
MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 24 June 2019.

Order of Business

PRESENT

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor, Cr Pam Clarke, Cr David Grimble, Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr John Robinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Sue Frankham, Governance Officer, Diana McDonald, Co-ordinator Governance.

Ash Batchelor	Tim Batchelor	Jade Bate	Bev Bell
Kerrie Bell	Dan Berendsen	David Bowe	Brendan Cole
Ben Consedine	Andrea Cross	Matthew Cross	Zach Currie
Alex Darling	Andrew Dorman	Dylan Fulton	Mandy Kirsopp
Colin MacGillivray	Richard May	Shannon Morrow	Heather Proctor
Stephen Pykett	Susan SurrIDGE	Steve Thomas	Michael White

1. PRAYER

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford recited the following pledge on behalf of all Councillors:

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

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford read the following 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

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford formally welcomed those in attendance to the Council meeting. The Mayor advised the public that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 27 May 2019 be adopted.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 27 May 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr David Grimble declared a conflict of interest for item 9.7 Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2019-20, conflicting personal interest. The nature of the interest being that Cr Grimble is a financial member of the Natimuk Field and Game and provides financial support to Laharum Sport Inc and the Laharum Hall.

Cr Grimble left the meeting at 6.52pm and returned at 6.56pm. Cr Grimble was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Alethea Gulvin declared a conflict of interest for item 15.2 Murra Warra Windfarm Rating Agreement, Section 78 indirect interest because of a close association of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The nature of the interest being that Cr Gulvin's husband is Commissioning Manager and holds a senior role in the company.

Cr Gulvin left the meeting at 7.34pm and returned at 7.35pm. Cr Gulvin was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr John Robinson declared a conflict of interest for item 9.7 Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2019-20, indirect interest because of a close association of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The nature of the interest being that Cr Robinson's wife is Secretary of the Taylors Lake Community Hall.

Cr Robinson left the meeting at 6.52pm and returned at 6.56pm. Cr Robinson was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 CITY TO RIVER - WIMMERA RIVER PRECINCT AND CENTRAL ACTIVITY DISTRICT (CAD) VISION AND 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/A07/000017

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

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

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

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

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

Purpose

To exhibit and invite wider community comment on the City to River - Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Vision and Masterplan (June 2019), Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019), supporting Technical Reports and Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019).

Summary

- The Wimmera River and CAD Vision and Masterplan and supporting studies will be used to attract public and private sector interest (and investment) and to provide a clear 20-year vision for the study area.
- The Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019), supporting technical reports, Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019) underpin the Concept Masterplan.
- Between January and March 2019 Council undertook an extensive targeted consultation process as part of the preparation of the Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham CAD Vision and Masterplan and supporting Background Reports.
- A 28 day public exhibition and engagement process will allow members of the community who were not part of the first phase of consultation to have their say.
- The public exhibition and engagement process will be used to test community responses to the Concept Masterplan and supporting documents and identify areas for further engagement.

- An Action and Implementation Plan will be prepared after the Masterplan has been finalised. It will prioritise and provide timeframes, estimated costs, relevant stakeholders and potential funding avenues.



Recommendation

That Council receive and note the City to River – Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District Background Report (May 2019), Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District Technical Report, Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019) and Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham Central Activities District Vision and Masterplan (June 2019) and exhibit to the community for 28 days and invite comment.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council receive and note the City to River – Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District Background Report (May 2019), Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activities District Technical Report, Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019) and Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham Central Activities District Vision and Masterplan (June 2019) and exhibit to the community for 28 days and invite comment.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Council has undertaken a range of studies and strategies in recent years seeking to revitalise the Horsham CAD and adjoining Wimmera River Precinct. These documents highlight a range of opportunities to further activate the river corridor as a key asset for Horsham.

The existing body of work seeks to establish Horsham as a regional city with extensive influence and service provision to approximately 60,000 persons across the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee region of Victoria.

While these studies, strategies and opportunities have sought to improve outcomes for Horsham and its community, there is a need to integrate these strategies into an overarching vision for the Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham CAD which responds to the following outcomes:

- Attracting investment and creating jobs in Horsham and support economic revitalisation
- Enhancing Horsham as a destination for tourists
- Providing sporting facilities for clubs and associations and active recreational users in the municipality based on an up to date and evidence based understanding of the current and future participation and demand
- Providing supporting infrastructure, including recreation facilities and tourism infrastructure, required to support the overall Vision
- Capitalising on Horsham being one of Victoria's 10 regional cities.

In December 2018, Council engaged Urban Enterprise, in conjunction with Tract Consultants and Twin Prism to prepare a Vision and Masterplan for the revitalisation of Horsham's CAD and Wimmera River Precinct.

The key aim of the project was to:

- Bring existing work together and build on existing economic development and strategic planning strategies
- Fill data and insight gaps
- Undertake a strategic analysis of needs and opportunities for the broader Horsham Rural City Council area
- Identify 'game changing' projects in a visual Masterplan, underpinned by the background work that will:
 1. Deliver a 20-year vision and action plan to revitalise the Wimmera Riverfront and CAD based on research, analysis and initial targeted stakeholder engagement.
 2. Allow Council to take a leadership role in attracting public and private sector interest and investment.

Since its appointment, Urban Enterprise, Tract and Twin Prism have:

1. Reviewed existing strategic and technical work
2. Prepared independent technical work
3. Undertaken an extensive targeted consultation process
4. Prepared a draft vision statement for the study area which is based on input from the community and other stakeholders during the targeted consultation phase

5. Identified issues and opportunities
6. Identified strategic objectives and key directions to guide the achievement of the vision
7. Developed a Vision and Masterplan that shows how the strategic objectives and key directions could be achieved on the ground.

Discussion

The Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019) provides an overarching vision statement for the study area, based on input from the targeted consultation phase.

The Vision Statement for the project is listed on page 31 of the Background Report and page 3 of the Concept Masterplan.

The Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019) and supporting technical reports 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.

The background report provides the basis for the concept masterplan for the CAD and riverfront. The masterplan will inform how the Movement and Place Framework is applied to the study area as outlined in the Horsham Urban Transport Plan currently being prepared, by showing what the vision is for places in the study area.

The Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report identifies four strategic objectives to guide the achievement of the vision. The objectives respond to issues and opportunities identified in previous studies, technical analysis prepared as part of this study and consultation and include the following:

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 and 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 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.

Key directions aimed at implementing the above objectives are detailed in section 4.3 of the Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019). Key directions outlined in the Background report are reflected in the Concept Masterplan (2019).

The Concept Plan is an indicative plan, and prior to being endorsed by Council will be subject to:

- Wider community engagement
- Investigation and consultation with user groups regarding the areas to transition over a 20-year period.

Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019)

In addition to the Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019) and supporting technical reports, Council also engaged Urban Enterprise to prepare a Sporting Facilities Demand Study for the Council area. This was necessary to provide Council with an up to date and evidence based understanding of the current and future participation and demand for outdoor sporting facilities in the City. Recommendations arising from the Study have informed objectives and key directions outlined in the Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019).

This demand study 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 study specifically looks at the provision of outdoor sports in the City of Horsham. The outdoor sports included in the scope of the study include:

- AFL
- Athletics
- Cricket
- Lawn Bowls
- Netball
- Rugby League
- Soccer
- Tennis.

The Sporting Facilities Demand Study also provides recommendations that are detailed in section 17 of the study and relate to:

1. Upgrading City Oval as Horsham's premier regional AFL/cricket venue
2. Developing a Regional Indoor Sports Precinct
3. Developing an outdoor multi-purpose sports precinct
4. Developing a tennis facility to enable hosting of regional events
5. Upgrading an existing bowls club to enable hosting of regional events
6. Planning for existing sporting reserves within Horsham
7. Planning for rural facilities
8. Identifying additional demand for future sporting facility precincts through future greenfield structure planning.

As part of the Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019) a review (including stakeholder consultation) was undertaken of the following documents:

- Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Plan – Phase One: Feasibility (2016)
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)
- Horsham Indoor Multi-Use Stadium Community Engagement Report (Community Vibes, 2017).

Based on a review of the above documents, as well as consultation with key stakeholders undertaken over January – March 2019, the delivery of a multi-purpose indoor sports facility in Horsham at the McBryde Street site remains a priority project for Horsham Rural City Council and the region, and that the facilities and sports proposed in the Wimmera Sports Stadium concept (2017) remain valid.

The review found that the criteria utilised to identify the preferred site was considered robust and that the centrally located McBryde Street site has the potential to deliver benefits to existing and future businesses within the CAD, improvements to city presentation, equitable access and co-location opportunities (businesses, recreation, tourism and events).

