



**Horsham Rural City**  
Council urban rural balance

# Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct

## Feasibility Study

### Project Brief

May 2021

## Project Plan Overview

### Objective

The objective of the Horsham Rural City Council's Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study is to:

- Identify the functional requirements of a regional multi-sport precinct consistent with State Sporting Association (SSA) planning;
- Determine the feasibility of a multi-sports precinct that can meet the needs of the users and provide a facility that can cater for regional sporting activities;
- Determine the most suitable location for a multi-sports precinct, referencing previous work undertaken by Horsham Rural City Council, and specifically including two sites identified by Council in November 2019.

The Feasibility Study will need to consider the following:

- All recent previous work undertaken through consultation with the community, and particularly, potential user groups and other stakeholders;
- Previous work undertaken (including the Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017) and other reports) to inform the multi-sport precinct requirements;
- Validation of data from previous work to verify accuracy and currency;
- Data not captured in previous work;
- Opportunities to identify and address current and potential future gaps in service provision to increase programming and participation in sport and recreation at the local and regional level.

### Principles

Key principles that underpin the planning of this precinct:

- Enhanced programming across a range of sports to increase access by under-represented groups;
- Increased participation driven by access to high quality sports facilities that embed principles of universal design and environmental and economic sustainability;
- Increased liveability of Horsham and the wider Wimmera-Southern Mallee region through the provision of high quality sports and recreation facilities;
- Economic benefits for Horsham and the wider Wimmera-Southern Mallee region.

### Locational Information

Horsham Rural City is a vibrant and diverse community situated approximately 300 kilometres north-west of Melbourne and north of the Grampians National Park, in the heart of the Wimmera region of Victoria. The municipality has a population of 19,691 and covers an area of 4,267 square kilometres. Nearly three-quarters of residents live in the urban area of Horsham.

Horsham is the major provider of retail, community and government services in the Wimmera, with broad acre dryland agriculture being the major industry. The Grains Innovation Park, a nationally acclaimed agricultural research centre, is based in Horsham and there are a range of quality educational and health care facilities including secondary colleges, a university and an agricultural college. Horsham also has a diverse array of natural assets including recreational lakes, wetlands, the Wimmera River, Mount Arapiles, the Wartook Valley and the Grampians National Park is nearby.

Horsham plays a regional role, providing a broad range of services to residents of neighbouring municipalities. It also plays a significant role in the provision of regional sports facilities due to its geographic location between Mildura and Warrnambool as the key location for many current zone or regional based competitions and training within western Victoria.

## Purpose and Scope

The Feasibility Study will inform the decision to develop a regional multi-sport precinct in Horsham, enhancing programming and participation in sport and recreation and providing social and economic benefits to Horsham and the Wimmera-Southern Mallee region.

The study will:

- Determine the functional requirements of all sports to be included in the Regional Multi Sport Precinct noting previous work and reviewing for accuracy, currency and relevance;
- Determine the demand (scheduling feasibility) for a range of stakeholders for the proposed Regional Multi Sport Precinct to maximise programming and participation;
- Undertake a desk top analysis to:
  - determine technical feasibility of development of a maximum of six (6) potential sites identified by HRCC, (inclusive of two sites identified by the previous Council in Nov 2019), - soil analysis, flood mitigation, integration and utilisation of existing spaces, shared pathways and traffic management
  - determine the economic feasibility of the Regional Multi Sport Precinct , including:
    - development costs of each site
    - land purchase requirements
    - costs associated with relocating any existing user groups;
- Identify economically unviable and/or technically compromised sites determined through the desk top analysis,
- Provide a recommended/ preferred location, (to be endorsed by Council)
- Provide a site plan of preferred site with detailed concept design with QS costings informing feasibility.
- Determine operational feasibility of the Regional Multi Sport Precinct at the preferred site;
- Provide economic cost/benefit analysis of impact on tourism/hospitality industries;

## Project Deliverables

### Preparatory Phase

- Development of an engagement plan endorsed by the Project Working Group and the Executive Management team;
- Review historical background of the project, including referencing all relevant existing plans, strategies and related documents;
- Development of a Project Management Plan, endorsed by the Project Control Group (PCG).

### FEASIBILITY STUDY

#### PHASE 1

- Identification of a detailed description of the functional requirements of the proposed development;
- Identification of the functional facility components required for each sport and for the precinct as a whole;
- Initial assessment of the suitability of six identified sites including land capacity and availability, soil conditions, flood mitigation options (if applicable), traffic management, car parking, amenity impact/benefits on adjoining land uses and integration with the adjoining land uses including residential areas, urban development and/or riverfront. This includes two sites specifically identified by Council in November 2019;
- Identify economically unviable and/or technically compromised sites determined through the desk top analysis,
- Provide a recommended/ preferred location, (to be endorsed by Council)

**PHASE 2**

Once the preferred location is endorsed, undertake:

- Concept design for the preferred location that includes universal design and environmental sustainable design;
- Independent QS costing for the preferred location. The QS costing will inform project feasibility;
- Detailed schedule of use of the proposed development, including additional participation and programming opportunities encouraging the broadest possible participation rates at local and regional level (by individual sport) and that allow for future growth;
- Management model options including legal requirements and operational aspects;
- Assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of a fully developed and operational regional multi-sport facility at the potential location. This will require provision of the following information:
  - Capital costs
  - Transition costs
  - Opportunity costs
  - Recurrent costs
  - Life cycle cost
  - Revenue and profitability (Capital and Operating);
- Cost/Benefit and Net Present Value analysis strategic justification;
- Evidence of how the project strategically supports local and regional and State Sporting Associations/peak body plans and strategies;
- Evidence that the development responds to identified community needs, issues and addresses a gap in local and regional facilities;
- Evidence that development responds to integration with existing infrastructure, school and community use, shared pathways and recreation use, including urban development;
- Funding Strategy, including possible staging options and timeframes.

