reliable water supply to the Jenkinson Estate to ensure open space is maintained in good condition.
- The strategic acquisition of the rail corridor should be a medium/long term objective for Council, as it has potential to add to the shared path network for the city, as well as play a role in adding to a regional network of off road shared paths. Any future planning for shared paths should also consider connections with the Big Sky Bicycle Trail and Wimmera River.
- Encourage the Recreation and Open Space Planning department at HRCC to identify and engage with two schools about a pilot program for community use of recreational assets i.e. ovals.
- Build a closer relationship with the Horsham Racing Club and Horsham Harness Racing Club to plan for the long-term future of the Racecourse Reserve. Consider future improvements to the 'in-field' for community sport teams, and enhance the current community footprint, in alignment with the Wimmera River and CAD Revitalisation Project.
- Transform stormwater basins into purposeful spaces by selecting Indigenous planting and landscape elements that support the character of the area.

HORSHAM WEST



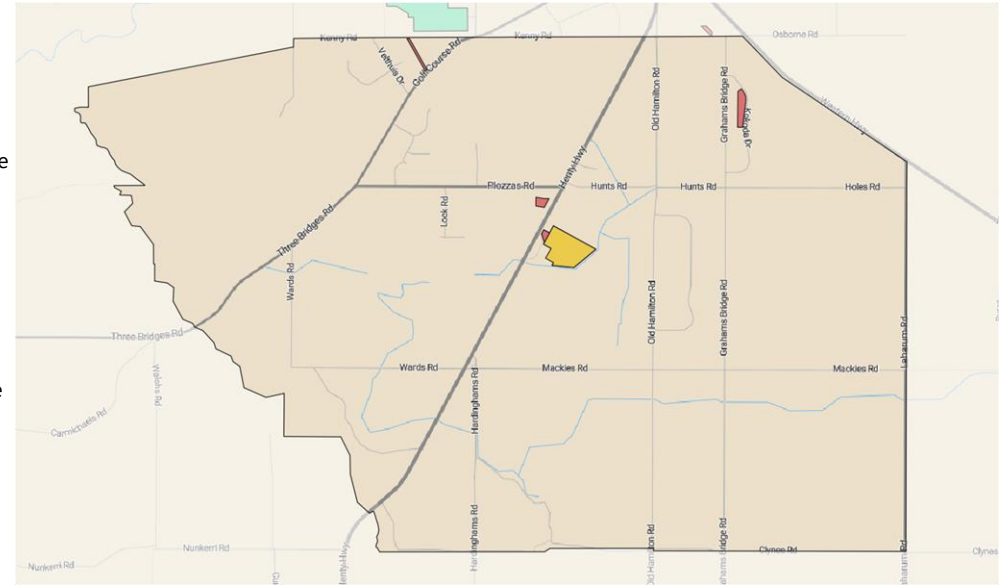
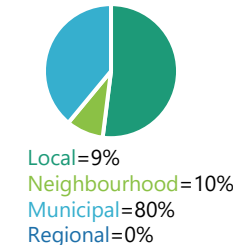
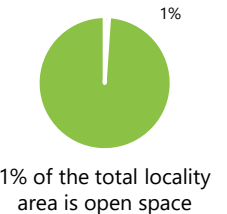
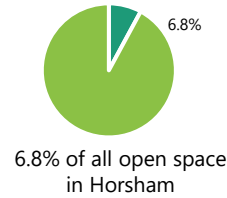
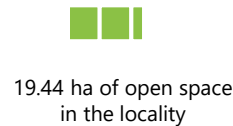
Specific Description of Open Space in Haven

- Haven is a tight-knit and growing community, located to the South of Horsham. The region is well-served by open space with 22.23 hectares of open space per 1,000 people. The Recreation Reserve and Primary School serve as a central hub and recreation space for local residents.
- The Council Plan 2018-2022 states that one of its four year priorities is to 'facilitate ongoing development of community facilities at Haven Recreational Reserve.'

Future Considerations

- Future planning should consider open space areas for multiple uses, such as sports and recreation, active transport routes, wildlife corridors and flood storage basins.
- A shared trail connecting Golf Course Rd to the trail adjacent to Haven Primary School would assist in providing safe active transport connection to the Horsham township.
- Additionally, Hunts Road is also a well utilised road, and a shared cycling and walking track along this route with potential to be extended would provide safe passage for the number of young families in the area.
- Future development of the Haven Recreation Reserve should consider incorporating regional standard tennis facilities, introducing walking and cycle linkages to the Horsham CAD, enhancing the natural areas and surrounds and safer entry and exit from the Henty Highway.

Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	4	1	0	0	0
Hectares	9.91	3.81	5.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	51%	20%	29%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
1,303	1,453	14.9	Adequate

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

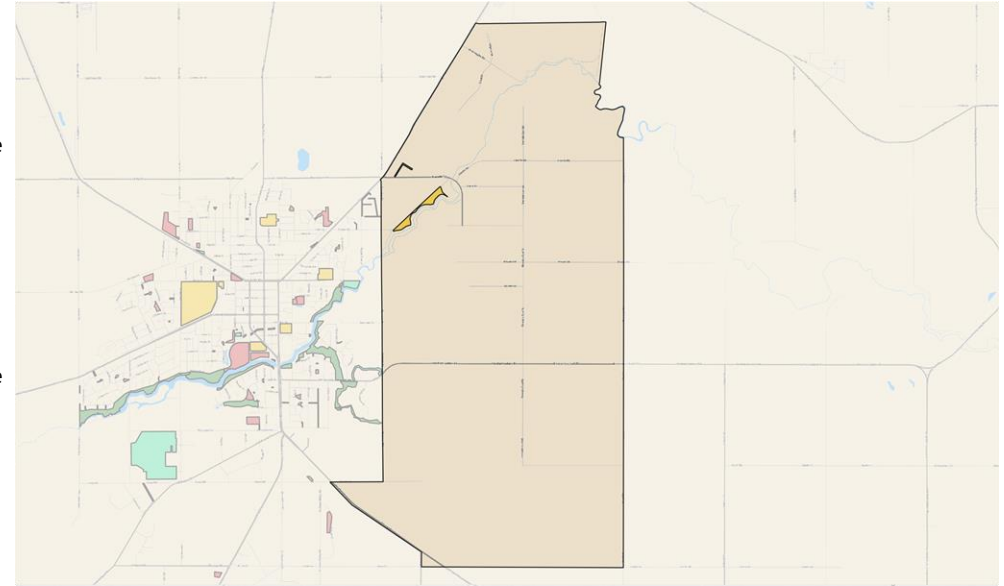
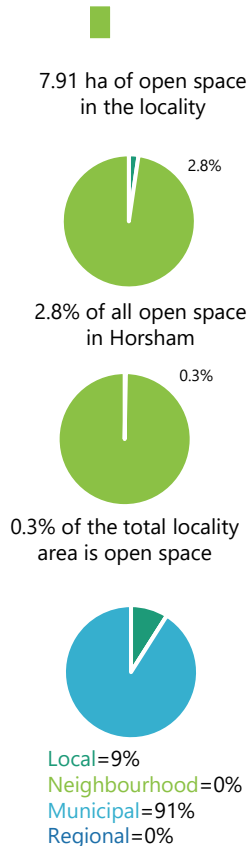
Specific Description of Open Space in Riverside

- Riverside is on the eastern outskirts of the Horsham Township and is primarily farming and rural living.
- The major open space asset in the region is the Riverside Recreation Reserve, which is primarily used for equestrian.
- Within the region there is also the Dooen Swamp Bushland Reserve and the site of the old Dooen Weir, which has historical value, as well as being an attractive natural area on the river. This is a popular area for canoeing, BMX and mountain biking along the riverfront.

Future Considerations

- Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor. Any planned paths must be considered in future highway developments.
- Formalise and secure easy and continuous public access for people of all abilities within the wider river corridor, including along both banks of the river. This may require the strategic acquisition of land to ensure minimum width standards for a shared path (see appendix).
- Upgrade the access track to the Dooen Weir including provision of signage, public toilets and picnic upgrades.
- Investigate a potential multi purpose mountain bike track/pump track alongside the motocross track.
- Recognise and manage any potential detrimental outcomes from increased access and use of the river corridor.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.

Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

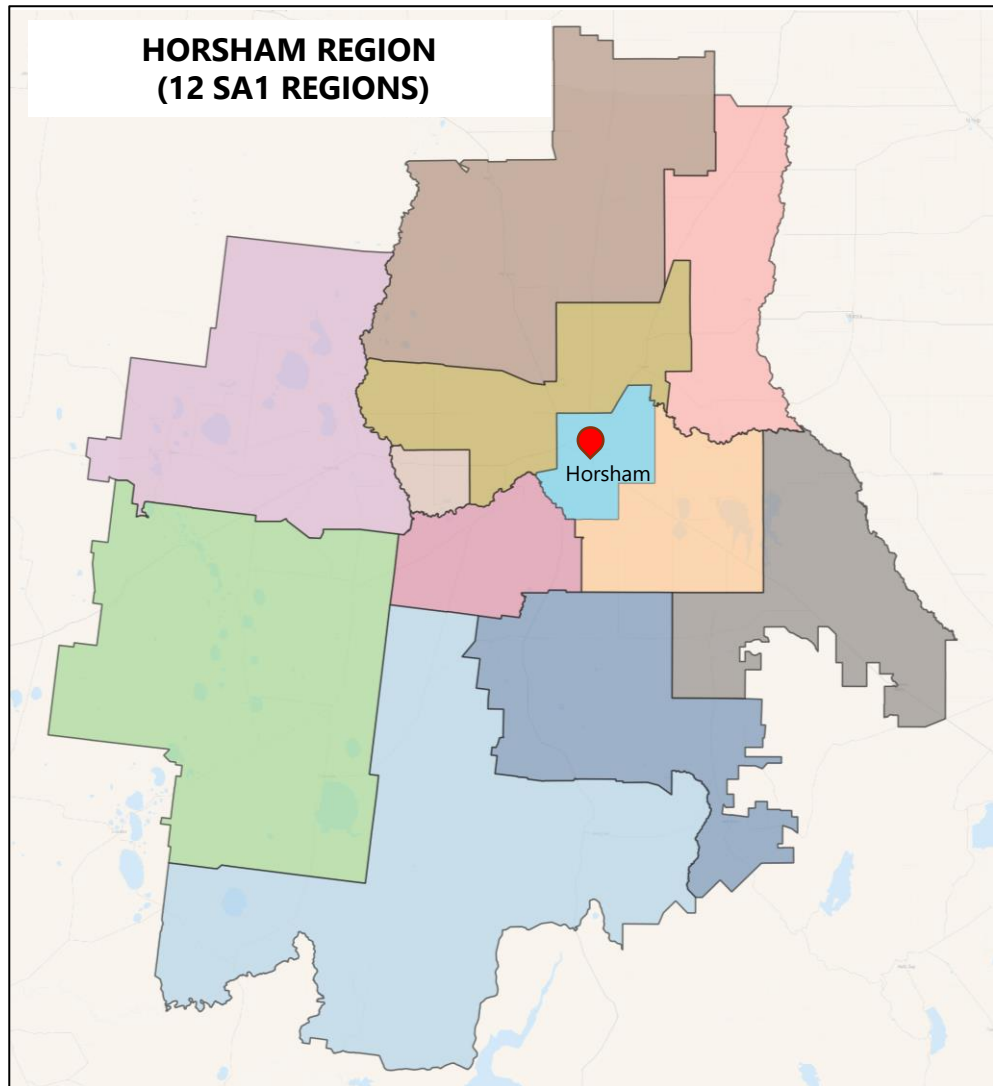
	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	1	0	0
Hectares	7.18	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00
Proportion	91%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
418	466	18.9	Adequate

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



OUTLYING LOCALITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



	Open Space Locality Name	ABS SA1 Code
Horsham Region	Toolondo	2138901
	Brimpaen	2138902
	Wartook	2138903
	McKenzie Creek	2138904
	Drung	2138905
	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	2138906
	Natimuk	2138907
	Pimpinio and Kalkee	2138908
	Jung	2138909
	Dooen and Vectis	2138910
	Quantong	2138911
	Natimuk District	2138912
Horsham Township	Horsham Township	37 SA1 Regions

Outside of the Horsham Township, there are 12 SA1 regions as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This type of analysis is used widely in strategy and planning projects. For this project, these regions have been used for the locality analysis to **ensure alignment with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)**.

It is important to recognise that due to the way the SA1 boundaries are structured, some townships which are grouped together by SA1 region may not practically share open space assets.

For example, when using the SA1s, Brimpaen Telangatuk and Kanagulk are in the same region, however, Brimpaen residents are more likely to access the public open space assets in Laharum and Wartook than in Telagatuk East and Kanagulk.

For this reason, when considering catchment planning, **the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.**

Drung neighbours the Haven and Riverside localities and is located to the South East of Horsham, with a population of 247 people. Within this locality are the townships of Bungalally and Green Lake.

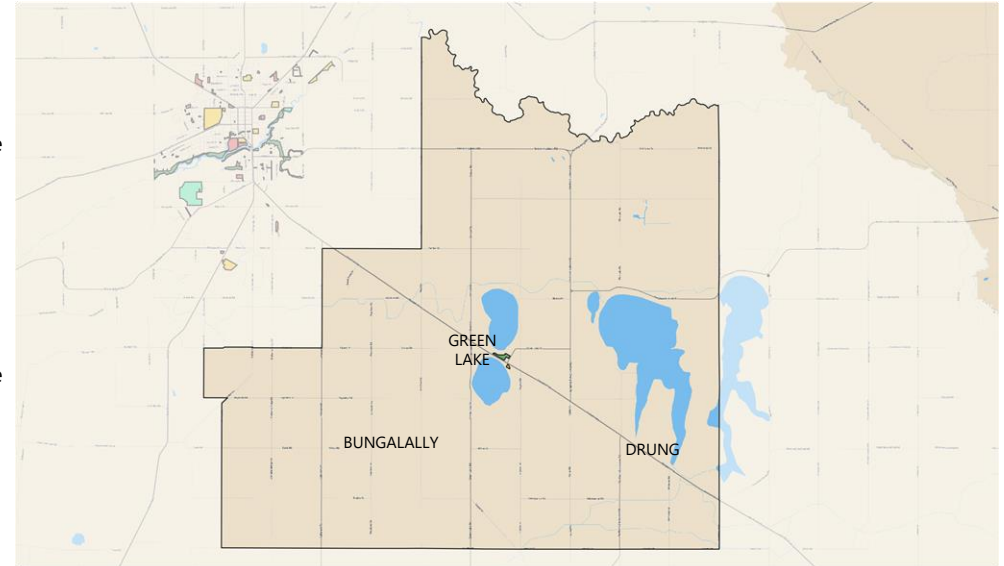
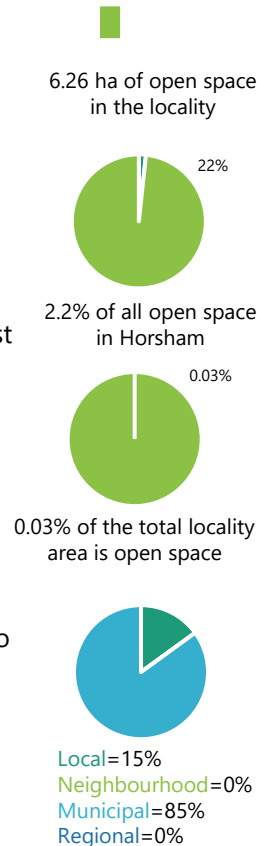
Specific Description of Open Space in Drung

- This region is home to four of the major lakes in the municipality: Green Lake, Dock Lake, Pine Lake and Taylors Lake. While not classified as open space, these waterbodies provide significant natural and recreational value to the local community.
- From the consultations, there is often confusion amongst the local community about whether the lake will be open or closed to water activities before you arrive.

Future Considerations

- Investigate opportunities for the development of the Green Lake/Dock Lake recreational precinct.
- Further investigate and pursue the opportunity for a walking and cycling track from Green Lake to Horsham, with the potential to circle around the lake and go out to Natimuk and Mount Arapiles to connect to the Big Sky Bicycle Trail.
- Review the HRCC website to uplift communication and community awareness of key council and community open space assets and their amenities.

Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hectares	0.93	0.00	5.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	15%	0%	85%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
247	227	25.34	High

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

DADSWELLS BRIDGE AND LAHARUM (1/2)

The Dadswells Bridge and Laharum locality is in the east of the municipality, and has a population of 214 residents.

Although these townships are grouped in the same SA1 region, it is unlikely for Laharum residents to travel to Dadswells Bridge to (or vice versa) access facilities or open space as the Grampians acts as a physical and geographical barrier between the two townships. This should be considered in future planning around communities of interest.

Specific Description of Open Space in Dadswells Bridge

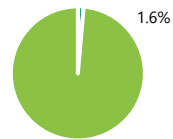
- The Mt William Creek winds its way through Dadswells Bridge providing not only a valuable water source for the town, but also an environmental and recreational feature.
- There is one community hall in the Dadswells Bridge township, and three tennis courts for recreational use.
- Dadswells Bridge should be the celebration that you have arrived in one of Victoria’s most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham.

Future Considerations for Dadswells Bridge

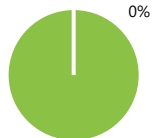
- Develop and implement a long-term revitalisation strategy for Dadswells Bridge. This will require a staged approach – and there must be a story about its significance and history to the region.
- Invest in a major town entrance sign/feature at Dadswells Bridge celebrating that you have arrived in one of Victoria’s most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham.

Fast Facts:

4.5 ha of open space in the locality



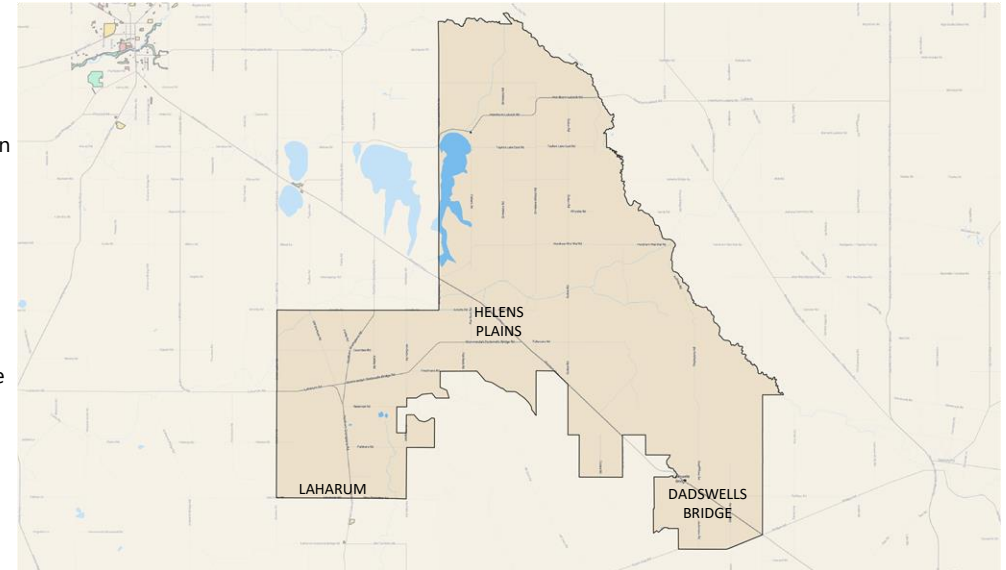
1.6% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=0%
 Neighbourhood=100%
 Municipal=0%
 Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
214	196	21.0	High

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

DADSWELLS BRIDGE AND LAHARUM (2/2)

While the Laharum and Dadswells Bridge townships are situated within the same SA1 region, public open space in Laharum will also be accessed by residents from Brimpaen, Wartook and Wonwondah.

Specific Description of Open Space in Laharum

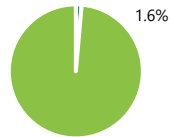
- Existing open space and sport and recreation facilities in Laharum are the Laharum Community Hall, Laharum Primary School and Kindergarten and Cameron Oval.
- Cameron Oval is in good condition and is used regularly for football and cricket matches as well as school and interschool sports days.

Future Considerations for Laharum

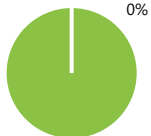
- In line with the priorities from the Council Plan 2018-2022, continue the ongoing development of community facilities at Cameron Oval.
- Formalise and improve the surface of the trail that connects Cameron Oval to the Laharum Hall and Primary School site.
- Investigate opportunities to upgrade the landscaping at Cameron Oval with tree plantings, a community garden and picnic/BBQ facilities to enhance community use.
- Consider the removal of the old tennis court between the school and the Laharum Hall.
- Engage with the Department of Education and Training about opportunities to acquire block of land on the northern boundary of Cameron Oval for the community. This block could be used for overflow and emergency parking around Cameron Oval.

Fast Facts:

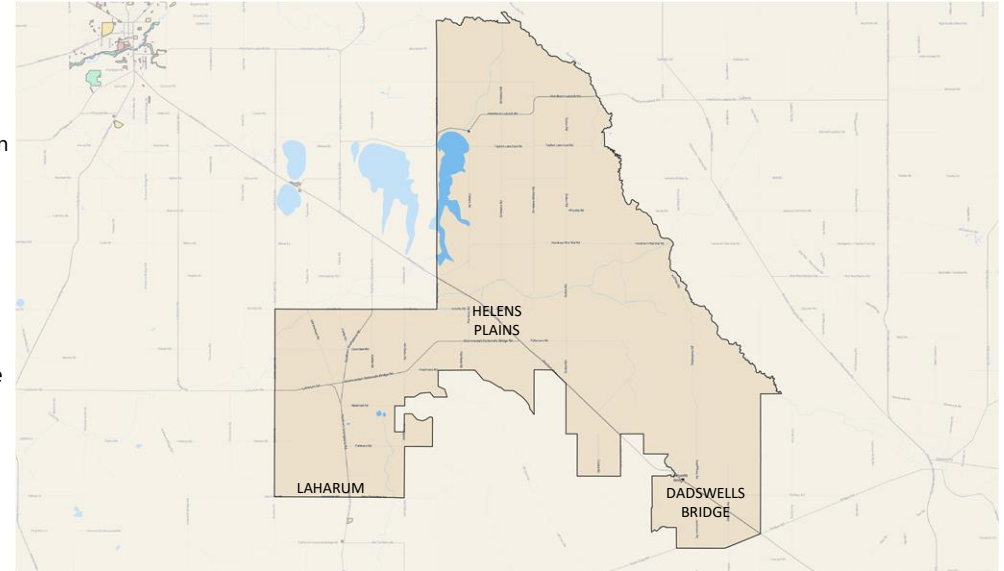
4.5 ha of open space in the locality



1.6% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
214	196	21.0	High

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Wartook is in the south of the municipality and comprises the townships of Wartook and Wonwondah. Wartook is the gateway to the Grampians National Park, and 1,604 hectares of the National Park is within the SA1 border.

Wartook neighbours Laharum, and the facilities at Cameron Oval and the Laharum Hall are likely to also be used by Wartook and Wonwondah residents.

Specific Description of Open Space in Wartook

- The Wartook area has at least three Aboriginal art sites and is an important part of Victoria's Aboriginal heritage.

Future Considerations

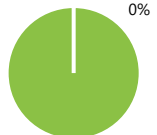
- Develop improved cycling and walking trails in the Wartook area to provide a better visitor experience and more recreational opportunities for residents.
- Support connections to the Grampians Peak Trail and Wartook to Zumsteins walking and cycling trail at an appropriate location.
- Identify and protect areas containing significant flora and fauna, in particular the listed threatened and rare species which exist within the area.
- Ensure the long history of indigenous culture is valued in any future planning applications or development.
- Encourage the provision of appropriately located picnic areas, toilets, bins, visitor information, tourist routes and viewpoints, particularly to the north and western fringe of the Grampians.

