

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on

1 March 2021

At 5.30pm

In the

Council Chamber, Civic Centre

18 Roberts Avenue, HORSHAM

DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC ATTENDANCE IS NOT PERMITTED

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ACCESSIBLE ONLINE TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON THE

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL WEBSITE www.hrcc.vic.gov.au



Horsham Rural City
Council urban rural balance

**COUNCILLORS are respectfully requested to attend the Council Meeting
of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held on 1 March 2021
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm**

The meeting will be closed to the public due to COVID-19 but will be broadcast live on the Council website at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

Order of Business

PRESENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

1. PRAYER

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

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

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Welcome to Councillors, staff, members of the public and the media. The Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as possible.

Please note that this meeting is being streamed live on the internet.

4. APOLOGIES

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest

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

Members of Staff

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

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

CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

7. OFFICERS REPORTS

7.1 COMMUNITY VISION & COUNCIL PLANS – PROJECT UPDATE

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F06/A13/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the update on the project plan for the development of the 20 year Community Vision, 4 year Council Plan, Asset Plans and Long-term Financial Plan during 2021 and to endorse the recruitment process for the panel and the council commitment to the panel.

Summary

- The new *Local Government Act 2020* (The Act) Section 88 requires Council to maintain a Community Vision for at least the next 10 financial years
- Section 90 to 92 of the Act requires Council to adopt a Council Plan for at least the next 4 financial years and to adopt an Asset Plan and Financial Plan for the next 10 years
- All of these documents must be developed utilising deliberative engagement practices
- In order to deliver on the Vision and the 3 plans this will now be managed through a single process involving 3 separate full day sessions by a Community Panel.
- Council needs to sign-off on its commitment to the panel and the recruitment process

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve the commitment to the Community Panel for the Community Vision as follows:
"The Panel will develop a Community Vision which will be published unedited on the Council website. The Community Vision will be considered at a Council meeting. Council may endorse, build on or reject the Vision. If Council adds to or rejects the Vision, the Panel and the community will be provided an explanation as to why."
2. Approve the commitment to the Community Panel for the Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan as follows:
"The Panel will provide recommendations to guide the development of the Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan. These recommendations will be presented to Council and considered for final endorsement."
3. Endorse the process for the panel recruitment as detailed in section B of this report.
4. Note the revised program for deliberative engagement so that it also covers the requirements for the Asset Plan and Financial Plan as well as the Community Vision & Council Plan. As detailed in Section C of this report.

REPORT

Background

At the Council meeting on the 18 January 2021, a program was depicted that detailed the deliberative engagement processes for the Community Vision & Council Plan only. Following due consideration of the requirements and timings to have a 10 Year Financial Plan in place by 31 October 2021, the project plan has been expanded in order to incorporate the requirements for deliberative engagement on the Asset Plan and the Financial Plan as well.

By doing this it is believed that we will achieve the following improvements in the engagement process:

- The period for broad engagement with the community to capture aspirations, concerns and priorities as input into the deliberative process has been increased. This should help address any potential issues with engagement fatigue and ensure the best chance to capture as much input as possible from all segments of the community.
- It means that the capacity of the community members on the Panel will grow through the process, from broad deliberation on the Vision, to more specific issues for the strategic planning documents.
- It will provide the panel with the opportunity to gain greater understanding and knowledge which will help inform better decision making.
- The recruitment process for a deliberative panel is complex, costly and time consuming so there are significant benefits to doing this process once.
- A core focus of Council beyond 2020 is to improve community consultation and align with the community on the direction and decisions made by Council, the combining of these 4 tasks will ensure that this is achieved for these important guiding documents.

Central to the approach will be building community confidence in the process, strengthening the relationship between Council and the community, and ensuring that community members feel confident their input has been valued and is ultimately reflected in the strategic planning documents.

Transparency in the Councils commitment to the Community Panel and the independent recruitment process is extremely important to ensure there is community confidence in the deliberative engagement process.

Discussion

A. COUNCILS COMMITMENT TO THE PANEL:

1. **Community Vision** - The Panel will develop a Community Vision which will be published unedited on the Council website. The Community Vision will be considered at a Council meeting. Council may endorse, build on or reject the Vision. If Council adds to or rejects the Vision, the Panel and the community will be provided an explanation as to why.
2. **Council Plan, Asset Plan and 10-year Financial Plan** - The Panel will provide recommendations to guide the development of the Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan. These recommendations will be presented to Council and considered by Council for final endorsement.

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) level of engagement on these activities as guided by Councils Community Engagement policy is to Empower the Community Panel and Involve the broader community on the Community Vision. For the other plans it is to Collaborate with the Community Panel and Involve the Broader Community.

B. PANEL RECRUITMENT PROCESS:

The panel recruitment process is described as follows:

- I. Calls for Expression of interest
 - a mail out invitation to all householders in the Municipality
 - options for registration will be on-line, phone, e-mail or mail
 - broader promotion of the opportunity through all possible media sources
 - the names of those applying will only be known by consultants "i.e. Community"
- II. The aim is to have a panel consisting of between 36 & 40 members
- III. The makeup of the Panel has been set to align with the demographics of the community, age, ethnicity, geographic locations. Will be open to all from 15 years of age up and those with interest in the community but don't reside here will also be eligible to apply.
- IV. Remuneration will be paid at \$100 per session attended plus a contribution to travel costs for those from outer rural areas and help towards childcare if required.
- V. Applicants should not apply if they cannot be available for all 3 planned sessions and that they can attend in person.
 - 30 May
 - 6 June
 - 20 June
- VI. Community Panel sessions will be held Face-to-Face at the Horsham Town Hall however this is subject to change depending upon applicable Covid19 Restrictions that may be in place.
- VII. To ensure independence of the process, Community Panel members will be selected by the consultants "i.e. Community" no councillors or officers will be involved in the process.

C. PROGRAM TIMELINES:

The detailed project plan and engagement plan has been revised so as to incorporate the Asset Plan and Financial Plan requirements.

Phase 1 – Inception & Planning (Complete)

Phase 2 – Preparation for Implementation (Complete)

Phase 3 – Broad Engagement and recruitment (February to 13 May 2021)

A range of opportunities will be provided to make it possible for any resident in the municipality to make a contribution, such as:

- Community conversations
- Community group conversations using existing groups and networks
- Online engagement using a variety of accessible tools
- Targeted engagement and listening posts

Phase 4 – Deliberative Engagement (1 April to 4 July 2021)

- Deliberative Community Panel – 3 Face-to-Face sessions
- On-line supplementary sessions on key dilemmas
- Councillor planning session

Phase 5 – Vision & Council Plan and input to Asset Plan and Financial Plan (21 June to 31 July 2021)

- Finalise Vision
- Finalise Council Plan
- Provide Input to Asset Plan & Financial Plan

Phase 6 – Wrap up and close the loop (2 Aug to 23 Aug 2021)

- Evaluation of the deliberative engagement
- Adopt Vision and Council Plan – Council Meeting 23 August 2021

Phase 7 - Asset Plan & Financial Plan (1 August to 23 October 2021)

- Finalise Asset Plan
- Finalise Financial Plan
- Adopt at Council Meeting 23 October 2021

Options to Consider

Throughout the planned Community Engagement activities there will be many opportunities to take on diverse and new approaches to how we might encourage the community to engage in the process.

Sustainability Implications

The Community Vision & Council plan will set the key direction for our community going forward and hence is likely to touch on issues of importance involving the local economy, social issues, environmental issues and climate change.

