

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on

24 May 2021

At 5.30pm

In the

Council Chamber, Civic Centre

18 Roberts Avenue, HORSHAM

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE IS PERMITTED BUT NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED IN LINE WITH COVIDSAFE GUIDELINES.

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 24 May 2021 in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm

Order of Business

PRESENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

1. PRAYER

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

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

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

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Welcome to 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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 26 April 2021 be adopted.

7. 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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CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH REPORT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F15/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

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for March 2021.

Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Report provides a summary of investment attraction and growth activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for March 2021

REPORT

Background

An Investment Attraction and Growth Report is tabled monthly at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Discussion

The work undertaken across Investment Attraction and Growth includes Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Building Services, Visitor Services, Business, Tourism and Events.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND EVENTS

The Business Assistance Grants



The business assistance grants allocation of \$84,000 has been fully disbursed. Grant funding covered three categories which supported innovation, operational improvements, marketing strategies, and business growth in response to the challenges of COVID-19.

One of the many successful businesses which has benefited from the Stronger Business Grant was Leanne Vincent owner of Imelda Shoes and Accessories. The grant funding support the business website improvements with the inclusion of online shopping for customers to browse and or buy online at their leisure.

Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package - Dining Proposals

The Victorian State Government outdoor eating and entertainment package aimed to increase outdoor opportunities for hospitality facilities, proved successful. There were 32 Horsham municipality businesses that submitted a proposal to Council for consideration of permanent infrastructure such as tables, bench seats, wind barriers, umbrellas, planter boxes, heating and awnings.

The Business Team commenced working with businesses to further develop their proposal in March with several of the proposals requiring additional design and building applications.

One of the successful businesses who proposal has come to fruition is Leanne and David Panozzo. They have established an espresso bar and ice-creamy called Una Sosta, at their May Park Executive Apartment. They are now opened to the public.



Stronger Business Fronts Submissions

Business Front Upgrades grant stream, is a new and exciting opportunity to assisting businesses from within the municipality by supporting their upgrade and improvement of visual appeal to their business front. Funding allocation has proven successfully with 19 applications received to date (30 March 2021). Many of the applications relate to new innovative signage, beautification and landscaping.

Business Development Team – Visitations for the month of March

Number of Business Visits – Statistics				
	Jan	Feb	March	YTD
Operators				
Retail / Accommodation	11	24	40	75
Hospitality	12	77	61	150
Events - interactions	10	21	31	62

Events and Visitor Statistics

	Jan	Feb	March	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event application	8	9	5	22
Google Analytics statistics for the www.visithorsham.com.au website	5,212	3,438 Visitations between 1 February to 28 February 2021 resulting in 12% returning visitors and 3,329 new visitors to the site	5,290 Site visitations between 1 March to 31 March Resulting in 12.5% returning visitors and 87.5% (5,154) new visitors to the site Two peaks were noted during the month of March resulting on Sunday 7 March 2021 with 410 users and Monday 22 March 2021 with 483 users leading up to the Easter period	13,940

Events Notifications – March 2021

List of community event notifications received during the month of March 2021, as follows:

- Haven Market
- Natimuk Farmers Market
- Phoenix Animal Rescue
- Horsham Parkrun
- Natimuk Show

There were 31 interactions (direct contacts) made with event organisers during the month of March.

Special Guest 3AW Morning Presenter Darren James visited the Horsham Municipality

Via Grampians Tourism connections with Pepper Brand Team (who established the Live Regional campaign), was able to host the 3AW presenter over a period of two days from 22 to 24 March, 2022.

Mayor Cr Robyn Gulline had the opportunity to welcome 3AW Presenter Darren James and wife Kathy to Horsham. Darren travelled across all four councils of the Grampians. Mayor Cr Gulline had taken the occasion to show Darren the growth of Horsham and areas of future development.



Shift Regional –Live the Grampians Way website: <https://grampianslife.com.au/>

Horsham Rural City Council, Ararat Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire and Southern Grampians Shire Councils are work together to implement a coordinated and consistent marketing approach, known as the Grampians New Resident Attraction campaign.