Fast Facts:

0 ha of open space in the locality



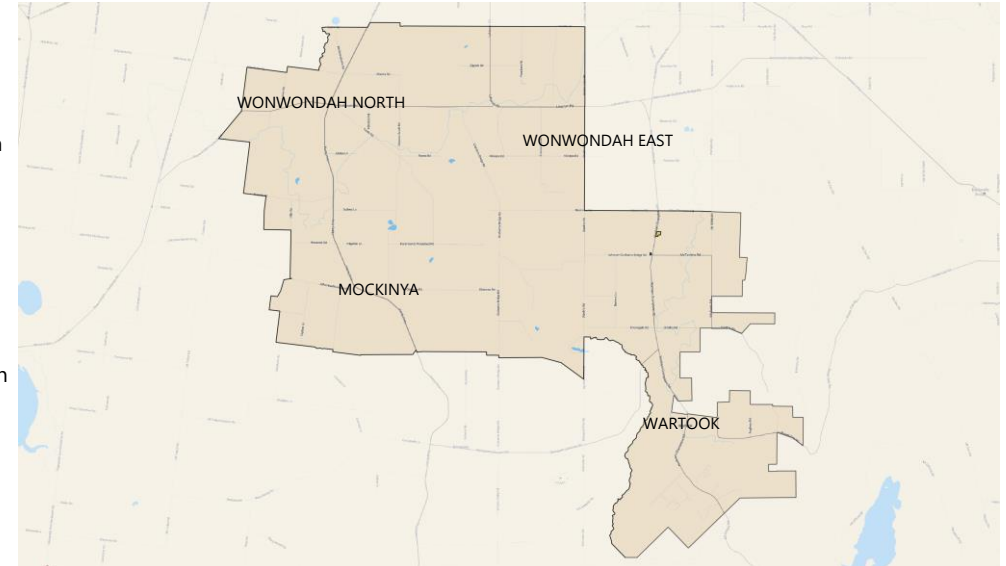
0% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=100%
 Neighbourhood=0%
 Municipal=0%
 Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
310	285	-	Low

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Brimpaen is an outlying region to the South of Horsham. It has one of the smallest populations of all the localities, with only 217 people in 2016. Within this locality are the townships of Brimpaen, Telangatuk, Kanagulk and Nurrabel.

Specific Description of Open Space in Brimpaen

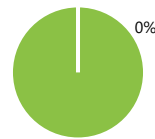
- The Brimpaen Hall, Talangatuk Hall and Kanagulk Hall provide civic spaces for the local community in this region and there is a tennis court surrounding the Telangatuk Hall which serves as public open space.
- The Black Range State Park is managed by Parks Victoria and protects significant environmental and cultural values including rock shelter, rock art, quarries and scar trees. The park also provides a range of recreation opportunities.

Future Considerations

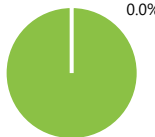
- The Black Ranges creates a physical divide between Brimpaen and the other townships in the region. Therefore, any future catchment planning should consider that community members in Brimpaen are more likely to access public open space and sport and recreation facilities in Laharum, Wartook and Wonwondah than Telangatuk and Kanagulk.
- Collaborate with Parks Victoria on the development of the new Grampians Gariwerd Management Plan (that includes the Black Range) to clarify appropriate and sustainable recreation activities for the park.
- Ensure that every major asset and/or place has visual and written recognition of the traditional Indigenous landowners. A separate piece of work will be required to accelerate this around the Reconciliation Action Plan.

Fast Facts:

0.03 ha of open space in the locality



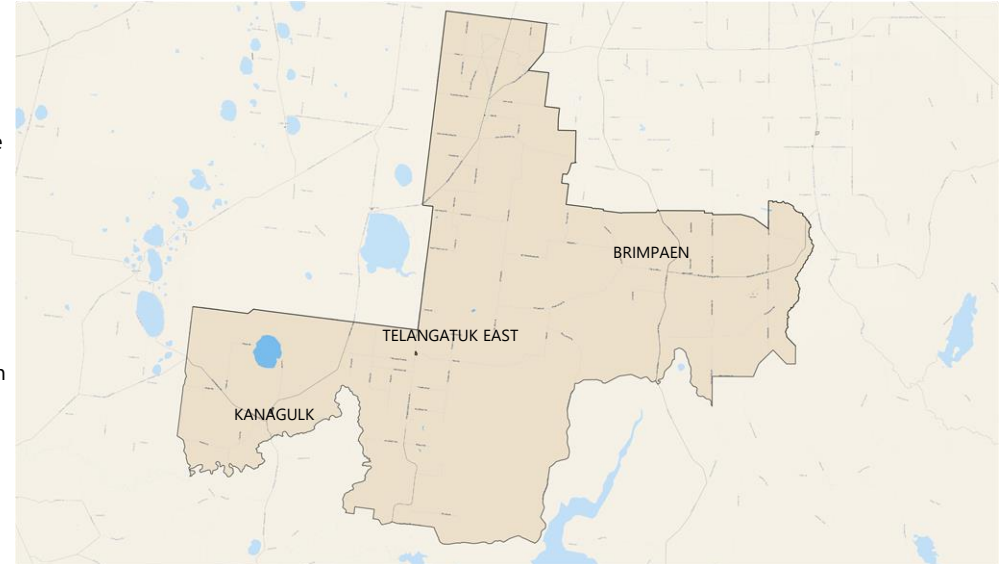
0% of all open space in Horsham



0.0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=100%
 Neighbourhood=0%
 Municipal=0%
 Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
217	199	0.1	Low

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Toolondo is in the south west of the municipality and is the largest region by area, at 763 square kilometres. The region comprises the townships of Toolondo, Clear Lake, Noradjuha, Tooan and Jilpanger.

As Toolondo shares a border with Telangatuk East and Kanagulk, it is likely that public open space in Toolondo will also be used by residents from these townships as well.

Specific Description of Open Space in Toolondo

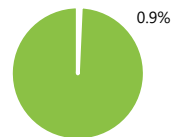
- The locality has a number of outstanding lakes and wetlands that are key natural assets for the community.
- Key community spaces include the Toolondo Recreation Reserve, Noradjuha Recreation Reserve and Noradjuha Memorial Hall.
- While Toolondo is the biggest region by size, approximately 10% of the total area is parkland managed by Parks Victoria. This includes the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, Jilpanger Nature Conservation Reserve, Jacka Lake Wildlife Reserve, Jallumba Wildlife Reserve, Lake Carchap Wildlife Reserve, Red Gum Swamp Wildlife Reserve, and the Tooan Bushland Reserve.

Future Considerations

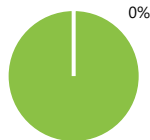
- Work with Parks Victoria to ensure appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities that protect the environmental and cultural values of the parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria.
- When considering future upgrades to recreation reserves, focus on enhancing community use through urban and landscape design.

Fast Facts:

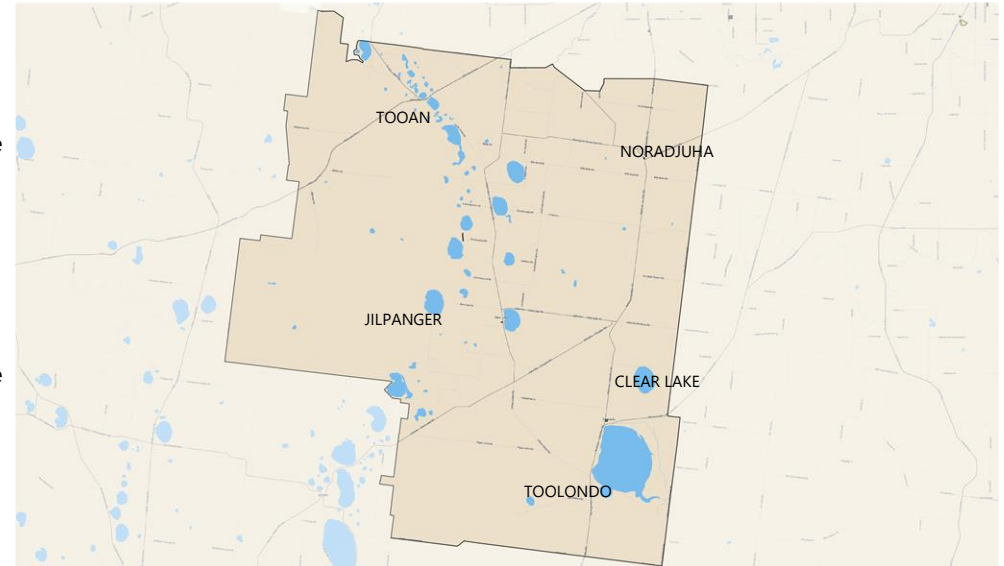
2.44 ha of open space in the locality



0.9% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	0	0	2
Hectares	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23
Proportion	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
241	221	10.1	Adequate

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

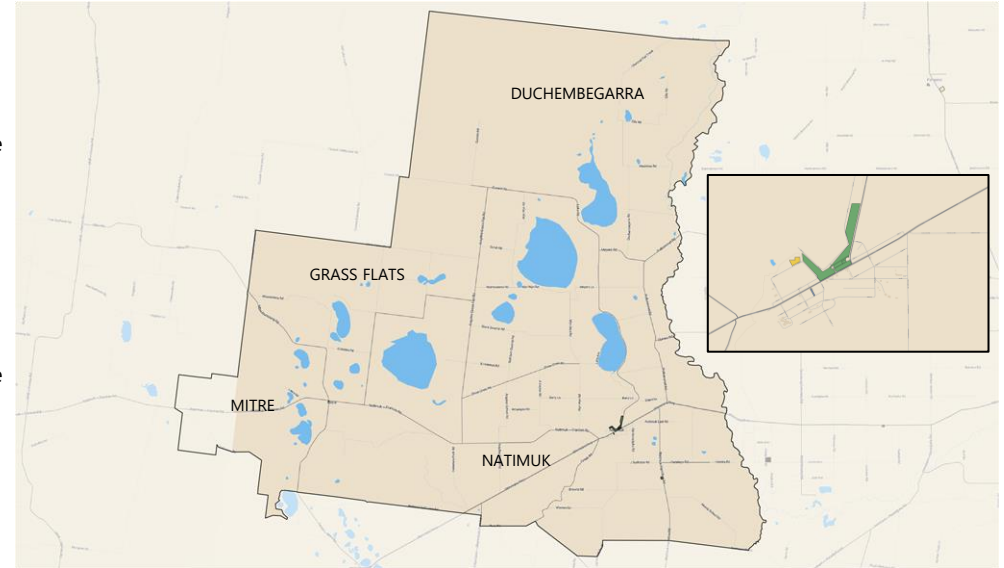
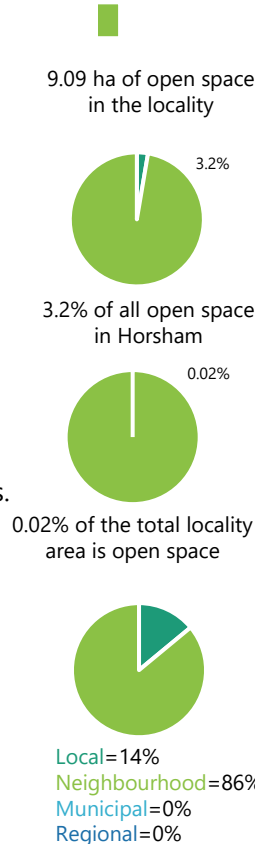
NATIMUK AND DISTRICT (1/2)

The Natimuk and District region includes the townships of Natimuk, Grass Flat, and Mitre. The region is located to the west of the Horsham township and has a population of 611 people.

Specific Description of Open Space in Natimuk and District

- The region has a high provision of open space, with a mix of sports grounds, recreation spaces and natural areas. The Natimuk Showgrounds precinct is in good condition and offers a range of sports including cricket, football, netball and tennis.
- Managed by Parks Victoria, Natimuk Lake protects nationally important environmental values and cultural sites. The lake naturally cycles through periods of being dry and periods of being full. Changing the natural hydrology is listed as the key threat to the natural values.
- When full, Lake Natimuk provides a range of water related recreation opportunities including boating, fishing, nature study, duck hunting and water skiing.
- Natimuk is the gateway to Mount Arapiles-Tooon State Park, co-managed by Parks Victoria and BGLC. The park protects significant environmental and cultural values, and is an internationally significant rock climbing destination. The area is very important to Traditional Owners.
- The local community also have a strong socio-cultural connection to the park – there are over 30 licensed tour operators working at the park, over 50 school groups visit the park annually, and there are numerous police, military, fire and rescue groups who conduct training within the park.

Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	1	2	0	0	1
Hectares	0.00	0.85	7.85	0.00	0.00	0.41
Proportion	0%	9%	86%	0%	0%	4%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
611	561	14.9	Adequate

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

NATIMUK AND DISTRICT (2/2)

Future Considerations

- Position Natimuk (and Horsham more broadly) as the gateway to this internationally important rock climbing destination.
- Support the land managers, Parks Victoria, and co-managers, BGLC in their role of ensuring the protection of environmental and cultural values of the Mount Arapiles-Toooan State Park.
- Assist Parks Victoria in maintaining the unique nature-based social camping experience at Mount Arapiles, through appropriate and careful investment with complimentary commercial accommodation offered in Natimuk and Horsham.
- Raise awareness of the cultural values of the Mount Arapiles-Toooan State Park, whilst promoting appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities along with indigenous tourism opportunities.
- Work with Parks Victoria to educate the community that Natimuk Lake is a nationally listed important wetland that naturally dries and re-fills. Having it permanently full would be detrimental to the nationally important environmental values.
- Where appropriate, assist Parks Victoria in ensuring appropriate recreation opportunities for the lake whilst protecting the environmental and cultural values.



Above: Mount Arapiles (source: Parks Victoria). Below: Lake Natimuk (source: Grampians Point)



MCKENZIE CREEK

Specific Description of Open Space in McKenzie Creek

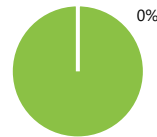
- The McKenzie Creek region is located to the South West of the Horsham Township, and comprises the townships of McKenzie Creek, Lower Norton and Wonwondah. The region has a total population of 371 people.
- There is no Council owned or managed open space in the region.
- The John Smith Memorial Reserve, managed by Parks Victoria provides a key natural area within the region.

Future Considerations

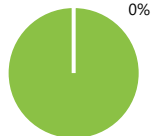
- Given low current and forecasted population, when planning for future open space in the McKenzie Creek region, consider the enhancement of natural areas for recreational use such as public amenities, visitor information and walking trails.

Fast Facts:

0 ha of open space in the locality



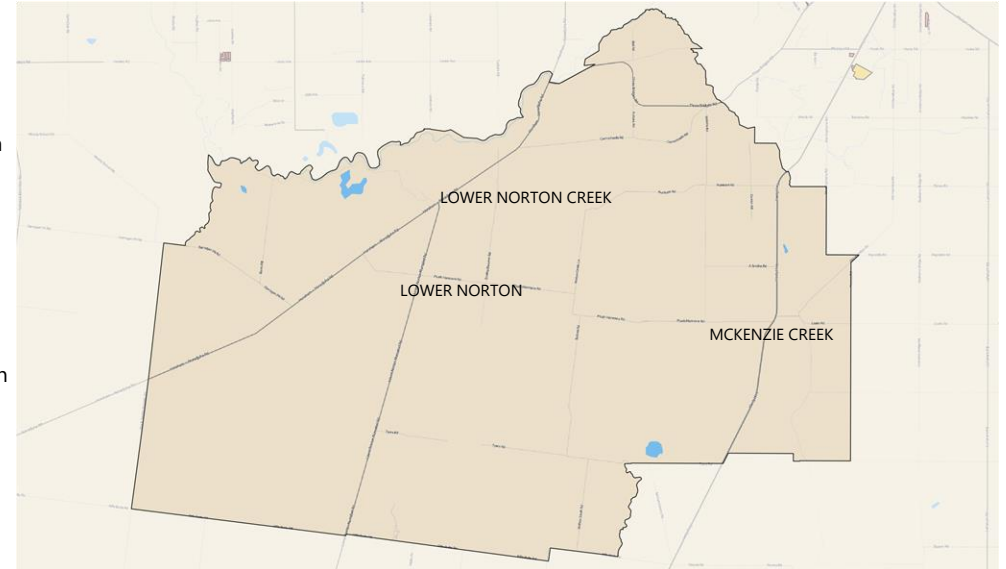
0% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=0%
 Neighbourhood=0%
 Municipal=0%
 Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
371	341	0.00	Low

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Quantong is to the West of the Horsham township and includes the townships of Quantong and Lower Norton Creek. Most of the land in this locality is zoned as rural living or rural land use. It has a total population of 311 people.

Quantong borders Vectis to the north, and and the Quantong Recreation Reserve also provides important access to public open space for residents from Vectis.

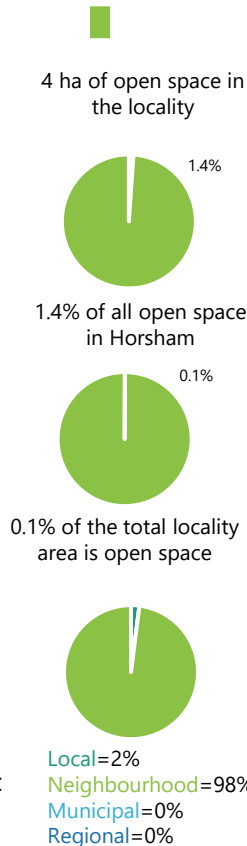
Specific Description of Open Space in Quantong

- Quantong has a public hall and a recreation reserve. The Quantong Recreation Reserve provides critical access to open space in the region.
- The Wimmera River frontage, co-managed by DELWP and BGLC, and is very significant to Traditional Owners. There are numerous cultural sites along the river frontage and significant environmental values.

Future Considerations

- Support DELWP and BGLC as land managers of the Wimmera River to improve the protection of the cultural and environmental values of the river that are in poor condition due to impacts of inappropriate recreation activities – especially four wheel driving.
- Strategically acquire land along the river to ensure public open space access to existing natural assets and waterways.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.
- Consider flood data when resolving any future developments in the area.

Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.07	3.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	2%	98%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
311	285	12.9	Adequate

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

VECTIS AND DOOEN

The Vectis and Dooen locality is a large region spanning over 25,000 hectares to the north and west of the Horsham Township. The locality includes the townships of Dooen, Vectis, and Lower Norton Creek as well as other farming, rural living, and conservation areas.

Given the large area of the region, residents from Vectis are more likely to use public open space and sport and recreation facilities in Quantong.

Specific Description of Open Space in Vectis and Dooen

- Due to Rasmussen Road forming the southern boundary of this locality, Police Paddock Reserve falls within this locality. This is the major open space asset in the region, yet is an underappreciated and underutilised asset which has great potential but needs additional investment to enhance usage.
- The locality lacks clear bike lane linkages and needs to cater for a wider base of user groups. There is great potential here to connect Police Paddock (and North Horsham) to the river.

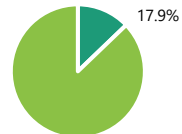
Future Considerations

- Investigate the rail corridor that extends to the west of the locality towards Natimuk to develop a shared walking and cycling path with the potential to connect to the Big Sky Bicycle Trail at Natimuk.
- Encourage linkages to the existing public open space network from Police Paddock.
- Provide way-finding signage, more shaded seating, picnic tables, rubbish bins and formal parking to enhance the amenity of the Police Paddock.

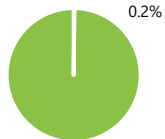
Fast Facts:



51.30 ha of open space in the locality



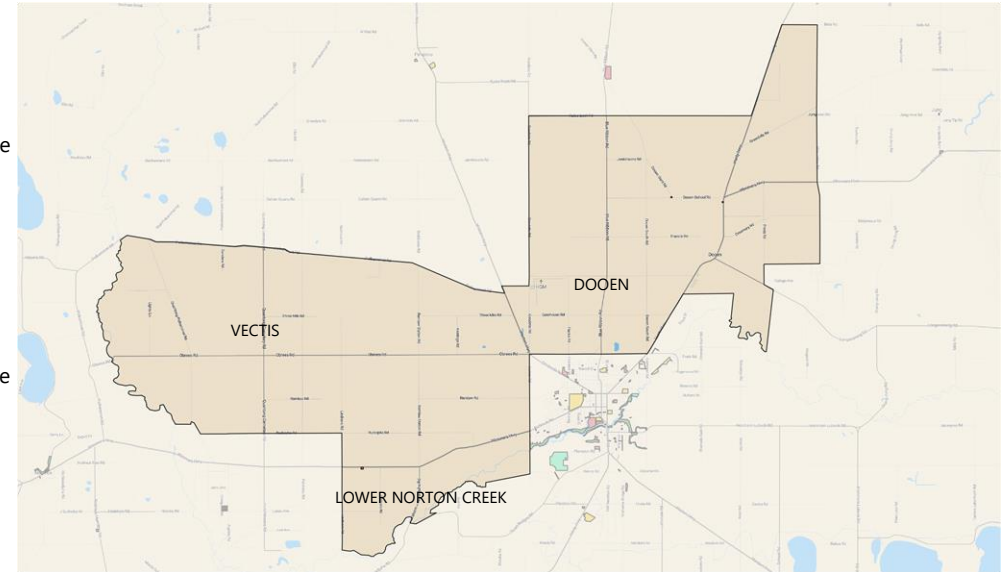
17.9% of all open space in Horsham



0.2% of the total locality area is open space



Local=0%
 Neighbourhood=0%
 Municipal=0%
 Regional=100%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.23	51.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
297	273	172.7	Very High

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

PIMPINIO AND KALKEE

This is the northern-most region in the Horsham municipality, and includes the townships of Pimpinio, Kalkee, Wail, Murra Warra and Blackheath. Most of the land is zoned for rural living and rural land uses. It is one of the largest regions by size, covering 554 square kilometres, and has a population of 337 people.

Specific Description of Open Space in Pimpinio and Kalkee

- The Pimpinio Sports and Community Centre, and the Kalkee Recreation Reserve are both high quality recreational facilities, and provide important access to active open space.
- To the western border of the region is the Wail State Forest and the West Wail Flora and Fauna Reserve managed by Parks Victoria.
- There are numerous cultural heritage sites along the Wimmera River, and Parks Victoria and BGLC co-manage the Wimmera River Heritage Area Park that starts at Polkemmet Bridge and runs North to Wirrengen Plain.

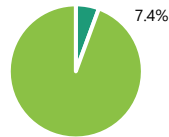
Future Considerations

- Maintain the quality of the Pimpinio Sports and Community Centre and the Kalkee Recreation Reserve as these are key open space assets in the region.
- Raise awareness of numerous cultural heritage sites along the Wimmera River and assist in protecting them from impacts of inappropriate recreation (e.g. 4WD).
- Support land managers, Parks Victoria, and co-managers BGLC in ensuring environmental and cultural values are protected whilst providing for appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities.

