

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 25 November 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; John Martin, Director Infrastructure Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Stephen Pykett, Acting Director Development Services; Sue Frankham, Governance Officer; Diana McDonald, Co-ordinator Governance.

David Bowe	Kath Dumesny	Neville McIntyre	Kevin Dellar
Richard Mays	Lyn Creasey	Frank Creasey	Alan Williams
Eddie Taig	Ian Rees	Rodney Dumesny	Bev Bell
Yvonne Dunn	Barry Dunn	Gaye Eltze	Owen Hughan
Carolynne Hamdorf	Andrew Dorman	Fletcher Mills	Brian Basham
Dawn Frost	Gwen McCartney	Dean Lakin	Sue Exell
Betty Etherton	Shane Gillespie	Jessica Grimble	Noel Hopper
Frances Macdonald	Jane Edwards	Leonie Thorne	Ivan Mills
Mandy Kirsopp	Jenny Grimble	Susan Surridge	Kerrie Bell
Jade Bate	Jillian Kirsopp		

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

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

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

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Alethea Gulvin declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) direct interest of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.1 City to River Draft Masterplan, recommendation number 11 and 12. The nature of the interest being that Cr Gulvin lives in Jenkinson Avenue, Horsham. Cr Gulvin left the meeting at 6.53pm and returned at 7.25pm. Cr Gulvin was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Pam Clarke declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) direct interest of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.1 City to River Draft Masterplan, recommendation number 12. The nature of the interest being that Cr Clarke's family is involved in the ownership of Horsham Squash Courts. Cr Clarke left the meeting at 7.12pm and returned at 7.25pm. Cr Clarke was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr David Grimble declared a conflict of interest, Section 78(a) indirect interest that is an indirect financial interest and Section 78(d) indirect interest as a consequence of becoming an interested party of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.8 Draft Corella Management Plan. The nature of the interest being that Cr Grimble's property has been identified by Rivertech Environment and Cultural Heritage Services as a potential property to be involved in further onsite trials and further study involved in corella management. Cr Grimble left the meeting at 7.58pm and returned at 8.00pm. Cr Grimble was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the Council meeting be suspended for public question time.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 5.35pm for Public Question Time.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the Council meeting resume.

CARRIED

The Council meeting resumed at 6.02pm.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 CITY TO RIVER DRAFT MASTERPLAN

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

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

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

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

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

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

Purpose

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendation

That Council:

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

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

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

That Council:

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

- 11.1 **Showgrounds Crown Land Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show the development of a regional outdoor sporting precinct subject to a feasibility study which considers the Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site) noting that the study will:
- Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional outdoor multi-purpose sports facility
 - Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs
 - Involve stakeholder engagement including with the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria in determining cost associated with relocation.

That Council:

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

- 12.1 **Showgrounds Crown Land Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to show the development of a regional indoor sporting facility subject to a feasibility study which considers the Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue Site) noting that the study will:
- Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional indoor multi-purpose sports facility
 - Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

That standing orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 6.16pm.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

That standing orders resume.

CARRIED

The Council meeting resumed at 6.18pm.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

To extend the speaking time for Cr David Grimble by three minutes.

CARRIED

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

That Council:

1. Acknowledge and thank all groups and individuals who made a formal submission to the Draft City to River Masterplan and supporting documents.
2. Note key concerns and support highlighted through the Draft City to River Masterplan public engagement process (**Appendix "9.1A"**).
3. Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to divide into sub-precincts to facilitate implementation through targeted community and stakeholder engagement.
4. Note that a large proportion of the feedback is relevant to the detailed concept and design stage and will be considered as part of the engagement for each project at a sub-precinct level.
5. Endorse the Horsham Sporting Facilities Demand Assessment (May 2019) subject to the following amendment:
 - Recognition of Horsham Croquet as a Regional Facility and Lawn Tennis as a local facility in the Botanic Gardens sub-precinct.
6. Endorse the Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activity District Background Report, May 2019 (**Appendix "9.1B"**) subject to the following amendment:
 - Recognition of the regional role of Horsham Greyhound Racing Club.
7. Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show that individual projects on the Masterplan are subject to Council endorsement and may change based on detailed concept and schematic design and stakeholder and wider community engagement.
8. Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show that individual projects in the Masterplan are subject to prioritisation and funding as part of Council budget planning process and availability of funds from other sources, be it government or private.
9. Endorse the following amendments and actions to the Draft City to River Masterplan:
 - 9.1 **Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct** - Amend the Draft Masterplan to show the Horsham Croquet Club in the Botanic Gardens with enhanced integration and connectivity (including removal of permanent fencing), as a regional facility, noting that a number of the lawn tennis courts are used to support regional tournaments.
 - 9.2 **Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to show lawn tennis courts with enhanced integration and connectivity (including removal of permanent fencing), and work with the Lawn Tennis Club, Tennis Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to review future needs and demand for lawn tennis in the broader context of other tennis facilities and proposed regional tennis facility in Horsham, noting that the current footprint is to remain pending the aforementioned review.
 - 9.3 **Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to remove the proposed lake.