**The Feasibility Study will develop all required documentation to take the project forward to Schematic Design Phase (when funding and staging is determined).**

### Strategic Documents

The following strategic documents are provided as informative background material to be referenced in the proposed Feasibility Study:

- Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017)  
Including:
  - Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Phase One Feasibility Report 2016
  - Horsham Multi-Use Indoor Sports Stadium Community Engagement Report June 2016
- City to River Masterplan (2020), Including:
  - Horsham Central Activity District Wimmera River Technical Report (2019)
  - Horsham Sports Facilities Demand Assessment (2019)
  - Horsham Central Activity District Wimmera River Background Report (2019)
  - City to River Engagement Report (2019)
- HRCC Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-2018
- HRCC Open Space Strategy 2019

- HRCC Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

## Strategic Linkages

### Council strategic links

- Council Plan 2020-2024
  - 1.2.04 Implement outcomes from the multipurpose/indoor sports and community facility feasibility study City to River Masterplan 2020  
Showgrounds Crown Land Precinct - potential location for Multi-sport Indoor stadium and outdoor sports precinct
- Open Space Strategy
  - 2.3.8 In conjunction with the Showgrounds Committee of Management and Greyhounds Racing Victoria, develop a 20-year strategy for the Showgrounds locality. The objective should be to open up this asset to the community, whilst ensuring the greyhound racing club activities are secured for dual benefit of the Club and safety of the public.

### Other strategic links

- Active Victoria 2017-2021, Strategic Directions:
  - *Meeting demand*
  - *Broader and more inclusive participation*
  - *Additional focus on active recreation*
  - *Build system resilience and capacity*
  - *Connect investment in events, high performance and infrastructure*
  - *Work together for shared outcomes.*
- Department of Health and Human Services' Strategic Plan 2019

## Community Engagement

The Feasibility Study must include a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed in accordance with the IAP2 best practice model and Council's Community Engagement process. The Consultant is required to develop the plan in consultation with Council's Community Relations and Advocacy Team. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be endorsed by the Project Control Group.

Extensive community engagement for the City to River Masterplan identified diverse and strong community opinions regarding the location of a regional sporting precinct. The City to River Engagement Report (2019) is provided for reference.

The draft Feasibility Study will require a period of public engagement to allow and encourage community feedback. The Consultant is required to prepare a detailed Engagement Report including any recommendations for changes to the draft Feasibility Study resulting from the engagement process. This Feasibility Study requires intensive engagement with key stakeholders in this project, recognised as the following as a minimum:

- Sport & Recreation Victoria;
- State sporting associations relevant to the precinct, (to understand the needs, requirements and support for a multi-sports precinct in Horsham that would service the wider region);
- All sporting groups that might be located within the precinct;

- Wimmera regional sporting associations relevant to the precinct currently and potentially, in the future;
- School and health providers.

Site specific stakeholder engagement may include:

- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority;
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
- Groups currently utilising potential sites;
- VicRoads;
- Adjacent land users.

## Project Governance

<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Director Communities and Place
<b>Project Owner:</b>	Manager Arts Culture and Recreation
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Co-ordinator Recreation and Open Space
<b>Project Control Group:</b>	Representatives of Sport and Recreation Victoria Representatives of State Sporting Associations for relevant sports Representative from the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly Horsham Rural City Council
<b>Project Working Group:</b>	Sport and Recreation Victoria Horsham Rural City Council
<b>Community Reference Group:</b>	Community representatives Representatives from local sporting clubs and associations

## Project documentation

- High resolution electronic files containing all project documentation, which can be linked to Council's website and printed in hard copy as required;
- PDF and editable copies of all documentation.

## Project timelines

The project will commence after 1 July 2021 and will be completed by 31 December 2021.

## Terms of Engagement

The successful consultant will be bound to execute the works under the General Conditions of Contract AS 4122-2010 for Engagement of Consultants or General Conditions Services (Maddocks).

Completion of the project will be deemed to have occurred at the time when all finalised electronic copies of the written material are provided to Horsham Rural City Council in the form which has been agreed to by Council and the project consultant.

## Performance

The services of the project consultant shall be carried out within the agreed budget and project timeline. Instalment payments are linked specifically to the successful completion of project outcomes.

## Payment Schedule

Upon receipt of a tax invoice from the project consultant payment will be made in three instalments:

Stage	Payment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement of the project - following the inception meeting when timelines and methodology will be confirmed, (Preparatory Phase)</li> </ul>	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of Phase 1</li> </ul>	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of Phase 2</li> </ul>	40%

These percentages may be subject to negotiation. Any changes will require the approval of the Project Manager.

## Submission/Quotation Requirements

Project consultants are required to provide a written submission / quotation outlining their proposed approach to the project and providing detailed budget information and timelines about how the project will be staged and managed. Submissions / quotations will be assessed against the stated selection criteria. Short listed applicants may be required to attend an interview. Submissions should provide the following:

### 1. Project Methodology

A written response detailing how the project is to be delivered. This needs to include project team qualifications and experiences, project meetings and key outputs.

### 2. Community Engagement

Provide an initial Community Engagement Plan based on IAP2 principles and associated resource budget.

### 3. Budget Management

Include a detailed budget for each deliverable/project stage.

The budget must cover all costs of the project and include:

- Delivery of key tasks and deliverables;
- Provision for travel;
- Provision for Community Engagement and completion of an Engagement Report;
- Attendance at meetings and workshops (Specifying the intended number of meetings and workshops);
- Provision of electronic copies of all material as outlined in the section Project Deliverables.

The budget for this project is between \$50,000 - \$60,000 excluding GST. The budget is inclusive of all travel, accommodation and other disbursements associated with the project.

### 4. Timeline Management

A project time line is required that is consistent with the brief, nominating stages and duration of tasks. The timeline will be used to assess progress against the payment schedule.

## 5. Experience

Provide a written response outlining experience in completing similar projects or like projects undertaken in the past three years. Provide information regarding intended strategies for working in a positive and co-operative manner with clients and the community.

Clearly identify the personnel involved in the project and their roles. Detail specific experience in:

- Sport and Recreation Planning projects
- Development of Business Cases
- Economic analysis

## 6. Referees

Provide a minimum of two referees associated with projects of a similar nature that have been completed.

It is highly desirable that referees can speak to projects that have been completed within the last three years.

## 7. Insurance

Provide evidence of current professional indemnity insurance of a minimum of \$10M. A copy of the certificate of currency will need to be provided prior to appointment.

## 8. Contact Details

Please ensure full contact details are provided. This must include: a contact name, business name, ABN, address, phone numbers and email contacts.