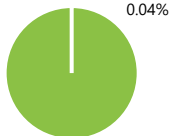
Fast Facts:



21.16 ha of open space in the locality



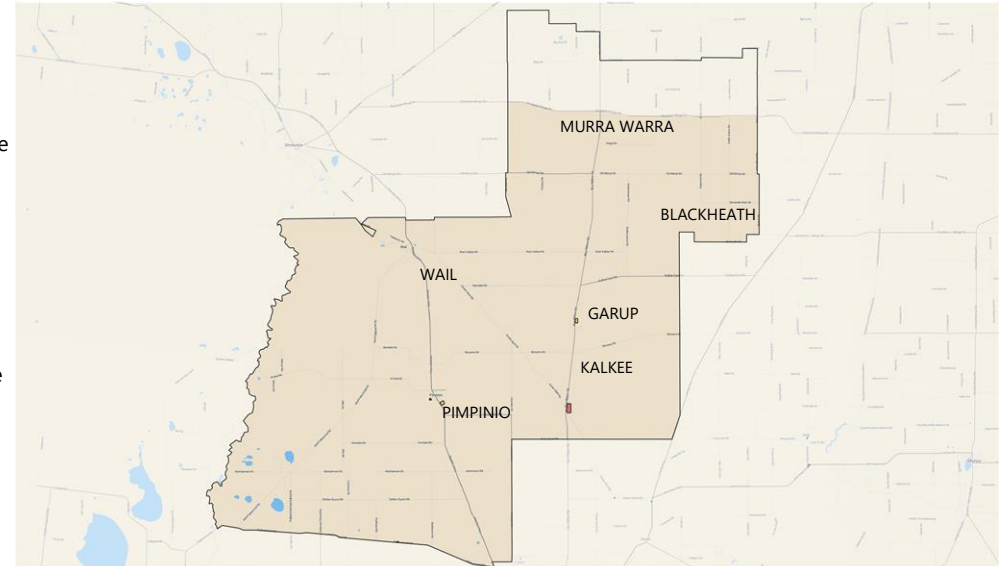
7.4% of all open space in Horsham



0.04% of the total locality area is open space



Local=6%
 Neighbourhood=37%
 Municipal=57%
 Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	3	1	1	0	0	0
Hectares	8.11	0.97	12.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	38%	5%	57%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
337	307	62.8	Very High

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

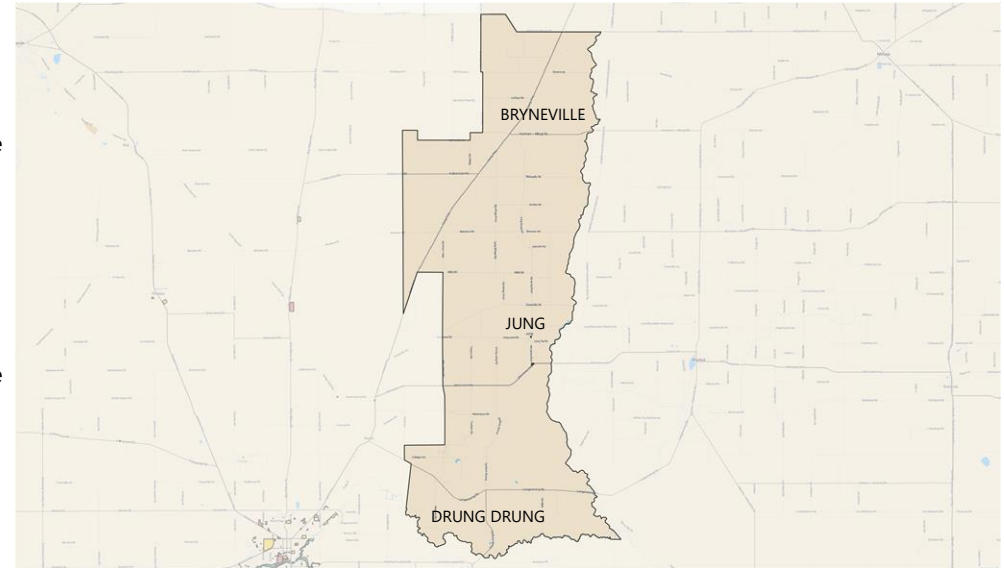
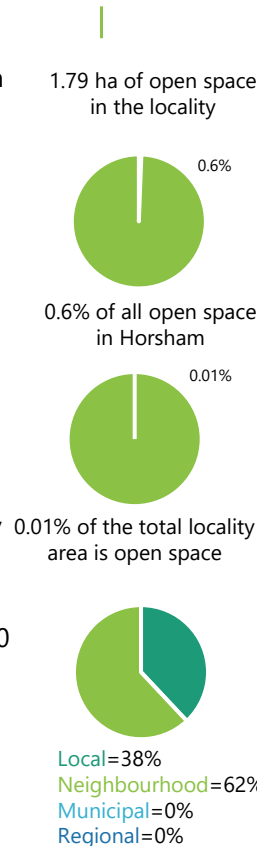
Specific Description of Open Space in Jung

- Jung is located to the North East of the Horsham Township, with a population of 240 people. Outside of the Horsham Township, Jung has the highest proportion of young people (aged 12 to 24 years), comprising 23% of the population.
- Open spaces within the region include Peppertree Park and the Jung Nature Reserve. These provide important access points to public open space.
- Within the region there are also two reserves managed by Parks Victoria – the Darlot Swamp Bushland Reserve and the Longerenong Bushland Reserve.

Future Considerations

- Continue to maintain the Jung Peppertree Park, and upgrade the play space to ensure that it meets the play space development standards for a neighbourhood play space.
- When upgrading the play space at Peppertree Park investigate options which cater for children aged over 10 years, such as skate parks to cater for the high proportion of young people in the region.

Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.68	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	38%	62%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
240	220	7.5	Adequate

Note: Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



PLAY SPACES IN HORSHAM

CURRENT SITUATION

The Horsham Rural City Council currently maintains 24 play spaces. In comparison with other regional Councils, Horsham has a good proportion of play spaces for its population, with one play space for every 853 residents.

Each Council owned or managed play space within the municipality has been assessed to determine the provision and quality of play spaces across Horsham. The assessment included a review of the Open Space Asset Audit data, checking each play space against aerial photography images and also undertaking a number of site inspections at a sample of play spaces.

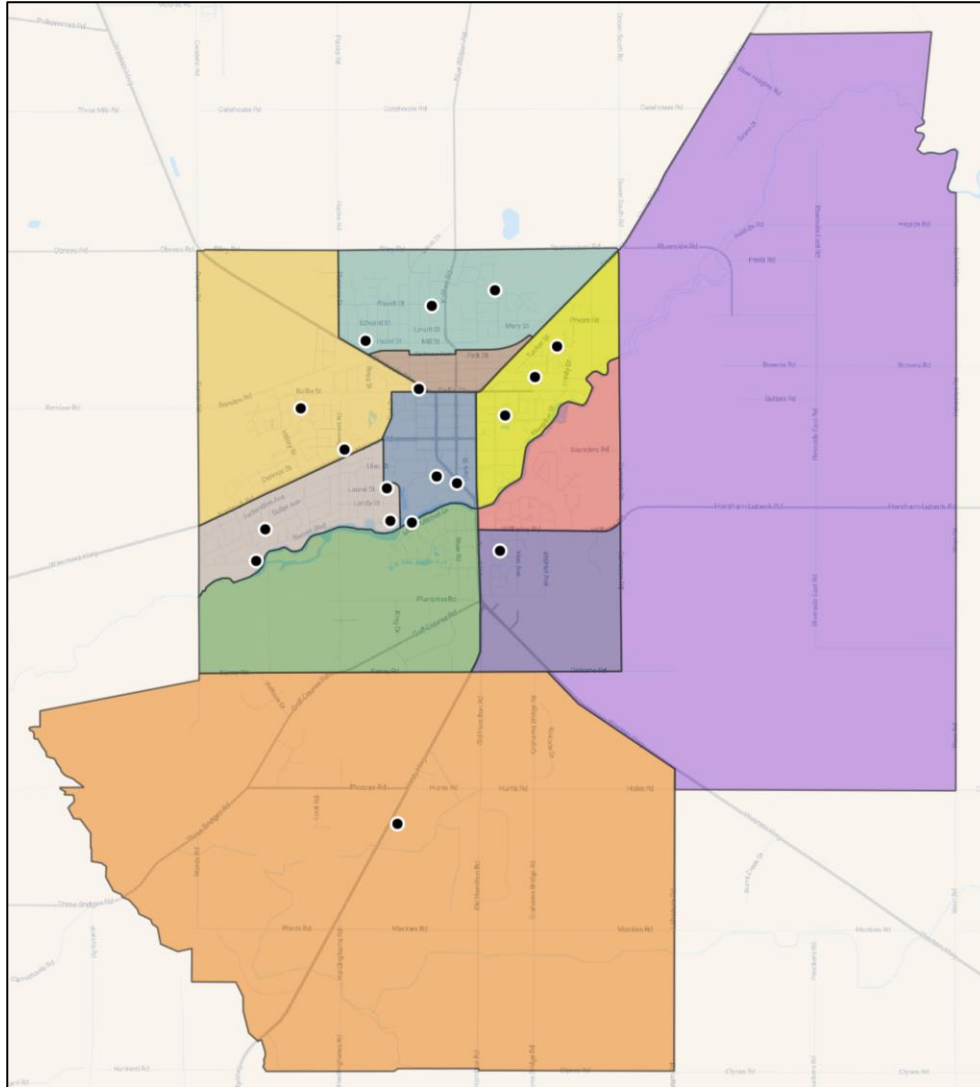
Based on this assessment, the following observations were made:

- The play equipment in some local play spaces is quite outdated and in need of replacement or upgrading.
- Not many play spaces, particularly local and neighbourhood play spaces have paths leading to seats and play equipment. This does not provide adequate access for people with disabilities or mobility issues.
- More shade structures are required in play spaces overall.
- Some local and neighbourhood play spaces lack landscaping and amenities and could be vastly improved with modest effort and expenditure.
- Most of the play spaces in the municipality cater for children aged between 2 and 10 years of age, with less provision of play spaces for children aged over 10.
- All future redevelopment and new development should be designed by a landscape architect to avoid 'ad hoc' or inexperienced planning towards creating quality spaces with universal access.

PLAY SPACE PROVISION BENCHMARKS		
	Local Government Area	Play Space Provision Ratio
Regional	Ararat	1:560
	Ballarat	1:666
	Baw Baw	1:616
	Campaspe	1:957
	Greater Bendigo	1:861
	Greater Geelong	1:717
	Latrobe	1:583
	Shepparton	1:800
	Southern Grampians	1:586
	Surf Coast	1:616 residents 1:128 0-14 years
Metro	Bayside	1:1,415
	Boroondara	1:1,362
	Glen Eira	1:2,790
	Kingston	1:1,090
	Moonee Valley	1,213
	Horsham	1:817 all residents 1:155 0-14 years

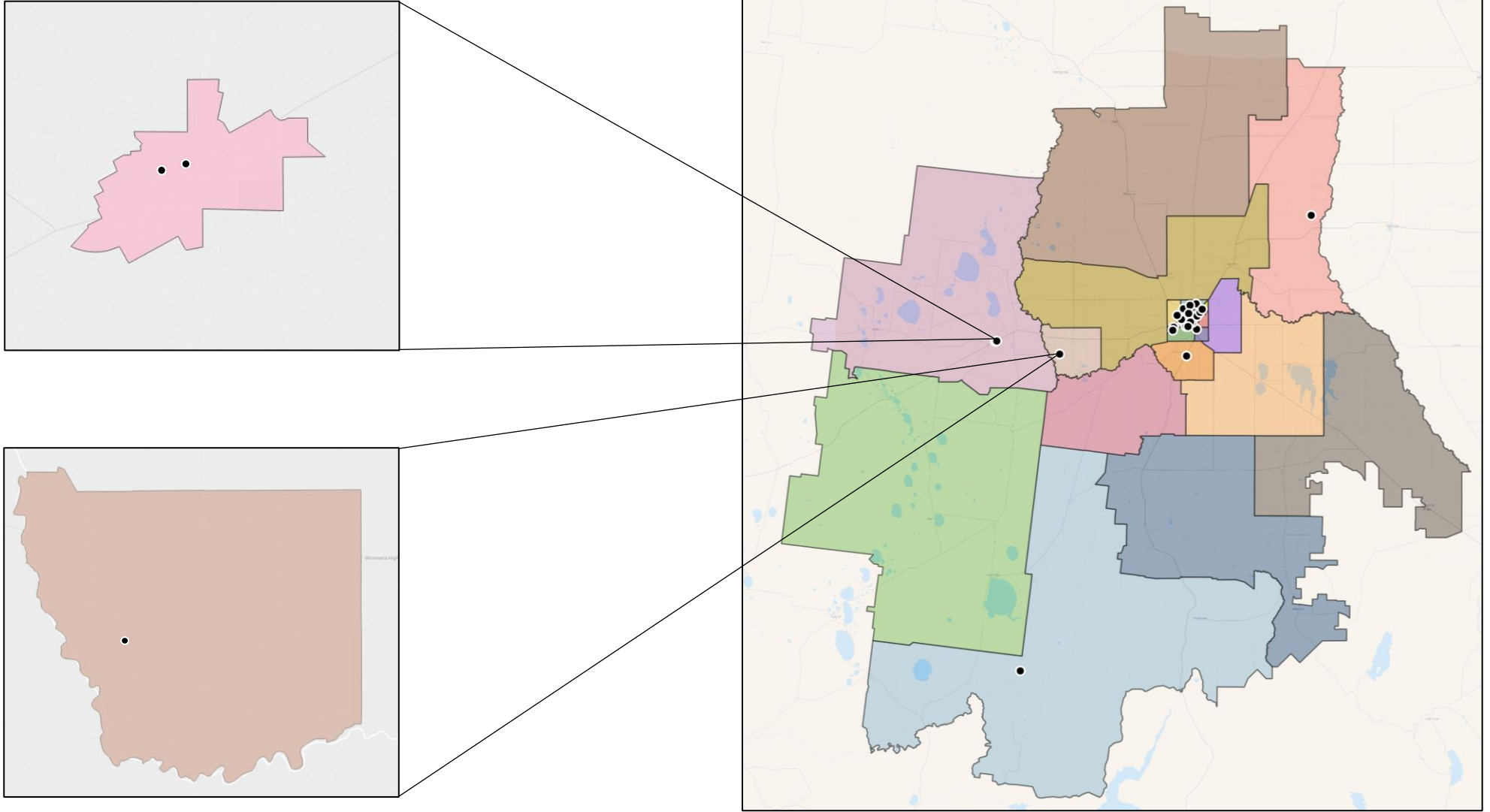
PLAY SPACE PROVISION IN HORSHAM	
Hierarchy	Provision Count
Local	9
Municipal	5
Neighbourhood	6
Regional	4
Total	24

PLAY SPACE DISTRIBUTION



Region	Park Name
Local	
Brimpaen	Telangatuk Hall
Central Horsham	City Oval East Playground
Horsham North	Charisma Park
Horsham North	Elbourne Park
Horsham North	Oatlands Park
Horsham South	Uebergang Park
Horsham South West	Drummond Park
Horsham South West	Gardenia Street Park
Horsham West	Bodey Court Park
Neighbourhood	
Horsham East	Lawrence Street Park
Horsham East	Sunnyside Park
Horsham West	Apex Park
Jung	Jung Peppertree Park
Natimuk	Lake Avenue - Natimuk Creek
Quantong	Quantong Recreation Reserve
Municipal	
Central Horsham	City Oval West Playground
Central Horsham	Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage Reserve
Horsham East	Jardwa Park
Natimuk	Natimuk Creek Reserve
Central Horsham	Botanical Gardens - Playground
Regional	
Horsham South West	Adventure Island
Haven	Haven Recreation Reserve
Horsham Inner North	May Park
Horsham South West	Weir Park

PLAY SPACE DISTRIBUTION



PLAY SPACE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

For the purpose of this strategy, Horsham has been divided into 19 different localities, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Area 1 (SA1) borders. The following table provides an overview of each of these localities and the number of play spaces within each:

Region	Number of play spaces	2016 Population	0-14 Years Population	% of Population aged 0-14 years	Ratio of play spaces per person	Ratio of play spaces per person aged 0-14	Provision Rating
Brimpaen	1	217	55	25%	1:217	1:55	Adequate
Central Horsham	3	682	82	12%	1:227	1:27	High
Drung	0	247	47	19%	-	-	None
Haven	1	1,303	298	23%	1:1,303	1:298	Very Low
Horsham East	3	2,766	454	16%	1:922	1:151	Low
Horsham Inner North	1	1,260	191	15%	1:1,260	1:191	Low
Horsham North	3	3,309	692	21%	1:1,103	1:231	Very Low
Horsham South	2	1,714	362	21%	1:857	1:181	Low
Horsham South West	4	2,847	534	19%	1:712	1:134	Very Low
Horsham West	2	1,932	379	20%	1:966	1:190	Low
Jung	1	240	56	23%	1:240	1:56	Adequate
Laharum	0	214	28	13%	-	-	None
McKenzie Creek	0	371	80	22%	-	-	None
Natimuk	2	388	38	10%	1:194	1:19	High
Natimuk District	0	223	55	25%	-	-	None
Pimpinio and Kalkee	0	337	85	25%	-	-	None
Quantong	1	311	53	17%	1:311	1:53	Adequate
Riverside	0	418	74	18%	-	-	None
Toolondo	0	241	60	25%	-	-	None
Vectis and Dooen	0	297	47	16%	-	-	None
Wartook	0	310	70	23%	-	-	None
Total	24	19,627	3,740	19%	1:817	1:155	Low

PLAY SPACE HIERARCHY

The play space Hierarchy describes the level of play spaces and types of equipment and supporting infrastructure that may exist within the play space. It also includes user catchment distances and typical size. These are to be used as a guide in the provision of play space planning and may be subject to other considerations as they arise such as topography, major barriers including major roads, drains, flood plains and rail lines.

	Local play spaces	Neighbourhood play spaces	Municipal play spaces	Regional play spaces
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily cater for local residents and people living and working within walking distance These spaces are less developed with limited play equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service residents from one or more localities Higher quality with a diversity of character in good locations People can use these play spaces for extended periods of time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At a minimum, services the whole municipality Residents will come from other localities and regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large, high quality destinations that have broad appeal and attract visitors and local community members Visitors may stay for a number of hours
Types of Facilities/ Amenities	<p>Should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one seat/setting Pathways for accessibility Minimal formal play equipment and/or nature play design Natural shade for at least part of the area 	<p>Should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two seats/settings Natural shade for at least part of the area Pathways for accessibility <p>May have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping and irrigation 	<p>Should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous picnic settings Public toilets Shade Shelters, BBQ's, and bubblers Pathways for accessibility <p>May have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport and recreation facilities for unstructured sport Landscaping and limited irrigated grass 	<p>Should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse opportunities for play for a range of ages Public toilets Picnic tables and seating Shade and shelter with shade over play space equipment Pathways for accessibility Landscaping, irrigated areas Off-road car parking
Typical Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.2 to 0.5 ha of usable land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 to 1.5 ha of usable land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 - 4 ha of usable land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 4 ha of usable land
Typical Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-10 min walking distance (about 500m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-15 min walking distance (about 750m) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most people drive to these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most people drive to these Distributed within approximately 1.5km distance to dwellings and work places.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

“A leading regional community with an open space network that provides positive health and well-being outcomes for everybody.”



The strategy identifies seven key strategic pillars to guide the planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality:



Increase connectivity



Redefine the Wimmera River



Improve open space



Enhance collaboration



Invest and plan for our future



Colour and green our region



Recognise and celebrate culture

The following priority level has been used to guide the implementation of the actions and initiatives under each pillar. Priority indicates the timeframe in which each action is intended to commence.

High: 1-3 years

Medium : 4-6 years

Low: 7-10 years/ongoing

1. INCREASE CONNECTIVITY

1.1	Improve connectivity and access to and within open space	Priority
1.1.1	Improve connectivity by creating pedestrian and cycle linkages within the existing public open space network. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Paddock, Dudley Cornell Park, Wimmera River. 	Medium
1.1.2	Improve connectivity between Horsham CAD, existing and new residential developments, community services and key open spaces.	High
1.1.3	Undertake a pedestrian and cycle network analysis to determine gaps in provision and quality to guide future improvements and connections.	High
1.1.4	Develop safe pedestrian and cycle linkages along arterial roads. Identified connections include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haven to Horsham CAD (Holes Road/Hunts Road), Southwest Horsham to CAD (along Stawell Road), Natimuk to Horsham (Natimuk Road), Natimuk to Big Sky Bicycle Trail. 	Low
1.1.5	Improve existing pedestrian and Cycle connections across the railway network to improve safety and accessibility.	Low
1.1.6	Develop cycling and walking trails outside the urban area of the municipality, to provide a superior visitor experience and more recreational opportunities for residents. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wartook, Big Sky Trail, Natimuk. 	Low
1.1.7	Support connections to tourism opportunities to the identified tourist assets. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grampians National Park, Mt Arapiles 	Medium
1.1.8	Formalise and improve trails and connections from education centres to existing and future open space. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laharum and Cameron Oval. 	Medium
1.1.9	Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor.	Medium
1.1.10	Formalise linkages to provide improved and continuous public access along both banks of the wider Wimmera River corridor and its tributaries.	High
1.1.11	Investigate shared pedestrian and vehicle zones and/or trails to activate open spaces within CAD.	Medium
1.2	Improve connectivity and access to and within open space	
1.2.1	Connect public open space to the surrounding pedestrian and cycle network.	Medium
1.2.2	Provide better pedestrian and cycle connections across Wimmera River.	Medium
1.2.3	Identify locations to develop universal access to the river with associated infrastructure.	High
1.3	Acquire land fronting the Wimmera River in the urban area of Horsham, to allow for land management and public access	
1.3.1	Identify and strategically acquire land along the river corridor required for provision of off-road walking and cycling paths.	High

2. RE-DEFINE THE WIMMERA RIVER

2.1	Activate the Wimmera River and its environs in collaboration with stakeholders	Priority
2.1.1	Recognise and manage any potential detrimental outcomes from increased access and use of the river corridor.	Ongoing
2.1.2	Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.	High
2.2	Improve access and connectivity to and around the Wimmera River	
2.2.1	Formalise and secure easy and continuous public access for people of all abilities within the wider river corridor, including along both banks of the river. This may require the strategic acquisition of land to ensure standards for a shared path.	Medium
2.2.2	Engage with the community, Wimmera CMA, and other key stakeholders to determine the location and design of access to the river.	Medium
2.2.3	Consider the long-term relocation of the Horsham Caravan Park to open the riverfront to wider community access and usage.	Low
2.3	Promote the Wimmera River corridor as a key community recreational asset	
2.3.1	Support the community to deliver active living initiatives along the river corridor.	Ongoing
2.3.2	Identify and develop key locations on both sides of the river to improve facilities which accommodate a range of activities. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawyer Park, City Oval and Horsham Showgrounds. 	High
2.4	Ensure ongoing recognition of cultural significance of the Wimmera River corridor	
2.4.1	Ensure all river access is sustainable and respectful of biodiversity, river health, and indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage.	High

3. IMPROVE OPEN SPACE

3.1	Ensure equitable access to open space across the municipality	Priority
3.1.1	Address gaps in current open space provision, and work towards developing and funding an evaluation criteria that stages work into 1, 3, 5, or 10 year timeframes.	High
3.1.2	Address local, neighbourhood, municipal and regional gaps in open space across where identified in each locality.	High
3.2	Establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community	
3.2.1	Develop a list of iconic assets and spaces that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for long-term reinvestment.	High
3.2.2	Activate the Botanic Gardens to increase permeability and connectivity with its surrounds.	Medium
3.2.3	Undertake CPTED/safety audit for all existing open space.	High
3.2.4	Prepare and/or update master plans for all existing and new neighbourhood, municipal and regional open spaces in the municipality to guide development. Priority open space include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnyside Park and Dudley Cornell Park. 	High
3.2.5	Identify gaps in facilities and amenities at all existing public open spaces to prioritise and guide upgrades to meet the open space principles in line with facilities required for each type/size of open space. These include, but not limited to, lighting, dog parks, play spaces, seating, safety issues and shade. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dudley Cornell Park, Sunnyside Park, May Park, Police Paddock, Languard’s Park, Charisma Park, Horsham City Wimmera River corridor, Green Lake/Dock Lake and the Horsham Racecourse. 	High
3.2.6	Improve quality of existing play spaces using the open space principles by identifying and addressing gaps in provision, quality and variety to ensure the needs of all ages are met.	High
3.2.7	Re-develop the Railway Corridor into a key community asset that connects the city.	High
3.2.8	Provide greater public open space provision within the Horsham Central Activity District such as pocket parks, town squares, seasonal or temporary parks.	High
3.2.9	Incorporate streetscapes and linear landscapes into the open space network and design these spaces in-line with the open space principles and guidelines.	Medium
3.2.10	Enhance and protect natural areas which fall under Council’s ownership/management and develop new natural/bush areas in line with biodiversity and environmental values.	Ongoing