- 9.4 **Riverfront Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft Masterplan to acknowledge the role of miniature railway in activation of the riverfront sub-precinct and work with the Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society to explore design options and a viable operating model as part of the design process.
- 9.5 **Riverfront Sub-Precinct** – Commence implementation of concept and schematic design for the riverfront improvements, including the splash park and site selection for the café/restaurant.
- 9.6 **Riverfront Sub-Precinct** – Undertake a market sounding and expression of interest process for the development/operation of the café/restaurant.
- 9.7 **City Oval and Sawyer Park Sub-Precinct** – Commence concept and schematic design process for City Oval and Sawyer Park area which considers options for the configuration of City Oval and Sawyer Park layout.
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- 9.9 **Key Connection Sub-Precinct** – Commence schematic designs for the key connection along Firebrace Street.
- 9.10 **CAD Renewal Sub-Precinct** – Encourage and support the private sector in urban renewal including preparation of a development plan for the concrete batching plant site.
- 9.11 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Commence schematic and detailed designs.
- 9.12 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Note that the planning for the GovHub will be subject to further engagement with State Government Agencies.
- 9.13 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Note that there are no plans to change the existing angle parking arrangements in the CAD and any reconfiguration will be subject to further consultation with business and other stakeholders as part of the schematic and detailed design stage.
- 9.14 **CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct** – Amend the Draft City to River Masterplan to show a series of meeting places in the CAD.
10. Seek grant funding for projects in the Draft City to River Masterplan as the funding opportunities arise.

CARRIED

Cr Mark Radford called for a division of Council***In favour of the motion:***

Cr Les Power
Cr Pam Clarke
Cr Alethea Gulvin
Cr Josh Koenig
Cr Mark Radford

Against the motion:

Cr David Grimble
Cr John Robinson

Cr Alethea Gulvin left the meeting at 6.53pm.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 6.55pm.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the Council meeting resume.

CARRIED

The Council meeting resumed at 7.05pm.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

11. That Council revoke McBryde Street as its preferred location and conduct a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site) noting that the study will:

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

CARRIED

Cr Pam Clarke left the meeting at 7.12pm.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 7.12pm.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That the Council meeting resume.

CARRIED

The Council meeting resumed at 7.19pm.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

12. That Council revoke McBryde Street as its preferred location and conduct a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site) noting that the study will:
- Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional indoor multi-purpose sports facility
 - Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs.

CARRIED

Cr Pam Clarke and Cr Alethea Gulvin returned to the meeting at 7.25pm.