## Selection Criteria

Selection will be weighted as follows:

- 30% Quantitative (cost)
- 70% Qualitative (as detailed below)

1.	Demonstrated, recent and relevant experience in completing sporting and recreation planning projects of a similar nature.	35%
2.	Demonstrated and relevant experience in the development of business cases and economic analysis	25%
3.	Suitability of project and engagement methodology outlining a process for achieving the required outcomes.	20%
4.	Detailed information demonstrating how the project will be completed including timeline and project budget	20%
<b>TOTAL QUALITATIVE SCORE</b>		<b>100%</b>

## No Obligation

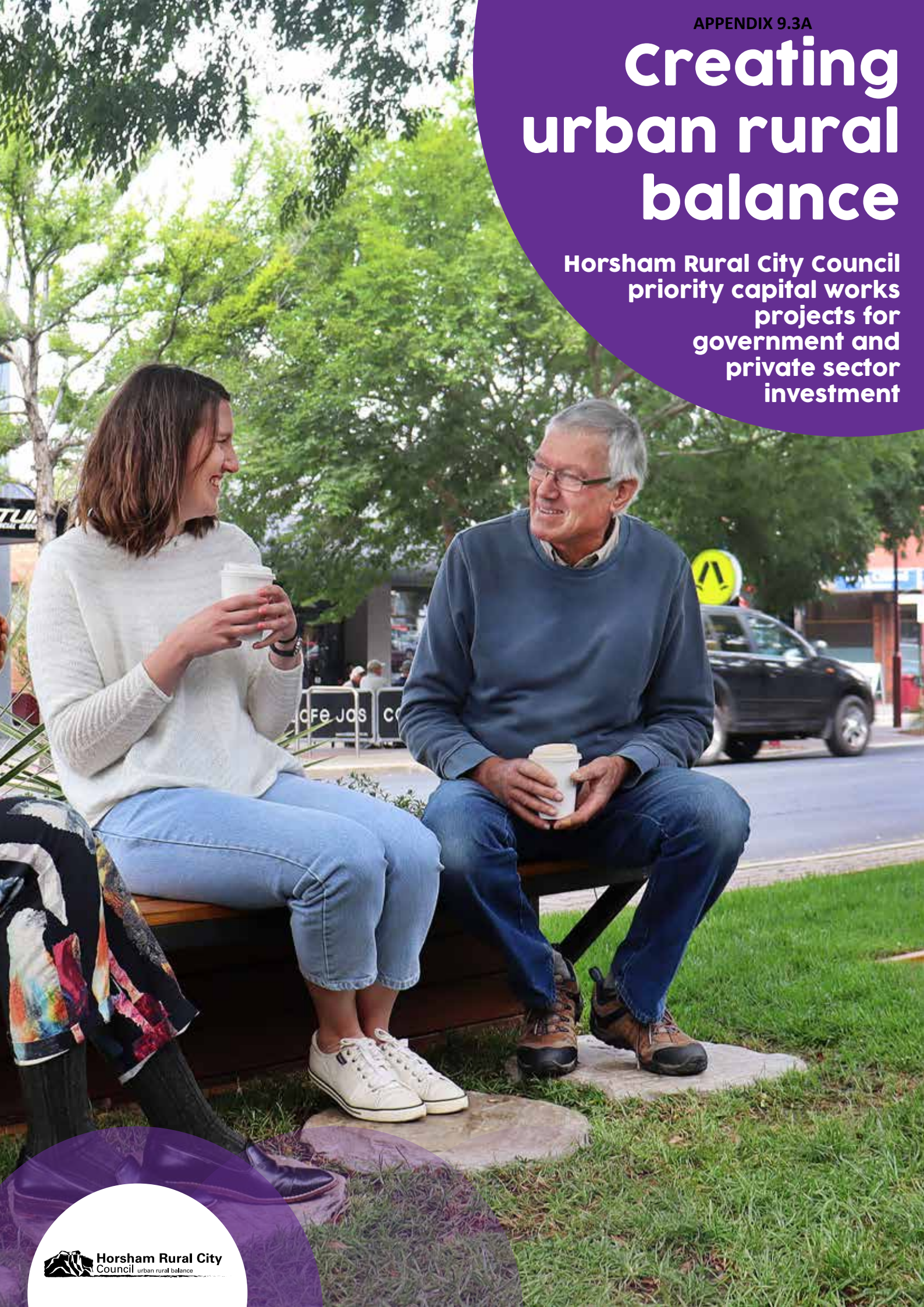
Should circumstances change Horsham Rural City Council is not obliged to accept a quotation and appoint a project consultant to complete the Horsham Indoor Sports Stadium Planning and Design Project.

END



# Creating urban rural balance

**Horsham Rural City Council  
priority capital works  
projects for  
government and  
private sector  
investment**









# Welcome to Horsham Rural City

A vibrant, inclusive community to live, work, play and invest

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) is pleased to present this investment prospectus.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with the public sector and private industry to help achieve our vision for a vibrant, inclusive community.

Horsham Rural City Council, working with our community seek to develop the municipality through strong leadership, vision, good governance, responsive services and quality infrastructure, whilst enhancing our economy, our liveability and natural environment.

This prospectus highlights a range of projects, from 'shovel ready' through to those in early stages of planning. These projects represent Council's long-term planning in action, recognizing what Horsham Rural City needs now and into the future.

Help us change 'what is' into 'what could be'.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagulk, 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.





## Who are we?

Horsham Rural City is a vibrant, diverse community situated approximately 300 kilometres north-west of Melbourne and north-west of the Grampians National Park, in the heart of the Wimmera region of Victoria. Horsham Rural City Council has a population of 19,875 (2018) and covers an area of 4,267 square kilometres. Almost three-quarters of residents live in the urban area of Horsham.

Horsham is the major provider of retail, community and government services in the Wimmera, with

dryland and broadacre agriculture being our major industry. The Grains Innovation Park, a nationally acclaimed agricultural research centre, is based in Horsham. There are a range of quality educational and health care facilities including secondary colleges, a university and an agricultural college. We also have a diverse array of natural assets including recreational lakes, wetlands, the Wimmera River, Mount Arapiles, Wartook Valley and the Grampians National Park is nearby.





## Our vision

We want to make Horsham Rural City a vibrant, inclusive community to live, work, play and invest.

We aim to do this by developing responsive services and quality infrastructure that enhance our economy, livability and natural environment.

Horsham is the heart of the Wimmera and supports the region's economy and communities. A strong and vibrant regional city will support a

strong and vibrant Wimmera region. The success of the City is linked to its rich history, strong community and resilient economy.