In addition, it found opportunities to review the indoor sports stadium concept in line with the other findings of the 2019 Demand Study and recent consultation outcomes include:

- The Wimmera Sports Stadium concept (2017) could be revisited to align with future opportunities for outdoor sports, tourism and events on the adjoining crown land currently occupied by Greyhounds Victoria.
- 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.

Next steps

The 20-year vision for the Wimmera River and CAD has been prepared following a process of targeted stakeholder engagement, analysis and review of existing strategies and plans. The next step in the process involves providing the wider community with the opportunity to provide feedback on the long term Concept Masterplan. A 28-day exhibition period will allow Council with the opportunity to test the ideas shown in the Concept Masterplan with the general community.

An Action and Implementation Plan will be prepared after the masterplan has been finalised. It will prioritise and provide timeframes, estimated costs, relevant stakeholders and potential funding avenues.

Financial Implications

Implementation of many of the key findings and recommendations regarding city assets would have significant long term 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

- 2018–2022 Council Plan
 - Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development
 - Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy
 - Goal 3 – Asset Management
- 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 2001)
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design 2017
- Horsham Growth Management Framework 2012

Consultation/Communication

During January-March 2019, Council in partnership with the consultant team, undertook an extensive targeted consultation process with a broad range of stakeholders including: business, industry and local community, local, regional and state sporting clubs/associations and special interest groups, plus various state and regional agencies. Details of the engagement, including methods and key grounds are detailed in Part D of the Wimmera River Precinct and CAD Background Report (May 2019) and section 1.5 of the Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Study (May 2019).

The purpose of the targeted community engagement was to understand:

- Community aspirations and vision for the project area, test knowledge base and identify areas for further engagement
- Issues and opportunities relating to the study area
- Future development plans or opportunities, current constraints to growth or development
- Collect data on outdoor club membership, membership trends, facilities, demand, sport and user needs.

The 28 day public exhibition and engagement process proposed will be used to test community responses to the Concept Masterplan and supporting documents, and identify areas for further engagement. The exhibition and engagement process will allow members of the community who were not part of the first phase of targeted consultation to have a say.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Many individual findings and observations may have environment implications if works are subsequently initiated for the assets concerned.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The key aim of the project is to:

- Bring existing work together and build on existing economic development and strategic planning strategies
- Fill data and insight gaps
- Undertake a strategic analysis of needs and opportunities for the broader Horsham Rural City Council area
- Identify 'game changing' projects in a visual Masterplan, underpinned by the background work that will:
 1. Deliver a 20-year vision and action plan to revitalise the Wimmera Riverfront and CAD based on research, analysis and initial targeted stakeholder engagement
 2. Allow Council to take a leadership role in attracting public and private sector interest (and investment).

It is recommended that Council exhibit to the community for 28 days and invite comment on the City to River - Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham CAD Vision and Masterplan (June 2019) and supporting documents.

9.2 NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT EVALUATION

Author's Name:	Chris McClure	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Business Development and Tourism	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F06/A17/000001

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 outcome of the trial 2018 New Year's Eve event.

Summary

- Council approved funding for a trial New Year's Eve event, which was auspiced by the Horsham Agricultural Society.
- The event was conducted by the Horsham Agricultural Society on the Wimmera River bank behind the Horsham Showgrounds.
- The event was well supported with approximately 2,500 patrons in attendance.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Congratulate the Horsham Agricultural Society on delivering a successful 2018 New Year's Eve event.
2. Support the event on a new two-year trial basis before determining a longer-term financial and in-kind commitment.
3. Request the provision of appropriate data to allow for more accurate economic analysis of any Council funding.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council:

1. Congratulate the Horsham Agricultural Society on delivering a successful 2018 New Year's Eve event.
2. Support the event on a new two-year trial basis before determining a longer-term financial and in-kind commitment.
3. Request the provision of appropriate data to allow for more accurate economic analysis of any Council funding.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In October 2018, Council received a report recommending funding be provided towards the trial of a New Year's Eve event and to investigate a suitable club or organisation capable of hosting the event.

The Horsham Agricultural Society took up the opportunity and provided an event focused on creating a family fun evening with entertainment by local bands, food vans and activities for children, culminating in a light show.

Discussion

This inaugural event attracted approximately 2,500 patrons between 6.30pm and midnight. Some families with young children arrived early and left the event around 10.30pm, whereas adults without children arrived later in the evening.

It was noted that people aged between 18-30 did not attend.

People aged 60 and over were thrilled to attend an event suited to their needs and celebrated the New Year with friends.

The majority of patrons were local, due to the event being promoted locally as a family oriented event with light projections and children's activities. In future, it could be better promoted in local motels and caravan parks in Horsham and around the Wimmera.

The following business types were involved:

- Coffee and gelato vans (Horsham)
- Asian food truck (Dimboola)
- The Horsham Agricultural Society conducted the sausage sizzle, with the bar operation being a moderate success and crowd behaviour exceptionally good. All drinks and food were sourced locally, so the economic impact to businesses would have been significant. Horsham Agricultural Society staff and volunteers worked hard in the lead-up to the event.

Profit from the event has assisted with the costs of operating the venue and to help with the financial viability of the Horsham Agricultural Society.

In summary, the organising committee was totally amazed and overwhelmed at the huge attendance. It can be assumed that this free event met a community need, and should be considered for the future.

In addition, the Horsham Tidy Towns Committee has acknowledged this event as an environmentally responsible event, particularly in regard to the offering of a light show instead of fireworks.

Financial Implications

Based on assumptions made around the 2,500 attendees predominantly from Horsham, the direct economic effect of hosting the event is estimated to be \$30,000, with flow-on effects of \$24,000, giving a total estimated economic impact of \$54,000. The direct effect is made up of the food and beverage likely spend and the \$15,000 grant and \$5,000 for project management.

To be able to more accurately measure the economic benefits of Council investment, there is the need for provision of appropriate data.

If Council considers supporting the event on another trial basis to determine a longer-term financial and in-kind commitment, funding is required to be sourced from the budget. Funding for the 2018 event was \$20,000. An amount of \$20,000 has been tentatively included in the 2019/20 budget.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018–2022 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Priority 1.2.09 – Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors

Consultation/Communication

The Horsham Agricultural Society delivered the event on behalf of Council. The large attendance would indicate community support.

Risk Implications

Primarily all risk sits with the event organiser.

Environmental Implications

Environmentally responsible event due to the offering of a light show rather than fireworks.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Reports of the 2018 event would indicate its success, however, as this was the first New Year's Eve event for some time, it may be prudent to undertake a second trial for two more years. If these events are also well supported, Council could consider a longer term financial commitment.

9.3 WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL (WIFT) PRECINCT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Author's Name:	Edwin Irvine	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Contract Strategic Planner	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Strategic Planning	File Number:	F15/A09/000001

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

Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 Development Plan (**Appendix "9.3A"**)

Purpose

To endorse the Development Plan for Stage 1 of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) Precinct.

Summary

- Major landowner within the Precinct has formally responded that he will not sign a S173 agreement because he does not wish to develop the land.
- A Development Plan should be prepared to guide future development of the land.
- Planning Practice Note 23 Applying the Incorporated Plan and Development Plan Overlays identifies that the Development Plan Overlay can be used to specify the conditions and require a plan to specify the form for the detailed development of parts of a site or individual development stages.
- A Development Plan for Stage 1 to be prepared utilising the information prepared thus far, and be endorsed by Council as the Development Plan for Stage 1 of the WIFT Precinct.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the Development Plan for Stage 1 of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) Precinct.
2. Ensure that a Development Plan is prepared for the balance of land in the WIFT precinct to the satisfaction of Council before future planning permit applications for subdivision, development or use are granted in order to ensure that the precinct develops in a way that will not prejudice the future integrated use and development of the land as a major intermodal freight and logistics hub for the Wimmera – Mallee region as shown in Map 1 to Schedule 9 to Clause 43.04.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council:

1. Endorse the Development Plan for Stage 1 of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) Precinct.
2. Ensure that a Development Plan is prepared for the balance of land in the WIFT precinct to the satisfaction of Council before future planning permit applications for subdivision, development or use are granted in order to ensure that the precinct develops in a way that will not prejudice the future integrated use and development of the land as a major intermodal freight and logistics hub for the Wimmera – Mallee region as shown in Map 1 to Schedule 9 to Clause 43.04.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Planning for the WIFT and its surrounding precinct began in 2003 with the release of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Hub Feasibility Study, Maunsell Australia, March 2003. This report identified that the development of a new intermodal freight hub would open up opportunities to establish complimentary activities and businesses such as:

- Container park facilities
- Large volume container packing
- Bulk loading facility
- Secure warehouse storage prior to transporting
- Facilities for refrigerated containers
- Diesel refuelling
- Fumigation
- Export documentation
- Establishment of complementary business (e.g. other added value grain processing).