Community Engagement

Each of the 4 engagement pieces will utilise deliberative engagement through an independently selected Community Panel.

The level of engagement and the reasons for this are as follows:

Planning Item	IAP2 Level of Engagement	Public Participation Goal	Promise to the Public
Community Vision	Empowerment (Community Panel) Involve (Broader Community)	Council will place the final decision making in the hands of the community panel after input and consideration from the broader community	The Community Vision will be considered at a Council meeting. Council may endorse, build on or reject the Vision. If Council adds to or rejects the Vision, the Panel and the community will be provided an explanation as to why.
Council Plan, Asset Plan & Long-term Financial Plan	Collaborate (Community Panel) Involve (Broader Community)	Council will partner with the community panel in the development of the Plan and involve the broader community to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.	Council will work to incorporate the advice and recommendations of the Community panel in to the final Council Plan, Asset Plan & Long term Financial Plan. These recommendations will be presented to Council and considered for final endorsement.

Throughout the process regular updates will be provided to Council and the Community around information gathered to date. Opportunities for the community to build on each-others ideas will be made available.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The i.e. Community proposal will seek to bring some innovative approaches to engagement to get the whole municipality talking about the future of Horsham through community conversations, online engagement, campaigns and dynamic deliberative gatherings. It will seek to provide a comprehensive opportunity for the community to think, discuss and debate their future.

Collaboration

The development of the Community Vision and Council Plan will be a collaborative arrangement between all sectors of the Community, Councillors and council officers.

Financial Implications

Council has allocated \$50,000 to assist in the facilitation and development of the Community Vision and Council Plan, carried forward from the 2019-2020 Budget for a Community Plan. Additional funds of approximately \$50k will be required in the 2021-2022 Budget to complete the additional work re the Asset Plan and Financial Plan and to meet the costs of the deliberative panel.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The State Government's review of the Local Government Act has clearly set the new 2020 Act to be based around some general clear principles:

- Transparency
- Accountability Openness
- Commitment
- Fairness
- Clarity

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The Community Vision is the most important strategic document that informs the direction of the council Plan, whilst the Council Plan is the centre piece of the integrated planning framework for all that Council does. The Asset Plan is in turn informed by the Community Vision and Council Plan and in turn informs the Financial Plan.

Risk Implications

Not bringing the Community and Council together effectively can give rise to community conflict and lack of confidence in the future of the community thereby leading to negative outcomes for all.

Conclusion

This is the start of an exciting process that will seek to engage and capture the core 20 year Vision for the Community, and the focus for the Council Plan for the next 4 years, asset Plan and Financial Plan for the next 10 years, using contemporary and constructive deliberative engagement practices.

7.2 COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS PROGRAM – INVITATION ROUND

Author's Name:	Susan SurrIDGE	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Engagement	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F24/A11/000007

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Invitation to re-apply (**Appendix "7.2A"**)

Horsham Nature and Water Play Park Schematic Design (**Appendix "7.2B"**)

Quantity Surveyor Report (**Appendix "7.2C"**)

Purpose

To approve an application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program Invitation Round for the development of the Horsham Nature and Water Play Park.

Summary

- In June 2020, Council endorsed an application for funding of \$2.628million to construct the water play park along the Wimmera River. Council also approved the allocation of \$350,000 from the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding allocation to provide a 'local contribution' to the project. The total Project cost was \$2.978million.
- Unfortunately in August 2020, Council was advised that while the application was considered "meritorious", it had been unsuccessful in securing funding at that time, but may be considered again in the future.
- In December 2020, Council received an invitation to re-submit the application for the water play park (refer **Appendix "7.2A"**). The SRV Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program Invitation Round is an opportunity for selected Councils and projects to try again for funding. An additional \$110million is available in the new round and this will be a competitive process. The new application is due on 2 March 2021.
- This invitation provides a unique opportunity to progress the 'game changing' Horsham Nature and Water Play Park, with no direct contribution from Council.
- Funding Guidelines stipulate that a Council resolution is required to accompany the resubmission.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve the application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program Invitation Round for the development of the Horsham Nature and Water Play Park.
2. Approve a contribution of \$350,000 towards the project from the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Round 2 grant.

REPORT

Background

In late May 2020, SRV announced a new program designed to inject economic stimulus into the Victorian economy as we moved to the recovery phase of COVID-19.

In June 2020, Council endorsed an application for funding of \$2.628million to construct the water play park along the Wimmera River. Council also approved the allocation of \$350,000 from the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding allocation to provide a 'local contribution' to the project. The total Project cost was \$2.978million. Unfortunately in August 2020, Council was advised that while the application was considered "meritorious", it had been unsuccessful in securing funding at that time, but may be considered again in the future.

In December 2020, Council received an invitation to re-submit the application for the water play park (refer **Appendix "7.2A"**). The SRV Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program Invitation Round is an opportunity for selected Councils and projects to try again for funding. An additional \$110million is available in the new round and this will also be a competitive process.

Discussion

This project will provide a new regional level water play facility – the first water play park in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region (catchment population 50,000+). The nature themed play facility will be constructed along the Wimmera River in central Horsham and will provide an exciting outdoor recreation facility, free and accessible for all ages and capabilities.

Following the unsuccessful application in August and the invitation to reapply in March 2021, Council staff sought feedback from SRV Grampians Team on the unsuccessful application to help develop a better and hopefully successful second application. This included project development workshops around the schematic design, refinement of the design and maximising the outcomes for the community, whilst aligning with the community consultation and engagement which strongly support the project. The Schematic Design is included as **Appendix "7.2B"**. As a result of this additional work, the total cost of the project has reduced to \$2.617million, largely due to a change in the water filtration design. The final plans are now 'tender ready' to deliver an exciting project that will provide maximum all year round participation and economic benefits; and represent best value for money.

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

The Nature and Water Play Park has important environmental design components that are being addressed as part of the detailed construction drawings i.e. drainage, landscaping.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved for the entire Precinct 1 Riverfront area. DELWP have provided landowner consent for the project.

Community Engagement

The nature and water play park project has been developed based on over 550 comments from the City to River engagement process, which strongly supported a water play park and natural themed development of the riverfront.

The Riverfront Activation Community Reference Group (CRG) endorsed both the design of the Nature and Water Play Park and the first application for funding.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Nature and Water Play park design includes a range of innovative play activities that will be new to Horsham and the wider region.

Collaboration

The detailed schematic design of this project has been discussed in detail with the SRV Grampians Team

Financial Implications

This Council Report and proposed project required no direct funding from Council. If the Funding application to SRV is successful, this project will be funded through a combination of State and Federal grant programs as follows:

Funding Summary

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Funds \$</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
SRV Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program Invitation Round	2,267,000	Application	Application to be submitted 1/3/2021
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Round 2	350,000	Confirmed	
Total Project Funds	2,617,000		

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

There are no specific references to Regional, State and National Plans and Policies in the proposed application

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

This project is directly linked to the endorsed City to River Master Plan and the Riverfront Precinct design developed and endorsed by the Community Reference Group.

Risk Implications

This is a funding opportunity only, in an invited competitive State funding round. The play park project will only proceed at this time if the application is successful.

Conclusion

Council approval of the second application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program for the development of the Horsham Nature and Water Play Park and allocation of \$350,000 as its contribution from the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Round 2 grant allocation is now sought.