Shane Manley from Pepper Brand indicated that the program has seen steady numbers of registrations from candidates coming through. Pepper Brand is work with local businesses to aim their input on job opportunities.

Horsham Visitor Services

Easter Trading

A project through the business community took place with regard to Easter trading in the region. As Council were advised that accommodation in town was fully booked. Council worked to ensure that there were eateries open over the Easter break. This was achieved through directly phoning businesses and visiting all hospitality providers to encourage them to open for at least part of the long weekend. Council then created a social media post which linked to a list of eateries on the Council website to ensure the community and visitors to the region were informed of the businesses that were open during the Easter period.

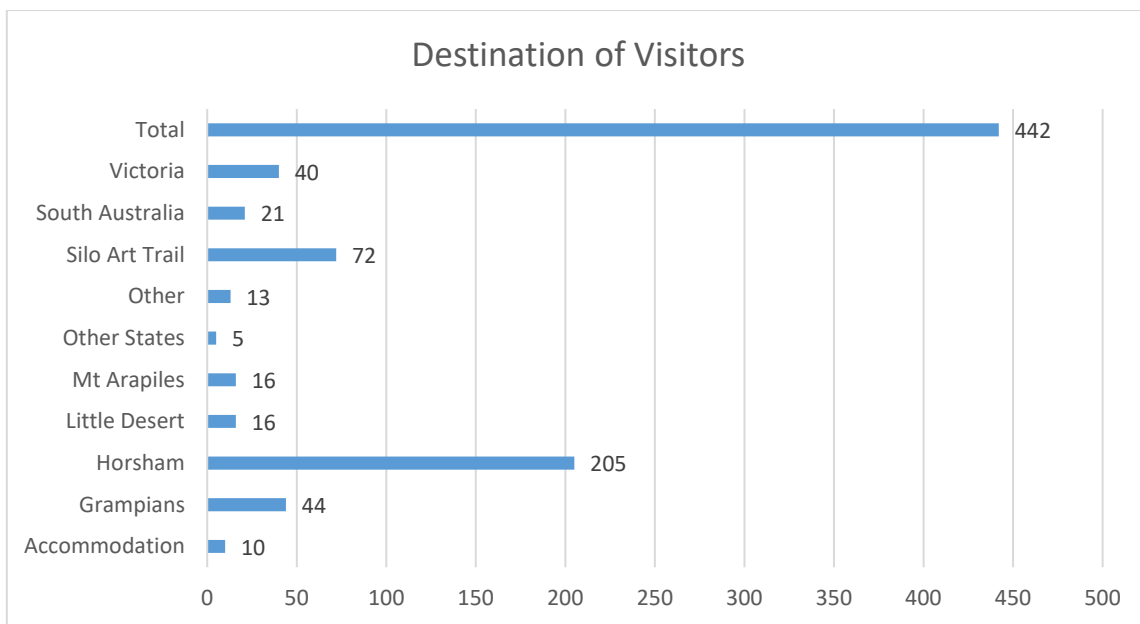


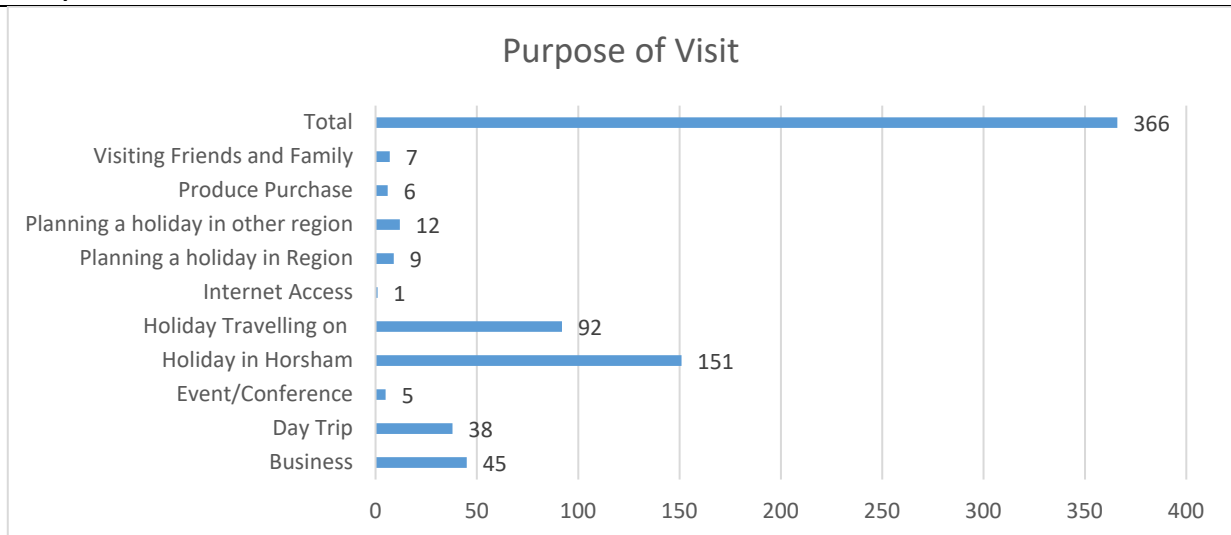
Total Visitors Received From 1 January to 31 March 2021

	March	Previous Month	YTD	Previous Year
Groups recorded	326	159	764	N/A
Total for individuals within groups	596	282	1964	1165
Visithorsham.com.au web visits	5290	3438	14,400	2792
Emails	286	223	424	N/A
Produce Sales	\$1033	\$730	\$3362	N/A

Visit Horsham Website

Visithorsham.com.au: 12.5 per cent were returning visitors and 87.5 per cent (5,154) new visitors to the site. Two peaks were noted during the month of March with Sunday, 7 March 2021 being part of the Labour Day Holiday weekend with 410 users and Monday, 22 March 2021 with 483 users leading up to the Easter period.