The major projects outlined in this strategy focus on improvements which support livability and economic resilience. Each project will promote the attraction and retention of population and investment preserving the City's critical role for Horsham and the Wimmera region.

## Key project themes

### Future Horsham

#### Revitalizing the Central Activities District

### Activating our natural assets

#### Wimmera Riverfront Precinct

### Making connections

#### Transport

### Active Horsham

#### Sport and Recreation

### Supporting industry

#### Economic Development

### Making Places

#### Community and Culture

### Visit Horsham

#### Tourism



# Future Horsham Central Activity District

## Objective

To improve the amenity of the Central Activity District and the diversity of land uses to strengthen the existing business environment, attract more visitors and accommodate greater housing, hospitality, open space and events.

The City to River Masterplan (2019) provides a vision for the centre of Horsham as a thriving commercial, cultural, civic and recreation hub that will continue to evolve over time to meet the needs of the community, support and grow business activity and visitors to the region. The Central Activity District will be better connected to highly accessible and quality open spaces, will incorporate substantially more shade and active transport opportunities and will accommodate more housing.



Photos Ayesha Sedgman



## Central Activity District Revitalisation

Improving streetscapes and pedestrian/cycling connections in central Horsham with attractive linkages to the riverfront precinct. Establish a series of meeting places in the Central Activity District, which link with other key public spaces including the Town Hall, May Park and the Riverfront

### Benefit

Will provide an attractive, modern Central Activity District with facilities and public amenities that encourage people to visit, shop, attend events, stay longer and enjoy central Horsham.

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design

## Horsham Urban Shade

Project to enhance Horsham Central Activity District streetscapes with increase from 11 per cent to 40 per cent tree canopy cover by 2040. This project involves the planting and ongoing maintenance of 5000 trees.

### Benefit

Increasing the shade cover in Horsham will help to cool our streetscapes and open spaces, offering protection from the sun as tree canopy reflects, rather than absorbs the heat of the sun. An increased canopy cover will reduce energy usage in Horsham and also provide health benefits for the community with greater connection to nature through the increased presence of trees, now and for future generations.

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

\$2 million



## New Government Hub

At present there are a range of ageing, non-compliant buildings that support the operations of government agencies co-located within the Central Activity District. These include the municipal offices, State Government Departments, GWM Water, Horsham Police Station and the Horsham Magistrates Court. Council and project partners seek funding from State Government to investigate a new Gov Hub for Horsham, along the lines of the Ballarat Gov Hub.

### Benefit

A regional Government Hub will secure long term economic and service provision benefits to the Wimmera region; increase the quality of public service provision; support the attraction and retention of professional staff, and provide cost efficiencies for all agencies

### Status

Investigation

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design









# Activating our natural assets Wimmera Riverfront Precinct

## Objective

To activate, connect and add value to the Riverfront Precinct to establish an iconic community, recreation and tourist destination.



## Riverfront Activation

The City to River Masterplan (2019) celebrates Horsham's connection to the Wimmera River, the city's greatest natural asset. The cultural, recreation and tourism potential of the riverfront precinct will be maximised to increase recreation, socialisation, play, events, activities and infrastructure for visitors and residents. The project will improve physical connections and integration with surrounding areas and incorporate Indigenous interpretation and way-finding along the riverfront.

### Benefit

This project will create a riverfront destination for Horsham that will enhance livability, tourism, social cohesion and cultural vibrancy. Significant economic benefits will be derived from direct construction and increase in visitation and resident attraction to Horsham.

### Status

Stage 1 - Fully funded (\$3million) to commence construction early 2021

Stage 2 - \$3.6million to complete remainder of riverfront activation and extension/redevelopment of the Rowing Club. This stage includes: Town entrance upgrade at riverfront; additional Riverfront activation nodes (4) with decking, seating, landscaping; integrated indigenous artwork and story-telling; additional BBQ areas and seating with associated landscaping; widening of more shared pathways; lighting and riverbank remediation

### Project Value

Stage 2 - \$3.6 million





## Horsham Nature Water Play Park

The natural water play facility is a key project along the riverfront that will provide an all-year-round, all ages, accessible play space that celebrates the indigenous history and natural beauty of the riverfront. The design of the play park includes a meandering stream, wet and dry sand areas, rock pools and climbing boulders and water activation play areas.

### Benefit

This regional level play facility will be a major tourism drawcard designed to attract visitation to the region, encouraging people to 'stay and play' a little longer. The facility will also enhance the riverfront for the enjoyment of local residents and is expected to have 200,000+ visitations per year.

Increase in economic output \$7 million

Employment outcomes 17 jobs

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$2.45 million

### Council commitment

\$350,000









# Making connections Transport

## Objective

To better integrate and improve the connectivity for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles in urban areas of Horsham; leading to positive transport outcomes across the wider region. Horsham lies at a junction point of three regional highways including the Western Highway (A8). Over 6,000 vehicles per day travelling through the city, including heavy vehicles.





## Alternative truck route

Detailed route alignment planning to take trucks traveling through Horsham on the Western Highway, Wimmera Highway and Henty Highway out of Horsham's Central Activity District.

### Benefit

Safety and amenity benefits within the Horsham urban area for residents and businesses, providing safer access to the retail/entertainment precinct. Freight efficiency for heavy vehicles currently negotiating multiple traffic lights through central Horsham.

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

\$200,000

### Council commitment

\$100,000

## Pedestrian bridge across the Wimmera River at Hamilton Street

Development of a second pedestrian bridge across the Wimmera River in the vicinity of Hamilton Street. Works to include bridge, approach ramps, lighting and landscaping.

### Benefit

Enhanced connectivity of pedestrian and cycling traffic between new housing estates in Horsham's south-east to the Central Activity District, and several schools located in the eastern part of Horsham. This project will also help reduce vehicle congestion at the existing highway crossing of the Wimmera River and encourage a more active lifestyle for residents with associated health benefits.

### Status

Detailed design

### Project Value

\$2.2 million (construction)

### Council commitment

\$100,000 to complete the detailed design and a further \$200,000 as a co-contribution to the construction phase.

## Upgrade of key freight routes

Widening of approximately 7 km of Dimboola-Minyip Road to 6.6 m seal width. A joint project with Yarriambiack Shire Council.

### Benefit

Heavily used local road short-cut for heavy vehicles travelling from Adelaide to Bendigo. The current narrow seal width forces vehicles onto gravel shoulders when facing oncoming traffic, leading to increased safety risks, and significant maintenance costs.