7.3 BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Author's Name:	Susan SurrIDGE	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F24/A11/000007

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Apex Island Concept Design for Boardwalk (**Appendix "7.3A"**)

Apex Island Budget (**Appendix "7.3B"**)

Purpose

To approve an application to the Building Safer Communities Funding program for the Apex Adventure Island Safety Project.

Summary

The Apex Adventure Island Safety Project is a well-developed, shovel ready project that will improve the safety of all users of the eastern end of the island (particularly the pump track area). The new board walk will address safety through:

- Providing an alternative eastern exit from the island
- Encouraging more pedestrian and cycling traffic through the area
- Landscaping to improve visibility and line of sight to the new board walk.

Council can re-submit an unsuccessful application from 2020 to a new funding program through the Department of Justice.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve an application to the Building Safer Communities Funding program for the Apex Adventure Island Safety Project; and
2. Consider an allocation of \$20,000 in the 2021-2022 Council budget to provide a funding contribution to this project.

REPORT

Background

The Victorian Department of Justice has released a new funding program – the Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP) to replace the old Public Safety Infrastructure Fund (PSIF). It should be noted that Council in the past has regularly been successful with applications for a range of projects under the PSIF including: CCTV, lighting, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) initiatives.

The new BSCP program offers funding through two competitive streams:

Stream 1 – Creating Safer Places – grants of between \$25,000 and \$300,000 for councils to undertake urban design projects that apply an inclusive environmental design approach to deter crime, increase safety and activate public places.

Stream 2 – Crime Prevention Innovation Fund – grants of between \$25,000 and \$300,000 for councils and not for profit organisations for partnership projects that deliver and evaluate innovative community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

Applications close 4pm on Monday 15 March 2021.

No matching contributions are required from Council, but are strongly recommended in the guidelines to show that the project is a priority for Council and demonstrates better value for money for State Government.

Only one application, per organisation, per stream can be submitted

Grant objectives:

Creating Safer Places funding aims to:

- help prevent crime and improve safety and community perceptions of safety;
- encourage the legitimate use of public places by increasing amenity and encouraging a positive sense of ownership of the space;
- assist a diverse range of community members to feel safer and become more engaged in their community; and
- encourage the development of local partnerships to understand and address local crime prevention issues.

Discussion

This report recommends that the following project be submitted under the BSCP:

Apex Adventure Island Safety Project

The project involves the installation of a boardwalk at the eastern end of Apex Adventure Island providing:

- An alternative exit from the precinct for those who do not feel safe moving to the formal exit;
- An alternative entrance to the Pump Track encouraging more pedestrian/cycling traffic;
- Easier access to public toilets.

Refer Concept Design (**Appendix “7.3A”**)

The eastern end of the island was designed to create opportunities for blended activity – energetic movement of people on scooters and bikes using the Pump Track and quieter movement of people walking the narrow tracks through the natural gardens. The addition of a connecting boardwalk will provide increased safety and opportunity for pedestrians to use the island. The boardwalk will create a mini circuit of activity and increased patronage by people of different ages and interests and will extend the perceived use and value of the area.

This project was submitted last year to the PSIF program and Council was advised in November 2020 that we were unsuccessful. Feedback received at the time was as follows:

The Department received \$44M worth of applications for a \$5M funding round.

Ours was a very high quality application, but we need to ensure that we address all five of the criteria – and we were not able to address “Innovation” in our application. In such a tight field, it is important to line up everything we can. The Department representative encouraged us to re-submit an application in any further round.

As a result, it is recommended that we re-submit the application under Stream 1 of the new funding program that has no innovation requirements.

Project Budget (Appendix “7.3B”)

Total Cash budget \$304,000

Grant request \$284,000

HRCC Cash contribution \$20,000

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Engagement with key stakeholders has taken place. WCMA, together with the Wimmera River Improvement Committee and the Horsham Apex Club have been consulted regarding options for different structures and design of connections to the boardwalk.

The connecting boardwalk was included in the Riverfront Precinct Concept Plan endorsed by the Community Reference Group and Council, noting that it was outside the initial scope of Stage 1.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) are a project partner in this application and will provide significant in-kind works in terms of landscaping.

Apex Island has an existing Cultural Heritage Management Plan that was developed for a range of on-going works on the island including the Pump Track. This plan will be used for the construction of the eastern Boardwalk and ongoing consultation will be undertaken with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) who represent the Traditional Owners for the Wimmera River. BGLC will also oversee the works program on-site for the pedestrian boardwalk.

Financial Implications

The lodgement of an application will require a budget commitment of \$20,000 from Council as part of the 2021/2022 budget process.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2020-2024

Guiding Principle

- Protect and promote the municipality as a safe place to live

1.2 Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation

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

Risk Implications

Nil

Conclusion

This report proposes to re-submit a shovel-ready project for the construction of a boardwalk to link the eastern end of Apex Adventure Island with the Rowing Club and riverfront walking track. The application will seek funding of \$284,000, supported by a \$20,000 cash contribution from Council.

7.4 HAMILTON STREET HORSHAM – PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Author's Name:	John Martin	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Director Infrastructure	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F02/A05/000002

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendices

Background Report (**Appendix “7.4A”**)

Engagement Information Sheet (**Appendix “7.4B”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the background and the outcomes of recent community engagement on the proposed Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge project.

Summary

- Several key Council strategies support the development of a pedestrian bridge in the vicinity of Hamilton Street Horsham
- Planning and detailed design for the bridge are well advanced, with the aim that tender-ready documentation would be ready in March 2021
- A range of community engagement activities have occurred, with the broader community engagement considered to be completed with a positive outcome
- Further engagement with local stakeholders is required on some of the details of secondary works relating to the bridge
- A proposal for funding the project is presented in a separate report to this Council meeting (**Agenda Item No. 7.6.**)

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the continuation of planning for a pedestrian bridge at Hamilton Street, Horsham.
2. Receive a separate report relating to the proposed funding for the project (**Agenda Item No. 7.6**)

REPORT

Background

One of the earliest references to a pedestrian bridge in the vicinity of Hamilton Street is contained in the Wimmera Regional Transport Group's 2010 Bridges to Recovery Strategy document.

More recently, references either specifically to a bridge at this location, or to the need to provide links across the Wimmera River more generally, are included in the following Council documents:

- Framework for Managing Growth 2013
- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021
- Open Space Strategy 2019
- Horsham Urban Transport Plan 2020
- Council Plan 2020-2024

A common thread amongst these strategies / plans is (as expressed in the Open Space Strategy):

"There are no crossings towards the north eastern end of the river, and primary feedback from residents and stakeholders relates to the lack of connectivity across the river to the three local schools. The lack of dedicated pedestrian and cycle crossings is also a major safety concern due to cyclists and pedestrians having to cross the highway and major roads."

The project is also identified as part of the broader City to River project, with consultation on that project having captured significant feedback. This is discussed in the community engagement section, below.

Detailed background to the project is contained in the attached report (**Appendix "7.4A"**). Some of the key aspects of that report include:

- The bridge would facilitate access to the CBD, three schools and the Hospital (Horsham's largest employer).
- About 800 house lots, and a population of up to 2000 people would benefit from these enhanced links.
- The bridge would complement existing recreational and exercise benefits of the Wimmera River frontage, creating a loop along the river frontage in the north-eastern part of Horsham.
- Issues relating to flooding, cultural heritage and the environment are addressed.
- An assessment has been conducted on eight potential locations for a bridge between the Western Highway bridge and Baillie St, with the conclusion being that the Hamilton Street alignment is the best alignment.
- Different bridge types have been considered.
- The detailed design is now well advanced, with a target of having tender-ready documents prepared by the end of March 2021.