The Wimmera Regional Intermodal Freight Hub – Business Case (Maunsell/AECOM, 2006) identified that the development of a new intermodal freight hub at the greenfield site at Dooen will create opportunities to establish complimentary activities and businesses; and that the Wimmera Region has a vision of Dooen developing as an agribusiness hub built around grain related businesses. The new freight hub is intended to act as a catalyst for this development.

The 2008 Council Plan contained the following direction relevant to the consideration of how to proceed with the planning for the Freight Hub and its environs.

(3.2.4) Pursue opportunities for the development of additional industrial sites including the areas abutting the Horsham Aerodrome and the proposed Freight Hub at Dooen.

(3.3.2) Pursue implementation of the Wimmera Regional Intermodal Freight Hub at Dooen, working with the Wimmera Development Association, Regional Transport Group, Federal and State Government Ministers and Departments, neighbouring municipalities and private enterprise.

(3.4.8) After significant advancement of the Wimmera Regional Intermodal Freight Hub, investigate opportunities for establishment of associated industry.

Horsham Planning Scheme Amendment C42 was gazetted on 20 August 2009 and created the lot for the Freight Hub and introduced the Special Use Zone Schedule 3 Dooen Freight Hub (NB: the terminal was named Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal after the gazettal of Amendment C42, hence the different name).

In 2011, Council commenced preparation of the WIFT Precinct Structure Plan. Council adopted the structure plan in December 2012. The WIFT was always intended to be a catalyst to drive investment and development of the precinct.

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan, prepared in 2014, made numerous references to the WIFT Precinct, including the following:

“The new WIFT and its adjoining precinct at Dooen, eight kilometres to the north-east of Horsham, is of regional importance and should be a focus for freight and logistics.”, and

“The region’s economy is heavily reliant on broadacre farming. Diversification will create a more robust economy, protect jobs and encourage population growth. The features of the region provide a basis to drive future growth, including its extensive land area, agricultural clusters, environmental assets, new freight terminal and pipeline.

- *Support the development of Dooen as a freight and industry gateway”*

To deliver on this initiative, Council rezoned the WIFT Precinct to the Special Use Zone WIFT Precinct in 2017 via Planning Scheme Amendment C64.

Amendment C64 included the precinct within the Development Plan Overlay. Schedule 9 to the Development Plan Overlay identifies 33 individual points that are to be addressed by a Development Plan.

A draft Development Plan was prepared in 2019.

In conjunction with development of the Development Plan, an agreement pursuant to Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* was also drafted, in consultation with the major landholder in the precinct.

In April 2019, the major landowner within the Precinct advised Council that he would not sign the agreement as he does not wish to be a developer of the land.

This presents Council with a decision point regarding how to progress the matter of a Development Plan for the precinct.

Discussion

The Draft Development Plan was prepared to cover the entire WIFT Precinct area, which includes 83.3ha owned by Council, 55.9ha owned by Viterra Pty Ltd, 19.9ha owned by Johnson Asahi Pty Ltd, and 249.8ha under the control of Molyneaux Bros Investments Pty Ltd.

Concurrent with the preparation of the Development Plan for the Precinct, Council has been preparing design of infrastructure required for the development of Council’s land, as stage 1 of the project.

With the major landowner advising that it does not wish to develop its land, but with Council wishing to proceed with Stage 1 of the precinct, an option is to endorse a Development Plan for Stage 1 only, leaving the preparation of a Development Plan for the remaining land in the precinct to be prepared at a later time.

Planning Practice Note 23 Applying the Incorporated Plan and Development Plan Overlays identifies that the Development Plan Overlay can be used to specify conditions and require a plan to specify the form for the detailed development of parts of the site or individual development stages. Hence, approving a Development Plan in stages is an option.

Further to this, it should be noted that the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 9 which applies to the WIFT Precinct contains the following requirement:

“A permit may be granted for use or to subdivide land or to construct a building or to construct or carry out works before a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority if the responsible authority is satisfied that the permit will not prejudice the future integrated use and development of the land as a major intermodal freight and logistics hub for the Wimmera – Mallee region as shown in Map 1 to Schedule 9 to Clause 43.04.”

Given the current lack of clarity from the major landowner regarding future development of the land, care must be taken to ensure that any future planning permit application will not prejudice the future integrated use and development of the land.

The clearest way to ensure this outcome would be to not endorse a Development Plan for Stages 2 and 3 (or beyond), until there is clarity on how proposed use and development will occur. That clarity should be in the form of a Development Plan prepared to Council’s satisfaction.

This represents a precautionary approach, as given what we know of the area, any land use/development other than cropping or grazing, should not be permitted until we have an approved development plan, because not doing so, runs the risk of prejudicing the future integrated use and development of the land as a major intermodal freight and logistics hub, as required by the Horsham Planning Scheme.

By proceeding with approval of the Development Plan in stages, Council can ensure that required infrastructure is provided in a timely fashion, and staging of development ensure efficient use of available infrastructure, thus ensuring the orderly development of the precinct.

Financial Implications

The project is being delivered through Development Services operational costs without any specific budget allocation. Costs associated with provision of infrastructure to develop Stage 1 are subject of separate budget considerations.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018 – 2022 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Horsham Planning Scheme:

Clause 21.08-2Municipal Strategic Statement

Clause 37.01 Special Use Zone Schedule 9

Clause 43.04 Development Plan overlay Schedule 9

Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017–2021

Consultation/Communication

The major landowner has been consulted on Council's proposal to endorse Development Plan for Stage 1 of the WIFT Precinct.

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

A Development Plan has been prepared for Stage 1 of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct and is now presented for Council endorsement to guide future development of the land.

9.4 E-WASTE BAN

Author's Name:	Jared Hammond / John Martin	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Waste and Sustainability	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F29/13/000002

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 note the measures being put in place to support the imminent ban on disposal of e-waste to landfill.

Summary

- The State Government has announced a ban on disposal of electronic waste materials (e-waste) to landfill, commencing from 1 July 2019.
- E-waste is defined as “electrical or electronic equipment with a power cord or battery and its parts that have been discarded by the owner as waste without the intention of re-use”.
- This ban will require a significant change in people’s waste behaviour, as, in effect, it means that electronic devices may not be disposed of, even in waste bins going to landfill.
- The burden of implementing this ban has fallen on councils, hence, Horsham Rural City Council will need to demonstrate that it has taken all reasonable actions to prevent e-waste material going to landfill.
- The Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group (the Waste Group) is developing a range of programs to support the implementation of this ban.
- Council also has a number of arrangements in place to facilitate implementation of the ban.
- An extensive media campaign is planned to support the ban.

Recommendation

That Council note the imminent commencement of the ban on e-waste products going to landfill and the measures being put in place to support the ban.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council note the imminent commencement of the ban on e-waste products going to landfill and the measures being put in place to support the ban.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The State Government has decided that there will be a ban on e-waste being disposed to landfill from 1 July 2019.

E-Waste is defined as “electrical or electronic equipment with a power cord or battery and its parts that have been discarded by the owner as waste without the intention of re-use”. None of this material is able to be disposed to landfill.

Councils now have the responsibility to implement measures which support this ban, including:

- Systems that enable landholders to dispose of e-waste materials to approved locations
- Processes for storing this e-waste so that it does not impact on the environment
- Outlets for this material so that it can be recycled
- Education campaigns to support these processes.

Funding has been provided to Regional Waste Groups to facilitate some of these aspects, including education and some e-waste collection contracts.

Council has also secured a grant from Sustainability Victoria for \$100,000 for a shed to protect collected e-waste material from the elements, at the Kenny Road transfer station.

Discussion

Council has had arrangements in place for some time for receipt and processing of a range of e-waste materials at the Kenny Road transfer station, which will continue, as follows:

- Refrigerators are de-gassed and put into the scrap steel skip (this provides an income)
- Other large appliances are put in the scrap steel skip
- Used lead-acid batteries (ULAB) are stored and sold
- Unsorted non ULAB batteries are managed through the “Detox your Home” scheme at minimal cost.

Council also has arrangements for the disposal of items defined under the federally legislated National TV and Computer Recycling Scheme (NCRS). In 2017/18, Council processed 37.68 tonnes of NCRS material.

It is estimated that there is an annual supply of some 70 tonnes of this non-NCRS material.

The Waste Group conducted a procurement process for a regional approach to management of this stream, which will see it being transferred to Axis Worx for processing. This arrangement is estimated to cost Council around \$15,000 per year. Axis Worx is currently receiving materials from several Councils in the region, and has established itself as a lead processor of this type of material in Western Victoria.