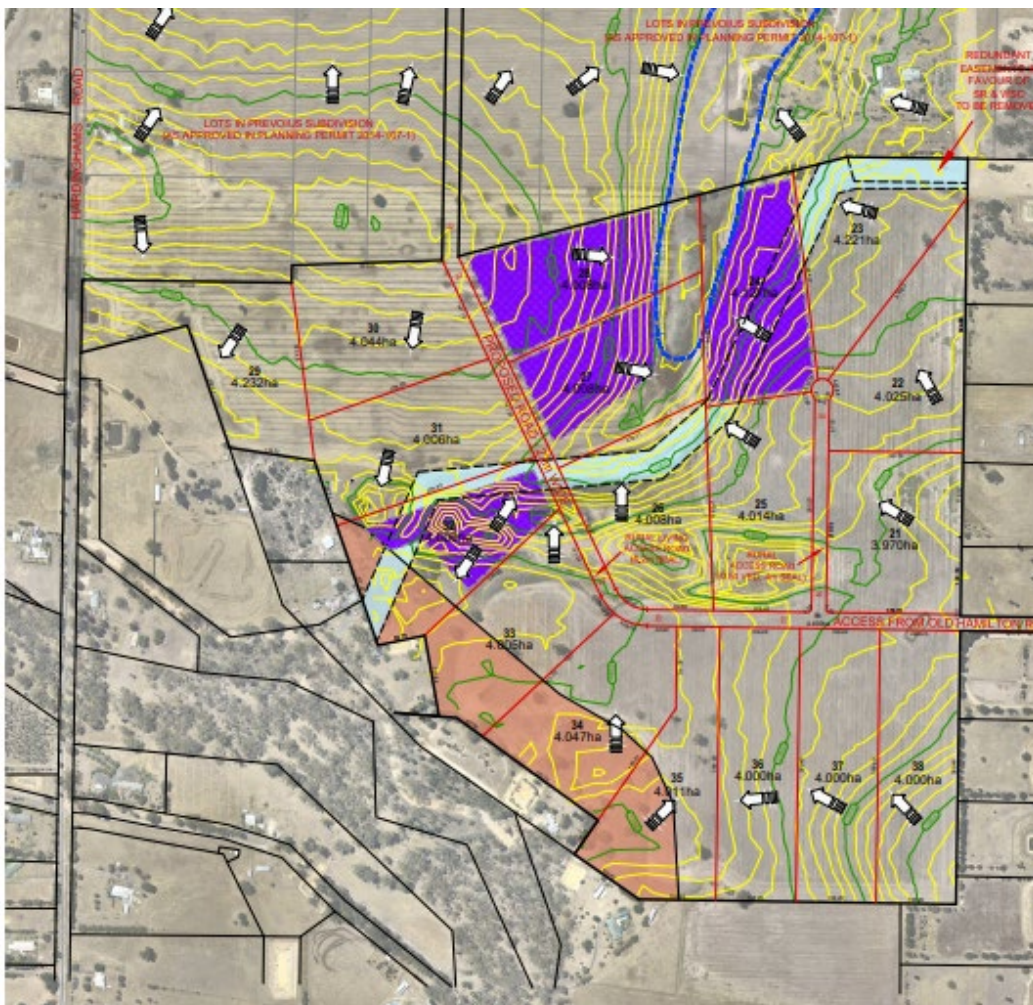
Visitor Engagement

March figures continued to be steady with visitors taking the opportunity to travel over the long weekend in March and having an extended Easter break. 221 groups of two were the largest group of visitors to the Visitor Services located at the Horsham Town Hall (HTH) followed by 90 individual representations. 151 groups chose Horsham as their preferred destination and 92 groups called in for information as they continued on their journey. 205 groups chose to stay in Horsham or have day visits particularly through the busy times at Halls Gap and in the Grampians, as visitors were wanting to get away from the crowds. Other visitors left their residences in crowded coastal tourist destinations to escape large crowds.

STATUTORY PLANNING

Subdivision

There continues to be strong activity for subdivision with a number of new applications and progress on existing staged subdivision developments. Horsham has a number of large subdivisions and estates including the Southbank, Sunnybrae and Jenkinsons Estate that provide land supply for the strong housing market and are currently developing the infrastructure required for release of titles. Council have also recently approved an 11 lot subdivision in River Road and received an application for stage 2 development plan in Mackies Road, Haven that will ensure there continues to be a diversity of land available across the city.



Proposed 18 lot subdivision – Mackies Road, Haven

VCAT

The Statutory Planning team have been working through a number of matters listed for VCAT in 2021 which can include practice days, compulsory conferences and hearings. Following a compulsory conference for PA2000069 for the *Use of land* to sell liquor (packaged liquor licence), all parties were able to mediate the issues regarding cumulative impact, hours of operation and safety and a negotiate agreement by order of VCAT. Accordingly, a permit has been issued and it is expected that Liquor Outlet will commence operation in the coming months.

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of March 2021 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	MAR 2021		MAR 2020	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	42	10,488,630	35	7,169,127
Industrial/Commercial	35	20,829,313	28	5,555,243
Subdivisions	14	980,000	18	1,475,000
Other	7	32,500	4	30,000
Total	98	32,330,443	90	14,229,370

(*Please note: Not all applications have a \$ figure)