4. ENHANCE COLLABORATION

4.1	Engage with key stakeholders so that open space provision and management is a multi-agency initiative that achieves shared objectives	Priority
4.1.1	Develop objectives for partnerships with each agency, with clearly defined outcomes and benefits for all involved. Identified agencies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barenji Gadjin Land Council, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority. 	High
4.1.2	Engage and partner with user groups on Council managed and crown land to enhance community accessibility and multi-use of facilities.	High
4.1.3	Support and work with agencies to ensure environmental and cultural values are protected and appropriate sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities are provided. Identified agencies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barenji Gadjin Land Council and Parks Victoria. 	High
4.1.4	Support the land managers, and co-managers, in their role of ensuring the protection of environmental and cultural values of national and state parks. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park (Djurite), Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), Black Range State Park, Lake Natimuk and Natimuk Creek Lake Reserve. 	Ongoing
4.1.5	Engage with stakeholders to identify, protect, manage and formally recognise Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural elements along the river corridor and tributaries.	High
4.1.6	In conjunction with GWM Water and local tourism bodies, invest in a tourism strategy or campaign to raise the profile of the region's great water and fishing assets.	Medium
4.1.7	Assist stakeholders and land managers in educating the community about the importance of wetlands and water bodies.	Ongoing
4.1.8	Work with VicTrack to strategically acquire the railway corridor land for public open space.	High

5. INVEST AND PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

5.1	Develop clear and defensible planning decisions to ensure developers create the environment that both Council and the community want	Priority
5.1.1	Implement changes to open space contributions into the planning scheme in line with the draft Open Space Contribution Policy.	High
5.1.2	Increase Open Space Developer Contributions in HRCC to 7-10% to elevate the city as a leader in Victoria.	High
5.2	Improve open space governance and long-term planning	
5.2.1	Establish and implement a Capital Investment Plan for open space that spans at least 10 years.	High
5.2.2	Develop procedures regarding management of activities on the river.	Medium
5.2.3	Ensure good management, maintenance practices and sufficient resources are provided to ensure the quality and sustainability of open space and associated assets.	High
5.2.4	Develop criteria and/or a decision-making framework/matrix to determine usability/suitability/value/fit-for purpose/accessibility of existing open space. Identified areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Horsham - residential area west of the racecourse lacks amenity/provision. 	High
5.2.5	Develop criteria and/or a decision-making framework/matrix to assess the sustainability and priority of new developments and upgrades to all types of open space in line with the open space principles. This should inform Council direction in response to Council-led recommendations, Council Plan projects, pipeline projects, development proposals, grant applications, community grants, community donations, and Council support for Crown land facilities.	High
5.2.6	Develop a municipal-wide Style Guide, which guides materials, colours, character and aesthetics for all public open space.	High
5.3	Incorporate biodiversity values and respond to climate change	
5.3.1	Prepare a Climate Change Strategy to assist future development in mitigating and adapting to climate change.	Medium
5.3.2	Identify and protect areas containing significant indigenous flora and fauna, in particular the listed threatened and rare species that exist within the area.	High
5.3.3	Ensure all open space development contributes to biodiversity, enhances and/or develops natural areas.	Ongoing
5.3.4	Identify and develop a specific flora species list that is consistent and suitable to the local climate.	Short
5.4	Develop play spaces across the municipality which address gaps in provision and amenity	
5.4.1	Identify gaps in provision and develop new play spaces to provide a variety of experiences for targeted age groups in conjunction with a landscape architect.	High

6. COLOUR AND GREEN OUR REGION

6.1	Improve the provision of open space within the CAD and develop a number of multipurpose spaces for wider community use	Priority
6.1.1	Identify and develop a series of green space pockets throughout the CAD for passive recreation.	High
6.1.2	Develop an Urban Forest Plan that guides the selection, planting, and replacement of trees.	High
6.1.3	Incorporate a variety of landscaping into open spaces.	Medium
6.1.4	Identify gaps and develop a network of green linkages between the existing open space network.	High

7. RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE CULTURE

7.1	Protect and preserve areas of cultural significance to the Wotjobaluk Peoples' through the open space network	Priority
7.1.1	Ensure any future significant events, objects, structures or features associated with the river corridor are appropriately acknowledged for their cultural significance.	High
7.1.2	Support DELWP and BGLC as land managers of the Wimmera River to improve the protection of the cultural and environmental values of the river that are in poor condition due to impacts of inappropriate recreation activities – especially four-wheel driving.	Ongoing

APPENDIX I: OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS

Open Space Contributions

Open space contributions through the subdivision of land for the creation of new lots, is crucial to health and wellbeing of the community as it provides open space for new residents and the growing population of Horsham. There are a wide range of mechanisms available to councils and the lack of a clear and consistent model for calculating an appropriate contributions rate, a range of rates are applied through Clause 52.01 across Victoria. The table on the following page shows the contributions rates from other LGA's in Australia. The table shows that the contribution rates vary from 4.5% to 10% within Victoria, however are as high as 12.5% in South Australia. There is also significant variation in the way in which the rates are applied, including: Whether the schedule delineates between encumbered and unencumbered land;

- Whether a different rate (or any contribution at all) applies to non-residential land;
- Whether a sliding scale or a flat rate is applied; and
- Whether a different rate applies to growth areas as opposed to established areas.

As shown in the table, some Councils have applied differential rates, due to the varying levels of demand for open space in residential versus non-residential areas.

In Western Australia, the requirement is that 10% of the gross sub-divisible area of a conditional subdivision shall be given up free of cost by the subdivider for public open space. South Australia has a legislative requirement of '12.5% of land for open space'.

References:

Western Australian Government. Department of Planning - State Planning Policy.

https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/20ee6a7c-c4f6-4572-b05a-747078fc6b0d/DRAFT_SPP_3-6_development_contributions_infrastructure

Tasmanian Government. Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts - Tasmanian Open Space Policy Report.

http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/234690/Tasmanian_Open_Space_Policy_Report.pdf

Latrobe City Council. Review of Proposed Public Open Space Contributions.

OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS

OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS RATES		
Other Regional Centres		
	Residential	Non-Residential
Latrobe	All land: 10% of NDA, at least 5% unencumbered.	2% of NDA (unencumbered)
Greater Geelong	Armstrong Creek: 10% unencumbered (includes passive and active).	3.1% (Armstrong Creek - North East Industrial Precinct)
Ballarat	Ballarat West: 5.3% of GDA Other land in UGZ: 10% (residential); All other land: 5%	10% for land in Urban Growth Zone (commercial & industrial); 5% all other land
South Gippsland	Min. 5%	Min. 5%
Wellington	5% (All land within GRZ1, LDRZ, TZ, RLZ or TZ)	None Specified
Wodonga	5%	None specified
Baw Baw	All land within Warragul and Drouin PSPs: 4.5% of NDA (passive)	None Specified
Metropolitan		
Mornington Peninsula	5% to 12%	5% commercial & industrial
Knox	5% to 8.5%	None specified
Wyndham	7.5% is required of the gross developable area of a residential development site	None Specified
Dandenong	5% default	2% for all INZ1, INZ2, INZ3, B3Z, B4Z
Casey	5% unless there is a higher rate included in the planning scheme.	None Specified
Other States		
WA	12.5% of new subdivisions or 3 hectares per 1,000 people, whichever is greater.	
SA	10% of the gross subdivisible area ¹⁶ of a conditional subdivision to be given up free of cost by the subdivider for public open space and vested in the Crown as a Reserve for Recreation	
TAS	5% of new subdivisions or 4 or more hectares of open space per 1,000 residents	

Limitations

Current practice at Horsham Rural City has been to apply the 5% uniformly across all residential land subdivision. There are several limitations with this approach. These include:

- The 5% of land being offered by the developer is often not assessed in relation to open space planning, processes and community needs.
- The 5% contribution does not necessarily relate to the quantity or quality of open space that may be needed by the community within the area (e.g. difference in open space needs between Greenfield sites and infill higher density residential development).
- The 5% contribution may be taken as cash-in-lieu but is based on the valuation of unimproved land rather than as developed land, and consequently the contribution can fall short of required funding for open space facilities.
- The 5% represents the maximum land requirement that can be taken and thus councils may be required to purchase additional land to achieve more effective open space areas.
- The 5% of land may not necessarily meet a wide range of open space needs within the community including activities, experiences and facilities (e.g. -active recreation).
- The assessment of open space as subdivisions are submitted limits the capacity of councils to fully assess the future needs within the municipality (in the absence of strategic open space plans).

Key Findings

The key findings from the open space assessment found that:

- The open space provision in Horsham of 14.6 ha per 1,000 residents is somewhat higher than typical metropolitan provision ratios.
- The open space provision falls within the range of regional Councils analysed (pg. 19), however is significantly lower than Greater Geelong and Warrnambool but higher than Ballarat and Greater Bendigo.
- Open space contributions rates and mechanisms vary greatly across Victoria. Rates typically range from 5% to 10% in regional areas, and are generally higher in residential growth areas (usually 8% to 10%). • Interstate developer contributions are slightly higher, at 10% in Western Australia and 12.5% in South Australia.
- The suitability and quality of open space across the municipality is poor, with little shade, limited paths, and dated playground equipment.
- The ad hoc nature of development has meant provision of open space is not well connected and has poor linkages between parks and reserves.
- There are a number of developing precincts across the Horsham city with limited access to active recreation spaces. This recognises that Council has never had an open space contributions policy, which has led to ad hoc and poor planning outcomes – most notably in Horsham North and to a lesser extent in Horsham South
- Provision of, and access to public spaces and community gardens is limited in the CAD and surrounding residential grid.
- There is poor tree canopy cover in the CAD, and given the Wimmera climate, there is need for more shaded and green open space areas across the city.

Recommendations

Analysis undertaken for this strategy (using the estimated population growth of 2,167 new residents in 2031) concluded that 10% of the area of the land being subdivided into new lots should be allocated as a public open space.

The open space assessment found that whilst there is quantity of open space in established areas of Horsham it does not meet current standards and there will be a need to upgrade open space in the future.

In new growth areas, both land acquisition for new open space and improvements to those open spaces are required and it will be important to ensure any contribution is well located and improved to meet community expectations and current standards.

In order to ensure an equitable and consistent approach, open space contributions should relate to unencumbered land only. Supporting policy should be drafted relating to circumstances where council will accept encumbered land for open space in addition to unencumbered land.

Horsham is a regional city and has experienced significant growth in the past and it is expected there will be an ongoing growth and development which will place a greater load on the city's open space network. The municipality is currently investing in plans for the city's transformation to improve the liveability and open space and recreation facilities.

A consistent approach to public open space investment and planning is required and including a 7-10% contribution into the Horsham Planning Scheme is mandatory based on benchmarking analysis.

1. Background

Open space contribution through the subdivision of land for creation of new lots, is crucial to health and wellbeing and development of the community as it provides open space for new residents and the growing population of Horsham.

Legislation establishes that when processing applications for subdivision of land within the municipal area the Council is required to consider the allocation of land towards public open space or a contribution for cash in lieu thereof. The provisions for public open space is in accordance with the requirements of the Subdivision Act 1988 and the specific provision contained in the Planning Scheme (Clause 52.01).

The Horsham Rural City Council definition of open space states that Open Space is publicly owned land used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. Open space is broken down into the following categories:

Sport grounds: Sporting facilities including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as play spaces, seating, clubhouses and amenities.

Recreation spaces: Active or passive recreation including parks with social areas such as BBQs, gardens, play spaces for young and old, walking tracks and fitness equipment, dog exercise areas. Includes unembellished parks.

Natural areas: Spaces managed to protect, enhance and create natural environments such as waterways (which include wetlands), increased habitat for wildlife, restoration and preservation of existing bushland areas and increased tree canopy.

Linkages: Cycle and/or pedestrian paths that connect to other areas of open space or destinations such as town centres, schools and natural assets.

Civic spaces: Space for community and civic events like town centres, or with a co-located community facility such as a library or community centre.

Council aims to ensure that open space networks:

- Are linked, including through the provision of walking and cycling trails.
- Are integrated with open space from abutting subdivisions.
- Incorporate, where possible, links between major parks and activity areas, along waterways and natural drainage corridors, connecting places of natural and cultural interest.
- Maintain public accessibility on public land immediately adjoining waterways.

2. Objectives of the Policy

- To ensure that adequate provision is made for public open space that enables high quality outcomes, which benefits all residents and users.
- To ensure the provision of public open space provides for a range of multiple uses and a diverse range of activities, including connecting different public spaces, encouraging active neighbourhoods and tourism, and protecting natural values.
- To ensure that land developers contribute to the provision of public open space commensurate with the scale of development.
- To establish an open space contribution as per the Subdivision Act 1998, that delivers on the recommendations of the Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy.

Policy

3.1 In considering any land subdivision proposal, the need for public open space will be assessed on its merits and a contribution will be required by way of either:

- a) 7-10% of the area of the land being subdivided into new lots to be allocated as a public open space contribution; or
- b) a 7-10% cash-in-lieu contribution that is equivalent to the value of part or all of the land being subdivided into new lots.

3.2 A decision as to whether land or cash-in-lieu is provided will be dependent upon whether the proposed subdivision provides an opportunity to obtain land that meets the aims and objectives of this Policy. If the subdivided land is not able to provide a public open space component of substantial community benefit, then cash-in-lieu will be required.

3.3 A boundary adjustment proposal, where no additional lots are created, shall not be subject to the 7-10% contribution.

3.4 Where a subdivision is submitted in the form of a staged development, the public open space contributions can be paid proportionately.

3.5 Where it is not appropriate that land be provided for public open space purposes within the proposed subdivision, then a 10% cash contribution is to be taken on the following basis:

- a) the cash contribution is to be based on the newly created additional lots,
- b) the calculation of the 7-10% cash contribution is to be based on the unimproved value of the additional lot or lots created and not the balance lot; and
- c) the lots created from a further subdivision of the subdivided lots and balance are required to also provide public open space contributions.

3.5 Open space contribution will be required when a property is in to the

farming, commercial or industrial zones.

3.6 The amount of the cash-in-lieu contribution shall be determined by either:

- a) a valuation from a qualified valuer as obtained by the subdivider; or
- b) the Responsible Authority accepting a contribution calculated on the basis of the most recent government valuation. This is to be adjusted for inflation over time using the Valuer General's adjustment factor and any other mitigating factors deemed appropriate.

3.7 All money received by way of contribution shall be reserved by Council in a separate account and recorded against the local area from which the funds were collected. These funds will in future be expended within local areas and across the Horsham's Open Space network.

3.8 The expenditure of reserved public open space funds will be allocated to projects as part of the capital works budget.

4. Guidelines

4.1 Provision of land where land is provided, shall be able to meet future community needs as identified within Council's open space strategies. The provision of public open space allows for a reasonable distribution of land able to be used for active and passive recreation. This includes smaller recreational areas within easy walking distance of residences, larger parks and playing fields, bushland areas, coastal or riparian reserves, recreational trails and walking links to local schools or shops.

4.2 Allocation of cash contribution funds derived from cash-in-lieu contributions are to be allocated in accordance with any adopted Council open space strategy or plan or in order to meet local public open space or recreational needs.

5. Application

This Policy applies to all applications to subdivide land in the municipal area. This Policy does not apply to the Council for any subdivision of Council land other than for any development undertaken for residential purposes.

6. Definitions

"Cash in Lieu of Public Open Space" means security for payment of an amount of 7-10 per cent of the whole area comprised in the plan of subdivision less any area provided for public open space in the final plan and any area created by the final plan or the littoral or riparian in reserves.

"Public Open Space" means publicly owned land used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. "Planning Scheme" means a legal document prepared by the local council or the Minister for Planning, and approved by the Minister. It contains policies and provisions that control land use and development.

**APPENDIX II:
CASE STUDIES OF OPEN SPACE SUCCESS**



CASE STUDY ONE Riverside Revitalisation Rockhampton

- A group of sporting clubs in Wellington, New Zealand are working together to combine resources and be based in one common facility.
- The Johnsonville Cricket Club, Johnsonville Rugby Club, North Wellington Senior Football Club, North Wellington Junior Football Club, Olympic Harrier and Athletic Club and the Wellington Deaf Society have joined forces to raise at least \$2 million for the building, which is estimated to cost \$4.2 million.
- The Johnsonville Cricket Club building, in poor condition, will be demolished and the new building connected to the existing Olympic Harrier and Athletic Club building. The City Council will design the new building and project-manage the construction.
- The new facility will include a gym, changing rooms, office, meeting rooms, kitchen, function rooms/ bar, storage facilities, car parking, public toilets and showers. The plan is for the new facility to be a sustainable asset staffed by a full-time manager and assistant.
- Wellington City Councilors recently approved unanimously \$2.2 million in funding for the project, and construction is expected to start in 2020/21 and take six to nine months.

<https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/funding-approved-for-wellingtons-alex-moore-park-sports-and-community-hub/>



CASE STUDY TWO Cheonggyecheon River Linear Park Seoul

- The Cheonggyecheon River linear park is renowned as one of the world's greatest urban design projects, undergoing a transformation from an elevated freeway and concrete paved waterway into a 5.8km long "day-lit" stream corridor.
- In the 1940s, the Cheonggyecheon had deteriorated into an open sewer and was eventually paved over with concrete for sanitation reasons. In the 1970's, an elevated freeway was built overtop the waterway, removing it from the public view. Like many underpasses, the area beneath the freeway was mostly avoided, becoming known for criminal activity and illegal dumping.
- In the early 2000's, then mayor and future president of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak successfully campaigned to remove the freeway and restore the Cheonggyecheon. From 2002 to 2005, the government replaced the road with a 5.8km restored and planted stream.
- To alleviate traffic congestion, the government also invested heavily in public transportation, installing a dedicated bus lane and walking/cycling track.
- Now open at all hours, the linear park is host to hundreds of events and art installations every year and attracts over 60,000 visitors daily. The restoration process has also provided huge boosts to local biodiversity and catalysed economic development in the area.

<https://inhabitat.com/how-the-cheonggyecheon-river-urban-design-restored-the-green-heart-of-seoul/>



CASE STUDY THREE Territory Arts Trail Northern Territory

- The Northern Territory has always had a rich abundance of art and culture, which has provided a draw for national and international tourists to visit the area.
- The Northern Territory Government is investing over \$100 million to build an Arts Trail throughout the Territory.
- Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture, Lauren Moss, said the message will be that the world's biggest art gallery is in the Northern Territory, with the goal to showcase the 65,000 years worth of art history and growth.
- The Arts Trail will run through the Territory and will feature and highlight art centers, festivals, events, sites, galleries and cultural tours.
- The increased focus on the Northern Territory's art abundance will position the Territory as the top destination for Australian Aboriginal art and culture, thereby increasing economic production and creating local jobs.
- https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/northern-territory-arts-trail-campaign-to-boost-tourism/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7th%20February&utm_content=7th%20February+CID_5fb38f3676276ccf2ae7537726bce965&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Northern%20Territory%20Arts%20Trail%20Campaign%20to%20Boost%20Tourism



CASE STUDY FOUR Big Pineapple Sunshine Coast

- The Big Pineapple on the Sunshine Coast was a stand-out tourist attraction in the 1980's, but has since lost its draw and appeal.
- Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones and Big Pineapple Renewal Project Director Jim Costello are working to revive the popularity of the Big Pineapple through site renovations to include a Tree Tops high ropes and zipline course, water park, adventure precinct, concert space, on-site accommodation and agribusiness precinct.
- The plan has an intention of sustained success, with plans to highlight the agriculture, music events and adventure tourism.
- The \$150 million master plan projects to improve both domestic and international tourism to the area by bringing in over a million visitors per year to reach tourism potential, improve economy and provide new jobs.
- https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/work-advances-on-new-attractions-and-event-space-at-sunshine-coasts-big-pineapple/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4th%20February&utm_content=4th%20February+CID_cce2fe9b9911ca84d8e6685b74d39c99&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Work%20advances%20on%20new%20attractions%20and%20event%20space%20at%20Sunshine%20Coasts%20Big%20Pineapple



CASE STUDY FIVE Active Living Program Cairns

- The Cairns Active Living Program currently offers free fitness classes give days a week along the Cairns Esplanade to encourage residents to get active in a social environment.
- Because the Esplanade is not accessible to all of Cairns, the Active Living Program is set to expand to include four suburban parks around the city.
- Funding has come from the North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF) and the North Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) to allow for the introduction of a three month trial expansion, with the potential for further classes if engagement is high.
- Offering free fitness in a social capacity breaks down barriers to good health, and by expanding the locations at which the classes are offered, more residents can be included and encouraged to get and stay fit.
- https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/free-fitness-classes-to-get-cairns-active/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=28th%20February&utm_content=28th%20February+CID_d35a78a836bd253bac5d491e0bf57eb2&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Free%20fitness%20classes%20to%20get%20Cairns%20active



CASE STUDY SIX Green Energy Gym Technology Hull

- The Great Outdoor Gym Company (TGOGC) is a British Company that has introduced Green Energy Gym Technology which captures the energy from cardio machines and translates it to electricity.
- At Green Heart at Shaw Park, the facility is lit by energy sourced from exercise and features a People Power Display Wall that measures the generation and allows gym-goers to see their energy production.
- The goal is to use this power source in future endeavors towards implementation in local buildings and eventually the National Grid, while motivating users to generate their energy for a greater use, as well as for their fitness.
- The use of human energy as a power source provides the potential for both public health and environmentally conscious power benefits.
- <https://www.zdnet.com/article/green-energy-gym-technology-turns-exercise-into-electricity/>

**APPENDIX III:
OPEN SPACES IN HORSHAM**

LOCAL OPEN SPACE (1/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Alexander Avenue Park	Horsham North	18 Alexander Avenue, Horsham VIC 3400	0.08	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Apex Park	Horsham South West	Bennett Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.58	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Baillie St Footpath Reserve - Karingal	Horsham West	Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.0951	Open	Other	Footpath reserve
Birch Avenue Reserve	Horsham Inner North	11 Birch Ave, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1253	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Bodey Court Park	Horsham West	8 Bodey Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.226	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Carter Street Park	Horsham West	Carter Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1241	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Charisma Park	Horsham North	Entry via Hennessy/Watts/Winifred Streets, Horsham 3400	0.34	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
City Gardens	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham 3401	0.9271	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
City Gardens Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham 3402	0.4946	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Colla Court Park	Horsham South	4A Colla Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.137	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Crossleys Dam	Natimuk District	Natimuk Hamilton Road, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.845	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Dadswells Bridge Hall	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	5820 Western Highway, Dadswells Bridge VIC 3385	0.432	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Dawson Court Footpath Reserve	Horsham South West	Dawson Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.15	Open	Other	Footpath reserve
Dawson Court Park	Horsham South West	5 Dawson Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.085	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Dooen Hall	Vectis and Dooen	1025 Henty Highway, Dooen VIC 3401	0.227	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Dooen Road Park	Horsham Inner North	55 Dooen Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.099	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Clark Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.097	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Clark Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.087	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Urquhart Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.307	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	11 Madden Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.097	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	113 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.093	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Madden Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.408	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	Pryors Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.053	Open	Other	Drainage reserve