While Council has been receiving and storing a range of e-waste materials for some time, the new e-waste regulations include a requirement for improved storage of these materials to protect them from rain, which could cause some contamination of surface or ground water. Council received a grant of \$100,000 from the State Government, through Sustainability Victoria to build a shed to facilitate the receipt and storage of e-waste. Tenders have recently been issued for construction of this shed.

Council has also installed e-waste drop-off bins at the Civic Centre and library.

These actions are likely to satisfy the initial requirements to support the e-waste ban. Over time, it is understood that the EPA will progressively tighten its approach to regulation of the ban. This is likely to include:

- Inspections/audits of e-waste materials received at the landfill
- Review of Council's programs to support the ban (is Council doing all it reasonably can to implement the ban?)
- How we extend the e-waste collection service to rural areas
- Our approach to communication and community education.

In relation to these, the key actions that remain to be implemented are the last two points. As indicated earlier, the Waste Group will be ramping up its communication program. Council will need to support this program, for example, in public notices and our own media.

The extension of an e-waste service to rural areas may become increasingly sought by rural customers. Planning is occurring with the Waste Group on the concept of a mobile transfer station to support this and how we provide suitable services at our rural transfer stations.

Financial Implications

E-waste material is currently able to be dropped off by residents at the Kenny Road transfer station at no cost.

The transfer of waste material to Axis Worx will cost around \$15,000 per year.

Some upgrade of facilities at the Kenny Road transfer station will occur beyond the \$100,000 Sustainability Victoria grant to facilitate receipt and storage of this material.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018–2022 Council Plan

Guiding Principle – Horsham Rural City Council will respect and protect our natural environment

Consultation/Communication

A key element of the e-waste implementation program will be community education. This will be led at a regional level by the Waste Group. Council's communications will support this program.

Risk Implications

The ability to dispose of some items is a risk. Apparently there is no outlet for solar panels. Further, the only site receiving glass from older computer screens, which contain lead, has recently advised that it is no longer able to receive this material.

Ultimately, there will be a risk to Council in managing its landfill, to ensure compliance with the new regulations. This will require increased scrutiny of incoming loads, and a procedure to document our approach in this regard.

Environmental Implications

The e-waste ban program is aimed at reducing risks to the environment. The requirement for improved storage at Kenny Rd is aimed at reducing risks of storing these materials at that site.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The implementation arrangements to support an e-waste ban will be in place by 1 July 2019. Ongoing communication and education will be a key part of this program.

9.5 WIMMERA INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL (WIFT) MASTERPLAN

Author's Name:	John Martin	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Director Infrastructure	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F15/A09/000001

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

WIFT Conceptual Masterplan Report, November 2018 (**Appendix “9.5A”**)

Purpose

To adopt the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) Masterplan.

Summary

- For the period June 2017 to May 2018, container throughput at the WIFT exceeded the projections expected by the year 2020/21 in the 2006 Business Case for the terminal.
- Container throughput peaked at 3,120 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) in January 2017.
- At these higher levels of throughput, the terminal operator, Wimmera Container Line (WCL) experienced congestion at the facility.
- WCL subsequently developed plans to expand the container capacity at the terminal and prepared a grant application to fund this expansion.
- As owner of the site, Council identified the need to prepare a master plan for the terminal, to ensure that any expansion proposed by WIFT would be compatible with an ultimate vision for the site.
- Rail industry experts Ray Bartlett and John Hearsch were engaged to assist Council in the preparation of the master plan.
- A briefing on the master plan was presented to Councillors on 5 November 2019. This identified the requirement to liaise with Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) about some aspects of the master plan.
- ARTC has indicated its in-principle support of the Master Plan.
- The masterplan is now proposed to be adopted by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Conceptual Masterplan Report, November 2018 as its guide for future development of the intermodal terminal facility.
2. Support Wimmera Container Line and SCT Logistics in their pursuit of grant funding to facilitate expansion of the WIFT facility.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council:

1. Adopt the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Conceptual Masterplan Report, November 2018 as its guide for future development of the intermodal terminal facility.
2. Support Wimmera Container Line and SCT Logistics in their pursuit of grant funding to facilitate expansion of the WIFT facility.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

For the period December 2016 to May 2018, WCL had throughput close to or in excess of 1,500 TEU containers per month, peaking at 3,120 TEU in January 2017. The 2006 Business Case for the WIFT development had projected that container throughput would be 22,890 TEU by 2020/21, however, the actual 12-month rolling total exceeded this projection for the 12 months from June 2017 to May 2018, peaking above 27,000 in November and December 2017.

At this level of throughput, WCL experienced congestion on the container operating area and commenced planning to extend this area to handle larger container numbers.

In part, this congestion relates to reductions in the scope of works of the terminal due to funding limitations at the time of construction. This included a reduction in the number of siding tracks available at the terminal.

Discussion

WCL developed plans for an increase in its level of operations. However, as owner of the site, it was necessary for Council to consider the ultimate potential development of the site, so that any incremental changes in its configuration would be compatible with future works.

Consultants Ray Bartlett and John Hearsch were engaged to prepare a master plan for the site. The process for preparation of the plan included workshops with key stakeholders about the projected range and level of commodity throughput through the site, and with SCT (WCL's parent company) specialists about operational aspects of the plan.

The ultimate level of container throughput planned for the site is up to 102,000 TEU per year. This throughput level is based on realistic proposals that have been canvassed in recent years.

The plan, as presented in the appendix to this report, includes provision for container and bulk loading operations, with the potential for separate mineral sands and grain bulk loading to ensure separation of these types of products. The plan also provides for trains of up to 1,800 m in length, compared to the current 1,100 m maximum.

To accommodate these longer trains, the plan includes proposals for some siding extensions to be located in the Melbourne-Adelaide rail corridor, managed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC). The consultants were familiar with many examples where this type of configuration was acceptable, and subsequently ARTC has confirmed its in-principle support for the master plan, including this potential track placement. This support was conditional on the exact rail alignments being determined at the detailed design stage to ensure appropriate clearances from the operating rail track in the corridor. With typically 17 m from the toe of the rail bank formation to the corridor fence, there appears to be adequate provision for the proposed siding extensions.

Financial Implications

WCL is planning to expand the operational area of the terminal to reduce congestion, and has prepared a funding application to the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund. This application has not been successful to date. It is proposed that Council would continue to support this application.

No additional works are proposed by Council at this stage.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018–2022 Council Plan

Advocacy – Actively pursue the retention and further development of rail freight services for the region and lobby for containerised transport subsidy

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

Consultation/Communication

A range of stakeholders were engaged in preparation of the master plan, as indicated in the report. Specific stakeholders included WCL, SCT, Regional Development Victoria, WIM Resource.

Subsequent to preparation of the master plan, ARTC was consulted to establish its support for the plan, as reported above.

Risk Implications

Preparation of a master plan provides a means of managing the risk of an unplanned approach to staged works.

Environmental Implications

Some of the works proposed in the master plan could require investigation of environmental implications. This would be done in the planning stage leading up to the actual works.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

A viable master plan has been prepared for the WIFT terminal. Future works should be planned to occur in line with this plan. The plan is recommended for adoption by Council.

9.6 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Author's Name:	Michael Bloyce	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Arts, Culture and Recreation	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Community Wellbeing	File Number:	F24/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

Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy (Draft) (**Appendix "9.6A"**)

Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy – Consultation Report (**Appendix "9.6B"**)

Purpose

To receive and note the draft Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Municipal Open Space Strategy and advertise it for community comment.

Summary

The recent consultation undertaken to inform the development of the HRCC Open Space Strategy included:

- 22 in-depth interviews with key stakeholders
- An online survey which generated over 250 responses
- Significant community feedback via an interactive mapping tool
- Two community forums held on 19 and 20 March 2019.

As a result of this engagement, the project consultant has made a number of key findings, which are outlined in the Draft HRCC Open Space Strategy (**Appendix "9.6A"**).

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Draft Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy and advertise it to the community for comment for a period of four weeks.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note the Draft Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy and advertise it to the community for comment for a period of four weeks.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Horsham Rural City Council (Council) has not previously had a strategic document in relation to Open Space.

In November 2018, after an open Request for Quotation process, Council engaged Sport Business Partners (SBP) to develop an integrated Open Space Strategy for Horsham, in order to provide Council with strategic directions to help determine its priorities for the future planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality.

Specifically, the project included for examination the following categories of Open Space:

- **Sport grounds:** Sporting facilities including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as playgrounds, 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 and enhance environments that increase the overall tree canopy coverage of the municipality
- **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.

The objectives of the project were 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.