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 is 98 compared to 85 in the same period in 2019/20.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have created 36 new lots from 1 July 2020 to 30 March 2021 compared to 40 in the same period in 2019/20.

BUILDING SERVICES

Building Permits Issued

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of March 2021 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	MARCH 2021		MARCH 2020	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	3	1,032,503	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resitting's	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	45,009	3	78,043
Removal/Demolish	2	24,850	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	2	80,000
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	7	1,102,362	5	158,043

Permits issued by other Private Building Surveyors for this Municipality or by Government Departments

Type	MARCH 2021		MARCH 2020	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	8	3,461,235	4	1,156,163
Alterations to Dwellings	6	498,087	3	66,500
Dwelling resitting's	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	12	538,417	4	233,061
Removal/Demolish	2	87,350	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	7	1,040,882	2	79,190
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	35	5,625,971	13	1,534,914

A total of 47 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$4,002,169 from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 compared to 67 Building Permits at a total value of \$4,379,558 for the same period in 2019/20.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 212 Building Permits at a total value of \$46,391,210 from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 compared to 133 at a total value of \$36,515,298 for the same period in 2019/20.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Horsham South Structure Plan Stage 2

Preparation is underway for a draft Request for Quote (RfQ) for the Horsham South Structure Plan. The Strategic Planning Unit is working towards releasing the RfQ for internal and selective external (e.g. Victorian Planning Authority) review and feedback. It is intended that the RfQ will go out for selective tender to planning consultants experienced in the preparation of growth area and regional structure plans. This work will require planning consultants who are known by their track record and suitable for a contract of this size, nature and complexity required. The Strategic Planning Unit will seek to release the RfQ by mid-late May 2021.