REPORT

Background

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

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

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

Discussion

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

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

Objectives of the Project

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

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

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

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

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

Project Wide Feedback Themes

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

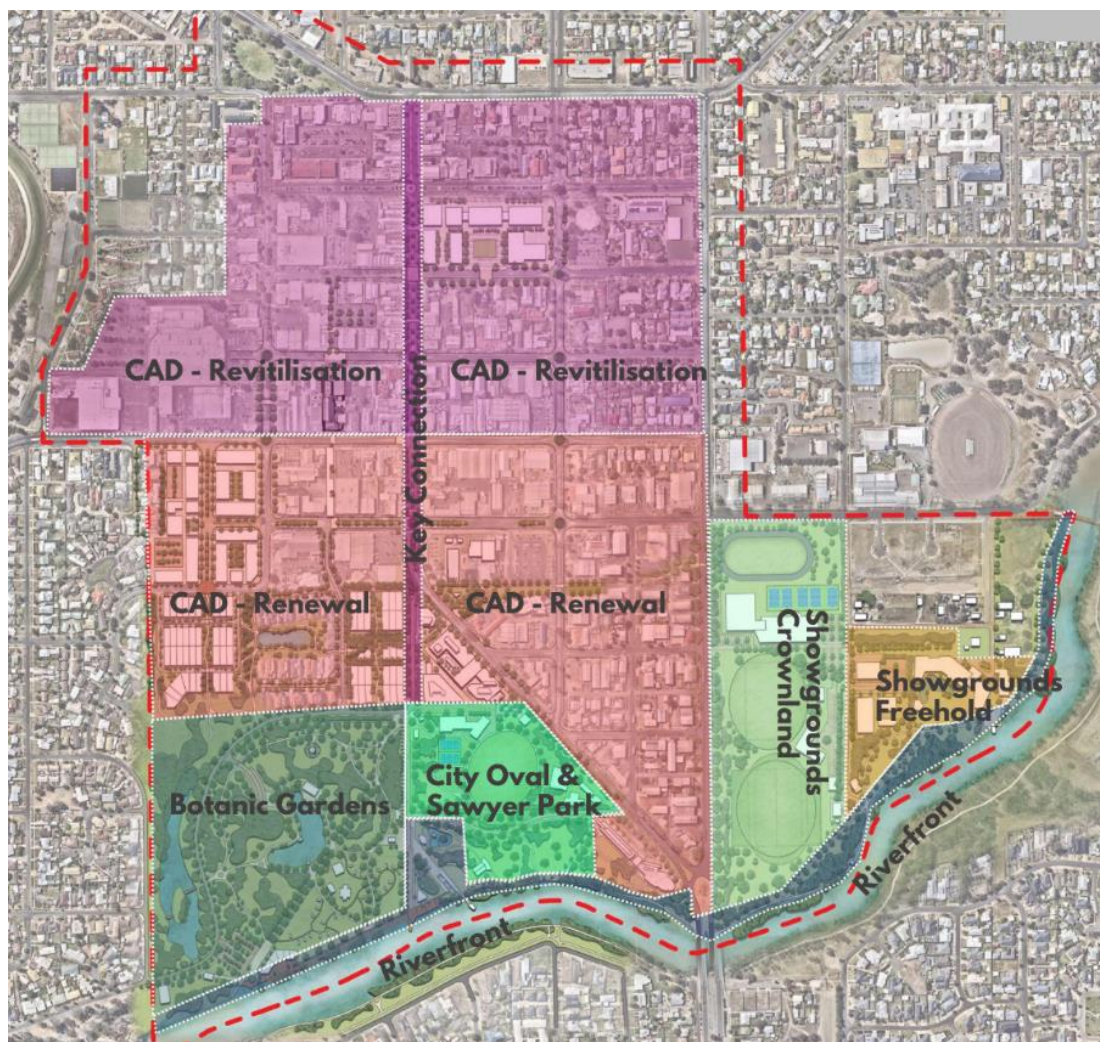


Figure 1: City to River Sub-precinct

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

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

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

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

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

Botanic Gardens Sub-Precinct

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

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

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

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

Riverfront Sub-Precinct

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

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

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

City Oval and Sawyer Park Sub-Precinct

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

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

Showgrounds Freehold Sub-Precinct

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

Key Connection Sub-Precinct

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

CAD Urban Renewal Sub-Precinct

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

CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct

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

CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct

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

CAD Revitalisation Sub-Precinct

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

Showgrounds Crown Land Sub-Precinct

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other agencies also commented.

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

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

Next Steps

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

Financial Implications

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

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

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

Four-Year Outcomes:

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

We'll track progress in terms of:

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

Four-Year Priorities:

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

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

Four-Year Outcomes:

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

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

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

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

Four-Year Priorities:

- 3.1.09 Identify and develop new off street parking areas on CBD fringe
- 3.1.10 Develop a master plan of streetscape themes and service levels for existing streets and new developments
- 3.2.02 Confirm and undertake design and planning for the relocation of the municipal depot including potential co-location of Tech Services planning and delivery staff
- 3.4.05 Develop improved entrances to all towns (street signage and landscapes)

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

- Continue the Horsham central business district upgrade of streetscaping

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

Four-Year Outcomes:

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

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

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

Consultation/Communication

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

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

Engagement Phases

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

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

Phase 2: Test

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

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

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

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

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

Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.2 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

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

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

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Cr Alethea Gulvin declared a conflict of interest. The reason being that Cr Gulvin lives in Jenkinson Avenue, Horsham.

Cr Alethea Gulvin left the Council meeting at 7.28pm.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council defer agenda item 9.2 Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy to a further meeting, and after Council has considered a report in relation to the Jenkinson Avenue and McBryde Street site.

CARRIED

Cr Alethea Gulvin returned to the Council meeting at 7.41pm.