Since their appointment, SBP have conducted extensive stakeholder engagement, consultation and analysis, leading to the identification of key findings and strategic directions. The resultant Consultation Report details the qualitative insights, key findings, asset observations and suggested strategic improvements relevant to this work (**Appendix "9.6B"**).

Discussion

The Draft HRCC Open Space Strategy outlines the overarching vision for open space in Horsham as:

“A leading regional community with an open space network that provides positive health and wellbeing outcomes for everybody.”

Key findings of the Consultation Report include the following observations:

- The audit and assessment of open space in Horsham found that there is a relatively high amount of open space provided (20.5ha/1,000 people)
- With the exception of specific gaps in some localities, most of the municipality has a high proportion of open space per 1,000 people
- The most significant issue, which is consistent across most regions, particularly in the Horsham township, appears to be the connectivity both across the city and between open spaces
- Long-term thinking and planning of the municipality’s play spaces and open spaces is required.

Some of the report’s key strategies include the following measures:

1. **Increase connectivity:** Improve connectivity to green/open spaces through the development of pedestrian and cycle networks, active transport linkages, traffic planning, and strategic land acquisition and disposal.
2. **Redefine the Wimmera River:** Activate the Wimmera River and its environs.
3. **Improve open space provision:** Ensure equitable access to open space across the municipality.
4. **Enhance collaboration:** Engage with other agencies (eg, BGLC, Parks Vic, DELWP, WCMA) so that open space provision and management is a multi-agency initiative that achieves shared objectives.
5. **Invest and plan for our future:** Develop clear and defensible planning decisions to ensure developers create the environment we want.
6. **Colour and green our city:** Improve the provision of open space within the CAD and develop a number of multipurpose spaces for wider community use.
7. **Recognise and celebrate our indigenous cultural heritage and arts:** Protect and preserve areas of cultural significance to the Wotjobaluk People and increase access to a diverse range of arts and cultural experiences across the municipality and open space network.

More detailed recommendations on specific localities are provided throughout the report.

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.

Financial Implications

Implementation of many of the key findings and recommendations regarding city assets would have significant long term 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

2018 – 2022 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

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

2017 – 2021 Health and Wellbeing Plan

Disability Access and Action Plan

Community Engagement Policy

Asset Management Policy

Wimmera River Precinct and Horsham Central Activities District Project

Consultation/Communication

Extensive community consultation and engagement was undertaken by SBP, as outlined in the Consultation Report (**Appendix “9.6B”**). The draft report will be made available to the community throughout July 2019 for feedback. This will include promotion via a media release and social media, hard copies being available at the Civic Centre and drop in sessions at the Civic Centre as part of the community engagement process in relation to the Wimmera River and CAD Vision and Concept Plan project.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Many individual findings and observations may have environmental implications if works are subsequently initiated for the assets concerned.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Open space plays an important role in Horsham by providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport. The HRCC Draft Open Space Strategy outlines that as the community grows and changes, greater attention will need to be placed on planning our open spaces to ensure that they meet both current and future needs.

The report highlights a number of ways in which this might be accomplished.

9.7 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL BUDGET 2019-20

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F18/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

Horsham Rural City Council Draft Budget 2019-20 (**Appendix “9.7A”**)

Budget Submissions Received (**Appendix “9.7B”**)

Purpose

To adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2019-20, rates and charges for 2019-20 and Strategic Resource Plan 2019-20 to 2022-23.

Summary

- Budget has been prepared using the model budget format.
- Budget has been out for community submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Two submissions were received.
- There are some changes to revenue that will not be adjusted in the budget document but will be picked up when reforecasting in the new financial year.
- The budget is balanced on a cash basis and ready to be adopted.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2019-20 as attached (**Appendix “9.7A”**), pursuant to Section 130 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and that Council give public notice of this decision to adopt such Budget, in accordance with Section 130 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
2. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2019-20 to 2022-23 as depicted in section 3 “Financial Statements” of the attached budget document (**Appendix “9.7A”**).
3. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rates and charges as depicted in section 4 of the attached budget document (**Appendix “9.7A”**).

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

That Council:

2. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2019-20 to 2022-23 as depicted in section 3 "Financial Statements" of the attached budget document (**Appendix "9.7A"**).
3. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rates and charges as depicted in section 4 of the attached budget document (**Appendix "9.7A"**).

CARRIED

*Cr David Grimble and Cr John Robinson left the meeting at 6.52pm.***Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig**

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2019-20 as attached (**Appendix "9.7A"**), pursuant to Section 130 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* and that Council give public notice of this decision to adopt such Budget, in accordance with Section 130 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

CARRIED

Cr David Grimble and Cr John Robinson returned to the meeting at 6.56pm.

REPORT

Background

Council has prepared a budget and related strategic resource plan, which were on public exhibition from 30 April to 27 May, in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act. These documents have been available for review at the Civic Centre Horsham, NC² Offices Natimuk and on the Council's website.

The draft budget document (**Appendix "9.7A"**), is in an easy-to-read format made up of the following three sections:

1. Mayor's Introduction and Executive Summary (pages 3 to 13)

This provides a very high level "snapshot" view of the budget and is intended to be readable by members of the community that do not have any financial background. If only this section is read it will give the reader an understanding of the key elements and issues within the budget.

2. Budget Reports (Pages 14 to 64)

This section includes all statutory disclosures of information and detailed budget numbers. It includes:

- Explanation of the linkages with the Council Plan
- Service summaries and indicators for Council's 35 service groups and 87 separate services including comparison's with last year's figures
- Service performance outcome indicators
- Financial statements, grants, borrowings, capital work and rates information.
- Notes to further expand on individual lines within the financial statements
- Financial performance indicators.

3. Appendices (Pages 65 to 112)

This section provides additional supporting information on community grants, operational initiatives, fees and charges and a document highlighting key capital works.

Whilst the budget document presents Council's budget on an accrual basis, the goal is to bring to balance the budget on a cash basis. This means considering the operating cash revenues and expenditures as well as the capital cash revenues and expenditure. On a cash basis the budget has been balanced.

The Rating Strategy and Rating Policy are separate documents that set out how the rates are to be applied across sectors and the different rating principles that will be applied. These documents were reviewed during 2018-19 following an extensive community consultation process and were adopted as final at Council's meeting on 29 April 2019.

Discussion

The Mayor's introduction and executive summary sections provide some key highlights from this year's budget. A significant point to note, however, is that Council has only raised rates by 2.25% which is 0.25% below the Ministerial 2.5% rate cap.

During the community consultation period from 30 April to 27 May 2019, Council received two submissions in total, one via the form on Council's website and one in writing to Council. Neither submitter requested to be heard by Council (**Appendix "9.7B"**).

At a briefing session on 3 June 2019, Council discussed the submissions received and issues arising from them and the community engagement that was undertaken.

Financial Implications

All matters under discussion impact on the 2019-20 Council Budget and four-year Strategic Resource Plan.

Subsequent to the development of the Draft Budget there have been some items relating to revenue where the exact amounts have become more clearly known. None of these items are considered material to council's overall \$57 million budget and will be factored in to a revised forecast early in the 2019-20 financial year. The items are summarised as follows:

- Grants Commission have formally advised the draft funding allocation for Council which is \$56,047 below that estimated in the Draft Budget. \$71,210 less in the General purpose allocation and \$15,163 more in the roads component of the allocation. It has also been advised that 50% of this will be paid in advance prior to 30 June 2019.
- The Murra Warra Windfarm has provided more specific estimates of when the wind turbines in the Horsham Rural City Council area are expected to commence operation. The exact dates are critical as payments to Council commence effective from the day that generation commences. The current estimates provided from windfarm owners show payments to Council for 2019-20 will be \$224,852 if all turbines are commissioned as expected. The Draft Budget has an estimate of \$56,000 included for payments in lieu of rates. This is an additional expected revenue of \$168,562 should all the commencement dates be as predicted.
- The final valuations for properties have now been finalised and there has been no change from the draft budget. So there are no changes to the rates in the dollar on any property sector.
- The Federal Government has announced a grant of \$1.18 million to Council for Fixing Country Roads, this is \$0.626 million more than anticipated in the draft budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The budget has been prepared having reference to delivering the draft Council Plan 2019-2023. Preparation of the budget is a statutory requirement.