Paint Colour Schemes – Firebrace Street Heritage Precinct (future)

The Strategic Planning Unit has sought advice from its heritage advisory services (Grieve Gillett Andersen) on recommended paint colour schemes for five buildings within the Firebrace Street Heritage Precinct. Firebrace Street has been earmarked by *2014 Stage 2 Horsham Heritage Study* as a precinct of local heritage value. Council's Business Fronts Upgrades Grant Program raised awareness of the importance of ensuring any external works to building facades are suitable and sympathetic in regards to existing heritage architectural qualities. Inappropriate paint colours can substantially change the character of buildings and streetscapes by introducing colours and textures which could not have been produced over 100 years ago. The following buildings have been nominated for period paint colour scheme advice:

- T&G Building
- Lattanzio's Clothing & Footwear Department Store
- Sassi Beauty Bar & Hair Design
- Mechanics Institute
- Horsham Theatre

The heritage adviser will determine the original scheme and recommend other schemes which are preferred and appropriate of their period. Council is currently awaiting the heritage consultant to provide a fee for this work.

Figure 1. Proposed heritage overlay precinct extent (Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2)

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Report provides overview development and business activity across the region with no direct sustainability implications.

Community Engagement

Report has been prepared in consultation with range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Business Horsham, Wimmera Development Association and on Horsham Rural City Council website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Report provides overview of activity and assists with continuous improvement.

Collaboration

Report has been prepared in collaboration with Council Officers across Planning, Building and Business and Tourism Support.

Financial Implications

The Business and Community Support package will deliver projects that make up Council's direct financial contribution of \$484,000.

Further projects will be developed to support businesses through the Local Council's Outdoor Eating and Entertaining program for \$500,000. These funds need to be fully expended by 30 June 2021.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The activities undertaken by the Investment Attraction and Growth Department are designed to support a broad sector of those who live here, do business here and visit here. This report highlight strong activity in the subdivision of land for residential use.

9.2 WIMMERA REGIONAL MULTI-SPORT PRECINCT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Author's Name:	Mandy Kirsopp	Director:	Kevin OBrien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Recreation and Open Space	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Arts, Culture and Recreation	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

Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study Project Brief (**Appendix "9.2A"**)

Purpose

To endorse the updated Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study Consultant's Brief.

Summary

Council's endorsement of the City to River Masterplan on 25 November 2019 included the requirement to undertake an independent feasibility study to consider the preferred location for the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct.

Council's resolution directed the independent study to:

1. Determine the economic and social impacts of the facility
2. Be informed by the technical feasibility of each site, operational model and costs
3. Involve engagement with the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria to determine the cost of relocation.

The total budget for this planning project is \$60,000. Planning funding of \$30,000 was successfully obtained from Sport and Recreation Victoria's (SRV) Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and was matched by a Council contribution from the 2020-21 budget. A funding agreement has been signed with SRV, the grant monies released and the project is due for completion by 31 January 2022.

The Consultant's Brief was presented to Council at its 26 April 2021 meeting. The Council resolution was as follows:

That the draft project brief be rewritten to ensure that this study is conducted in line with resolutions 11 and 12 of 25 November 2019 Council meeting.

The project brief has been updated and this report outlines both the feedback re-iterated by the co-funder of the project and the potential risks of proceeding with a comparative analysis of the two stated sites (Showgrounds and Jenkinson Avenue).

Recommendation

That Council endorse the updated Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study Consultant's Brief (**Appendix "9.2A"**) and release the Brief to the market.