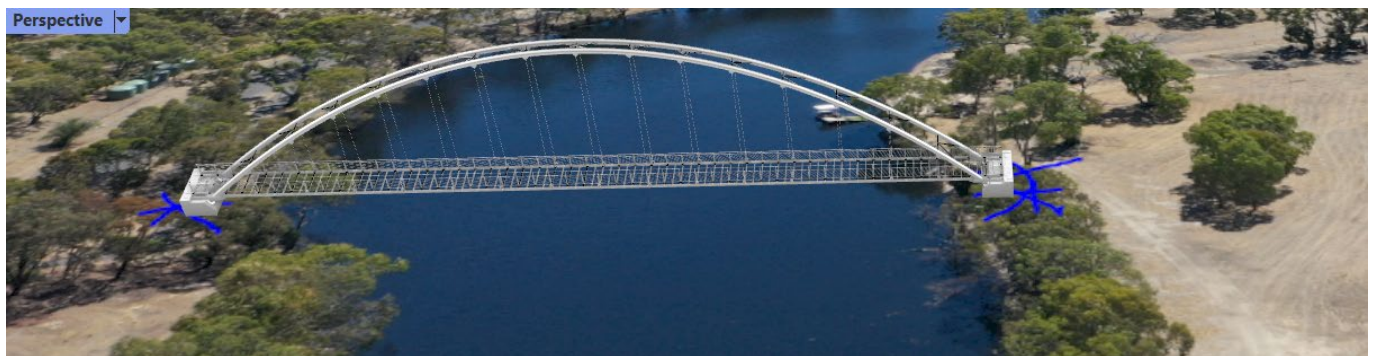
The Anzac Centenary Bridge, crossing the Wimmera River on the west side of Horsham, has been heavily utilised and highly appreciated by the community since completion of its construction. The expansion of residential areas on the eastern side of the Western Highway and recreational/fitness uses justify the construction of a second pedestrian bridge in the vicinity of Hamilton Street.

Discussion

Planning for this project has progressed significantly this financial year, with the following aspects having been advanced:

- Concept design – completed
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan – completed
- Site environmental assessment – completed
- Geotechnical investigation – completed
- Hydraulic modelling, to assess flood impacts – completed
- Independent design review, preparation of tender drawings / documents, cost review – quotations currently being sought
- Community engagement – significantly advanced.

The concept design for this bridge is a steel arch bridge, as shown in the image below, with the background being the actual site proposed. Note that the approach ramps and related works are not shown in this concept diagram.



The engineering aspects of the project are advancing well, with the next phase of this work being the conduct of computer modelling of the design to verify its structural strength and stability. This work will then lead to a cost review and preparation of the detailed documents (drawings and specifications) that will enable tendering to be undertaken.

Specific community engagement for this project commenced in January 2021. This has highlighted three key outcomes.

Firstly, there is significant support for a pedestrian bridge at Hamilton Street, with the benefits identified matching those identified in Council's planning to date.

Secondly, a number of respondents have called for the construction of a vehicle bridge, either in preference to or in conjunction with a pedestrian bridge. This second vehicle bridge is also a priority for Council, through the planning required for an alternative truck route. Council has committed \$100,000 in this year's budget for this planning, and is liaising with the Department of Transport (DoT) so that DoT would lead and co-fund this work, as it is anticipated that a second road bridge for Horsham would be an arterial road, designed for trucks as well as cars. It is not considered appropriate that a vehicle bridge would be located at the Hamilton Street alignment, this would be particularly not suitable for trucks.

Planning for the pedestrian bridge and a road bridge can proceed simultaneously.

Thirdly, the landholders in the immediate vicinity of the bridge have a range of issues that they seek to be addressed, including the potential for bridge users to view directly into their back yards, the proximity of paths to their fences and lighting. These issues will be addressed through the final design process, and further specific consultation with these landholders.

It is expected that, with Council approval to proceed and funding, that the works would be completed in the 2021-22 financial year.

Options to Consider

A range of options have been considered in the project to date, including in relation to:

- Locations for the bridge
- Construction style of the bridge, e.g. suspension bridge, swing bridge.

These options are discussed further in the background report.

Consideration has been given to whether this bridge could be used for vehicle traffic, for example, to facilitate emergency vehicle access during flooding. In this regard:

- The approaches to this bridge are also subject to flooding, and would be limited to a similar degree as existing vehicle access to the Waterlink Estate area is during flooding
- An alternative option for emergency vehicle access is currently being pursued.

Sustainability Implications

This project could lead to some reductions in vehicle use through greater use of bicycle and pedestrian access to facilities such as schools, the hospital and the CBD.

Community Engagement

A range of consultation has occurred relating to this project, including in most of the strategies referred to earlier in this report.

Notably, engagement on the City to River project elicited 30 comments relating to the bridge. Of these 27 supported a pedestrian bridge. Of the other 3 comments:

- One suggested a location closer to Burnt Creek
- One other was possibly neutral “how many people use the Anzac bridge”
- The only actual negative comment was “the new footbridge is a waste of money”.

The community engagement plan prepared for this project has been implemented, with broad community engagement occurring during January. This was based around information contained in a project fact sheet (**Appendix “7.4B”**) which was delivered to all adjoining and directly impacted stakeholders, a media release and social media inviting community feedback. The key outcomes of this engagement included were as reported in the discussion section above.

Further engagement will occur during the construction phase of the project, primarily with key stakeholders.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The preferred construction type of this bridge, is a concrete-filled steel tube arch bridge. While not new globally, this would represent a new type of approach for bridges in this region.

Collaboration

Internally, this project is being coordinated through the City to River project, to ensure efficient use of resources in its planning. Key stakeholders in the project include the Wimmera CMA, DELWP and BGLC, all of whom have been engaged in various planning aspects to date, and the adjoining landholders.

Financial Implications

Council has allocated \$100,000 for planning in the current year's budget. This has funded:

- Geotechnical investigations
- Detailed design
- Design review and preparation of documentation ready for tender
- Community engagement.

The project budget at concept design phase is \$2.1 million. The Final Project Cost will be refined following receipt of the QS report in March 2021

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Several strategies and plans as identified in the report. In addition, the Council Plan 2020-24 includes the following commitment:

3.1.01 Develop improved pedestrian access (bridges) across the Wimmera River in Horsham, in partnership with land developers

Risk Implications

There are a range of community, engineering and finance risks associated with this project. Detailed planning processes and a risk management plan are in place to address these risks.

Key risks and their treatment include:

- Suitable foundations for the bridge – a geotechnical assessment has been conducted to inform the design for this
- Structural suitability of the design – design review being conducted to verify structural design
- Community acceptance – Community engagement prepared and engagement undertaken.

Council will have several opportunities to guide the development of this project, including a final decision to award a construction contract. This gives Council the chance to review whether the project is ready to proceed at key milestones.

Conclusion

A second pedestrian bridge in Horsham has been identified as an important project for Horsham in several key strategies. The planning for this is progressing well, with the target of tender-ready documents being prepared by the end of March 2021.