Consultation/Communication

Council embarked on a number of community consultation activities during the period since adopting the draft budget. The engagements undertaken were as follows:

- Presentation to the Wimmera Australians in Retirement group
- Display and presentation Toolondo community meeting
- Two Councillor Listening posts at the Horsham Plaza
- Static displays at the Civic Centre and in the Firebrace Street offices front shop window
- Website Have Your Say page

- An info graphic was produced on Council spending by service area
- Facebook
- Press releases
- Radio 3WM Advertisements
- Council Notices in Wimmera Mail-times and Weekly Advertiser
- Facebook on-line budget forum

The following table shows the number of comments received through the engagement processes and the service areas that were broadly covered:

	Facebook Q&A	Formal submission	Listening Post	Grand Total
Roads	7	1	4	12
Parks & Gardens	4	2	5	11
Footpaths, Walking trails & Cycleways	3		5	8
General	3	2	2	7
Recreation & Culture	3		4	7
Waste	5			5
Non-council			3	3
Public Transport	1		2	3
Parking	1		1	2
Financial Management		2		2
Environmental Health			1	1
Planning/building			1	1
Planning	1			1
Tourism			1	1
Grand Total	28	7	29	64

Additionally, there were two formal submissions received as follows:

1. Wimmera River Improvement Committee – Requested road construction works at the Police paddock Reserve: This work was unable to be prioritised in the budget from the funds available and will remain on the list for consideration in future years. There are also two studies currently underway - an Open Space Strategy for the municipality and Social Infrastructure Demand study that will inform future decisions for improvements at this reserve.
2. Australian Wildflowers – Submission did not make a request of Council but highlighted the positive initiatives implemented in the 2019-20 Budget, commending Council on:
 - Investment in key economic infrastructure such as the Livestock Exchange and the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal
 - The reduction in the Farm differential and Commercial and Industrial rate differentials
 - Strong leadership with continued improved service provision and sound asset building without the need for external borrowings
 - The setting of the rate below the state rate cap
 - Funding provided for the upgrading of Emmersons Road
 -

- Support and interest generally to their business by Council, Directors and the Wimmera Development Association.

Letters will be written to submitters detailing these actions following the adoption of Council's budget.

Risk Implications

Sound financial management is cornerstone for Council sustainability. A comprehensive budget process that integrates with Councils other planning activities reduces the risk of financial miss-management.

Environmental Implications

The budget touches all aspects of Council's operations which in turn impact the environment in a range of ways.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The budget has been developed through a sound process of consultation, is balanced on a cash basis, has not increased rates to the maximum allowable under the rate cap and has continued to deliver on the 92 services to the current levels of services.

9.8 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK – REVISION

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F19/A11/000001

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

Financial and Performance Reporting Framework (**Appendix "9.8A"**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Financial and Performance Reporting Framework.

Summary

- The current Financial and Performance Reporting Framework ('the framework') was adopted by Council on 5 September 2016 and has now been reviewed with some minor amendments included.
- The internal audit undertaken in March 2017 – Management Reporting, made some recommendations for changes to the framework which have been included in this review.
- The recent audit conducted by the Victorian Auditor General's office with respect to Reporting on Local Government Performance also made recommendations which have in part been picked up in this review.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Financial and Performance Reporting Framework.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council adopt the revised Financial and Performance Reporting Framework.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Councillors and officers alike need good internal financial information in order to properly discharge financial management responsibilities. This information supports decision making around resource allocation, provides assurance around the financial health of Council and allows Councillors and managers to manage the financial resources that they are responsible for.

To facilitate this happening, the framework was established to ensure an appropriate structure exists for all levels of the organisation to review financial and key non-financial information on a regular basis.

This framework was initially developed with reference to the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) – "Good Practice Guide for Internal Financial Reporting in Local Government". The framework also references the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* which requires Council to report against 77 prescribed performance indicators in the Report of Operations and Performance Statement in Council's annual report.

Discussion

The framework was first adopted in September 2016 and has now been reviewed and updated to include recommendations from the Management Reporting internal audit undertaken in March 2017 and the recent VAGO audit that Council participated in on the Reporting of Local Government Performance (May 2019).

The Financial and Performance Reporting Framework (**Appendix "9.8A"**) shows the document with track changes in order to depict the changes that have been made since the previous version.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial impact from this review.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018–200 Council Plan
Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

The external members of the Audit and Risk Committee and Executive Management Team have provided feedback on the revised document.

Risk Implications

Good financial control is central to good governance and this framework assists in ensuring that good financial management is occurring within the organisation.

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 framework reflects best practise for financial and performance reporting and is ready for adoption.

9.9 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Governance	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F18/A13/000001

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

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes – 13 June 2019 (**Appendix “9.9A”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 June 2019.

Summary

- The Audit and Risk Committee meet quarterly.
- Internal audit report was received in relation to procurement (under the tender threshold)
- Other VAGO Reports and other status reporting was provided
- It was the final meeting for the current internal auditors, Crowe Horwath. Their contract ends on 30 June 2019.

Recommendation

That Council note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 June 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 June 2019.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Audit and Risk Committee is an advisory committee of Council, whose objective is to provide appropriate advice and recommendations to Council on matters as listed in its Charter, in order to facilitate decision making by Council in relation to the discharge of its accountability requirements.

Discussion

The main discussion points from the meeting were:

- CEO Update
- Interim Management Letter year ending 30 June 2019
- Governance Framework Checklist
- Internal Audit Final Report - Procurement (under the tender threshold)
- Budget update
- Quarterly financial report (quarter ending 31 March 2019)
- Risk management and insurance report
- Essential Services Commission – The Outcomes of Rate Capping
- VAGO (Victorian Auditor-General's Office) Report – Performance Audit, Reporting on Local Government Performance (LGPRF)
- IBAC (Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission) Report – Local Government Integrity Frameworks Review
- OVIC (Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner) – Review of HRCC Privacy Policy
- New Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (Councillors)

It was also noted that the internal auditor's contract expires on the 30 June 2019 and that this would be the last meeting attended by Council's current internal auditors, Crowe Horwath. The committee moved a motion of appreciation to Mr John Gaven and his team from Crowe Horwath for their services over the past five years.

The internal audit contract will be re-tendered during the first quarter of 2019-20.

Financial Implications

Operational costs of Council's Audit and Risk Committee is covered within the 2018-19 operational budget allocation.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Priorities:

4.2 Manage Risk to the Organisation

4.4 Achieve High Standards of Organisational Performance

Consultation/Communication

Council's Audit and Risk Committee is comprised of Councillors and independent members. Consultation and communication is undertaken with internal and external (VAGO) auditors.

Risk Implications

The Audit and Risk Committee is an important committee of Council required under the *Local Government Act 1989*. To not have a properly functioning or constituted committee would be in breach of the requirements of the Act. The committee has an important role in monitoring Council's financial governance and risks, to not have such a committee could increase Council's potential for fraud and corruption to occur.

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 Audit and Risk Committee is a legislated requirement under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the minutes are a good form of governance and record keeping.

9.10 PROCUREMENT POLICY

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Governance	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance	File Number:	F13/A01/000003

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

Procurement Policy (**Appendix “9.10A”**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Procurement Policy in accordance with Section 186A (7) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Summary

The Procurement Policy annual review is provided in accordance with statutory requirements and organisational continuous improvement.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Procurement Policy as attached (**Appendix “9.10A”**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council adopt the revised Procurement Policy as attached (**Appendix “9.10A”**).

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Under Section 186A (7) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must review its current procurement policy at least once in each financial year. Council's current procurement policy was last reviewed in May 2018, where some minor changes were made and the procurement threshold levels were amended slightly to note them all as exclusive of GST (rather than previously inclusive of GST).

Discussion

During this year's review, several changes have been made to further strengthen the probity, transparency, accountability and risk management of Council's procurement activities across the organisation. There were several changes, largely around language and some terminology. In addition, some more substantial changes have also been made as follows:

1. Request for Quotation process to be undertaken for all procurement between \$10,001 and \$80,000.
2. Requirement for procurement through contracts entered into with Municipal Association of Victoria, Procurement Australia or under a State Government purchasing agreement should also address HRCC purchasing thresholds.
3. Inclusion of a Tender Initiation Form for all Procurement above \$80,000.
4. Inclusion of a statement regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement.
5. One change to the Exemption from Quotation/Tender Process Section 4.3.4, including naming the CEO's delegate as the Director Corporate Services.
6. Definitions section moved to the back of the policy in line with Council's new policy template.

This procurement policy will be published on Council's website. It assists in informing suppliers about Council's processes, increases confidence in Council's procurement activities and thereby improves the relationship between Council and current and prospective suppliers.

Financial Implications

Best practice in procurement is at the centre of good fiscal financial management and, as such, amendments to the policy contribute to our continuous improvement in this area of financial management.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018–2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Outcome 4.4 – Achieve high standards of organisational performance

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

A robust procurement process with high levels of internal controls and sound and tested procedures will significantly assist in mitigating risk in this area of Council business. Adding in extra layers of probity further strengthens Council's processes and accordingly reduces risk levels to the organisation.