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$2.2 million

## Cycling/pedestrian shared path enhancements

A range of upgrades and new projects to enhance shared pedestrian/cyclist paths in urban Horsham identified in collaboration with Horsham's Bicycle Advisory Committee

### Benefit

To provide safer access for pedestrians and cyclists, create greater separation from road vehicles and encourage active and healthy lifestyles and commuting.

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$1.36 million



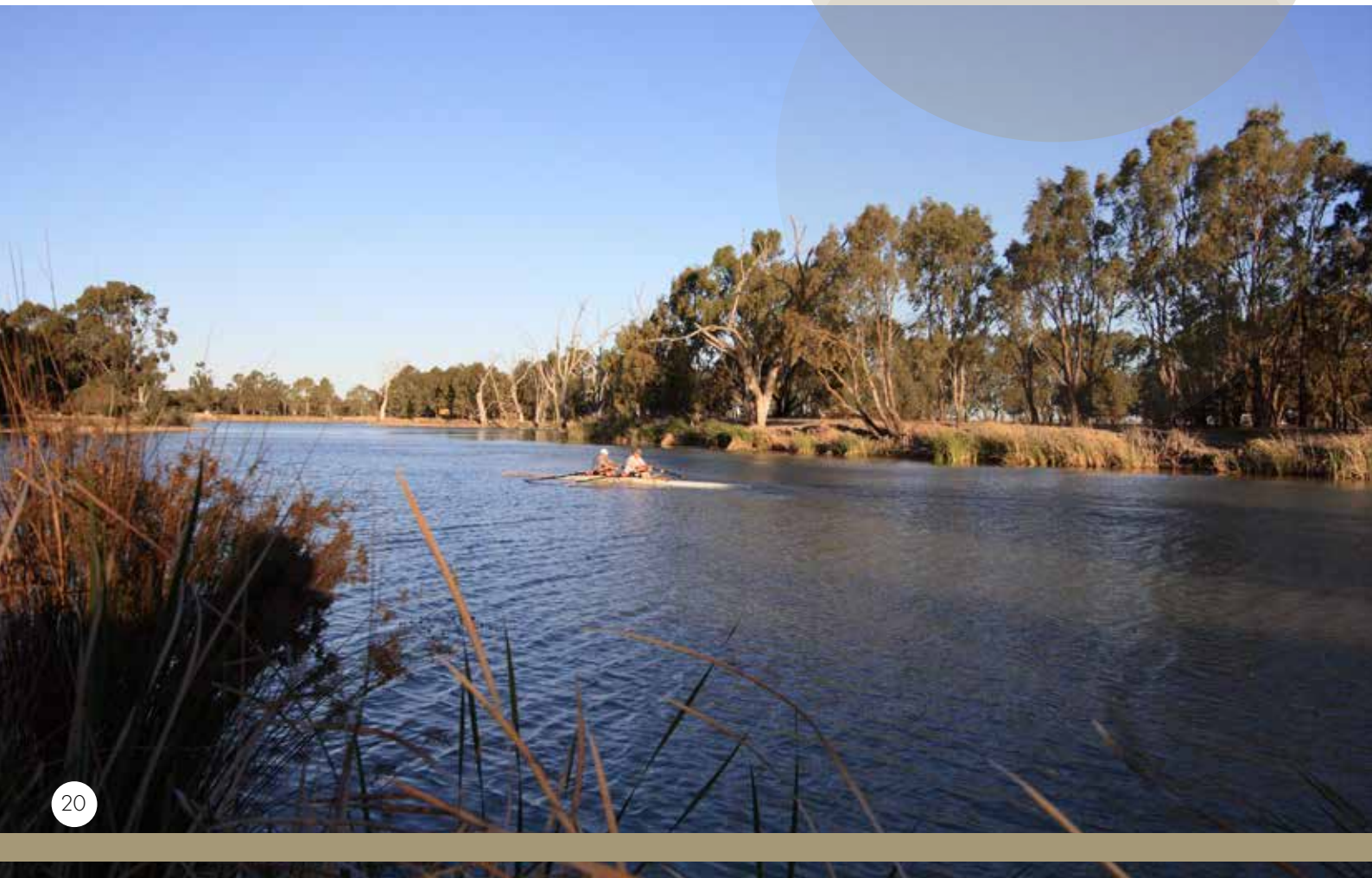




# Active Horsham Sport and Recreation

## Objective

To adopt a 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.



## Upgrade City Oval

Upgrade facilities at Horsham's Premier Oval to meet contemporary facility standards including Universal Design. Upgrades required are expansion of the size of the playing field, a new multi-purpose pavilion and clubrooms (including fully accessible and female friendly facilities), a second netball court and covered spectator areas

### Benefit

The redevelopment of City Oval to a regional standard will enable regional AFL and cricket sporting events and other non-sporting events to be hosted. Upgrades will support growth in male and female sports including football, cricket and netball.

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design

## Regional Indoor/Outdoor Sports Precinct

Development of a regional indoor/outdoor sports precinct to provide for a range of sports including: basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, squash, tennis, athletics, soccer/rugby and hockey.

### Benefit

Create a modern, compliant, accessible sporting precinct to support increased participation in a range of sports and to attract regional and state level sporting events.

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design



## Horsham Aquatic Centre

Council has completed the first stage of the Aquatic Centre Masterplan including significant works to the indoor and outdoor pool. The following projects are the next two stages of the Masterplan to be delivered:

### **Accessible changerooms (Masterplan Stage 2)**

To construct an accessible change room area within the indoor pool complex

#### **Benefit**

Accessible facilities to ensure access for wider community use.

#### **Status**

Schematic design

#### **Project Value**

\$662,000

### **Hydrotherapy Pool (Masterplan Stage 2)**

To construct a public access hydrotherapy pool with associated equipment for rehabilitation and exercise programs

#### **Benefit**

A publically accessible hydrotherapy pool will provide important health and well-being outcomes for all ages, with hydrotherapy used in pain relief and treatments for a range of illnesses and conditions.

#### **Status**

Schematic design

#### **Project Value**

\$1.4 million





Photo Ayesha Sedgman

# Supporting industry Economic development

## Objective

To build on Horsham's strong economic base, whilst diversifying the economy through facilitating investment and business attraction in existing and emerging industry sectors





## Expansion of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT)

Construction of 2 x 200 m pad extensions to increase the capacity of the WIFT hardstand area, extensions to rail and road capacity on-site, weighbridge, security upgrades, lighting, internal roads, and drainage.