7.5 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS - ROUND ONE

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Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F01/A05/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

LRCI Round 1 Approved Nominations (**Appendix "7.5A"**)

Funding guidelines (**Appendix "7.5B"**)

The Station External Activation Concept Plans (**Appendix "7.5C"**)

Purpose

To endorse an additional list of priority projects for utilisation of remaining funds allocated to Council by the Australian Government under its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Round 1 program.

Summary

- Council was advised of an allocation of \$1,428,396 under the LRCI program Stage-1 in late May 2020
- Nomination forms for projects worth \$778,000 were submitted and subsequently approved and these projects are underway. (**Appendix "7.5A"**)
- The Australian Government requires submission of a works program before these funds can be confirmed, which shows the projects align with the program objectives before the funds will be provided
- All grant funds for Round 1 must be expended by 30 June 2021 and the projects fully complete by 31 December 2021
- The attached funding guidelines (**Appendix "7.5B"**) outline the eligible projects to be considered for the remainder of funds
- The intended projects to be funded under this program are documented in this report.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the projects listed in this report totalling \$530,396 for utilisation of funds allocated to Council by the Australian Government under its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program Round 1, noting that this will leave \$120,000 of funding still to be allocated.

REPORT

Background

Horsham has been allocated \$1,428,396 under the LRCI program Stage 1. This was announced in late May 2020. Of this, projects worth \$778,000 have already been approved and are underway. The balance is \$650,396.

A key constraint of this program is that the grant funds are required to be spent by 30 June 2021 and the projects must be fully completed by 31 December 2021.

Nomination forms for projects must be approved by the Department of Infrastructure before works can commence.

Discussion

The table below lists the projects proposed to be funded for the remainder of the funds under the LRCI program Stage 1. These have been identified from:

- Projects that were omitted from the 2020-2021 Council budget in the latter stages as savings needed to be made due to Covid-19 and other reasons
- Priority projects from the grant project opportunity lists presented to Council at the 1 June 2020 meeting

Notes on some key projects follow the table.

Project	Type	Location	Cost
Horsham Town Hall Visitor Information Centre Digital Resources	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	\$50,000
Horsham Town Hall complete Fly-lines Installation	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	\$100,000
Horsham Silo Art Project	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	\$35,000
Botanical Gardens Pathways	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	\$50,000
Natimuk Road Sugar-gum removal and new trees plantation	Local Roads	Horsham	\$26,000
Park Drive Upgrade (kerb, channel and drainage) Noting - additional funding required to complete already approved project	Local Roads	Horsham	\$80,000
The Station – Outdoor Activation project	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	189,396
		TOTAL	\$530,396
Remaining Round 1 funds to be allocated			\$120,000
			\$650,396

- Horsham Town Hall projects were in previous versions of the draft budget until some cuts were needed. \$30,000 out of a total cost of \$130,000 were allocated in the 2020-2021 budget for installation of fly-lines and the project was staged over 4 years, however considering the busy Town Hall schedule it is more viable to install all fly-lines in one go.

- The Horsham Silo Art Project has received a grant of \$99,000 and Council committed to providing a cash contribution of \$87,600. \$52,600 has been identified as part of the 2020-2021 budget, and a further \$35,000 is required to fulfil the matching funding.
- A separate grant funding for Botanical Gardens Pathways has been approved by DELWP. Additional \$50,000 required to complete the sealing of all main pathways.
- \$49,000 out of \$75,000 have been allocated for Sugar-gum trees removal and plantation of new trees in 2020-2021 budget, the balance amount is sought through LRCI funding.
- A nomination form for Park Drive Upgrade was previously submitted and approved (**Appendix "7.5A"**) however the cost was underestimated as \$100,000. A variation request for additional \$80,000 shall be submitted with this round of nominations.
- The Station Outdoor Activation project has been fully scoped and endorsed by the Youth Council as their priority project. This project has a total budget of \$335,000 but can be staged to have items completed by 30 June using the LCRI funding. Refer (**Appendix "7.5C"**) for details of the works proposed at The Station.
- The remaining funds still to be allocated of \$120,000 will be nominated in a later report to Council for Council approval.

Options to Consider

The time constraints on this funding program to have all grant funds expended by 30 June 2021 provide little room to consider other options.

Sustainability Implications

To be assessed on an individual project basis. Many of the projects will have no environmental impacts.

Community Engagement

The projects listed have been identified from a range of plans and strategies that have had their own consultation processes. Additional consultation will occur on individual projects relative to their potential impact on stakeholders throughout the delivery phase.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Some projects to be funded contain elements of best practice and continuous improvement of facilities i.e. Town Hall Fly Lines and The Station.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The allocation of these funds from the Australian Government is acknowledged and appreciated.

These projects will be funded either solely from the LRCI funds, or used as co-contributions for other projects.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The projects listed have been identified from a range of Council plans and strategies as referenced earlier.

Risk Implications

Effective project management plans will be needed for these projects to ensure timely delivery of the projects.

Conclusion

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding provides a valuable source of funding and a great opportunity to undertake projects that had not been within Council's available budget for 2020-2021.

7.6 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS - ROUND TWO

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Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F01/A05/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Funding guidelines (**Appendix "7.6A"**)

Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge Fact Sheet (**Appendix "7.6B"**)

Purpose

To endorse priority projects for utilisation of Australian Government funding under its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Round 2 program.

Summary

- On 14 October 2020, the Australian Government announced LRCI Round 2 funding allocations to all Councils across Australia
- Council signed a funding agreement with the Department of Infrastructure on 21 December 2020 for the allocation of \$1,475,924. The expenditure of Round 2 Grants funds must be completed by 31 December 2021, with all projects fully complete by 30 June 2022.
- The Australian Government requires submission of a works program before these projects can be approved and the funding confirmed. Projects must align with the program objectives refer (**Appendix "7.6A"**)
- The intended projects to be funded under this program are documented in this report.

Recommendation

That Council:

- Approve the following projects for utilisation of funds allocated by the Australian Government under its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program Round:
 - Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge co-contribution to construction - \$1,125,924
 - Horsham Nature and Water Play Park co-contribution to construction - \$350,000
- Endorse a future application to Regional Development Victoria (RDV) to fund the balance of the Pedestrian Bridge project estimated as \$2,100,000, noting that the funding outcome and amount will not be known until at least June 2021.
- Commit to providing the additional funding required if the RDV funding application is unsuccessful or the amount allocated by RDV is less than the amount requested, noting that the final cost of the pedestrian bridge may change with the Quantity Surveyor Report (due in March 2021) and tender process.

REPORT

Background

Horsham has been allocated \$1,475,924 under the LRCI program Stage-2.

Two key constraints of this program are:

1. that the grant funds are required to be spent by 31 December 2021 and the projects must be fully completed by 30 June 2022;
2. as the focus of this funding program is to create additional economic stimulus, the program guidelines note that Councils are required to maintain their overall capital spending on roads and community infrastructure, funded by their own revenue, at or above their 2020-21 capital spending level
3. Council must apply for the full amount of their Phase 2 Allocation in a draft Work Schedule by 31 July 2021.

Nomination forms for projects must be approved by the Department of Infrastructure before works can commence.

Discussion

The table below lists the projects proposed to be funded for the LRCI program Stage-2.