LOCAL OPEN SPACE (2/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Drainage Reserve	Haven	Kenny Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.655	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham West	McIntyre Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.681	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	91 Cameron Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.603	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.217	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Stawell Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.106	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Derry Parade, Horsham VIC 3400	0.767	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Vectis and Dooen	Wimmera Highway, Vectis VIC 3401	0.81	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drummond Park	Horsham South West	Drummond Street, Horsham 3400	0.24	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Elbourne Park	Horsham North	Hazel Street, Horsham 3400	0.2	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Evans Way Garden on Naturestripe	Horsham South	Evans Way, Horsham VIC 3400	0.0216	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Fisher Square Park	Horsham East	Fisher Square, Horsham VIC 3400	0.273	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Former Remlaw Tennis Courts	Pimpinio and Kalkee	Polkemmet Road, Vectis VIC 3401	0.275	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Gardenia Street Park	Horsham South West	Gardenia Street, Horsham 3400	0.30	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Green Lake	Drung	Western Highway, Bungalally VIC 3401	0.925	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Guide and Scout Complex	Central Horsham	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham VIC 3400	0.7663	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Hartigan Court Reserve	Horsham South West	Hartigan Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1278	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Haven Community Dam	Haven	Plozzas Road, Haven VIC 3401	0.761	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Haven Hall	Haven	4378 Henty Highway, Haven VIC 3401	0.409	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Haven Recreation Reserve	Haven	4378 Henty Highway, Haven 3401	9.9135	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Netball Club	Central Horsham	20A O'Callaghans Parade , Horsham VIC 3400	0.064	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation

LOCAL OPEN SPACE (3/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Horsham Town Hall	Central Horsham	71 Pynsent Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.002	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Jung Hall	Jung	28 Baker Street, Jung VIC 3401	0.299	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Jung Peppertree Park	Jung	Baker Street, Jung 3401	0.6773	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Kalimna Park Croquet Club	Central Horsham	207 Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.766	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Karingal Crescent Park	Horsham West	335 Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.066	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Laharum Hall	Wartook	1586 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum VIC 3401	0.779	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Lawrence Street Park	Horsham East	Lawrence Street, Horsham 3400	1.3205	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Mayfield Court Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Mayfield Court, Horsham VIC 3401	0.2076	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Mitre Hall	Natimuk District	1429 Natimuk Frances Road, Mitre VIC 3409	0.101	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Natimuk Road / Barnes Boulevard Reserve	Horsham South West	163-177 Wimmera Highway, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1595	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Park	Natimuk	Main Street, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.408	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Natimuk Tennis Courts	Natimuk	2 Elmes Street, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.482	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Natimuk Town Hall	Natimuk	101 Main Street, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.102	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Noradjuha Memorial Hall	Toolondo	4 Noradjuha Tooan East Road, Noradjuha VIC 3409	0.287	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Oatlands Park	Horsham North	Wavell Street / Alexander Avenue, Horsham 3400	0.10	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Peppertree Lane Walking Track	Riverside	32 Peppertree Lane, Horsham VIC 3400	0.732	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Perry Drive Footpath Reserve	Horsham East	Perry Drive, Horsham VIC 3400	0.0527	Open	Other	Footpath reserve
Pimpinio School Reserve	Pimpinio and Kalkee	Fisher Street, PIMPINIO VIC 3401	0.968	Limited	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Pioneer Court Reserve	Horsham North	Pioneer Court, Horsham 3400	0.11	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens

LOCAL OPEN SPACE (4/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Quantong Recreation Reserve	Quantong	52 Chequers Road, Quantong VIC 3401	0.065	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Reserve	Vectis and Dooen	Dooen School Road, Dooen VIC 3401	0.228	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Road Reserve	Horsham North	Queen Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.02	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Road Reserve	Horsham South	Bradshaw Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.029	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Road Reserve	Horsham South West	Curran Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.086	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Road Reserve	Brimpaen	Wonwondah Toolondo Road, Nurrabiel VIC 3401	0.025	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Sinclair Place Reserve	Horsham West	Sinclair Place, Horsham VIC 3400	0.035	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Southbank Entrance Reserve	Horsham South	Major Mitchell Drive, Horsham 3400	0.0721	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Spry Court Walking Track	Central Horsham	4 Spry Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.118	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Stormwater	Horsham East	25 Stockton Drive, Horsham VIC 3400	0.037	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Stormwater Basin	Central Horsham	Darlot Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.025	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Taylors Lake Hall	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	2032 Horsham Lubeck Road, St. Helens Plains VIC 3401	0.253	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Tobruk Street Reserve	Horsham South	Tobruk Street, Horsham VIC 3401	0.075	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Uebergang Park	Horsham South	Colla Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.4047	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Vacant Land - Clear Lake	Toolondo	Harrow Clear Lake Road, Clear Lake VIC 3409	0.206	Limited	Other	Other
Vacant Land Reserved for Bike Path	Horsham East	McBryde Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.098	Limited	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Victrack Railway Lot 44 (Leased)	Horsham North	66 Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.348	Closed	Other	Transport reservation
Walking Track	Horsham East	87 Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.671	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Water Storage	Horsham South	Osborne Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.336	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Watson Court Park	Horsham East	Watson Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.032	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Watts Street Park	Horsham North	19 Watts Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.078	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Windsor Court Park	Horsham South West	19 Windsor Crescent, Horsham VIC 3400	0.267	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Wootonga Basin Reserve - Spry Court	Central Horsham	Spry Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1178	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space

NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE (1/2)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Burnt Creek Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3400	2.0795	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Cameron Oval	Wartook	1473 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum VIC 3401	4.496	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Coughlin Park	Horsham East	Robinson Street, Horsham 3400	3.86	Limited	Sports grounds	Parks and gardens
Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	58 Cameron Road, North Horsham VIC 3400	1.242	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham West	Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC 3400	4.923	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Dudley Cornell Park	Horsham North	Gertrude Street, Horsham 3400	3.93	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Edward Street Park	Horsham North	Edward Street, Horsham VIC 3400	1.184	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Foundary Park	Horsham North	Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC 3400	3.0498	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Hellipad - Baillie Street	Horsham East	Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	2.7318	Open	Other	Other
Jardwa Park	Horsham East	4 Arnott Street, Horsham VIC 3400	2.162	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Kalkee Recreation Reserve	Pimpinio and Kalkee	1674 Blue Ribbon Road, Kalkee VIC 3401	3.694	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Kokoda Drive Park	Haven	22 Kokoda Drive, Haven VIC 3401	2.005	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Langlands Park	Horsham North	Houston Street, Horsham 3400	1.28	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage Rese	Central Horsham	Riverbank, Horsham VIC 3400	3.9926	Open	Natural areas	Recreation corridor
Menadue Street Reserve (for bike path)	Horsham East	Menadue Street, Horsham VIC 3400	3.349	Open	Linkages	Transport reservation
Natimuk Creek Reserve 1	Natimuk	Lake Avenue, Natimuk VIC 3409	3.6146	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Natimuk Creek Reserve 2	Natimuk	Lake Avenue, Natimuk VIC 3409	4.2305	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Nature Reserve	Jung	Wimmera Highway, Jung VIC 3401	1.114	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space

NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE (2/2)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Palm Avenue Park	Horsham North	Palm Avenue, Horsham VIC 3400	2.018	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Pimpinio Sports & Community Centre	Pimpinio and Kalkee	70 Miller Street, Pimpinio VIC 3401	4.143	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Quantong Recreation Reserve	Quantong	52 Chequers Road, Quantong VIC 3401	3.9339	Open	Recreation spaces	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Road Reserve	Toolondo	Emmersons Road, Noradjuha VIC 3409	1.02	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Sawyer Park	Central Horsham	Hocking Street, Horsham 3400	4.35	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Sunnyside Park	Horsham East	Olga Avenue, Horsham 3400	4.0868	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Telangatuk East Hall Reserve	Brimpaen	1207 Telangatuk East-Rocklands Road, Telangatuk East VIC 3401	2.8766	Open	Recreation spaces	Civic squares and promenades
The Sunnyside (Horsham) Sporting Club	Horsham East	8 Charles Street, Horsham VIC 3400	1.066	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Toolondo Recreation Reserve	Toolondo	Natimuk Hamilton Road, Toolondo VIC 3401	1.213	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Velodrome	Horsham East	34-22 Hamilton Street, Horsham VIC 3400	2.7625	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Walking Track - Barnes Boulevard	Central Horsham	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham VIC 3400	1.001	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor

MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE

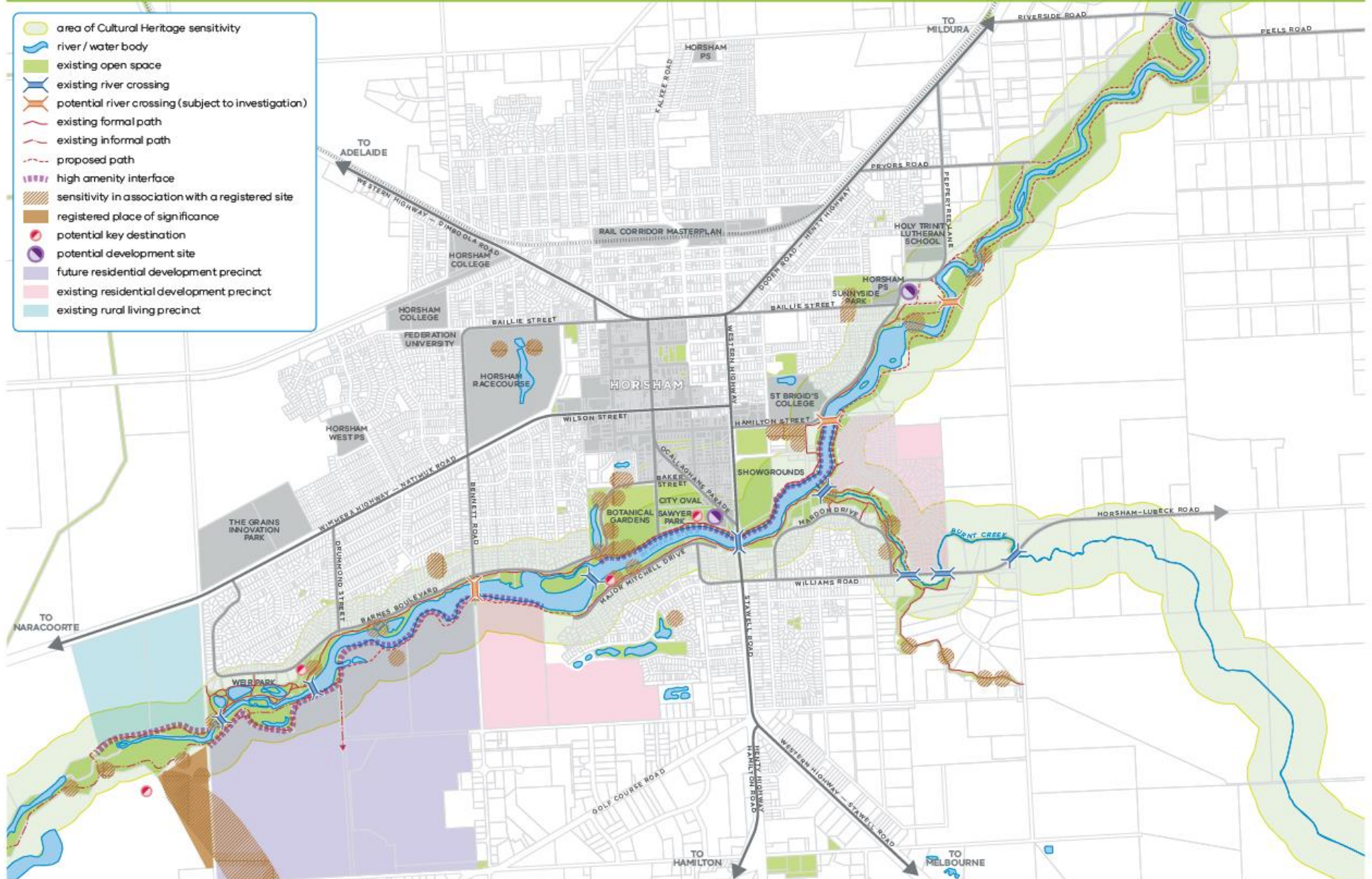
Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Barnes Boulevard River Frontage	Horsham South	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	10.0988	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Barnes Boulevard River Frontage	Horsham South	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	11.9212	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Burnt Creek Reserve North of Williams Rd	Horsham East	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3401	13.2607	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Burnt Creek Reserve South of Williams Rd	Horsham South	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3401	6.7888	Open	Natural areas	Transport reservation
Dock Lake Reserve	Drung	15 Dock Lake Road, Drung VIC 3401	5.333	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Haven Tennis Courts	Haven	4376 Henty Highway, Haven VIC 3401	9.099	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Croquet Club	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	11.451	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Lawn Tennis Club	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	11.451	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Riverside Caravan Park Frontage	Central Horsham	190 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	11.451	Limited	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Kanagulk Hall	Brimpaen	4859 Natimuk Hamilton Road, Kanagulk VIC 3401	6.988	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Manadue Street - Road and Road side rese	Horsham East	Menadue Street, Horsham VIC 3399	5.2157	Open	Linkages	Transport reservation
Natimuk Showgrounds Recreation Reserve	Natimuk	Station Street, Natimuk 3409	5.63	Limited	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Nature Reserve	Pimpinio and Kalkee	Blue Ribbon Road, Kalkee VIC 3401	12.08	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Riverside Recreation Reserve	Riverside	96 Riverside Road, Dooen VIC 3401	7.176	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Vacant Farm Land	Horsham South	Plumpton Road, Horsham VIC 3400	44.587	Closed	Other	Other

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE

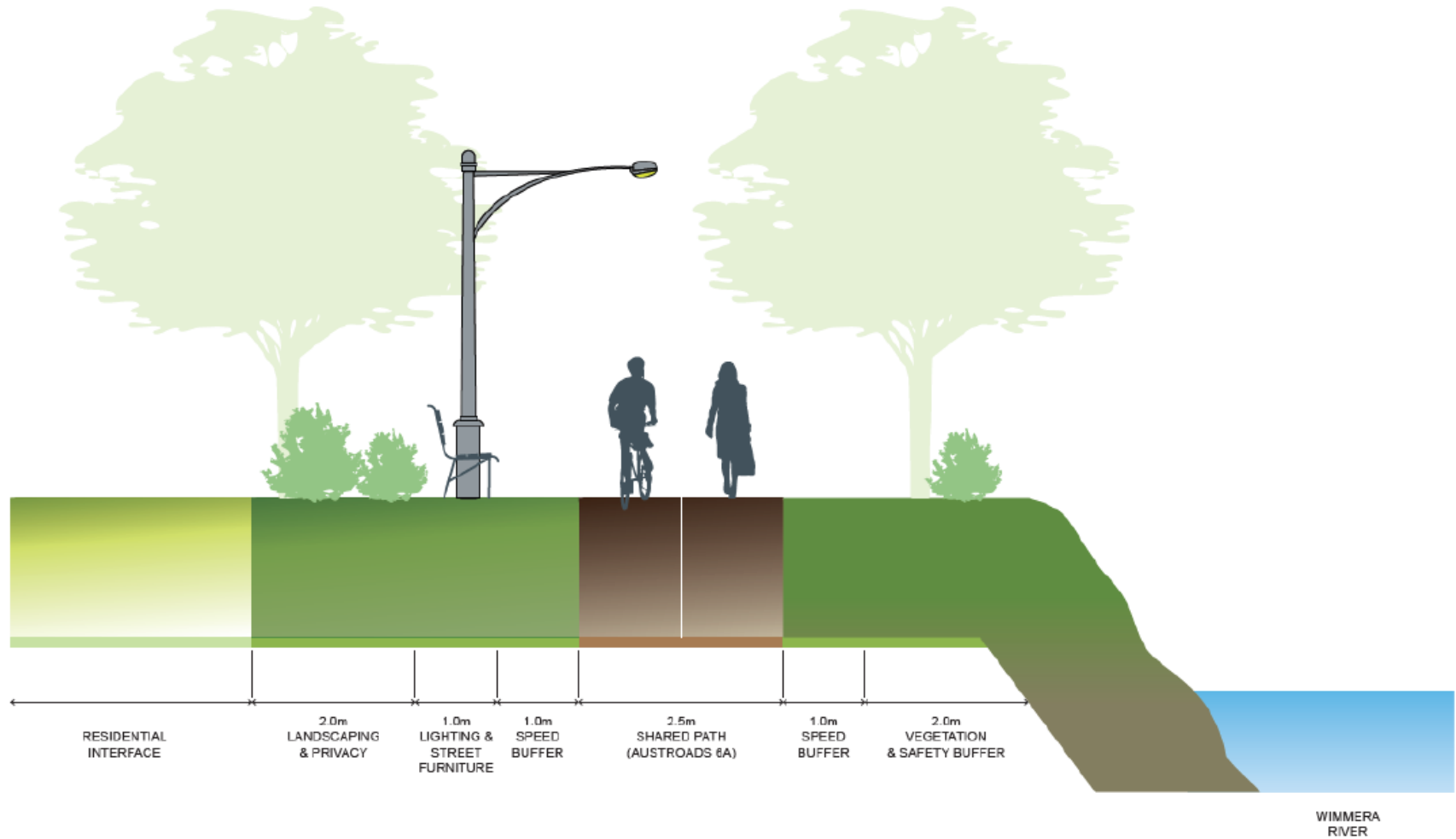
Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Adventure Island	Central Horsham	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	2.099	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Botanical Gardens	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham 3400	4.73	Limited	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
City Oval	Central Horsham	Baker Street, Horsham 3400	3.65	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Showgrounds	Horsham East	McPherson Street, Horsham 3400	21.76	Highly Limited	Other	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Skate Park	Horsham West	Park Drive, Horsham 3400	0.50	Open	Recreation spaces	Civic squares and promenades
May Park	Horsham Inner North	Dimboola Road/Baillie Street, Horsham 3400	1.2817	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Police Paddock Nature Reserve	Vectis and Dooen	Rasmussen Road, Horsham 3400	51.0737	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Racecourse Reserve	Horsham West	Bennett Road, Horsham 3400	32.3214	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Weir Park	Horsham South	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	4.41	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens

**APPENDIX IV:
WIMMERA RIVER CORRIDOR
PLAN DOCUMENTS**

- area of Cultural Heritage sensitivity
- river / water body
- existing open space
- existing river crossing
- potential river crossing (subject to investigation)
- existing formal path
- existing informal path
- proposed path
- high amenity interface
- sensitivity in association with a registered site
- registered place of significance
- potential key destination
- potential development site
- future residential development precinct
- existing residential development precinct
- existing rural living precinct



SHARED PATH STANDARDS



Shared Path – Wimmera River

APPENDIX V: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<p>Horsham has a strong community feel and a great sense of freedom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horsham residents see the township as a great place to raise a family, with small schools and good childcare creating feelings of safety, and the ability to know a lot of people in the community. Family and mateship is valued, and there are many opportunities to be involved in clubs and special interest groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger picture - Horsham is a regional centre and hub. While many surrounding towns are getting smaller, Horsham is progression from a town to a city in terms of attitude. Council will need to keep investing in facilities such as health and wellbeing amenities to service this shift.
<p>The town and its Open Space, needs revitalisation to ensure it meets growing needs and changing demands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone we spoke to during the qualitative phase of this project suggests that there are some great places to relax, play and be active but they all need to be aligned and invested in to enhance their use, usability and to fully benefit the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Budgets will need to incorporate significant uplift in investment for the long term and the city will explore some partnerships to broaden investment in open space to improve utilisation, and the health of Horsham and District Residents.
<p>The iconic assets need regeneration and investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no doubt that HRCC and the region has some incredible assets at its fingertips, yet many are underinvested in, under appreciated and under utilised. Talking to residents and stakeholders, many recognise the wonderful assets the city has at its fingertips – the river, ovals, parks, lakes, climbing assets – yet they are not linked. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This open space strategy must align with the HRCC, Tourism, Sport and Rec and the Horsham CAD and Wimmera Precinct Plan. A capital investment Master Plan for open space that spans at least 10 years should be implemented.

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<p>The Entry/Exits to Horsham need rejuvenation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of our first observations was the underwhelming nature of the entry and exits to Horsham and its Districts. Many towns and cities around Australia are taking an active and visual approach to their town or city entry/exits. HRCC should do the same; the City should be proud of itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRCC should investigate an entry/exit rejuvenation program including: signage, amenities, related assets as well as history and Indigenous recognition.
<p>Some of the city's key assets seem closed most of the time/day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What surprised the reviewers is that many of the city's key assets appear to be closed off to the general public, and it is difficult for residents to find usage times and/or their rights to use some of them outside of clubs or leasee's rights. Council must recognise that not everyone wants to play sport. What unstructured physical activity and active recreation opportunities can be publicised, introduced and encouraged? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post this Open Space review, we recommend a website or portal review to uplift communication and community awareness of key council and community open space assets and their amenities. Greater levels of promotion of the abundance of natural open spaces across the municipality to those that typically would not use them (e.g. mountain biking, walking and fishing) is required.
<p>Existing infrastructure is ageing, and the iconic assets of the region must be uplifted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's recent investment into upgrading the Town Hall and aquatic centre has been well received by the community, however there is still more work to be done. Council should be proud of the number of assets within its control and those that are run by other relevant bodies and clubs. There is no doubt the city could celebrate and be prouder of its assets. Anecdotally there are enough sports grounds to service demand, but many have aged facilities and need to be revitalised. In addition, many will say the majority of playgrounds don't have enough shade or additional amenities to increase usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council must develop a list of iconic assets that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for reinvestment. The current Sport Facilities and Demand study must align with the open Space Strategy. The playground hierarchy will assist with future investment allocation decisions.

KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<p>Tree canopy and shade – including rest/relaxation spaces are lacking in the CAD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reviewers believe that there is simply not enough tree canopy or shade in the Horsham CAD – and given the climate throughout the year, a long-term tree/vegetation plan is required. • Many residents drive their car around the town rather than walking between spots/shops because they say it is just “too hot to walk.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10-15 year capital investment tree canopy plan is required, along with additional rest/relaxation places in the CAD.
<p>Developer Contributions = the HRCC requirements are too low for modern development and lifestyles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many councils are now reviewing their requirements across the state and the contribution requirements in some LGA’s is nearing 10%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is our recommendation that the open space developer contributions needs to increase in HRCC to a minimum of 6%. Should the city wish to be a leader in this, 10% should be the future benchmark.
<p>Underlying premise that Universal Design Principles are considered for all projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils around Victoria and Australia are not looking into mandatory use of these principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reviewers recommend that Universal Design Principles are not mandatory but are considered in a practical and pragmatic way for all projects.

KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<p>An underlying connection to a wonderful river and lakes system is not overt to the rest of Victoria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While Horsham is described as a harsh environment by some residents, on its doorstep is an amazing river and river front and a wonderful lake system that is slowly being realised. However, some would suggest that outside of the region itself, it is not widely known for its water system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with GWM Water and local tourism bodies, invest in a tourism strategy or campaign to raise the profile of the region’s great water and fishing assets.
<p>A rock climbing mecca at your fingertips.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grampians and the wider HRCC is known as a climbing mecca and Natimuk is a town where many climbers are now living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position Natimuk and (Horsham more broadly) as the gateway to Mount Arapiles, an internationally important rock climbing destination.
<p>Many natural areas and open spaces don’t have the right mix of assets and amenities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Open Space audit has identified a series of gaps and needs for all the HRCC assets. The Open Space hierarchy will assist in decision-making in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10 year capital improvement plan needs to be developed.

KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<p>Indigenous story-telling is missing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The reviewers found that the CAD, its assets and the outlying towns and assets lack strong Indigenous storytelling that reflects a cultural respect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Every major asset and/or place must have visual and written recognition of the traditional Indigenous landowners.A separate piece of work will be required to accelerate this around the HRCC RAP Plan.

ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>The Wimmera River – the Icon Centrepiece</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with Mount Arapiles, the Wimmera River is the natural centrepiece of the town and city. It should be the most visible asset, yet is almost hidden as you enter and exit the city precinct. • The River Precinct is somewhat underutilised, and has the potential to be a destination for recreational and social enjoyment. • Spaces that enhance interaction and family time (e.g. Adventure Island and Weir Park) are already there but greater linkage to the rest of the township is needed to enhance usage and accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where feasible and possible, opening up the river front to more activity, more linkages, and more interaction with the community is a must. • Longer term a restaurant/café is a requirement to draw people to this wonderful part of Victoria.
<p>Mt. Arapiles – the 2nd icon for HRCC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Arapiles is an internationally significant rock climbing destination with an enduring appeal drawing thousands of visitors from around the world each year. • Along with the Wimmera River, this is perhaps the most iconic asset in the HRCC, yet it is not as well recognised as the Grampians by the broader Victorian community. • This site is very significant to Traditional Owners, and their aspirations are set out in their Country Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support BGLC and Parks Victoria as land managers in working with visitors and the community to promote greater awareness, understanding and protection of the cultural values of the site, whilst retaining appropriate sustainable and internationally significant rock climbing opportunities.
<p>Arapiles Big Sky Bicycle Trail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermittently talked about by the community and stakeholders through this project, it is a sleeping opportunity. • This trail should form a key plank of the regional tourism strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater levels of promotion of this asset is required to enhance visitation.

ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>City Oval and Sawyer Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, many would say these are an underutilised asset – particularly City Oval – and it is only the domain of football and cricket. • While Sawyer Park has had some investment in recent times, the whole site needs completion to increase usability and comfort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinements of a Master Plan that incorporates and opens up City Oval – and Sawyer Park – which then leverages the river frontage to its maximum is recommended. • The reviewers believe that the long term relocation of the Caravan Park needs to be thought through and must align with the Horsham CAD and Wimmera Precinct Plan.
<p>Police Paddock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again an underappreciated and underutilised asset. It has 'great bones' but needs additional investment to round it out. It is a 'sneaky' fishing spot for some. • It does lack a clear bike lane linkage and needs to cater for a wider base of user groups. There is great potential here to connect Police Paddock (and North Horsham) to the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a gap analysis based on the asset audit and identify top 2-3 recommendations. • Breaking down perceptions of the area to encourage more people to visit must be considered – and a name change to something more inviting has been pushed by the broader township. There is more to consider here, including a relevant Indigenous connection and name.
<p>Dudley Cornell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consensus would be this park is trying to over-provide with too little space. It needs investment, it lacks adequate parking and modern amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics must find a new home and the park should be used for broader lifestyle and recreational use by local residents.

ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>VicTrack Land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without a doubt an eye sore, and it continues to be a 'missed' opportunity (and we recognize the environmental challenges of the site). There is much to play out here as the site requires heavy remediation. Strategically acquiring this asset will change the dynamics of the township. It is the missing 'link' to bring the North of Horsham closer to the CAD both visually and dynamically. The Railway Corridor is ready for a transformation and has the potential to provide the East/West connectivity and alleviate the barrier between North and South Horsham. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue this opportunity to its completion. Long term this will provide a wonderful asset or linkage for the Horsham community if it can be realised.
<p>May Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely talked about and known –the major missing piece is some additional lighting as some will suggest that this path can be unsafe at times or within the confines of one "dark" pocket. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as practical, upgrade lighting to improve the perceived after-dark safety aspect of this key community asset.
<p>The Showgrounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its relationship with the CAD and surroundings is disjointed. The Greyhounds track is unpleasant to look at and possibly should be moved. We realise there is much discussion to play out here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reviewer recommends that in conjunction with the Showgrounds Committee of Management, a 10 year strategy is developed for this precinct. The objective should be to open up this asset to the community 24/7.

ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>Blue Ribbon Raceway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The speedway is 19.3km from the CAD. While a useful precinct and asset (and rightly so) out of town, there is a potential option for another asset to be housed here in the longer term. Note: limited feedback to date from stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific action is determined at this stage, given its proximity from the town.
<p>The Velodrome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Horsham Cycling Club currently has six active members and has not had growth to the membership base for some time. The velodrome is used daily by recreational users including dog walkers, triathletes and many of the local schools. The track will need resurfacing in the next 5-6 years which will be an investment of approximately \$200,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council should investigate opportunities to incorporate this site into the development of an indoor/outdoor sports precinct.
<p>Racecourse Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current usage: HDRC: 2 days at 4 hours per day, 3 race meets per year; HHRC: 2 training per week times 4 hours (each week, 10 race meets a year (includes 2 major meets). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horsham Harness Racing and the Horsham District Racing Club are open to solutions to enable more community access. It is critical to protect the quality of the track. Given recent investment in the site and the estimated replication costs of \$50-\$100 million, the club should stay in its current location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a council perspective, building a closer relationship with these clubs – and building and refining the current community footprint at this major site is for strong consideration.

ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>Horsham Greyhound Racing Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stats: \$1.3 million upgrade but 12 months on the track • \$2.9 million last 10 years • Training runs being investigated on the far-side. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well utilised facilities – albeit under the radar and with little external community engagement. North West Victoria is a hub of Greyhound activity for the sport. There are now only two metropolitan Greyhound tracks in operation, so regional Victoria is the focus of growth for the sport. • As it sits currently, the track site and facility do not integrate well in to the full site – and the abutment to the highway is an eye-sore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term recommendations: improve the street scape and roadside visualisation of the club. • Inside the site has been invested in, options for “flipping” the track to move it away from the highway should be considered in the medium to longer term.
<p>Horsham Racing Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus would be that greater community, council and township engagement is required. Weekly activity is ongoing and an up-and-coming trainer lives and works in the region. • Timing of their events is not optimal and some longer term considerations for moving one of the key race meets should be on the radar of decision makers. Track relocation requires a <u>significant</u> capital investment (\$50-\$100 million) and there are better investments to consider for the longer term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever possible, council should engage strongly with the HRC. To relocate the track is an investment of \$50 million - \$100 million. Shorter-term consideration to bolster the 3 events and engage the community and township. • Improving the ‘in-field’ fields should be considered in alignment with the sports facilities demand study.
<p>Horsham Harness Racing Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well utilised facilities and there is demand to increase the number of events. In 2018, this was the only club/centre to grow in Victoria. • Again a growth corridor is the North-West of the state. Horsham is the heartbeat and trainers and riders do come from South Australia and NSW as well as many parts of Victoria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to the Racing Club, this is an undervalued activity centre. • Short-term, council needs to engage with the club to bolster engagement with the community. • Medium/longer-term – improve and invest in the inner-field asset for extra football (soccer) or athletics.

"Horsham is the regional centre. If you can't get something elsewhere within a 100km radius you can come to Horsham and get it – it's a very resourceful area, and has a diverse range of businesses."

"Future priorities should be about opening up our assets, providing greater access to our facilities to other community groups and users rather than just the same old football, netball and cricket."

"We have a lot of single use, one dimensional facilities...there are no physical linkages between our assets."

"City Oval is not the city's...it's really just the Horsham Demons ground. It's not 'city' oval."

"We don't have visibility of what is on at City Oval and we would have to go through Council. But we wouldn't know when it is available outside of football and cricket times."

"What do and can community groups use and when? What access do they potentially have and what assets?"

"The big issue is transportation. It's not easy for people to get from one point to another if you don't have a car."

"Sports are still very important for rural areas, but you also need places where you can just relax."

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>Linkages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated and signed pedestrian and cycle linkages are needed to connect the whole city. Given Horsham’s flat terrain, the city should become a cycle-based city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated, signed cycling and walking routes are needed, not only from a safety perspective, but also to encourage broader physical activity and active transport in the region. • A city wide cycling and running/walking strategy is required. • This all needs to form part of the HRCC Urban Transport Network Plan.
<p>Civic Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared civic and community spaces within walking distance of the CAD are certainly missing. • There is a distinct lack of public town squares, useful civic spaces and shaded seating areas within the CAD where people can sit and enjoy their lunch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Town Square or community garden idea has been talked about, with potential to use the vacant block of land opposite Coles. That said, there is no real central part of the CAD that represents the heart and soul of Horsham. • Short-term, a canopy and shade strategy needs to incorporate access to water and water features.
<p>Schools – a missing piece to Open Space access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the schools and Education department have not been formally engaged through this project, it is a discussion point emerging in all, if not many, LGA’s. • There are wonderful school based assets that are underutilised, and with some forward thinking that is aligned to community needs, should be realised in the medium term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sport and Rec department at HRCC should engage with the top 2-3 schools in the town to open engagement about a pilot program for community use. • Likewise, there are schools in the region that could benefit from using City Oval at times.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>Dadswell Bridge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This township should be the celebration that you have arrived in one of Victoria’s most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham. • It is just so underwhelming on the left of the Highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long term revitalisation strategy for this part of the region will require a staged approach – and there must be a story about its significance and history to the region.
<p>East Horsham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary feedback from residents and stakeholders is the lack of connectivity across the river to the 3 local schools. It is a major safety concern as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another pedestrian bridge needs to be built across either Baillie or Hamilton Streets near the ‘three schools’ (St Brigids, Lutheran and Horsham 298) to enhance safety and access.
<p>North Horsham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major observation is that the North of Horsham, a low socioeconomic area, is seriously underserved by publicly accessible and activated open space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in open space provision in this area, aligned with the Open Space Contribution policy is needed. • Existing open space must be activated with community amenities such as barbecues, picnic tables, public toilets at Police Paddocks and Langland’s Park.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<p>West Horsham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area of the City has been spoken about as a potential 'green-field' site for an indoor/outdoor sports hub which would service the number of schools and education institutions within close proximity (approximately 950 students). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of this site should only occur if there is significant population growth beyond current projections.
<p>Haven and South Horsham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the growth corridor of Horsham and in some parts, new housing developments have proceeded with poor consideration of open space due to the lack of an open space contributions policy. Haven is a tight-knit community, and the recreation reserve and primary school serve as a central hub and recreation space for local residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear directions in the Planning Scheme and an Open Space Contributions Policy is critical to ensure that open spaces are made a priority in the southern growth corridor. A 10 year Masterplan of the Haven Recreation Reserve including walking and cycle linkages to the Horsham CAD should be developed.

"The sound shell is the only open space performance area in Horsham. We need to encourage more arts and cultural performances. Could have graffiti art, sculptures, live music all along the river front."

"To see Haven now compared to 40 years ago, you wonder how many years down the track it will be until more services start to go South of the river."

"While the die-hard local might think we don't need [assets like the Town Hall and Aquatic Centre], once they do happen, people embrace it. You hear all the comments... *we should have had this years ago ... seeing my grandkids up on stage is so exciting.*"

"I certainly think a Town Square or civic space in the CBD would be great. There is a dirt carpark in Roberts Avenue, opposite the Coles carpark, which I always thought would be a great community open space or garden."

"Linkages are great along the river and down to the Weir, but there is nothing up near the Riverside precinct and the three schools – Lutheran, Horsham 298 and St Brigids."

"The sporting facilities in Horsham are great. My kids both play basketball and the stadium has good capacity that can cope with all the basketball tournaments."

"Every school, primary or secondary, should be surrounded by sports facilities. If you have good access to facilities and good programs for kids after school they will come."

"Horsham is very dark and lighting is a problem along the river. People don't feel safe. We need more lights for people that want to exercise early in the morning or late at night."



Unit 3, 456 High Street,
Prahran, VIC
3181
www.sportbusiness.com.au

Mr. Sunil Bhalla
 C.E.O.
 Horsham Rural City Council
 18 Roberts Ave.
 Horsham 3402

Dear Sir,

I write to you on behalf of the Domestic Animal Management Advisory Group for the Horsham Rural City Council in my capacity as a Community Representative.

Over recent meeting there has been much discussion about the no dogs policy at the Botanic Gardens. There have been expressions of disappointment for some local residents as well as visitors to the city.

The visitors, particularly older travellers staying at the caravan park who have dogs with them are most disappointed. They point out that while there are towns with similar policies the majority of places they visit allow dogs in gardens as long as they are on a lead.

Over recent years Horsham has shown itself to be dog friendly. This is evidenced by the provision of off lead parks. The recent addition of a fourth highlights the city's progressiveness.

It in this light of working towards continuous improvement that the Domestic Animals Management Group have come to the belief that dogs should be allowed in the Botanic under certain provisions.

We encourage the Council to allow dogs in the Botanic Gardens providing:

- The dog is on a lead.
- The dog is to remain on existing pathways.

This will mean dogs will not be allowed in the playground/picnic area where there are family activities.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mike Coffey
 On behalf of the Domestic Animals Management Advisory Group
 Horsham Rural City Council

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL	
REF	F25/A15/000001
NAME	Angela
DATE	15 JUL 2019
SIGNED	Sunil + John M

Dogs in the Botanic Gardens - Report

Benchmarking

All the botanic gardens listed below allow dogs on-lead.

Location	Dogs Allowed	Comments
Alexandra Gardens, Ararat	Y	'All pets must be on a leash'
Ballarat Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs allowed'
Bendigo Botanic Gardens	Y	'Keep your dog on a leash at all times'
Colac Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs on leads are welcome in the Gardens'
Dunkeld Arboretum	Y	'Dogs allowed'
Geelong Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs are welcome [...] but must be kept on a leash'
Hamilton Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs allowed on leash at all times'
Kyneton Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs permitted'
Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs are welcome [...] but must be kept on a leash'
Melton Botanic Garden	Y	'Dogs are allowed on a lead'
Portland Botanic Gardens	Y	'Dogs on a leash welcome'
Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens, Daylesford	Y	'Dogs on a leash are welcome'

Further information was obtained from the following locations. Note, these Gardens have always allowed dogs and therefore may not offer a true representation of how dogs have affected the gardens.

		Alexandra Gardens (Ararat)	Colac Botanic Gardens	Gibson 6ha, Kyneton 15ha, Malmsbury 6ha	Wombat Hill (Hepburn)
	Contact	Parks & Gardens staff	Local Laws	Parks & Garden staff	Coordinator Parks & Gardens
1	How long have you allowed dogs in the botanic gardens?	Always	At least over 13 years	Always	Always – as long as I've known
2	How compatible are dogs with special events/wedding /picnics?	Policed more over weekends. No dogs during special events	No real issues encountered	-	No reports or issues. Still allow dogs during special events.
3	Do you have a play space, if so, is it fenced or unfenced? How do you manage this with dogs?	Yes - unfenced	Yes - unfenced	Yes - unfenced	No
4	Are there additional maintenance requirements to grass and gardens because of dogs?	No – no issues with dogs in garden beds	Refill of litter bags	Faeces on path maybe once every two days. Dogs sometimes in garden beds when let off lead.	No. Very minimal. Litter bags refill. Little policing

APPENDIX 9.3B

5	Are dog owners responsible at picking up dog litter?	Yes – 99% of the time	Most of the time	Try to be – but not always.	Yes. All pretty good.
6	Do you get many complaints about dogs being allowed in the gardens?	Not really. 99% of time they are good	Not too many	Comes and goes	None. Most owners are respectful.
7	Overall, do you think the community are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens?	Very happy – very lucky to have respectful dog owners	Generally supportive	-	Yes
8	Overall, do you think the parks and gardens staff are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens?	Very happy	-	Staff not happy as dog owners irresponsible in past. Hard to police due to staffing in unmonitored gardens.	Yes. Overall – indifferent. Community Safety does a minimal patrol

Ararat Alexandra Gardens - Trevor

1. How long have you allowed dogs in the botanic gardens?
Yes – always.
2. How compatible are dogs with special events/wedding/picnics?
Policed a bit more over weekends. No dogs allowed during special events.
3. Do you have a play space, if so, is it fenced or unfenced? How do you manage this with dogs?
Yes – unfenced. Looking at fencing maybe due to proximately to river. No issues with dogs in play space.
4. Are there additional maintenance requirements to grass and gardens because of dogs?
Most people are responsible – no problems with dogs in garden beds.
5. Are dog owners responsible at picking up dog poo?
Yes – 99% of the time. No major issues and few minor issues.
6. Do you get many complaints about dogs being allowed in the gardens?
Not really – 99% of people abide by the rules. Ararat also have other off-leash areas for dog owners to utilise if they want to let their dogs off-leash.
7. Overall, do you think the community are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens?
Very happy – very lucky to have respectful dog owners
8. Overall, do you think the parks and gardens staff are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens? Very happy.

Colac Botanic Gardens - John

1. How long have you allowed dogs in the botanic gardens?
At least Over 13 years. Never been a prohibited activity. Section 26 Domestic Animals Act – should be prohibited under Section 26 legally. Acts take precedence over local laws. Can't just be just under a local law. 'Order'/conditions states they must keep them on a leash. Conditions can include times when dogs are not allowed, or weddings. Compliance department monitor weekends and almost every day.
2. How compatible are dogs with special events/wedding/picnics?
No real issues, however staff police to ensure dogs are kept on leash.
3. Do you have a play space, if so, is it fenced or unfenced? How do you manage this with dogs? Unfenced play space. Not issue with dogs around play space.
4. Are there additional maintenance requirements to grass and gardens because of dogs?
Only that Parks & Gardens staff refill the poo bags. 5 poles with poo bags.
5. Are dog owners responsible at picking up dog poo?
Most of the time.
6. Do you get many complaints about dogs being allowed in the gardens?
Not too many.
7. Overall, do you think the parks and gardens staff are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens? Generally supportive.

Kyneton Botanic Gardens – Justin (similar size to Horsham Botanic Garden) Manage 3 gardens - Gibson 6ha, Kyneton 15ha, Malmsbury 6ha.

1. How long have you allowed dogs in the botanic gardens?

Always.

2. How compatible are dogs with special events/wedding/picnics?
3. Do you have a play space, if so, is it fenced or unfenced? How do you manage this with dogs?
Yes play space, not fenced. 'Community park' play space. Dogs owners generally
4. Are there additional maintenance requirements to grass and gardens because of dogs?
1-2 poos every couple of days. Issues when dogs are let into garden beds trampling on
5. Are dog owners responsible at picking up dog poo?
Try to be. But not always.
6. Do you get many complaints about dogs being allowed in the gardens?
Comes and goes.
7. Overall, do you think the community are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens?
8. Overall, do you think the parks and gardens staff are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens? Parks & Gardens staff not particularly happy with dogs as owners have been irresponsible in the past. Hard to police. Under-staffed mainly in Kyneton.

Hepburn – Wombat Hill – Shaun – Coordinator Parks and Gardens.

1. How long have you allowed dogs in the botanic gardens?
2. How compatible are dogs with special events/wedding/picnics?
3. Do you have a play space, if so, is it fenced or unfenced? How do you manage this with dogs?
4. Are there additional maintenance requirements to grass and gardens because of dogs?
5. Are dog owners responsible at picking up dog poo?
6. Do you get many complaints about dogs being allowed in the gardens?
7. Overall, do you think the community are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens?
8. Overall, do you think the parks and gardens staff are supportive of dogs in the botanic gardens?



Rivertech

ENVIRONMENT & CULTURAL HERITAGE SERVICES

CORELLA MANAGEMENT PLAN

November 2019

DRAFT

PREPARED FOR HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

PREPARED BY STEVE TALBOT

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION..... 3

IMPACT OF CORELLAS..... 3

LEGAL STATUS..... 3

EXISTING CORELLA MANAGEMENT PLANS..... 3

MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR HORSHAM..... 3

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS..... 4

EMERGING TECHNIQUES..... 4

CONCLUSION..... 4

RECOMMENDATIONS..... 4

APPENDIX A – ESTIMATED COST CORELLA CAUSED DAMAGE IN HORSHAM..... 5

APPENDIX B - “GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING COCKATOO DAMAGE” 6

APPENDIX C - COUNCIL’S CORELLA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 21

APPENDIX D – CORELLA BEHAVIOUR ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE 22

DRAFT

Disclaimer

Although Rivertech Environment and Cultural Heritage Services has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that an accurate report has been prepared, it accepts no liability for any injury, damages or loss incurred as a result of reliance placed upon the report and its contents.

INTRODUCTION

Long-billed Corellas (*cacatua tenuirostris*) have created challenges for the Horsham Rural City Council (**Council**) municipality over many years. The severity of the problem has fluctuated and a number of control methods have been adopted by different parties within the municipality over the past two decades.

The following Corella Management Plan outlines a number of options available to the community and Council to manage Corella damage and makes recommendations as to a seasonal course of action to reduce Corella issues within the community. The management options and recommendations are intended to provide a platform for Council staff, user groups of Council infrastructure and the community manage Corella issues throughout Horsham.

IMPACT OF CORELLAS

Corellas are an iconic part of the Wimmera landscape with flocks appreciated by many members of the community. However, as well as damaging crops, Corellas in Horsham cause damage to trees, buildings, recreational reserves and other assets. An estimated average of \$33,000 per year of damage to Council infrastructure is attributable to Corellas (see **Appendix A**).

LEGAL STATUS

Corellas are native wildlife protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. It is illegal to wilfully disturb or destroy protected wildlife without approval. Approval can be granted by DELWP in the form of an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) enabling the permit holder to scare, disperse or destroy protected wildlife. However, it is DELWP policy that an ATCW applicant must try non-lethal control options before being able to apply for an ATCW for lethal control. Lethal control is a last resort.

A Governor in Council Order of 2 July 1996 declares Corellas “unprotected wildlife” in certain circumstances. Landowners or occupiers and committees of management are permitted to shoot corellas on their land, or recreational reserves, where Corellas are causing severe damage to trees, vineyards, orchards, recreational reserves, or commercial crops.

If Council is to undertake activities that scare, disperse or destroy corellas by firearm, a populous place permit from Victoria Police is required as a large number of Council owned and managed assets affected by Corellas are in residential areas, public open spaces and thoroughfares.

Trapping, gassing, poisoning and using birds of prey to control Corellas is illegal in Victoria.

EXISTING CORELLA MANAGEMENT PLANS

There are several “Management Plans” available from areas in eastern and western Australia in relation to Corella management. However, closer reading suggests that none of these clearly articulate control methods and actions required specifically for Corella management. Several plans relate to other bird species that include other “cockatoo” species as well but were found to be lacking in useful detail.

Whilst the intent of these plans was fairly uniform (in that bird control was the ultimate goal), ways to achieve this did not appear to be clearly identified or based on reliable data or experience.

The intent of this plan is to reduce damage, particularly to Council buildings and assets, caused seasonally by Corellas. Damage caused will be benchmarked to determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

The Victorian Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (**DELWP**) released Cockatoo management guidelines during mid-2018 (see **Appendix B**) that are relevant to Corella management. The DELWP guidelines reflect best practice and have informed this Plan.

MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR HORSHAM

The Interim Corella Management Plan recommended Council identify other stakeholders/potential partners beyond Council managed land, who can collaborate and partner on a solution. Based on this recommendation, engagement has occurred with the following key stakeholders / partners:

Wildlife Management Expert(s)	Ian Temby, Wildlife Management Consultant has been engaged to provide expert opinion and peer review of the draft recommendations.
Department of Environment Land Water and Planning	DELWP Guidelines adopted as a interim measure in lieu of a Council Corella Management Plan; DELWP to be consulted and asked to provide comments on the Corella Management Plan prior to the final draft version being prepared for adoption.
Horsham Land Care group(s)	Wimmera River Improvement Committee, Gary Aitken
Coughlin Park Committee of Management	A current participant in Habitat Manipulation Trials; To be approached regarding “salt shot” trials if another populous place permit is granted.
Horsham Lawn Tennis Club	A current participant in Habitat Manipulation Trials; potential participant in engineering controls.
Wimmera CMA	David Brennan, CEO
Council officers	Rob Moir, Rod Lawson, Chris Flood, John Martin, Lauren Coman. Martin Bride

In preparation of this Plan it became evident that there is a lack of readily available data and there are gaps in information relating to Corella damage and specific behaviours of Corellas in Horsham. This makes development of this Corella Management Plan (**Plan**) difficult at this stage. However it is understood that the Plan will be a ‘living document’ and the development of the Plan iterative as trends become evident and novel Corella damage management techniques emerge.