REPORT

Background

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

The following methodology was used:

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

Discussion

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

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

Financial Implications

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

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

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

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

Consultation/Communication

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

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

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

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.3 DOGS IN HORSHAM BOTANIC GARDENS

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

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

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

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

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

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

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

Discussion

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

Issues raised in the comments on this site included:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Consultation / Engagement

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

Financial Implications

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

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

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

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

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019 – 2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Risk Implications

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

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.4 HORSHAM WORKS DEPOT GROUNDWATER / SOIL CONTAMINATION RESOLUTION

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

That Council:

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

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke**

That Council:

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

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussion

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

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

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

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

Financial Implications

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

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

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

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

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

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Guiding Principle:

Respect and protect our natural environment

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

Consultation/Communication

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

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

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

Risk Implications

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

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

Environmental Implications

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

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

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

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

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

Discussion

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

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

Tender returns were received from the following three companies:

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

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

Financial Implications

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

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 3 – Asset Management

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

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

Consultation/Communication

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

Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

Nil

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

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

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

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

CARRIED

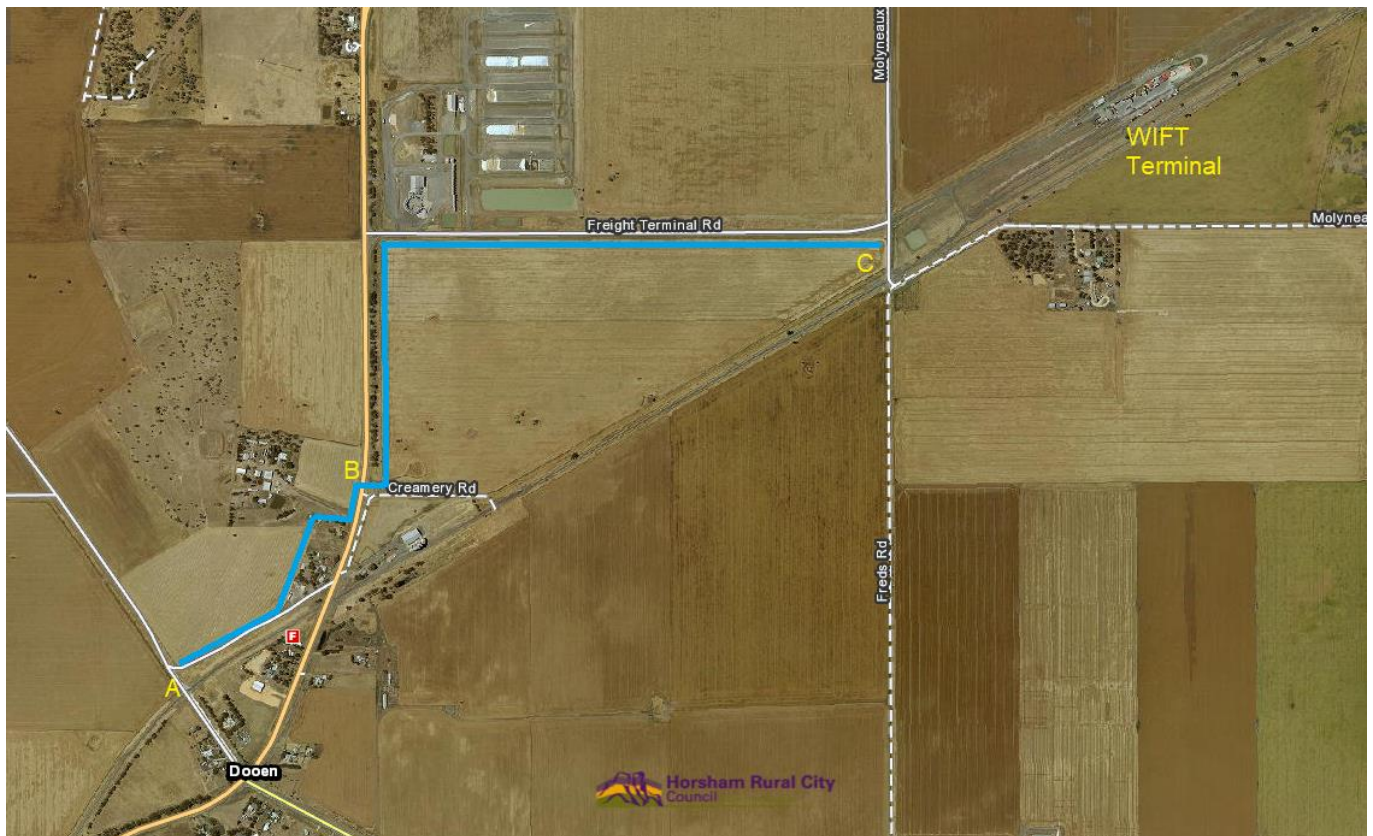
REPORT

Background

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

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

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



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

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

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

Discussion

Key aspects of the tender evaluation were:

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

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

Financial Implications

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

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

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

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

Consultation/Communication

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

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

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

Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.7 ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF ANIMAL RENEWAL NOTICES

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

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

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

Discussion

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

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

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

Financial Implications

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

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

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

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

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.8 DRAFT CORELLA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cr David Grimble left the meeting at 7.58pm.