### Benefit

Increased through-put. The WIFT is currently constrained during peak periods which results in reduced efficiency

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

> \$8 million



# Making Places Community and Culture

## Objective

To support our diverse community by developing an environment that aims to cater to the shifting needs of our residents. Our projects support 'place-making' that encourage people to connect and develop our municipality as a great place to live.



Photo Ayesha Sedgman

## The Station Redevelopment

Exploration of the Nexus/Jubilee Hall/Kindergarten precinct for development of a youth activation space.

Redevelopment of the Nexus youth building including landscaping and activation of the recreation space at the rear of the building. This project involves: painting; flooring; secure storage; landscaping; lighting; indoor and outdoor furnishing; and program development.

### Benefit

Horsham's Youth Council have nominated this project as their highest priority to support young people in our community. The development of a designated and purpose built space will enhance social cohesion and wellbeing for our younger people.

### Status

Detailed design

### Project Value

\$270,000

## Laharum Oval: New community Facility

Replacement of ageing community infrastructure at the Laharum sporting precinct to support local AFL football, cricket, tennis, school use and the general community. New 350 sqm multi-purpose facility (AFL compliant) with solar panels.

### Benefit

Enhances community social cohesion, supports a disadvantaged rural community (drought, 2011 flood, Northern Grampians bushfire - 2014), supports social inclusion for the growing Karen refugee community, supports female inclusion and participation, strengthens community volunteering, incorporates universal design for greater accessibility, provides improved emergency management capability (response and recovery).

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$900,000





## Horsham Railway Corridor

In 2016 a Master Plan was developed to explore how to create better connections across Horsham's rail corridor. This document was designed as a blueprint for new infrastructure, investment and land uses along the rail corridor.

Staged approach outline:

- Phase 1 – new recreational and open spaces
  - o The remediation of contamination in parts of the site
  - o The development of around six hectares of passive open space
  - o The creation of an east-west pedestrian and cycling spine
- Phase 2 – new and enhanced connections across the railway line
  - o Improved accessibility and safety at the underpasses
  - o Provision for the construction of new housing
  - o Provision for the development of expanded and new community facilities
- Phase 3 – Provision for the long-term realignment of the railway line.

### Benefit

Improve perception of Horsham North and re-integration of Horsham North into the wider Horsham community.

Ultimately the relocation of railway line will provide the best long term solution to north/south access as it would allow:

- o The reconnection of north-south roads
- o Improved pedestrian and bicycle access between Horsham North and the Central Activity District
- o Improved accessibility

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design



# Visit Horsham Tourism

## Objective

Our vision is to increase visitation, economic growth and sustainability through the provision of quality tourism products and event support, regional marketing and customer service to visitors, businesses and community. Horsham Rural City is a fantastic base for regional tourism and exploring the Wimmera Southern Mallee. Our region provides a wide tourism offering including arts and cultural experiences and nature based tourism that attracts intrastate, interstate and overseas visitors



Mackenzie Falls, Parks Victoria



## Grampians Peaks Trailhead – Mount Zero

The Grampians Peaks Trail, a world-class 14 day trail across the Grampians National Park will be complete by September 2021. Mount Zero as the northern gateway requires the provision of trailhead facilities such as shelter, toilet facilities, secure parking and other amenities. Council is also partnering with a private business to develop a Business Case for an Eco Resort at the base of Mt Zero that will offer a range of accommodation and hospitality services.

### Benefit

The project will leverage Mt Zero's location as the starting point of the Grampians Peaks Trail to attract visitors to the North Western Grampians region, bringing additional tourism spend.

### Status

Pre-planning

### Project Value

\$1.5 million

## Wimmera River Discovery Trail

Develop a section of this trail along the old, disused railway line from Horsham to Natimuk.

### Benefit

Increased visitation through provision of a safe, accessible and well maintained rail trail. Improved health and wellbeing through use of the trail for active recreation.

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

\$2.95 million





## Grampians Way – road link circling the Grampians National Park

The Grampians Way is a ring road approximately 285km in length circling the Grampians National Park. The project identified infrastructure investment in Winfield's Road construction and linkages to Mt Zero to complete the North Western Grampians section.

### **Benefit**

Enhanced tourism connection for the Grampians National Park

### **Status**

Planning

### **Project Value**

To be determined following detailed design













# Want to learn more?

Speak to the following people

## **Sunil Bhalla**

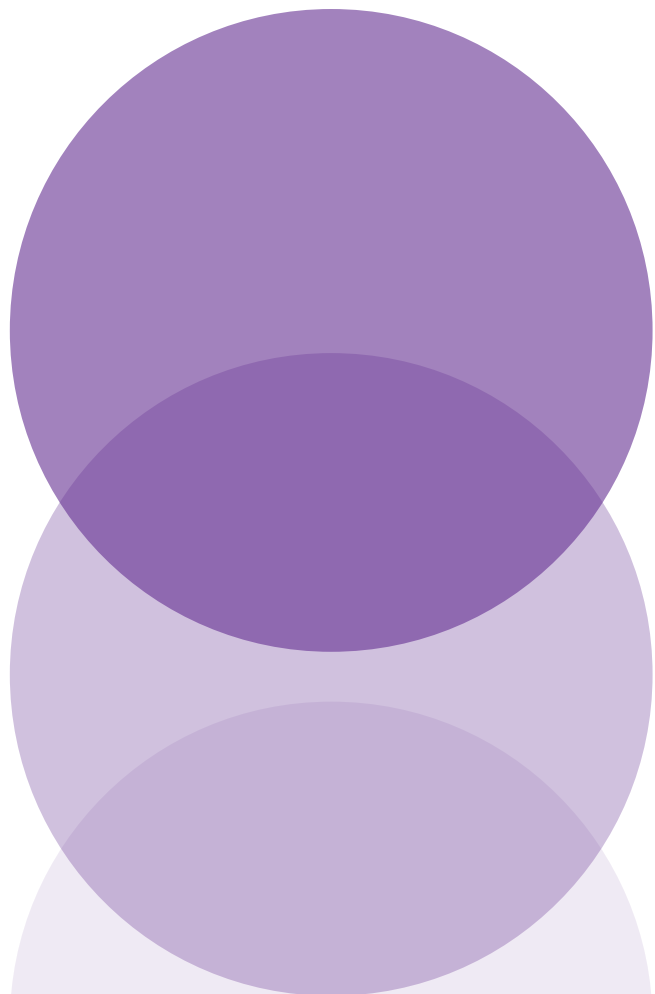
Chief Executive Officer

[sunil.bhalla@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:sunil.bhalla@hrcc.vic.gov.au) | 03 5382 9777

## **Susan Surridge**

Co-ordinator Advocacy

[susan.surridge@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:susan.surridge@hrcc.vic.gov.au) | 03 5382 9777











## 1. PURPOSE

This Policy outlines Council's guidelines for the audio recording and subsequent uploading online of council meetings.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

This Policy aims to improve accessibility and community participation in relation to decision making processes. Audio recording and publishing Council Meetings on Council's website provides flexible and convenient public access to Council debate and decision making.