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 revised Procurement Policy is provided for adoption by Council.

9.11 COUNCIL MEETING FREQUENCY AND MEETING PROCEDURE REVIEW

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Governance	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance	File Number:	F13/A01/000003

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 review of the Council meeting frequency and Council Meeting Procedure, Local Law No 1 Governance (2016).

Summary

- At the Council meeting on 24 September 2018, it was resolved to “review the Council meeting frequency and Local Law No 1 Governance - Meeting Procedures in no less than six months”.
- Council has discussed the operation of Council meetings during a number of Council briefing meetings.
- Feedback has been obtained from all Councillors on how meetings are running.
- No further changes to the meeting procedure are proposed.
- The frequency of meetings is to remain as monthly.

Recommendation

That Council note that the Council meeting frequency and Council Meeting Procedure, Local Law No 1 Governance (2016) have been reviewed, with no changes proposed.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council note that the Council meeting frequency and Council Meeting Procedure, Local Law No 1 Governance (2016) have been reviewed, with no changes proposed.

CARRIED

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That the Chief Executive Officer provide an operational report to Council and include Council business and meeting procedure on the agenda and key operational things they have done in the past month.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Following an independently facilitated workshop in June 2018, Council's Meeting Procedure was amended.

At its meeting on 27 August 2018, Council resolved to change the meeting frequency from fortnightly to monthly.

Council at its meeting on 24 September 2018 adopted the amended Meeting procedure and resolved to "review the Council meeting frequency and Local Law No 1 Governance - Meeting Procedures in no less than 6 months".

Discussion

The review has been slightly delayed due to the availability of all Councillors. The review has now been undertaken as a discussion with Councillors and Officers at a Briefing meeting, with those in attendance, and via e-mail with those not in attendance.

The feedback from the discussion with Councillors and Officers is summarised as follows:

Positive:

- Incredible from a work life balance perspective
- Couldn't have kept going the way it was
- Gets more out of the meetings
- Appreciates less mental stress
- We make exactly the same decisions as we would have done over two meetings
- Pressure is off in a lot of ways
- More time to prepare
- You have to plan bit more which is a good thing
- There were times when we were trying to find items for the agenda
- Much more structured approach
- Preparation for the Council meetings are different and halved which on one hand is appreciated

Negative:

- Not effective as a Councillor, making less decisions
- Fifty fifty, people don't understand
- The value of a Councillor in a decision making role is effectively halved
- Challenge to see the full benefit of many of our briefing sessions as I can read a report and given the level of engagement during these sessions amongst the group is generally silent isn't as productive as it could be
- We have effectively lost half of our time to make decisions yet the agenda is no larger. I don't like that lost opportunity and responsibility

- Councillor reports haven't been embraced by this Council in written form and should reside back to a verbal and or written. Dot point reports give the reader no information about Councillor involvement
- Section C3.4 of the Meeting Procedure says "Councillor reports will not be read or addressed by Councillors" but this is being ignored in our current practice and at the discretion of the Mayor, can be inconsistent across the chamber. Agree with the flexibility and the opportunity to speak, however, the Mayor supported a law that he now doesn't follow, hence currently that law isn't being enforced. In my view I see some room to change this back to previous arrangements.

General Comments:

- Post Easter meeting had too many items, timing of meetings with public holidays should be considered
- The workload appears to be similar as the reduction of one Council meeting to a briefing meeting still requires officer time and effort to prepare reports and Councillor time to attend

Financial Implications

There are no financial consequences or impacts from this review.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018 – 2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

Councillors and Officers have been consulted as part of the review.

Risk Implications

It is necessary to have a well-functioning meeting procedure to ensure good governance and good democratic processes.

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

As per Council resolution on 24 September 2019, Council's Meeting Procedure and meeting frequency have been reviewed. No changes are proposed to either of those two items.

9.12 2019-2023 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL PLAN

Author's Name:	Sue Frankham	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information Management	File Number:	F19/A11/000001

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

2019-2023 Council Plan (**Appendix “9.12A”**)

Purpose

To adopt the amended Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2019-2023 and related Strategic Resource Plan.

Summary

- The *Local Government Act 1989* requires all Victorian Councils to produce a four-year Council Plan which must be reviewed annually.
- The Council Plan was considered at a Council Briefing on 13 December 2018 and a further Council Briefing on 3 June 2019.
- A number of amendments have been made to the Council Plan and these have been highlighted in (**Appendix “9.12A”**).
- The Strategic Resource Plan has also been amended to agree with the latest version as included in the 2019-20 Budget documents.
- Other minor amendments have also occurred to update figures in the document to the latest numbers or correct minor spelling or punctuation errors. These amendments have not been highlighted.
- As there are no changes to the strategic objectives, strategies or strategic indicators of the Council Plan, there is no requirement for it to be placed on public exhibition or call for submissions.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the amended Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2019-2023 and related Strategic Resource Plan.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council adopt the amended Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2019-2023 and related Strategic Resource Plan.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), Section 125(1) requires Council to prepare and adopt a new Council Plan by 30 June in the year following a general election. Section 125(7) of the Act requires Council to review the Council Plan at least once each financial year.

The Council Plan 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. It provides direction to management and includes the indicators that Council will use to deliver key outcomes.

Council has taken the approach through its Planning and Budgeting Framework, to have a four-year rolling Council Plan that is reviewed and revised annually.

Discussion

The Council Plan was reviewed by Councillors at a Council Briefing on 13 December 2018 and a further Council Briefing on 3 June 2019. A number of minor amendments have subsequently been made to the proposed actions, to update figures to the latest numbers and to align the Strategic Resource Plan with the 2019-20 Budgeted figures.

The strategic objectives, strategies and strategic indicators have remained unchanged.

Attached as an appendix to this report (**Appendix "9.12A"**) is the draft amended Council Plan 2019-2023 with the non-minor changes highlighted.

Financial Implications

The Council Plan directly links to the Council budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019–2023 Council Plan

Consultation/Communication

Councillors considered the Council Plan at Briefing Meetings on 13 December 2018 and 3 June 2019. As the strategic objectives, strategies and strategic indicators have remained unchanged, there is no requirement to place the amended Council Plan on public exhibition or call for submissions, so this has not taken place.

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 amended Council Plan 2019-2023 sets the strategic direction of Council for the next four years.

9.13 HORSHAM TOWN HALL AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Author's Name:	Shana Miatke	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Performance and Events	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Arts, Culture and Recreation	File Number:	F10/A05/000002

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

Horsham Town Hall Audience Development Plan (**Appendix "9.13A"**)

Horsham Town Hall Program Plan (**Appendix "9.13B"**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Audience Development Plan for Horsham Town Hall (HTH).

Summary

- Data suggests that although some had been sceptical about investment in redeveloping the venue, they now enjoy visiting and see the value that it provides to the community.
- The research found that respondents are more likely to attend HTH than other regional arts venues and Melbourne city venues - 49% of respondents had attended HTH more than four times in the last year in contrast to Melbourne venues (11%) and other regional arts venues (2%).
- The analysis showed a strong sense of appreciation and pride for the arts within the local community, with 92% commenting that they feel proud when they see people in Horsham participate in the arts.
- Only half of adult respondents under 35 are satisfied with HTH's appeal to all ages. Respondents under 35 showed strong interest in seeing more contemporary and popular art forms, such as on-trend craft workshops, live music and comedy. They would also like to see more interactive art experiences in the Gallery, as well as outdoor festival-style events.
- Although only 39% of audience members attended the Horsham Regional Art Gallery (HRAG) in 2018, 67% of respondents said they are involved in making and creating visual arts and craft themselves. There is significant interest in the community in developing new skills and participating in creative workshops, for both adults and children.

Recommendation

That Council note the Audience Development Plan for Horsham Town Hall, including the following recommendations:

- a. Ensure that future programming of the Horsham Town Hall and Horsham Regional Art Gallery incorporates key exhibitions, performances and events targeted towards those aged under 35.
- b. Direct some of the Horsham Town Hall programming budget towards events presented outside the venue.
- c. Reactivate the Horsham Town Hall café/bar operation as soon as practicable.
- d. Submission of future Council budget bids to increase programming allocations for the Horsham Regional Art Gallery and the Horsham Performing Arts Centre.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig**

That Council note the Audience Development Plan for Horsham Town Hall, including the following recommendations:

- a. Ensure that future programming of the Horsham Town Hall and Horsham Regional Art Gallery incorporates key exhibitions, performances and events targeted towards those aged under 35.
- b. Direct some of the Horsham Town Hall programming budget towards events presented outside the venue.
- c. Reactivate the Horsham Town Hall café/bar operation as soon as practicable.
- d. Submission of future Council budget bids to increase programming allocations for the Horsham Regional Art Gallery and the Horsham Performing Arts Centre.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

HTH and HRAG were selected to take part in the Full House pilot program initiated by Creative Victoria, with the aim being to build the facility's capacity to:

- Conduct audience research and undertake strategic audience development and program planning, implementation and evaluation
- Grow audiences and audience loyalty
- Increase the value and relevance of the facility to the local community
- Collaborate, innovate and build partnerships to achieve these aims.