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

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

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

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

CARRIED

Cr David Grimble returned to the meeting at 8.00pm.

REPORT

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussion

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

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

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

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

Financial Implications

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

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

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

Consultation/Communication

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

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

Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

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

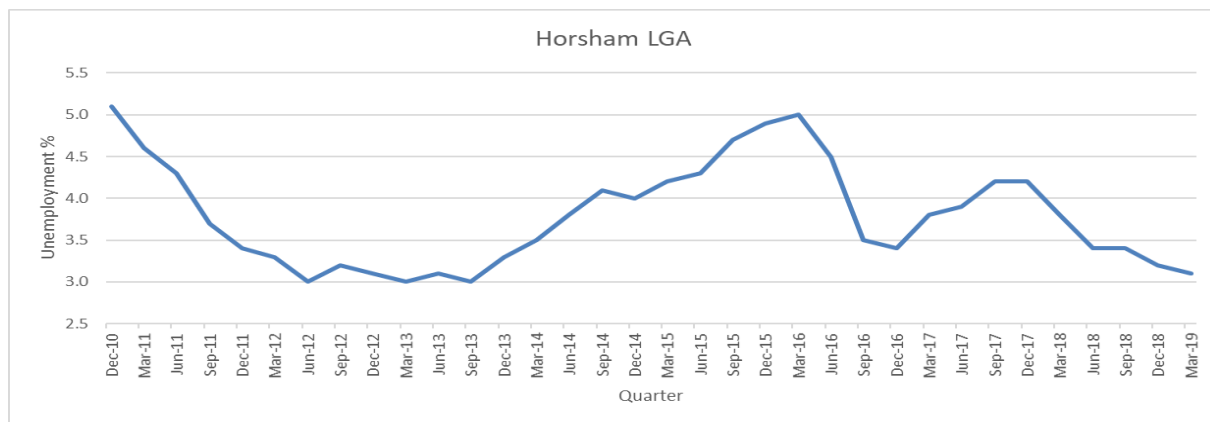
CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

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

Discussion

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

Economic Benchmarks and Data**Unemployment**

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

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

Planning Applications Determined

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

Building Permits Issued

	Number	Total cost of development	YTD	YTD cost of development
Council	14	\$417,417	38	\$2,723,601
Private surveyors	16	\$4,643,852	68	\$21,363,642
Total	30	\$5,061,269	106	\$24,087,243

Summary of building permits issued YTD

	Number	Total Value	Commercial		Domestic	
			No	Value	No	Value
Council	38	\$2,723,601	8	\$1,238,833	30	\$1,484,768
Private Surveyor	68	\$21,363,642	19	\$9,167,812	49	\$12,195,830
Total	106	\$24,087,243	27	\$10,406,645	79	\$13,680,598

Business Engagement**Direct business engagement**

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

Networking and business event breakdown

	Number	YTD
Networking & business events	1	15

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

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

Tourism and Events

	Number	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event applications	11	43
Visitor information Centre visits	1,998	5,005
Visithorsham.com web visits	3,822	13,285

Strategic Planning

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

Infrastructure Development

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

Projects and Programs

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

Business Development, Tourism and Events

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

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power**

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

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

Discussion

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

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

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

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

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

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

B. Community Engagement

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

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

C. Projects and Events

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

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

D. Staff Matters

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

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

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

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

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

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

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor

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

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

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

CARRIED

The time being 8.08pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 8.14pm, the Council meeting resumed.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That the Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

12.1 PETITION NOT TO CLOSE McBRYDE STREET, HORSHAM

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

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

That Council:

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That the petition to keep McBryde Street in Horsham open, be dealt with at tonight’s Council meeting.

CARRIED

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

CARRIED

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

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

CARRIED

The time being 8.18pm, the Council meeting closed to the public.

The time being 8.34pm, the Council meeting opened to the public.

15.4 HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council:

1. Appoint Michael White as a new community representative on the Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee.
2. Acknowledge the commitment of Faye Smith to the Horsham Aquatic Centre over a long period of time.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.



The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford
Chairperson