Audio recording Council Meetings also eliminates geographic and time barriers which may prevent the public from attending meetings in person; thereby resulting in greater community confidence in the integrity and accountability of the decision making process.

## 3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to:

- Meetings of Council, plus any other public forums or meetings as authorised by the Chief Executive Officer
- Councillors and Officers of Horsham Rural City Council
- Members of the public, both as visitors in the public gallery and as contributors to any public meeting held in the Council Chamber.

This policy does not extend to any meetings closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## 4. PRINCIPLES

### 4.1 Meeting to be Audio Recorded

Council Meetings held in the Council Chamber will be audio recorded, and subsequently available on, or via, Council's website at [www.hrcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au)

Other Public Meetings / Forums as authorised by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) may also be audio recorded.

Council Meetings where confidential information is to be considered will not be recorded.

There may be situations where, due to technical difficulties a recording may not be available. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the recording and website are available and running smoothly, Council takes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for, the audio recording or Council website being temporarily unavailable due to technical issues beyond its control.

Technical issues may include, but are not limited to, the availability of the internet connection, device failure or malfunction, unavailability of social media platforms or power outages.



## 4.2 Production

The audio recording will cease when:

- The Chairperson declares the public meeting closed
- Whenever the meeting is adjourned as allowed under the Governance Rules.

## 4.3 Access to Archived Recordings

Council Meetings that are audio recorded will later be available on, or via, Council's website [www.hrcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au) with public access available free of charge for a period of twelve months. Copies of the recording are available on request in a digital format for \$25:00 per meeting.

## 4.4 Notice to Public Gallery

At the commencement of each meeting, the Chair shall read a statement notifying those present that the meeting will be audio recorded and available via Council's website.

Appropriate signage shall also be visibly displayed in the foyer of the Council Chamber and printed in the meeting agenda.

## 4.5 Reliance on the Audio Recording of Council Meetings

The formal written minutes are the only true and accurate record of the Council Meetings. The audio recording is not an official record of the meeting.

Council does not assume any responsibility for actions undertaken by parties in response to decisions made and communicated via the audio recording of a Council Meeting. The audio recording of Council meetings does not constitute a legal and formal process of communication of a Council decision to a person directly affected by that decision. Council does not accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost, or expense you might incur as a result of the use or reliance of information or statements provided in the recording of Council meetings.

## 4.6 Identified Risks and Mitigation Action

Public Council meetings are an open forum of statements, questions and answers. Occasionally, comments could be made which may be regarded as offensive, defamatory, or contrary to law.

Local Government Council decision making, unlike State and Federal Government, does not afford Councillors the benefit of parliamentary privilege and hence, all associated laws apply. Councillors and Officers Liability Insurance will be maintained by Council to provide protection for Councillors and Officers against litigation arising from unintentional defamation, libel and slander.

It should be noted that no protection is afforded to the public for comments made during meetings which are subsequently challenged in a court of law and determined to be defamatory or slanderous.

Whilst Council may not be liable for any defamatory comments made by an individual at a meeting, it may, however, be liable if it publishes that material; albeit inadvertently.





Accordingly, following any public council meeting the CEO has discretion to direct the removal of all or part of any recording which is considered inappropriate to be published. Material considered as inappropriate may include, but is not limited to:

- Defamation
- Infringement of Copyright
- Breach of Privacy / Disclosure of Personal Information
- Offensive Behaviour including Discrimination
- Vilification or Inciting Hatred
- Confidential or Privileged Council Information

In making this determination the CEO may seek independent legal advice.

#### **4.7 Privacy and Defamation**

The opinions or statements made during the course of the meeting are those of the particular individuals, and not necessarily the opinions or statements of Council. Council does not necessarily endorse or support the views, opinions, standards, or information contained in the audio recording of the Council meetings.

Council does not accept any responsibility for the comments made or information provided during Council meetings and does not warrant nor represent that the material or statements made during the recorded meetings are complete, reliable, accurate or free from error.

#### **4.8 Copyright**

The audio recording of Council Meetings and any other public forums and meetings authorised by the CEO remain the property of Horsham Rural City Council and are protected by copyright. Access to audio recordings of meetings is provided for personal and non-commercial use. Audio must not be altered, reproduced or republished without the permission of the CEO. Copyright remains with Council. All commercial or media enquiries are to be directed through Council's Media and Communications Unit.

### **5. COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be made available on Council's website and intranet. Councillors and Staff will be made aware of this policy via Council briefings, staff meetings, staff newsletter and the intranet.