Project	Type	Location	Cost
Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge co-contribution to construction	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	\$1,125,924
Horsham Nature and Water Play Park co-contribution to construction	Community Infrastructure	Horsham	\$350,000
Total			\$1,475,924

Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge

- Detailed planning for a second pedestrian bridge has occurred this financial year, encompassing site options analysis, geotechnical testing, hydraulic (flood) modelling, structural design and determination of environmental requirements.
- The detailed design process is aimed to be completed by the end of March. This will include a design review and analysis of the preferred design and preparation of tender ready drawings and specifications.
- Broad community engagement has occurred during January which included the development of a project fact sheet (**Appendix "7.6B"**) delivered to all adjoining and directly impacted stakeholders, a media release and social media inviting community feedback. <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Current-Projects/Hamilton-Street-Pedestrian-Bridge> and <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/News-and-Media/Latest-News/Plans-for-second-pedestrian-bridge>
- Key outcomes of this engagement included:
 - Strong support for the bridge, backing up community feedback obtained in earlier engagement conducted for the City to River and Horsham Urban Transport Plan projects.
 - Iteration of the strong desire for a second vehicle crossing within Horsham. This is separately being pursued by Council through its allocation of \$100,000 for planning of an alternative truck route, to proceed in conjunction with Regional Roads Victoria.

- Identification of the need for further detailed engagement with landholders adjacent to and near the bridge site to address issues such as the location of paths, lighting and landscaping, to preserve the amenity of their properties.

Funding scenario for Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge

In approving the allocation of LRCI Round 2 funding, Council will be committing to the completion of the bridge including the additional funding component required. **(Refer also Council Agenda Item 7.4 Hamilton Street Bridge)**

Council will seek the balance of funding through the upcoming Regional Development Victoria (RDV) competitive funding round for 2021. This funding round is expected to be announced and open for application within 4-6 weeks. If the RDV funding application is unsuccessful or the amount allocated by RDV is reduced, Council will be required to fund the balance of the project estimated to be up to a commitment of \$1,000,000.

Horsham Nature & Water Play Park project

The contribution to the Horsham Nature & Water Play Park project of \$350,000 was approved by the previous Council on the 1 June 2020 to support an application for funding to the Victorian Government Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus program. This application was unsuccessful and the initial allocation of LCRI Round 1 funding has been re-allocated to proposed projects that can meet the LCRI Round 1 deadline of 30 June 2021. **(Refer Council Agenda Item 7.5)**

Feedback from the unsuccessful application indicated that our application was 'meritorious' and on 18 December 2020 Council was one of a number of Council's across the State invited to re-apply, with applications due 2 March 2021. **(Refer Council Agenda item 7.2)** The contribution of \$350,000 from the LCRI Round 2 funding forms a crucial part of the application for the Victorian Government Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus program (invitation only round).

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

Environmental implications of both projects have been considered as part of the schematic design phase. Council are will advanced in this process:

- Pedestrian Bridge – has Cultural Heritage approval, and an application has been lodged to DELWP for land owner consent.
- Horsham Nature and Water Play Park has Cultural Heritage approval and land owner consent from DELWP. A planning permit application has been lodged.

Community Engagement

The projects listed have been identified from a range of plans and strategies that have had their own consultation processes. Additional consultation will occur on individual projects relative to their potential impact on stakeholders throughout the delivery phase.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Nature and Water Play park design includes a range of innovative play activities that will be new to Horsham and the wider region.

Collaboration

The detailed schematic design of the Nature and Water Play Park project has been discussed in detail with the SRV Grampians Team

Financial Implications

The allocation of these funds from the Australian Government is acknowledged and appreciated.

The allocation of \$350,000 to the Horsham Nature & Water Play Park, together with the application for State Government Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus program (invitation only round) will fully fund the Play Park, with no funding required from Council.

The allocation of \$1,125,924 to the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge project will fund around 50% of the bridge project. The project budget at concept design phase is \$2.1 million. Council will be required to confirm a funding commitment to fund the remaining project costs. The Final Project Cost will be refined following receipt of the QS report in March 2021.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

There are no specific references to Regional, State and National Plans and Policies in the proposed application

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The two projects listed have been identified from a range of Council plans and strategies:

- Pedestrian Bridge refer Fact Sheet (**Appendix "7.6B"**);
- Horsham Nature & Water Plan Park refer Riverfront precinct redevelopment project undertaken with the Community Reference Group

Risk Implications

Effective project management plans will be needed for these projects to ensure timely delivery of the projects.

Conclusion

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding (Rounds 1 & 2) provides a valuable source of external funding to leverage Council's capital expenditure budget and undertake large legacy projects for our municipality.

7.7 BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND ROUND 5

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Department:	Governance and information	File Number:	F20/A06/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Program Guidelines (**Appendix "7.7A"**)

Aquatic Centre Accessible Change rooms Concept Design (**Appendix "7.7B"**)

Quantity Surveyor Report (**Appendix "7.7C"**)

Purpose

To approve two applications to Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund Round 5 (BBRF 5) as follows:

1. Infrastructure Projects Stream - for the construction of accessible family change rooms at the Horsham Aquatic Centre.
2. Tourism Related Infrastructure Stream – Destination Horsham – Stay, Play the Wimmera River Way
This project will revitalise the Horsham Riverside Caravan Park to ensure it meets the expectations of our tourists to the region through infrastructure upgrades.

Summary

- The Australian Government BBRF 5 is due on **5 March, 2021**. Council received funding under Round 3 for the Livestock exchange roof.
- Funding Guidelines (refer **Appendix "7.7A"**) stipulate that the projects must be "investment ready" and can commence construction within 12 weeks of signing a funding agreement. Both nominated projects are considered "investment ready" and can commence construction from December 2021. The Guidelines also require an "Applicant Declaration" confirming that where applicable Council will contribute the required matching funding.
- Grant applications can be between \$20,000 and \$10million with funding matched \$1:\$1. Council's 50% cash contribution can include funding from private business and State Government. Council must provide a letter confirming the local contribution as part of the application.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve an application to the Building Better Regions Fund Round 5 Infrastructure Stream for the Horsham Aquatic Centre Accessible Family Change Rooms project for an amount of \$941,925.
2. Consider a matching Council cash contribution of \$471,000 for the Horsham Aquatic Centre Accessible Family Change Rooms project as part of its 2021-2022 budget, noting that the total project cost estimate and amount to be contributed by Council may change based on the Quantity Surveyor estimate.
3. Approve an application to the BBRF 5 Tourism Related Infrastructure Stream for the Horsham Riverside Caravan Park project for an amount of \$380,000.
4. Note that matching contribution of \$190,000 will be made up of existing Council contribution of \$100,000 to Stage 1 City to River Riverfront Activation - Civic gathering space and a contribution to the project of \$90,000 by Southern Cross Parks the lessee.

REPORT

Background

This Report includes details the funding requirements of two distinct capital projects:

1. Infrastructure Projects Stream - for the construction of accessible family change rooms at the Horsham Aquatic Centre
2. Tourism Related Infrastructure Stream - Destination Horsham – Stay, Play the Wimmera River Way

1. Accessible Change Rooms

- The Horsham Aquatic Centre Master Plan was completed in 2017 following extensive consultation and engagement. This Master Plan provides for a staged redevelopment of the facility. The early stages of this work have since been completed with the recent upgrades to the outdoor pool facility. The next stage of the Master Plan is to address accessibility issues in the indoor pool area, through the construction of universally designed change rooms that will allow users of all abilities and age groups, including family groups to use the indoor facility.
- In September 2018, following the completion of the Master Plan, Council submitted an application to the Australian Government Community Sports Infrastructure Program
- In April 2019, Council was advised that the application was unsuccessful. The Australian Sports Commission provided no avenue for feedback on this application. Council is aware, however, that the application was strong and scored highly, through media investigation into what is now known as the “Sports Rort” funding program.
- Since this failed application, Council staff have worked with the YMCA and Sport and Recreation Victoria to refine the concept design and seek updated project costings (refer **Appendix “7.7B”** and **Appendix “7.7C”**)
- The refined concept design provides for the accessible change rooms as an extension to the north-west corner of the indoor pool. This design provides for optimum natural light, “line of sight” for YMCA staff and easy access to all indoor and outdoor pools. The revised design also accommodates all future staged elements including the hydrotherapy pool, splay play area, sauna and outdoor play areas. The refined design has been discussed and endorsed by the Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee at their meeting on 22 February, 2021.