Appendix C of the Plan sets out Council’s proposed program of Corella management activities (**Corella Program**). This program was developed in collaboration with Council officers and stakeholders and informed by expert advice.

A key component of the Corella Program is community engagement, with community involvement and ownership of some of the issues. The community are important contributors to key outcomes of the Plan. A successful Corella Program is reliant on community members reporting Corella movements and undertaking assigned actions to move Corellas on from key sites. It is also very likely to provide a prime opportunity for those involved to discover that

these birds have character and are extremely intelligent and adaptable. And perhaps, through understanding, this can help change the community's less than positive image of them. It is possible that some champions who support the birds may also emerge.

Communication is a vital part of the Corella Program. Communication needs to be on several levels. A communications plan clearly identifying the nature of the problem and the reasons for the actions being used to resolve it should be prepared by Council for the community and local media. A public meeting may be an effective way to understand concerns, enlist community assistance and ensure a broader understanding of Corella behaviours and management techniques.

It is recommended that learnings from the previous season's Corella Program update the Plan each year. Success of the Plan will primarily be determined by a reduction in damage caused by Corellas to Council infrastructure.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Corellas are an intelligent and long living bird that can adapt readily to environmental changes or challenges. Managing their impacts requires an integrated approach that makes use of a range of management options.

Management options should be: achievable, targeted, strategic, informed, safe, humane, cost effective, and easily implemented by a diverse range of stakeholders.

Management options should not be limited to a physical interaction (such as scare guns or lethal control), but should also consider changes to natural and built environments that attract and support populations of Corellas.

Management measures in any management plan may include (but are not limited to):

- Engineering solutions such as protection of assets through the inclusion of cable sheathing, bird spikes, light-gauge overhead wires and protective covers over sensitive equipment
- Food minimisation techniques discouraging foraging birds (and therefore lessening the on-ground damage)
- Lethal control by shooting
- Non-lethal control by shooting towards the birds using bird fright cartridges
- Scaring devices such as gas scare guns, drones, big-eye bird scarers.
- Community engagement with a focus on education and acceptance

Refer to **Appendix B** for detail as to these management options.

EMERGING TECHNIQUES

Emerging management techniques include:

- Anecdotal evidence suggests insecticide applications may reduce damage
- Habitat manipulation (food source minimisation). Trial of chemical application regimes are currently underway to reduce food source at two recreation venues
- Use of rock salt instead of lead/steel shot in shotgun ammunition. Trials as to the effectiveness of this method are currently underway and are to continue in over the periods of high-activity

CONCLUSION

No management option alone is likely to be wholly effective, but integrated with other options, may prove to be effective against an animal that is classed as a "learning bird" proven to be adaptive (and responsive) to previous attempts at management. Council's Plan should be adaptive and new control measures introduced into the Plan toolkit when they are identified.

Habitat manipulation including reducing the attraction for foraging birds should be part of the integrated approach. Food source manipulation in particular should be considered and would be a tool for Council and user groups to embrace to protect their assets.

Success of the Plan will primarily be determined by a reduction in damage caused by Corellas to Council infrastructure and the costs incurred as a result of the damage. Success of the Plan will be heavily reliant upon stakeholders maintaining a commitment to the actions identified in the Plan that fall into their area of responsibility.

Council should consider finding a research partner to work with to carry out emerging techniques and conduct trials in Horsham as to effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

1. Immediately adapt engineering solutions (such as covers, armoured cable or bird spikes) to new projects as appropriate and provide education to the building community as to engineering solutions that minimise Corella damage.
2. Explore the option of retrofitting engineering solutions to infrastructure that is frequently damaged.
3. Undertake an assessment seasonally to determine flock densities, locations, feeding habits and food sources.
4. Develop an annual key stakeholder and community engagement process to better understand the issues.
5. Continue to seek alternatives to lethal control methods of Corellas.
6. Explore opportunities to engage State Government and other partners in their Corella control planning, especially any opportunities for a collaborative study or research project into Corella management.
7. Capture data in relation to Corella damage and management of Corellas.
8. Capture learnings from the previous season's Corella Program and update the Plan each year.

APPENDIX A – ESTIMATED COST CORELLA CAUSED DAMAGE IN HORSHAM

The following table sets out the damage caused by Corellas in Horsham and an estimate of cost of repairs, replacement and clean up. This data has not been specifically collected in the past. Estimates are provided where actual costs are not able to be obtained.

Location	2016-2017	Cost	2017-2018	Cost	2018-2019	Cost
Lighting City Oval	Nil	-	Chewed wiring	\$12,000	Nil	-
Shade sails	Chewed holes in sails	\$2,000	Chewed holes in sails	\$3,000	Chewed holes in sails	\$2,000
Bike paths	Chewed up seal	\$750	Chewed up seal	\$1,000	Chewed up seal	\$750
Old Ambulance Station Radio Tower		-		-	Wifi aerial wiring chewed beyond repair	\$2,500
City Oval	Turf and wicket repair	\$1,500	Turf and wicket repair	\$2,000	Turf and wicket repair	\$1,500
River Frontage	Turf repair	\$750	Turf repair	\$1,000	Turf repair	\$750
Coughlin Park	Turf and wicket repair	\$1,500	Turf and wicket repair	\$2,000	Turf and wicket repair	\$1,500
Minor Reserves	Turf repair	\$750	Turf repair	\$1,000	Turf repair	\$750
Sawyer Park	Turf repair	\$1,500	Turf repair	\$2,000	Turf repair	\$1,500
Sunnyside Park	Turf and wicket repair	\$1,500	Turf and wicket repair	\$2,000	Turf and wicket repair	\$1,500
Racecourse Reserve	Turf repair	\$1,000	Turf repair	\$1,500	Turf repair	\$1,000
Cornell Park	Turf repair	\$750	Turf repair	\$1,000	Turf repair	\$750
Trees and Shrubs – City Centre	Defoliate	\$2,000	Defoliate	\$3,000	Defoliate	\$2,000
Trees and Shrubs – River Frontage	Defoliate	\$4,000	Defoliate	\$5,000	Defoliate	\$4,000
Trees and Shrubs – Street Trees	Defoliate	\$3,000	Defoliate	\$4,000	Defoliate	\$3,000
Trees and Shrubs – Botanic Gardens	Defoliate	\$4,000	Defoliate	\$5,000	Defoliate	\$4,000
	TOTAL:	\$25,000	TOTAL:	\$45,500	TOTAL:	\$27,500

APPENDIX B - "GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING COCKATOO DAMAGE"

BY THE STATE OF VICTORIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING 2018

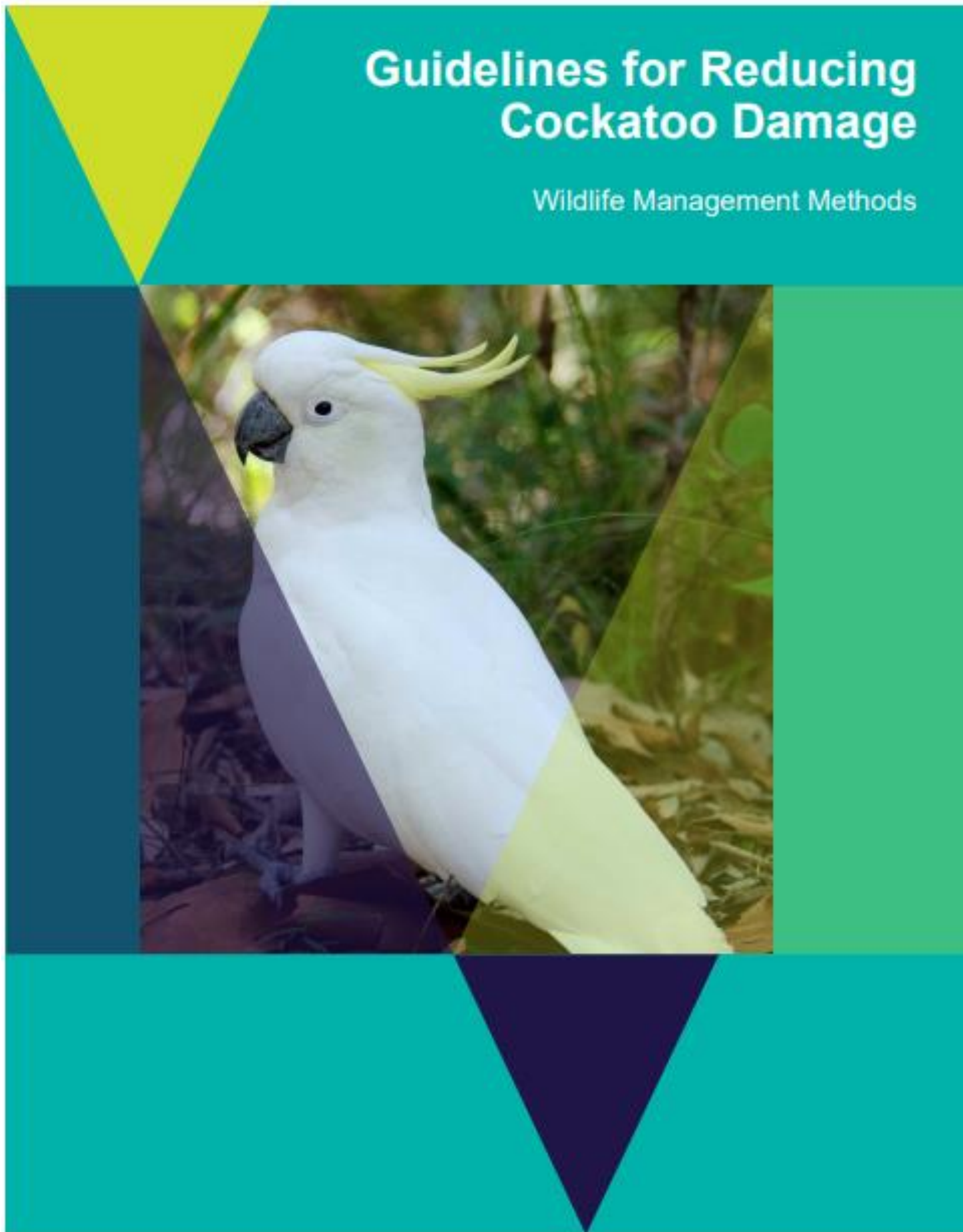


Photo and Figure credits

Cover photograph: Sulphur Crested Cockatoo – Nick Talbot

Figure 1: Long-billed Corella – Drawing courtesy of Jess Davies

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Galah – Drawings courtesy of Nic Day

Figure 2: Kite to simulate bird of prey – Zoe Elliott

Figure 3: Galah – Nick Talbot

Figure 4: Long-billed Corella – Ian Temby

Figure 5: Cockatoo damage to timber frames – Jim O'Brien

Figure 6: Cockatoo damage to outdoor furniture – Ian Temby

Figure 7: Cockatoo damage to sporting ground – Mark Breguet

Figure 8: Corellas feeding on grain – Mark Breguet

Figure 9: Cockatoo damage to crops – Ian Temby

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2018



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ISBN 978-1-76047-876-6 pdf/online

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

Introduction	3
About this guideline	3
Cockatoos	3
Historical background.....	3
Cockatoo behaviour	3
Cockatoos' beaks constantly grow	3
Cockatoos are sociable	3
Cockatoos are creatures of habit	3
Cockatoos have favourite foods	3
Cockatoo damage is seasonal.....	4
Cockatoos are scared of birds of prey	4
Legal Status	4
Wildlife Act 1975.....	4
Authority to Control Wildlife	4
Governor in Council Order.....	4
Illegal methods of control	5
Trap and Gas	5
Poisoning.....	5
Birds of Prey.....	5
Managing impacts from cockatoos	5
Cockatoo Damage Management Plans	5
Step 1: Define the Problem	5
Step 2: Develop a Plan.....	5
Step 3: Implement the Plan	6
Step 4: Monitor and evaluate the results	6
Management methods	6
The role of bird destruction	6
Management methods for various settings	7
Damage around the house	7
Light fixtures, powerlines and other fixtures	7
Damage to timber fittings and outdoor furniture.....	7
Damage to newly planted tree seedlings	8
Damage to horticultural crops, fruits, nuts, grapes and flowers	8
Damage to roost trees through excessive pruning and noisy roosting behaviour	8
Damage to sporting grounds (bowling greens and golf courses)	8
Damage to feedlots	9
Damage to feed trails and stubble	9

Damage to hay and straw bales	10
Damage to silage and grain covers	10
Damage to ripening crops or around trees, dams and bare or thin patches within the crop	10
Further information	11
Services and equipment	11
Gas Guns	11
Bird Frite cartridges	11
Bird of Prey Kites	11
Eye-Spot Balloons	11
Electric Shock Perches	11
Recorded alarm calls	11
Table 1: Summary of actions to reduce damage in various situations	12
Strategic approaches	12
Exclusion methods.....	12
Building alterations / maintenance	12
Good crop management	12
Scaring (Kites, scarecrows, hides and vehicles) and shooting	12
Decoy feeding	12

Introduction

About this guideline

Cockatoo damage is a significant problem for many Victorians, especially in regional and rural areas. Impacts are experienced across many different farming ventures, on community assets and private residences.

This guideline provides information about ecological and behavioural traits of cockatoo species to explain why the birds can sometimes cause damage to property or agriculture. It sets out the legal and policy framework in place for the protection, conservation and management of these birds in Victoria.

This guideline also provides practical tips and management methods applicable to different situations, to build people's capacity to mitigate the impact that cockatoos can have on the built and natural environment.

Cockatoos

Cockatoos, corellas and galahs, collectively referred to as "cockatoos", are some of Australia's most widely recognised native birds. In this guideline, the term cockatoo is used to refer to the following three species, which exhibit similar behavioural traits.



Figure 1:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Long-billed Corella | <i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i> |
| 2. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | <i>Cacatua galerita</i> |
| 3. Galah | <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i> |

Historical background

When large areas of Victoria were cleared for farming, cockatoo numbers, particularly the Long-billed Corella, were severely reduced due to loss of natural foods like Native Yam (*Microseris scapigera*). Exotic grain crops and introduced weeds like Onion Grass (*Romulea rosea*) replaced the Native Yam as their food. Cockatoos adjusted well

to this change, but competition with rabbits kept their numbers low.

With the introduction of myxomatosis in the 1950s cockatoos no longer competed with large numbers of rabbits for remnant grain left in stubble after the harvest each summer and as a result their numbers have increased. Long-billed Corellas have now recolonised their traditional range whilst Galahs are spreading further and further south.

Cockatoo behaviour

Understanding cockatoo ecology and behaviour is the first step in managing the problems they cause, and can help you to modify your property or processes to lessen negative impacts.

Cockatoos' beaks constantly grow

Cockatoos need to chew items in their environment, including artificial structures, to maintain their beaks at the correct length and condition. Wherever cockatoos land, either feeding or beak maintenance occurs.

Cockatoos are sociable

Cockatoos flock and roost together. Flocks form through a process known as "local enhancement". Birds in the air see birds feeding below and join them. This pattern continues until a large flock forms at a favourable food source. To avoid cockatoos flocking together, you can monitor crops regularly and act as soon as the first birds arrive to prevent a large flock forming.

Cockatoos are creatures of habit

Cockatoos use regular flight paths and return to good feeding areas repeatedly, so deter the birds early before regular feeding patterns develop.

Cockatoos can be attracted to an area when someone feeds them. The feeding of wildlife is discouraged in all situations. If you are experiencing impacts because your neighbour feeds cockatoos, ask them to stop.

Cockatoos have favourite foods

Cockatoos have adapted well to feeding on commercial crops but they prefer Onion Grass corns. Some farmers have ploughed up an area of Onion Grass away from their crop to expose the corns and create a decoy during sowing.

Cockatoos are also attracted to germinated cereal crops, such as wheat, oats and barley, and oilseed crops like sunflower and safflower. Monitor crops

closely and be prepared for periods of peak cockatoo activity.

Cockatoo damage is seasonal

Cockatoos feed on different crops as they germinate and ripen, with most damage being caused to germinating crops in autumn.

In cropping areas, plan your cockatoo management in the three to four months leading up to sowing and work with your neighbours or local Landcare group.

Try to lessen cockatoos' access to grain, by feeding grain to sheep at or after dusk and minimise grain residue in the stubble.

Cockatoos are scared of birds of prey

Birds of prey, such as Peregrine Falcons, Little Eagles and Wedgetail Eagles may feed on adult cockatoos, whilst newly-fledged birds are vulnerable to predation by Brown Falcons and Australian Goshawks. Consequently, cockatoos are wary of birds of prey and this fear may be exploited to scare cockatoos away using kites to simulate birds of prey.



Figure 2: Kite to simulate bird of prey

Legal Status

Wildlife Act 1975

Galaha, Long-billed Corellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are native wildlife and as such are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. It is illegal to wilfully disturb or to destroy protected wildlife without approval.

Authority to Control Wildlife

The most common approval to scare, disperse or destroy protected wildlife is an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW). Landholders who are experiencing damage and wishing to scare, disperse or destroy cockatoos must apply to the Department of

Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for an ATCW.

It is DELWP policy that an ATCW applicant must try non-lethal control options, if available, before being able to apply for an ATCW for lethal control. Examples include putting chicken wire on wooden balustrades, installing rolling perches over fixtures, using scare guns or big eye balloons. The Management methods section of this guideline provides advice on management options available for cockatoos in various situations.

Where an ATCW for lethal control using a firearm is applied for, the applicant will most likely also require a populous place permit. The definition of a populous place includes, but is not limited to, residential areas, public open spaces and thoroughfares. Victoria Police is the responsible authority for issuing populous place permits and should be contacted for advice on when and how to apply.

Governor in Council Order

Notwithstanding that cockatoos are protected wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, Galaha, Long-billed Corellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos have been declared "unprotected wildlife" by a Governor in Council Order (GIC Order) in certain situations in Victoria.

Galaha, Long-billed Corellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are unprotected when they are causing serious damage to trees, vineyards, orchards, recreational reserves or commercial crops. In these situations, they may be shot by landowners, their employees and members of their families on the property where the damage is occurring.

Committees of Management members are also permitted to shoot these species on recreational reserves where they are causing severe damage.

This means that anyone specified in the GIC Order does not need an authorisation (such as an ATCW) from DELWP to shoot cockatoos when they are causing serious damage on their properties. Anyone not specified in the GIC Order, who seeks to control cockatoos must still apply to DELWP for an ATCW.

The provisions of the *Firearms Act 1996* and any other relevant legislation still apply. People should liaise with Victoria Police to make sure they obtain any required permits (e. g. populous place permit) or licences.

In all situations not specified in the GIC Order cockatoos are fully protected and must not be shot or harmed in any way without authorisation from DELWP.

Illegal methods of control

Trap and Gas

It should be noted that the GIC Order includes a condition which permits defined persons to take or destroy cockatoos using trapping and gassing equipment approved by DELWP. However, no such equipment is approved by DELWP. This option is thus effectively illegal.

Poisoning

Poisoning of cockatoos is illegal.

Birds of Prey

Use of birds of prey to scare other birds is illegal in Victoria.

Managing impacts from cockatoos

Cockatoos are highly intelligent, so not all damage control measures will be effective in every situation or for sustained periods of time. However, there are greater chances of success if your control program:

- is carefully planned,
- is based on an understanding of cockatoo behaviour,
- varies frequently and is persistent,
- reinforces scaring stimuli with some shooting, and
- integrates a variety of different measures.



Figure 3: Galah

Cockatoo Damage Management Plans

Before you implement any cockatoo management actions, it is recommended that you develop a Cockatoo Damage Management Plan that is tailored to your location and likely nature of damage, based on past experience or local knowledge.

In most situations, this process will confirm that the level and frequency of damage requires damage mitigation. However, some may find that the costs of control exceed the benefits and that reducing or altering current efforts or doing nothing are more economic options.

Developing and implementing an effective damage mitigation plan involves four steps:

1. Defining the nature and extent of the problem.
2. Developing a plan.
3. Implementing the plan.
4. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the actions.

Step 1: Define the Problem

The first stage in developing a damage management plan is determining the nature and extent of damage. Before spending time or money on controlling birds, it is important to understand the problem, including when the damage occurs, where it occurs and how much money the birds are costing you.

It is also important to establish with certainty that it is actually cockatoos who are the cause of the problem. Sometimes cockatoos may be sighted in or near a damaged area, but they are not actually the cause.

All this information is critical to determining the most appropriate management measures and when and how they should be implemented. It also provides a benchmark to determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Step 2: Develop a Plan

Once the problem is defined and the nature and extent of damage is understood, document the objectives of your management plan and the way you will track progress towards achieving your aims. For example, you may wish to set an objective of reducing damage losses by half and to measure this through a reduction in fruit loss or control costs, or through increased fruit quality.

After your objectives are set, and you have worked out how you will measure the success of your controls, you can then select the best damage reduction options. The Management Methods Section below, and Table 1 at the end of this guideline show some of the techniques that are available. Wherever possible, it is best to deploy a range of actions when the crop is vulnerable to bird damage.

Step 3: Implement the Plan

When your plan is complete, prepare a timetable for action and begin implementation. Coordinating your plan with your neighbours may also be necessary to maximise the effectiveness of the program.

Step 4: Monitor and evaluate the results

It is important that you measure the results of your control program to reduce the guesswork in determining the effectiveness of your actions.

Monitoring is usually undertaken on two levels: operational monitoring and performance monitoring. Operational monitoring aims to evaluate the efficiency of the control program through an assessment of all relevant equipment, transport and operational costs.

Importantly, operational monitoring should include an assessment of labour costs, including the cost of time that you and any others (e.g. staff) spend implementing the control actions. Some control strategies are cheap in terms of equipment and materials, but very labour intensive. It may be more cost-effective to select a technique with high up-front costs but minimal ongoing labour costs, like permanent netting.

Performance monitoring aims to determine how well your management plan performs. This is usually a measure of damage levels or lost production. Measured reductions in damage that occur as a result of bird control allow the benefits of the control activity to be quantified.

The final step is to evaluate your operational and performance monitoring data. Refinements and changes to the control program both within and between seasons can then be made using the knowledge gained.



Figure 4: Long-billed Corella

Management methods

When planning your approach, it is important to choose the appropriate method, or combination of methods to maximise your chance of successfully deterring cockatoos. Before describing various methods that have been utilised in different situations with differing degrees of success, the following section outlines the role of bird destruction in a cockatoo deterrence campaign and DELWPs policy approach to lethal versus non-lethal control.

The role of bird destruction

As noted earlier, cockatoos are unprotected wildlife in certain situations allowing anyone specified in the GiC Order to shoot these birds on the property where the damage is occurring.

Shooting is a common technique used to control cockatoos, and may result in a short-term behaviour change. However, this can often be achieved at less expense by using non-lethal means, such as using decoy food, scaring, or making visual barriers.

Several things need to be considered before shooting cockatoos:

- Shooting is usually only a short-term measure, and is unlikely to have much impact on the overall population size or its ability to recover to former numbers.
- Unless shooting is carried out over a large area, new birds will quickly move in to replace those that have been shot or scared away.
- Shooting may increase the extent of damage if birds are constantly moved around.
- Shooting may cause friction with neighbours, especially if shooting is to occur in built-up areas

(it also requires a populous place permit from Victoria Police).