### **6. RESPONSIBILITY**

**Policy Owner:** Manager Governance & Information



## 7. DEFINITIONS

Definition	Meaning
Audio Recording	The audio recording of a meeting by an electronic device
CEO	Chief Executive Officer, Horsham Rural City Council
Chair	Person presiding over the meeting; usually the Mayor
Confidential Meeting	A Meeting of the Council which has been closed to members of the public under Section 89(2) <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>
Council	Horsham Rural City Council
Council Meeting	A Meeting of the Council as defined in Section 61(1) of the Local Government Act 2020
Defamation	Intentional false communication which damages the reputation of another individual
Privacy Breach	Unauthorised access to, or collection, use or disclosure of personal information in accordance with the <i>Privacy &amp; Data Protection Act (VIC) 2014</i>
Slander	Oral defamation, in which someone tells one or more persons and untruth about another which untruth will harm the reputation of the person defamed

## 8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Document	Location
MAV insurance – Recording and Publishing Council Meetings	Internet
Acknowledge reference to City of Wodonga Live Streaming, Recording and Publishing of Council Meetings Policy	Wodonga.vic.gov.au
Acknowledge reference to South Gippsland Live Streaming of Council Meetings Policy	Southgippsland.vic.gov.au

## 9. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version Number	Approval Date	Approval By	Amendment	Review Date
01	27 May 2019	Council	New policy	27 May 2022
02	26 April 2021	Council	Minor amendments to align with Local Government Act 2020	26 April 2024



**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS****COUNCIL PLANNING DAY HELD AT HORSHAM GOLF CLUB  
ON FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2021 AT 1.00PM**

**Present:** Cr R Gulline, Mayor, Cr D Bell (via zoom), Cr D Bowe, Cr P Flynn, Cr C Haenel, Cr L Power; Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Faith Hardman, Corporate Planner

**Facilitators:** Todd Beavis and Miranda Leckey from ie Community

**Apology:** Cr I Ross

**1. INTRODUCTION****2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 130 and 131, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RULES**

Nil.

**3. ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- 3.1 Update On Progress
- 3.2 Community Vision
- 3.3 Council Plan Overlay
- 3.4 Council Plan Template
- 3.5 Values
- 3.6 Goals
- 3.7 External Influences

**8. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 4.45pm

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS****COUNCIL BUDGET BRIEFING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON MONDAY 3 MAY 2021 AT 5.00PM**

**Present:** Cr R Gulline, Mayor, Cr D Bell, Cr D Bowe, Cr P Flynn, Cr C Haenel, Cr L Power, Cr I Ross; Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services (5.30pm onwards); Mazen Aldaghstani, Acting Director Infrastructure (5.30pm onwards); Diana McDonald, Acting Manager Governance and Information (item 3 only); Cameron Gerlach, Co-ordinator Information Technology (item 3 only); Gavin Fry, IT Systems Administration Officer (item 3 only); Robbie Somers, Media and Communications Officer (item 3 only); Susan SurrIDGE, Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy (item 4.1 only); Joel Hastings, Co-ordinator Statutory Planning and Building Services (item 4.2 only); Fiona Gormann, Manager Investment Attraction and Growth (item 4.2 only); Mandi Stewart, Manager Community Services and Emergency (item 4.3 only)

**Apology:** John Martin, Director of Infrastructure

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Cr Gulline welcomed everyone.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 130 and 131, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RULES**

Nil

**3. PRESENTATION – AT WIMMERA REGIONAL LIBRARY, McLachlan Street, Horsham**

Library Services presentation to Councillors by Ann Twyford, Wimmera Regional Library CEO.

Meeting reconvened in Council Chamber: 5.30pm

**4. IT / SOCIAL MEDIA QUESTION TIME**

Discussed

**4. COUNCIL REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION****4.1 Strategic Advocacy Plan**

Discussed

**4.2 Pit 23 Update**

Discussed

**4.3 Early Years Services and Facilities**

Discussed

**4.4 Horsham Lubeck Road Bridge**

Discussed



Discussed

**5. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**6. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS****COUNCIL BRIEFING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON MONDAY 10 MAY 2021 AT 5.00PM**

**Present:** Cr R Gulline, Mayor, Cr D Bell, Cr D Bowe, Cr P Flynn, Cr C Haenel, Cr L Power; Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Michelle Rethus, Community Wellbeing Strategic Planning Officer; (item 4 only); Fiona Gormann, Manager Investment Attraction and Growth (items 5.1 and 5.2 only); Carolynne Hamdorf, Manager Arts Culture and Recreation (item 5.3 only); Mandy Kirsopp, Co-ordinator Recreation and Open Space (item 5.3 only); Michael McCarthy, Project Manager/Consultant (item 5.4 only)

**Apology:** Cr I Ross

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Cr Gulline welcomed everyone.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 130 and 131, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RULES**

Nil.

**3. PRESENTATION**

3.1 Women's Serenity Garden Group

**Attended:** Kaye Londrigan, Trixie Sampson and Manushika Arachchige

**4. COUNCIL PLAN DISCUSSION**

Discussed

Meeting adjourned for dinner: 8.10pm

Meeting reconvened: 8.25pm

**5. COUNCIL REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION**

5.1 Investment Attraction and Growth Report

Discussed

5.2 Café/Restaurant Expression of Interest (EOI)

Discussed

5.3 Wimmera Regional Multi Sports Precinct Feasibility Study Project Brief

Discussed



5.4 Committee Review Update

Discussed

5.5 Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge

Discussed

5.6 Council Meetings

Discussed

**6. INFORMATION ONLY**

6.1. Finance and Performance Report

**7. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**9. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

4 May 2021

Re. Horsham Domestic Violence and Women's Serenity Garden space for Horsham

I wish to submit the following Notice of Motion for Council meeting Monday May 24th, 2021.

Notice of Motion – Horsham Serenity Gardens project and Domestic Violence in Horsham report

I wish to move that Council look at a project for a Women's Serenity Garden in Horsham CBD given the highest incidence of domestic violence in the region and double the state average. A full report on the data would also be appropriate, and a briefing held in council chambers to hear from the women in community on the topic of domestic violence and the need for a tranquil garden space for all women to feel safe.

Nomination signed by: Cr. Claudia Haenel



Reasoning: These are the reasons why I am moving this motion:

1. Horsham has the highest domestic violence rate in the region. It is double the state average.
2. In the same way men have a "Men's Shed", women who make up 51% of the community and most affected by domestic violence would like to have a safe space to retreat to and call their own. The one thing homeless women wanted according to an Australian Human Rights commission report was 'a place to call their own and a garden'. I am asking that HRCC put this project on the next meeting Agenda as a council provided space.
3. Many women in Horsham Rural City community have reached out stating they would love to see this happen and are wanting to donate their own funds to construct memorial benches in such a space. They are accepting the invitation of HRCC to come to a briefing and give their reasons why this is a valid project for the health and wellbeing of women.
4. Such a garden space would fit in with HRCC council objectives on Council Plan Goal 1 Community and Cultural Development, Goal 5 Natural & Built Environments and the HRCC Open space strategy of developing green spaces within the CAD.
5. HRCC prioritise and allocate funding within the upcoming budget for a Women's Serenity Garden in Horsham.

Sincerely



Cr. Claudia Haenel.