Discussion

1. Accessible Change Rooms

The Aquatic Centre currently has 2 small accessible/family change rooms, with only one of these located in the indoor aquatic area. This doesn’t provide sufficient room when more than one carer is required, for people with severe mobility issues. The new change rooms will enhance the provision of programs for all ages and abilities, with a safe, inclusive and welcoming experience for all.

The funding strategy

Funding for this stage is planned as follows:

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Funds \$</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Australian Government BBRF 5	470,925	Application	Application to be submitted 1/3/2021
Council Capital Budget 21/22 and 22/23	471,000	To be confirmed	Council Meeting 1/3/2021
Total Project Funds	941,925		

The total estimated project funds are based on a preliminary cost estimate. A more detailed cost estimate is currently being prepared by a Quantity Surveyor which shall form the basis of funding application and also the commitment required from Council through its budget process. If the grant application is successful, the project will commence around December 2021 and take approximately 12 months. Council's funding contribution will be spread over two financial years.

2. Destination Horsham – Stay, Play the Wimmera River Way – Horsham Riverside Caravan Park

This project will construct a new caretaker/park manager's residence and in addition build a reception/office area and studio for relief staff. It will also remove infrastructure away from a high flood risk area, include re-alignment of the caravan park boundaries to create a 1027m² parcel of land and make the site ready for a future commercial Restaurant / Café development located at the entrance point to the Wimmera River Precinct.

The funding strategy

Funding is planned as follows:

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Funds \$</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Australian Government BBRF 5	190,000	Application	Application to be submitted 1/3/2021
Southern Cross Parks	90,000	Confirmed	Letter of support
HRCC: Stage 1 City to River Riverfront Activation - Civic gathering space (includes siting / services for future café/restaurant)	100,000	To be confirmed	Council Meeting 1/3/2021
Total Project Funds	380,000		

Project Scope

ITEM	PROJECT COST INCLUDING BBRF CONTRIBUTION	COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION	SOUTHERN CROSS PARKS' CONTRIBUTION
1. Construct a new caretaker/park managers residence and in addition build a residence for relief staff which will includes a reception/office area	278,800	49,400	90,000
2. Boundary realignment and permits fees	14,950	7,475	
3. Erect new fencing	21,850	10,925	
4. Demolish former office, disconnection of power and water and temp fencing	44,850	22,425	
5. Make 1027m ² site ready for future developments (including tree removal)	19,550	9,775	
Total	\$380,000	\$100,000	\$90,000

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

The detailed schematic design process for both projects will ensure sustainability elements are maximised in the design and build.

Community Engagement

1. Accessible Change Rooms

Broad engagement was undertaken for the development of the 2017 Horsham Aquatic Centre Master Plan. The refined design has been reviewed and endorsed by the Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee at their February 2021 meeting and discussed with Sport and Recreation Victoria Grampians Team.

2. Destination Horsham – Stay, Play the Wimmera River Way – Horsham Riverside Caravan Park

Discussions have occurred with Southern Cross Parks as part of developing a master plan for the site. Southern Cross supports leased land being made available for a café/restaurant and currently negotiations are being finalised in relation to a change in boundary to enable this to occur. Southern Cross will establish an additional 5 cabin sites on the site through their own funding as per lease conditions.

The Horsham City to River Vision and Masterplan developed by the community and designed to activate the Central Activity Centre and the Wimmera River Precinct through delivering key projects identified to establish Horsham as a tourism destination. Wimmera Development Association, Business Horsham, Grampians Tourism, Regional Development Victoria and Regional Development Australia are in support of this project.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Both projects are examples of continuous improvement to the facilities provided to our community and visitors

Collaboration

Council staff have worked collaboratively with SRV Grampians Team in the design of the Accessible Change rooms

Financial Implications

Funding from Council is required to provide the matching cash contributions for the funding applications. If the funding applications are successful, the projects will proceed with Council's co-contribution limited to the funding strategies outlined above. To be noted is that a contribution for Caravan Park Project will also be provided by Southern Cross Parks who lease the caravan park from Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

There are no specific references to Regional, State and National Plans and Policies in the proposed applications

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

1. Accessible Change Rooms

The Accessible Change Rooms development is a key component of the 2017 Horsham Aquatic Centre Master Plan.

Council Plan 2020-2024

3.1.07 Undertake master planning and major refurbishment of the Horsham Aquatic Centre

2. Destination Horsham – Stay, Play the Wimmera River Way – Horsham Riverside Caravan Park

3.4 Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety.

Risk Implications

This report relates to funding opportunities only. The projects will not commence until funding is confirmed.

Conclusion

Council has the opportunity through the BBRF Round 5 to obtain funding for two important projects which will improve Council facilities for the betterment of the community.

7.8 DOOEN LANDFILL – CELL 3 CONTRACT VARIATION

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Department:	Strategic Asset Management	File Number:	F29/A03/000002

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason:

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To seek Council approval for a variation to Contract 21-012 - Construction of Dooen Landfill Cell 3A and Leachate Pond 2, and related budget variation.

Summary

Dooen Landfill Cell 2 is approaching full capacity, and the construction of the next landfill cell is critical to continuity of service.

The timeline for commissioning of the next landfill no longer contains any significant amount of contingency, due to the wider circumstances in the waste and resource recovery industry over the last 18 months.

Efforts to expedite construction of the next landfill cell have led to an overlap between contractual services required, and as such provisional items have been incorporated into contracts to allow for appropriate apportionment of costs between contractors.

A provisional item related to the earthworks in Contract 21-012 is of a value that requires Council approval in order for further works to proceed. The quantity of this provisional item has increased markedly due to a significant error in earthworks quantities not detected until late in the tender process.

Recommendation

That Council approve the variation to Contract 21-012, representing a value of \$461,316.19

REPORT

Background

Dooen Landfill is a disposal site for residual waste originating from Horsham Rural City, as well as Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shires. The long term average of residual waste disposed of at the site is approximately 20,000 tonnes per annum.

Waste at the Dooen Landfill site is required to be disposed of into engineered landfill cells, constructed in accordance with best practice guidelines, as developed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

A key stipulation of these guidelines is that the expected life of a cell must not exceed two years of capacity. The most recent cell at Dooen Landfill (Cell 2) was recognised by the EPA as having been constructed to best practice standards, and officially commissioned in May 2018.

However, the process of commissioning a new cell from concept development through design, design approval, tendering, construction and then on to EPA approval takes approximately two years, on average. For this reason, design work on Dooen Landfill Cell 3 commenced in July 2018.