There were three key stages of the program:

- Stage 1 – Audience Research and Analysis
- Stage 2 – Development of Audience Developing and Programming Plans
- Stage 3 – Implementation of Audience Development and Programming Plans

Stages 1 and 2 have been completed (**Appendix "9.13A"**). Stage 3 engagement is programmed to take place in October, November and December 2019. The main outcome will be support of the Kannamaroo Festival 2019.

Discussion

Four goals were identified as follows:

- Goal 1 – Deepen engagement and appreciation of all art forms
- Goal 2 – Grow the reputation of HTH as Horsham's favourite place to gather
- Goal 3 – Create pathways for people to discover and fuel their creative side
- Goal 4 - Reach out to new parts of the Horsham community.

A range of targeted strategies and actions to help achieve the above goals were also developed:

- Increase cross-art form collaboration to develop a connected program once in 2019 and at least twice a year by 2021.
- Build visual arts appreciation so that the proportion of people who have been to an art gallery exhibition at HTH increases from 39% to 43% in 2020.
- Strengthen marketing and customer relationship management to increase number of e-news subscribers from 4,958 to 5,500 in 2020.
- Support a deeper understanding of HTH to increase Facebook Likes from 4,480 to 6,000 and Instagram followers from 544 to 700 by December 2021.
- Become a community gathering space by increasing the proportion who agree that 'HTH makes Horsham a better place' by 2021 from 89% to 92%.
- Enhance audience experiences with food and dining to increase the proportion of audiences attending HTH 5+ times a year from 23% to 33% by 2021.

- Diversify the types of activity at HTH to increase the proportion who agree 'There are plenty of opportunities for me to get involved in the arts' from 58% to 65% by 2021.
- Develop new education and training opportunities for students by increasing the number of students on work experience at HTH from 3 to 5 in 2021.
- Prioritise the needs of local groups to increase the proportion of community event bookings from 35% to 36% by 2021.
- Refine programming to increase the proportion satisfied with HTH's 'appeal to all age groups' from 59% to 65% by 2021.
- Develop youth-focused initiatives to increase the number of 12-21 year olds attending HTH events and activities.
- Strengthen cross-cultural connections to increase proportion of audiences who come from a diverse background from 11% to 20% by 2020.
- Program events and activities beyond the HTH building to increase attendance among young people and families.

There is also an opportunity for HTH to become more of a gathering space. A large majority (83%) of audience members would like to see an operational café/bar at HTH so that they can come together and socialise, not only before and after a show but as a venue where community and visiting tourists can experience something different. A café re-establishment proposal is currently in development. Costs involved in this venture are still to be finalised.

Financial Implications

Full House Grant - \$80,000 fully funded for audience development.

The Full House project recommends an increase to the venue's Programming Budget in order to better target the goals set out above.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018–2022 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Outcome 1.3 – Contribute to cultural activities that enhance our community

Youth Strategy 2018

Arts and Cultural Plan 2019-2023 (currently under development)

Consultation/Communication

A combination of qualitative techniques, including a series of focus groups and an online survey were conducted.

Qualitative research included a series of four focus groups with current and potential future audiences, 6 depth interviews with key stakeholders, an online survey of the Horsham Town Hall online database, HTH and HRAG subscribers and on-site intercepts in the community.

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

Although HTH is seen as a welcoming and inclusive venue, some members of the community do not feel at home in its formal environment. The research found that some groups, including many men, young adults and those without anyone to go with, may prefer to engage with the arts in an informal setting, such as festivals, workshops and markets.

This could be made possible with increased funding and/or by working alongside community driven festivals such as Art Is Festival, Nati Frinj and Kannamaroo Festival; or to plan for and scope outdoor events, for example at the Soundshell, craft markets, or family-friendly picnics down by the river. Such public programs offer people different ways to engage with the arts and can be less intimidating for those with less experience visiting traditional arts venues such as theatres, museums or galleries. However, to do so may require additional resources, both financial and human capital, as the HTH teams are not currently adequately resourced to present performances and events outside the venue.

There is also an opportunity for HTH to become more of a gathering space. A large majority (83%) of audience members would like to see an operational café/bar at HTH so that they can come together and socialise, not only before and after a show but as a venue where community and visiting tourists can experience something different. It is also evident that potential catering opportunities exist as the Venue is increasingly drawing a large number of meetings and conferences to the region.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**Cr Mark Radford, Mayor**

- 28 May 2019 – Horsham on Rail to the Nation and Port
- 29 May 2019 – Country Music Festival Meeting
- 29 May 2019 – Reconciliation Week Film Festival
- 29 May 2019 – Horsham East Rotary Club “Return of Passenger Rail”
- 31 May 2019 – North West Municipal Association meeting in Warracknabeal
- 31 May 2019 – Art Is ... Festival launch
- 1 June 2019 – Horsham bus tour for Heartland Horsham visitors
- 3 June 2019 – Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting
- 3 June 2019 – Art Matters exhibition
- 7 June 2019 – Opening of the Horsham East Rotary Art Fair
- 8 June 2019 – Art Is ... photographic competition
- 8 June 2019 – Art is ... Festival Winter Warmer Community Bonfire
- 11 June 2019 – Council Briefing Meeting
- 12 June 2019 – Region Roads Victoria Strategy Development workshop
- 13 June 2019 – Regional Cities Victoria meeting
- 16 June 2019 – Regional Forum in Canberra
- 17-19 June 2019 – National General Assembly meeting in Canberra
- 20 June 2019 – Aerodrome Business Plan workshop
- 21 June 2019 – Seasonal Conditions meeting
- 21 June 2019 – Regional Mayors gathering

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig**

That Standing Orders be suspended for Verbal Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements.

CARRIED

The time being 7.27pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke**

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 7.29pm, the Council meeting resumed.

Recommendation

That Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Meeting

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Accept an urgent item of business in relation to Horsham Golf Club.
2. That this item be considered in the Confidential Matters section of the meeting.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Accept an urgent item of business in relation to Horsham Golf Club.
2. That this item be considered in the Confidential Matters section of the meeting.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Meeting

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**Horsham Rural City Council****Council Meeting**

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**13.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS**

Council Briefing held on Monday 3 June 2019 at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre Reception Room, Horsham Rural City Council

Council Briefing held on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 5.05pm in the Civic Centre Reception Room, Horsham Rural City Council

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 April 2019 at 12.00noon, Horsham Aquatic Centre

Refer to **Appendix “13.4A”**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda item 13.1 Assembly of Councillors – Record of Meetings, 13.2 Sealing of Documents, 13.3 Inward Correspondence and 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig**

That Council receive and note agenda item 13.1 Assembly of Councillors – Record of Meetings, 13.2 Sealing of Documents, 13.3 Inward Correspondence and 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Meeting

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That the Council meeting close to the public to consider Confidential Matters.

CARRIED

The time being 7.30pm, the Council meeting closed to the public.

The time being 8.00pm, the Council meeting opened to the public.

15.1 HORSHAM CINEMA LEASE

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council:

1. Give notice pursuant to section 190 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of its intention to enter into a lease with Centre Cinema Services Pty Ltd for the Horsham Cinema, 37-41 Pynsent Street, with the principal terms of the lease being:
 - A period of five years commencing 1 October 2019
 - The tenant expending \$202,700.00 (exclusive of GST) on capital improvements over the five-year period
 - Rent payable being an amount equal to 1% of GST exclusive gross takings of the theatre business and invite submissions in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
2. If no objections are received as a result of inviting submissions in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, offer a lease to Centre Cinema Services Pty Ltd to operate the Horsham Cinema, 37- 41 Pynsent Street with the principal terms of the lease being:
 - A period of five years commencing 1 October 2019
 - The tenant expending \$202,700.00 (exclusive of GST) on capital improvements over the five-year period
 - Rent payable being an amount equal to 1% of GST exclusive gross takings of the theatre business.

CARRIED

15.2 MURRA WARRA WINDFARM RATING AGREEMENT

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council approve the Rating Agreement for the payments in-lieu for the Murra Warra Windfarm.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.



The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford
Chairperson