For all those reasons DELWP does not recommend shooting of cockatoos as a sole solution to a cockatoo problem. Rather, shooting a small number of birds should be one of several methods incorporated into a carefully designed and implemented cockatoo management plan, so that cockatoos learn to relate the noise, and other elements of the campaign, with real danger.

Management methods for various settings

Cockatoos impact lives and property at various scales, and methods that are appropriate in some scenarios are ineffective or unaffordable in others. The following sections provide tips on how to manage cockatoos in a variety of settings.

Due to the intelligence of cockatoos it is important to monitor effectiveness of approaches and, if necessary, adapt methodologies.

Table 1 at the end of this guideline provides a summary of damage reduction actions, for quick reference.

Damage around the house

Light fixtures, powerlines and other fixtures

In some situations, bird damage to light fixtures, powerlines and other fixtures can be avoided through their design and placement. Even existing fittings can be altered to provide better protection.

Fine wires are difficult for birds to perch on, so using them above a roosting structure can be an effective deterrent. In some scenarios using polyethylene pipe "rolling perches" provides the best protection.



Figure 5: Cockatoo damage to timber window frames

Light fittings can be protected by building perches above them or by enclosing the existing perches

with 5 cm lengths of polyethylene pipe. When the birds land, the pipe sections roll under their feet so they are unable to balance. For the rolling perches to be effective, they should be the only perch sites on the fixture and should prevent birds from perching on the fixture itself. Commercially produced 'spike clusters' are also available to prevent perching.

Polyethylene pipe can also be used to prevent perching on the cross-sections of aerials. Sheathing communications cables in PVC or metal conduit reduces bird perching and damage.

Loose roof nails should be replaced with roofing screws, because cockatoos are attracted to loose nails and roofing screws remain firm.

Damage to fixtures can also be reduced by removing nearby food sources that are attracting the birds, or by scaring them from their roost sites and moving them on to other areas.

Cockatoo damage to power lines can be avoided by putting the lines underground.

Damage to timber fittings and outdoor furniture

Damage to timber fittings and outdoor furniture often occurs when someone is providing food for the birds and attracting them to the area. To avoid this problem, try to find out who is feeding the birds and explain that the birds are causing the problem because they are being fed, and ask them to stop.

Timber can be protected with metal sheathing or by hanging netting or shade cloth from the eaves on rollers. You can roll the shade cloth up and out of the way when you are home. Electric shock perches can provide another way to protect timber fittings.

When replacing western red cedar window frames and door frames, use hardwood or metal and consider excluding birds with permanent protective screens or netting.

Another option is to start a scaring strategy using recorded alarm calls and loud noises. However, this can be difficult in built-up areas where you may also disturb neighbours.



Figure 6: Cockatoo damage to outdoor furniture

Damage to newly planted tree seedlings

Visual screens can be used to reduce cockatoo damage to tree seedlings, such as uprooting or snipping off seedlings. One way to create a visual screen is to plant or leave strips of vegetation such as long grass on either side of the lines of tree seedlings and across them at intervals.

The screens should be 0.6 to 1 metre high before the tree seedlings are planted. For small area plantings, fences of hessian or shade cloth can be used and the effect of these screens can be enhanced by some patrolling combined with shooting if necessary. Effective weed control is important when using this system.

Direct seeding and natural regeneration are other ways of reducing cockatoo damage, as individual plants germinate at different times thus making the food source less obvious to the birds.

Damage to horticultural crops, fruits, nuts, grapes and flowers

The scale of many horticultural crops, such as fruits, vines or nuts or commercial flower farm lends itself to the only proven long-term solution to bird damage: exclusion netting.

Netting is the most effective means of reducing damage and improving the quality and yield of fruit crops in areas where damage occurs. Netting also help to protect fruit from wind and hail.

However, netting can be expensive to erect and maintain and unlikely to be an economic solution for low value crops or those that sustain a low level of bird damage. Netting may also be impractical in some situations, such as in difficult terrain or where large trees hinder the erection of netting structures.

Where netting is not a viable option, a strategic integrated approach (like a scare campaign, outlined below) is recommended.

Damage to roost trees through excessive pruning and noisy roosting behaviour

Cockatoos roosting in trees can sometimes cause damage to the trees as the birds prune sections to maintain beak condition. Disturbance through noise can also occur as a flock settles in to roost, or in the morning as birds call to each other from first light.

Deterring birds from roosting in certain trees requires an integrated scare campaign ideally started as flocks begin roosting in summer, to prevent establishment of large flocks at a site. During the planning stage for the campaign all permits must be obtained. That is, an ATCW from DELWP and a Populous Place Permit (for shooting) from Victoria Police.

It is also crucial to engage with neighbours to ensure there is consensus that action is needed and that people are fully aware of the disturbance that will be caused throughout the scaring programme, which may need to be sustained for several weeks.

The intent of the scare campaign is to unsettle the birds to the degree that they will abandon the roost site. Initially there should be some shooting to kill a small number of birds. The shooting should be done at various times, from different sites, and by dissimilar people. This should be immediately followed by scaring measures, so that birds associate humans with real danger. Deployment of Bird Frite® cartridges, which are pyrotechnic 'crackers' fired from a 12-gauge shotgun, recorded alarm calls, flashlights and big-eye balloons should be constantly varied to keep birds on edge and to deter them from returning to the tree for roosting after the scare campaign ends each day.

It's important to keep in mind that even though tree pruning by cockatoos can appear obvious and major initially, it does not always result in long-term damage.

Cockatoos are known for damaging trees, but other factors can also contribute to the damage including defoliating and sap-sucking insects, raised nitrogen content of soils, especially where stock camp under trees and altered soil hydrology through soil compaction. Rising water tables, fungal attack and damage to roots by hooved stock or machinery can also damage a tree.

Damage to sporting grounds (bowling greens and golf courses)

Cockatoos can sometimes cause damage to sporting grounds such as bowling greens and golf courses.

Try to work out why the birds are being attracted to the area and whether it is possible to reduce the attraction. If the birds are roosting nearby, a scaring program will reduce the attractiveness of the roost site and encourage them to move on.



Figure 7: Cockatoo damage to sporting ground

For relatively small sites, such as bowling greens, removable vertical screens of shade cloth or hessian 2 to 2.5 metres high can be used when the greens are not in use.

If the birds are attracted to Onion Grass, try to remove the grass from the site with herbicides.

Bird hides can be used to reduce damage to golf courses, where birds are shot at from the hides with both live ammunition and Bird Frite® cartridges, combined with playing recorded alarm calls. The hides should be moved frequently.

All permits (an ATCW from DELWP and a populous place permit from Victoria Police) must be obtained prior to shooting cockatoos on golf courses.

Damage to feedlots

Cockatoos can sometime cause damage to feedlots due to feeding behaviour and fouling.

Cockatoos like to have a clear view around them when feeding.



Figure 8: Corellas feeding on grain

Placing hoods over feed troughs, or erecting shade cloth screens on three sides and above the troughs may reduce cockatoo feeding. The localised destruction of birds may also be necessary.

Farmers should be aware that cockatoos are also attracted to feedlots to eat undigested grain from cattle droppings. Young cockatoos that have just left the nest use this grain as a food source at a time when little else is available. The grain in cattle droppings actually helps enhance the survival rates of cockatoos and assists in increasing their numbers.

Damage to feed trails and stubble

Feed trails and stubble often attract cockatoos, who can poach feed intended for livestock or prevent lambs from feeding.

Limiting cockatoo access to grain at this time is very important. Having grain easily available just after young cockatoos leave the nest increases their chances of surviving and maturing. Without access to grain fewer young birds will survive leading to a decrease in the overall cockatoo population.

Feed trails for stock should be placed late in the day when cockatoos are returning to their roosts and stock can then feed through the night undisturbed.

Feed out just enough grain so there is little left the next morning. Feed smaller amounts more frequently, or keep birds away until stock has finished feeding.

Wastage can be reduced by placing feed in bird-proof troughs.

Set harvesting machines to minimise the amount of grain left in stubble after harvest and collect chaff and grain for stock feed.

Damage to hay and straw bales

Cockatoos cause damage to hay and straw bales by feeding on the seed heads within them.

You can reduce damage to the outermost bales on the open side of the stack by placing shade cloth or hessian on three sides of haystacks. Removable panels can be used, so that access to other sides of the stack is still possible. If damage is severe, all four sides of the stack can be covered.

Damage to round bales in paddocks can be reduced by erecting temporary walls. Walls made of shade cloth or hessian should encircle the bales at 2 to 2.5 metre high. Shade cloth lasts longer than hessian and can be reused in later seasons.

Damage to silage and grain covers

Cockatoos can perforate grain covers on silage pits, which lets in air and reduces silage quality. As with the hay bale walls, silage covers can be protected by erecting shade cloth or hessian walls at 2 to 2.5 metre high around them. Shade cloth lasts longer than hessian and can be reused in later seasons.

Damage to grain covers generally occurs when birds are attracted to spilt grain on, or around the covers. When care is taken to reduce grain spillage, or to remove spills immediately, grain cover damage is much less likely. If damage continues, visual screens of shade cloth or other material can be used.

A combined scaring and shooting strategy, using bird hides, Bird Frite® cartridges (pyrotechnic 'crackers' fired from a 12-gauge shotgun), recorded alarm calls and gas guns may also be effective, and may enhance the effect of the visual barriers

Damage to ripening crops or around trees, dams and bare or thin patches within the crop

Cockatoos sometimes attack the outer edges of a ripening crop, or around trees, dams and bare or thin patches within the crop.

Reducing the crop edges can reduce the number of sites from which cockatoos can attack it. It is also important to discourage the development of 'feeding patterns' at the crop site. The first few birds on the crop are the most important ones to deter because their presence will attract other birds.

A crop protection program should be carefully planned and, at the outset, the land owner should check if any permits are required. That is, an ATCW from DELWP and a populous place permit from Victoria Police.

The on the ground program should start with shooting as this establishes the link between loud noise and danger.

Shoot from several hides near the birds' main approach routes. Bird hides can be made of hessian or other material. Vehicles can also be used as mobile hides and left near the crop. Shoot from these 'approach route' hides, but switch to other hides regularly.



Figure 9: Cockatoo damage to crops

Scarecrows can also be used, dressed in bright colours. Remember to move the scarecrows regularly.

Scare guns can be introduced at this stage. Set the guns to operate at long intervals, and only when birds are likely to be feeding in the crop, usually early and late in the day. Move the scare guns every two to three days. They may be more effective if hidden - use the bird hides and keep scare guns out of sight when not in use.

Reinforce the scaring with some shooting, and with the use of Bird Frite® cartridges. While the approach outlined above may sound unusual, it has been shown to be effective.

Farmers should also consider providing an alternative, low-cost food source such as rice hulls as a decoy and to enhance the scaring strategy. Decoy food should be at least 500 metres away from the crop so that scaring activities do not disturb the birds at the decoy site. No control should be undertaken near the decoy, no matter how tempting this is.

Decoy sites are more effective when they are close to the birds' flight path and close to trees that can be used as perches or roost sites.

Decoy model cockatoos in the feeding posture can be used to lure birds to the decoy feed site.

Further information

Please contact the DELWP Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 between 8 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday, for more information, or visit the DELWP website at <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations/cockatoos>.

Services and equipment

A range of services and equipment can be used during your cockatoo management programs. Following is a list of where they can be sourced:

Gas Guns

Rural hardware or farm machinery outlets

Bird Frite cartridges

Ask your local ammunition dealer

Bird of Prey Kites

Search for "kite bird scarer" on the internet

Eye-Spot Balloons

Look for "scare-eyes" on the internet

Electric Shock Perches

Bird-shock Flex Track can be installed by some licensed pest controllers who specialise in birds. Search for "Bird Ban Shock Tape", "Bird Jolt" or Bird Shock Flex Track on the internet.

Netting

DELWP recommends the use of wildlife safe netting and has prepared this fact sheet [Wildlife Safe Netting](#) with useful information.

Recorded alarm calls

Alarm calls of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Long-billed Corellas can be downloaded from the internet.

Table 1: Summary of actions to reduce damage in various situations

<p>Strategic approaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a Bird Damage Management Plan ▪ Co-operate with your neighbours and the local Landcare group. ▪ Work with neighbours to monitor bird numbers and location of birds. ▪ Plant as many paddocks as possible at the same time and reduce crop edges to reduce number of sites for cockatoos to attack from. ▪ Where practical, sow at the same time as your neighbours ▪ Ask your neighbour to not feed cockatoos
<p>Exclusion methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erect nets to protect your horticultural crops, or to manage damage at smaller scales (sports grounds). ▪ Use chicken wire to protect furniture, wooden window frames. ▪ Install rolling perches, spike clusters, electric shock perches or wiring to prevent birds perching on fixtures. ▪ Place cables underground. ▪ Use retractable shade-cloth to protect wooden surfaces or windows during your absence. ▪ Cover timber surface with metal sheathing.
<p>Building alterations / maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As structures age and need replacing, consider installing metal framed windows instead of more vulnerable wooden frames. ▪ Replace roofing nails with screws, which can't be pulled out by cockatoos. ▪ When replacing western red cedar window or door frames, use hardwood or metal finishes.
<p>Good crop management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sow crops at the recommended rate. ▪ Thoroughly cover all grain, avoid and clean up spillage. ▪ Minimise residual grain in the stubble. ▪ Direct drill to avoid exposing onion grass corms. ▪ Feed sheep away from paddocks to be cropped. ▪ Protect silage or hay bales by placing shade cloth or hessian on three sides of storage structures (haystacks)
<p>Scaring (Kites, scarecrows, hides and vehicles) and shooting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design, then implement, a scare campaign. ▪ Combine several methods of scaring. ▪ Scaring must be unpredictable and remember to shift scarers often to unsettle the birds. ▪ Kites that simulate birds of prey, such as eagles and peregrine falcons, may work on small paddocks. ▪ Scare early in the season and early in the day. ▪ Monitor bird activity regularly and scare as soon as the first birds arrive to prevent a large flock from forming. ▪ Reinforce scaring with the use of a registered firearm. ▪ Try broadcasting cockatoo alarm calls.
<p>Decoy feeding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place decoy feed as far away as possible from crop. ▪ Use 'seconds' seed, or plough onion grass to expose corms. ▪ Continue scaring at crop. ▪ Extra food will not increase population numbers, it only diverts existing birds from the crop. Food is abundant during cropping time in autumn.

DRAFT

APPENDIX C - COUNCIL'S CORELLA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Services Council provides in relation to Corella Management:

- Coordination of engagement of key stakeholders and the community
- Coordination of actions in the program
- Capture of Horsham specific Corella data
- Provision of education in relation to Corella behaviour (supported by expert advice)
- Watching brief on emerging Corella management control techniques
- Clean up of Corella damage on Council property and in municipal places
- Food source management on Council's assets
- Repair and replacement to Council's buildings and assets

WHEN	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
October	<p>Council develops a communications plan for the community and local media.</p> <p>Council prepares for Community Meeting in December.</p>	Manager Regulatory Services, Council
Corella Season starts (usually late November – December – depends on seasonal conditions)	<p>Council undertakes an assessment (see Appendix D) at start of season to determine flock densities, locations, feeding habits and food sources.</p> <p>Council to facilitate Community Meeting in December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and key stakeholders invited • Education as to Corellas and Corella behaviour • Education as to management methods • Input from community as to Council's start of season assessment • Management Measures agreed • Actions delegated <p>Media in relation to meeting circulated</p>	Council to facilitate Wildlife expert to advise and educate Community assists with execution of program
December	Budget bid made for following financial year for any initiatives requiring funding.	Manager Regulatory Services, Council
January	<p>Community Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on actions • Interim report on damage • Management Measures revisited (if required) 	Council to facilitate Wildlife expert to advise Community assists with execution of program
Corella Season finishes (usually February – March again depends on seasonal conditions). Within 4 weeks of end of Corella Season:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create online survey and assess responses 2. In collaboration with stakeholders, update Corella Management Plan with learnings from season 3. Provide a report on Corella season to Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions taken • Damage assessed • Management Measures evaluated 4. Updated Plan circulated to stakeholders 	Manager Regulatory Services, Council
April – October	<p>Conduct at least one education seminar on building design and maintenance, both external to Council and internal.</p> <p>Create online survey and assess responses as to seminar</p> <p>Develop (or maintain) partnerships and maintain a watching brief on emerging novel Corella management techniques</p>	Manager Regulatory Services, Council with input from subject matter expert

APPENDIX D – CORELLA BEHAVIOUR ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

	Action
1	What is the distribution area of Corella flocks in Horsham?
2	Estimation of flock numbers
3	Roosting locations and times
4	What food sources are they eating?
5	When and where are they most active?
6	What damage are they causing? Is it real or perceived?
7	Are there any roosting or feeding areas that do not have a negative impact on the community?
8	Any other observations?

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REGISTER**COUNCIL BRIEFING HELD IN THE RECEPTION ROOM
ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5.00PM**

Present: Cr MA Radford, Mayor; Cr P Clarke, Cr DA Grimble, Cr J Koenig, Cr A Gulvin, Cr L Power (from 5.23pm), Cr J Robinson (until 5.45pm); Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Justine Kingan, Co-ordinator Strategic Planning (items 3.1 and 3.2 only)

Apology: John Martin, Director Infrastructure

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cr Radford welcomed everyone.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 79, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1989 (AS AMENDED)

Nil.

3. PRESENTATIONS**3.1 Flood Amendment**

Justine Kingan presented background to proposed planning scheme amendments.

3.2 City to River Workshop

Cr Robinson left the meeting at 5.45pm.

Justine Kingan presented draft recommendations for workshopping.

3.3 Community Facilities – Agreements and Charges

Held over until next available Council Briefing.

3.4 Funding Council Owned and Crown Land Facilities in Rural Areas

Held over until next available Council Briefing.

4. COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**4.1 Regional Tourism Review**

Discussed proposed changes to regional boards.

4.2 Wesley Legal Advice

Discussed.

4.3 Sale of Land to Recover Unpaid Rates and Charges

Discussed.

4.4 Review of Non-rateable Properties

Discussed.

4.5 Electronic Delivery of Animal Renewal Notices

Discussed.

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION

7. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REGISTER**COUNCIL BRIEFING HELD IN THE RECEPTION ROOM
ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr MA Radford, Mayor; Cr P Clarke, Cr J Koenig, Cr L Power (from 5.17pm), Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Zac Gorman, Management Accountant (item 3.1 only); Lauren Coman, Manager Regulatory Services (item 4.1 only); Carolynne Hamdorf, Manager Arts, Culture and Recreation (item 4.2 only); Stefanie Jones, Co-ordinator Recreation and Open Space Planning (item 4.2 only); Mandi Stewart, Manager Community Services and Emergency (items 4.3 and 4.8 only), Annie Mintern, Youth Engagement and Planning Officer (item 4.3 only)

APOLOGIES: Cr A Gulvin, Cr DA Grimble; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cr Radford welcomed everyone.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 79, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1989 (AS AMENDED)

Nil

3. PRESENTATIONS**3.1 Finance and Performance Committee**

Discussed.

3.2 Agricultural Society re Development Project Grant Opportunity

In attendance: Andrea Cross, Jenny Maroske and Ian Walter from Horsham Agricultural Society

Andrea Cross gave a presentation.

4. COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**4.1 Corella Management Plan**

Discussed.

4.2 Open Space Strategy

Discussed.

4.3 Youth Strategy Action Plan

Discussed.

4.4 McBryde Street Petition

Discussed.

4.5 Depot Contamination

Discussed.

4.6 WIFT Water Contract

Discussed.

4.7 Grader Purchase

Discussed.

4.8 Future of Aged and Disability Services

Discussed.

5. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

5.1 Request for Dogs in Botanical Gardens

Discussed.

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Nil

7. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.05pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REGISTER**GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP HELD IN THE RECEPTION ROOM
ON TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5.30PM**

Present: Cr MA Radford, Mayor; Cr P Clarke (5.40pm – 7.20pm), Cr D Grimble, Cr L Power, Cr J Robinson, Cr A Gulvin; Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; John Martin, Director Infrastructure

Apology: Angela Murphy, Director Development Services

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cr Radford welcomed everyone.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 79, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1989 (AS AMENDED)

Nil.

3. GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

In attendance: Peter Stephenson, former Mayor of City of Darebin and David Wolf, Local Government Inspectorate.

Peter Stephenson and David Wolf conducted workshop.

4. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REGISTER**HORSHAM AERODROME BUSINESS PLAN WORKSHOP HELD IN THE RECEPTION ROOM
ON WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5.30PM**

Present: Cr MA Radford, Mayor; Cr P Clarke, Cr D Grimble, Cr J Robinson; Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Stephen Pykett, Manager Economic Development; Michael McCarthy, Consultant

Apology: Cr J Koenig, Cr A Gulvin, Cr L Power; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cr Radford welcomed everyone.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 79, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1989 (AS AMENDED)

Nil.

3. HORSHAM AERODROME BUSINESS PLAN WORKSHOP**In attendance:**

Cal Cooper and George Kazantzidis from Arup

Selwyn Ellis, Richard May and Tony Brand from Airport Users Group

Workshop conducted.

4. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REGISTER**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING AT MITRE HALL
MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5.45PM**

Present: Mayor Cr MA Radford, Cr P Clarke, Cr L Power (from 5.50pm), Cr A Gulvin (from 6.00pm); Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Rob Moir, Manager Operations; Stephen Pykett, Manager Economic Development; Martin Bride, Community Facilitator; Robert Somers, Media and Communications Officer; Janet Steere, Rodney Sluggett, Joyce Sluggett, Robyn Maybery, Rhonda Lear, Sandra Hateley, Dale Hateley, Julie McDonald, Allan Webb, Marie Webb, Bernie Dunn, Dale Hateley, James Aitken, Eileen Aitken, Connie Sedgman

Absent: Cr J Robinson

Apologies: Cr D Grimble, Cr J Koenig

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cr Radford welcomed everyone and thanked those in attendance.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH MITRE COMMUNITY

Horsham Rural City Council topics:

- Horsham South Structure Plan
- Urban Transport Plan
- Rural Road Network Plan
- Rubbish and Rates customer requests and road grading plans
- Vegetation clearing
- Social Infrastructure Plan
- Regional Plan (Natimuk and district)
- City to River
- Rates Strategy, Budget, Community Grants
- Mitre Community Plan

Community topics:

- Community meal nights and table tennis table funded from community grants
- Entries into town from West and East
- Ideas board in hall supper room
- Church yard for parking – church has been sold with land
- Bus stop
- Parking issues in Horsham
- Narrow bridge issues – Mitre/Nurcoun Road
- Parking meter numbering
- Noradjuha Road turn-off
- Recycling
- McCreddens Road – grading and culvert issue
- Grass Flat Road signage
- Slashing and tree trimming
- Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange road turn out issue
- Meers Road grading
- Station yard slashing
- Wimmera River trees at Polkemmet Road

- Natimuk Road bumps
- Hall maintenance appreciated
- Hall wheelchair access needed
- Church and Hall dividing fence

3. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.05pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REGISTER**CITY TO RIVER WORKSHOP HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 5.30PM**

Present: Cr MA Radford (from 5.45pm), Mayor; Cr P Clarke, Cr D Grimble, Cr A Gulvin, Cr J Robinson; Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Stephen Pykett, Manager Economic Development; Justine Kingan, Co-ordinator Strategic Planning

Apology: Cr J Koenig, Cr L Power; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services; John Martin, Director Infrastructure

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cr Radford welcomed everyone.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 79, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1989 (AS AMENDED)

Cr Clarke declared conflict of interest regarding the Indoor Sports Stadium.
Cr Gulvin declared a conflict of interest regarding the Indoor Sports Stadium.

3. DRAFT CITY TO RIVER REPORT

Discussed.

Crs Clarke and Gulvin left the room for the discussion about the Indoor Sports Stadium.

4. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7.40pm