Since the commissioning of Cell 2, the Victorian (/Australian) commingled recycling processing industry collapsed due to the instability of international markets for processed product. With no other options available, this collapse led to commingled recycling being received at Dooen Landfill from neighbouring Councils in 2019 and 2020. Throughout this period, Horsham's recyclables have continued to be processed, and have not ended up in landfill.

The effect of this additional waste saw an increase in incoming material (by weight) of approximately 30% over the amounts received in recent years. Such a significant increase in waste volumes has put significant pressure on the cell construction timeline for Cell 3.

The construction of Cell 3 is now considered to be extremely urgent, and all efforts to expedite this process have been made. Contract 21-012 for the construction of Cell 3 was awarded to Shamrock Civil Engineering in September 2020, and construction works are well underway.

The significant error in earthworks quantity was known at the time of tender award. Importantly, the change in earthworks quantities would not have affected the determination of which contractor would have been awarded the contract, as calculations were performed for the tenders based on both the initial and the varied quantities. The error did not impact on the actual quantity of material that had to be removed, as it was physically present, the main impact being on allowing proper budgeting for the earthworks and the project overall.

Discussion

- **Contract award**

About one week before the close of tenders, an error in the earthworks quantities calculated by the design consultant was discovered by Council staff. This error had a major impact on the provisional earthworks quantities, and a moderate impact on some other scheduled items in the tender.

For the tender evaluation process, all tenders were assessed based on the scheduled quantities as per the tender, and the adjusted quantities as a result of the tender. This calculation demonstrated that Shamrock Engineering would have been the preferred tenderer in either case.

The tender was awarded, by Council, based on the adjusted quantities in the tender, excluding the significant variation associated with the provisional earthworks, at a value of \$2.419 million.

- **Budget**

The budget for the overall project for the project of \$2.4 M was submitted to the budget process in early 2020, at which stage the detailed design was still in progress.

Subsequent to setting the budget, it was determined by the design auditor that a new leachate pond would be required for the works. This had not been anticipated in the earlier planning stage, and was not factored into the budget estimate. The requirement for these works was incorporated in the tender documents, and costed in the tender responses. This added approx. \$101,000 to the cost of the preferred tender, although long-term planning for the landfill had planned the construction of this cell in 2027 at a cost of \$315,000 as a standalone item.

The design quantity error had further, lesser impacts on several of the scheduled works items in the tender. These, and the leachate pond, were able to be accommodated within the available project budget, however this impacted on the remaining funds available for contingency.

- **Provisional earthworks**

The major error related to earthworks quantities, specifically the quantity of sandstone required to be removed from the site to establish the base level for the new cell.

Given the tight timeframes for the cell construction, these bulk earthworks commenced prior to the award of the main construction contract, being Contract 21-012. These works were conducted through the plant and machinery hire contract (20-003), utilising Dickerson Earthmoving to undertake these works.

Dickerson Earthmoving continued these bulk earthworks until the principal contractor under contract 21-012, Shamrock Civil Engineering, occupied the site.

However, by undertaking these excavation works with respect to a timeline rather than a fixed quantity of work, it meant that there would be an undefined boundary between the scopes of works for these two contractual arrangements.

Given the potential for a large variation due to the provisional item noted above, consideration was given to a range of scenarios throughout the tender evaluation process for Contract 21-012, to ensure that any such variation would not undermine the principles of the procurement process.

Tender evaluations were completed for each of the prospective tenders, and values for the highest and lowest foreseeable provisional quantities were calculated and compared with respect to the weighted tender evaluation criteria.

In all possible scenarios, the preferred tender would not have changed due to any changes in the provisional item quantity, and the recommendation from the tender evaluation panel would still have been that Shamrock Civil Engineering be awarded Contract 21-012.

A survey was conducted on the handover date, and further calculations were undertaken by Council's design consultant to establish the remaining earthworks quantity. Simultaneously, Shamrock Civil Engineering undertook their own calculation of remaining quantities. These calculations yielded the same result, leading to the variation request by Shamrock Civil Engineering.

This variation request is for an amount totalling \$461,316.19.

- **Impact on contingencies**

Initially, the project budget had an allowance of \$185,000 for contingencies that might arise during the project. This contingency could cover items such as:

- Hard rock
- Works arising from latent conditions (such as dewatering the cell prior to construction)
- Construction of additional perimeter drainage (weather dependent).

A confidential report on this subject makes a recommendation in relation to a modification to the project budget to allow for any subsequent project contingencies.

- **Landfill cell quantities**

The cell once completed will have 244,000 m³ of usable airspace. At current landfill waste compaction levels, this airspace represents 158,600 tonnes of waste, or 6 to 7 years of airspace. The cost of this airspace will be \$12.50/ m³, at the proposed amended project budget.

The effective cost of the earthworks quantity error on the overall project is approximately \$1.92/m³.

However, by constructing a much larger cell, there have been gains due to economies of scale. The previous cell (Cell 2) was completed in 2018, for a total cost of \$1,581,000. Cell 2 only had an airspace of 86,000m³. Hence, the cost of the airspace in Cell 2 was \$18.38/m³.

Options to Consider

1. Approve variation to Contract 21-012 for the value of \$461,316.19
2. Do not approve variation to Contract 21-012. This would lead to a contract dispute.

Sustainability Implications

Dooen Landfill is an EPA licensed landfill, constructed and operated in accordance with EPA best practice standards. These standards are intended to prevent pollution to the environment, in particular through groundwater or air contamination.

Temporary closure of the site as a regional waste disposal hub may yield negative environmental impacts (such as the illegal dumping of waste) but these have not been quantified due to being difficult to predict.

If Council is unable to operate Dooen Landfill significant additional costs will be incurred in carting this material to alternative landfills, e.g. the Stawell Landfill.

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The novel design approach for the Cell creates a significant efficiency in airspace, even allowing for the quantities error.

Collaboration

Correspondence is being prepared to formally discuss this error with the design consultant.

Financial Implications

While the variation amount is quite significant, it nearly corresponds with some works that have been brought forward from future years, being:

- The construction of a second leachate pond. This had been scheduled to occur in 2027 at a cost of \$315,000 plus design costs, but has been required by EPA as part of this current cell construction, and is included in the current contract.
- The design costs for what were originally planned to be Cells 4 and 5, as they now constitute the second stage of this new cell. That is, the design of the current Cell 3A, has included the design of Cell 3B, which replaces these Cells 4 and 5. The design and audit costs saved by this are \$150,000.

These brought forward costs are part of the long term financial planning for Dooen Landfill, but were not reflected in the 2020-2021 budget. The long term financial planning for the Dooen Landfill financial reserve sets the required pricing levels to sustain the reserve and fund the necessary works.

Further details of the financial implications are presented in the confidential section, due to the setting of a new contingency allowance for the project.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2020-2024 Goals:

- 3.2 - Ensure projected financial and physical programs reflect infrastructure needs
- 5.1 - Promote sustainability by encouraging sound environmental practice

Risk Implications

Any delays in the commissioning of Cell 3 are considered to be high risk. Failure to ensure that the program remains on track may lead to a temporary closure of Dooen Landfill, with significant financial impacts on Horsham Rural City Council, surrounding municipalities and local waste businesses. Contingency plans have been developed for this scenario.

Conclusion

This variation is a significant change to the cost for the cell construction.

It is critical that construction for Cell 3 at Dooen Landfill is not unduly delayed. All significant milestones in the program must be met, to ensure continued availability of the current service to the community.