REPORT

Background

The 2021 Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study will be a new piece of work investigating the feasibility of a regional multi-sport facility (inclusive of indoor and outdoor sports). To undertake a feasibility study of a potential regional multi-sport precinct, a site assessment and evaluation across multiple locations is required.

Throughout the development of the project, this advice (evaluate multiple locations) has consistently been provided by our participation partner, and co-funder of the project SRV.

Advice from SRV has been provided:

1. During the development of the grant application
2. Upon the awarding of the grant and signing of the funding agreement
3. Through the development of Consultants Brief, which was produced in conjunction with SRV and endorsed by SRV prior to being presented to Council
4. Through additional feedback, following the Council meeting, 26 April 2021.

Council at its meeting on 26 April 2021 considered the Feasibility Study brief and resolved *“That the draft project brief be rewritten to ensure that this study is conducted in line with resolutions 11 and 12 of 25 November 2019 Council meeting”*.

Motions 11 and 12 from the 25 November 2019 Council Meeting related to the Draft City to River Masterplan and the development of a regional outdoor sporting precinct (Motion 11) and a regional indoor sporting precinct, (Motion 12):

11. *That Council revoke McBryde Street as its preferred location and conduct a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site) noting that the study will:*
 - *Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional outdoor multi-purpose sports facility*
 - *Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs*
 - *Involve stakeholder engagement including with the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria in determining cost associated with relocation.*
12. *That Council revoke McBryde Street as its preferred location and conduct a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site) noting that the study will:*
 - *Determine the economic and social impacts of the proposed regional indoor multi-purpose sports facility*
 - *Be informed by the technical feasibility (including traffic, geology and flooding), operational model and costs.*

This report outlines risks associated with the Council Motion of 26 April 2021 requiring the revision of the Consultants Brief (to reflect the original motion put forward by the previous Council in November 2019).

Discussion

As required by the Council Motion of 26 April 2021, staff have revisited and modified the Consultant’s Brief (refer to **Appendix “9.2A”**).

Staff have also sought further feedback and clarification from the project's co-funders SRV. Feedback from SRV has confirmed the need to undertake an analysis of multiple sites during the first phase of the study. Early analysis of multiple sites will provide the opportunity to transparently consider and potentially discount a range of site options. This is standard practice when conducting a feasibility study.

The objectives of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study are to:

- Identify the functional requirements of a multi-sport precinct in association with State Sporting Association (SSA) planning
- Determine the feasibility of a multi-sports precinct that meets the needs of users and provides a facility that can cater for regional sporting activities
- Determine the most suitable location for a multi-sport precinct.

Advice from SRV is that this project is a new piece of work, and as such, is required to follow due process as per any new commissioned study. It is proposed that a desktop analysis of multiple sites (at least six, inclusive of the nominated two: Showgrounds and Jenkinson Avenue), be conducted and that a preferred site be identified and endorsed by Council.

Factors that will influence site viability include suitable land mass, sunk infrastructure, increasing land values, relocation cost if relevant, connectivity to transport, flooding impacts, proximity to services, existing land tenure, one site versus multi-site options, upgrades to existing assets versus new builds. As per any feasibility study, previous work, studies and input will be considered to inform and guide the detailed feasibility proposal.

Following endorsement of a site by Council, the majority of the detailed feasibility evaluation will be conducted.

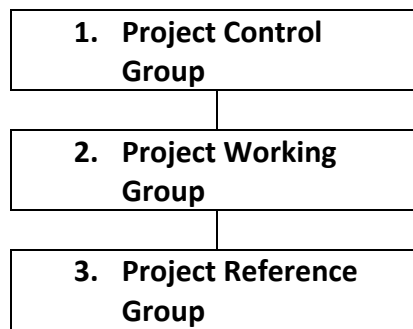
The revised Consultant's Brief attempts to:

- Honour Council's Motion of 25 November 2019, by including the two nominated sites in the initial site assessment
- Undertake a feasibility study that will provide the best, definitive location for a regional multi sports precinct
- Ensure due diligence is followed and that the study outcomes comply with any future funders' expectations and processes whereby additional and substantial investment maybe sought, based on the study outcomes
- Acknowledge that additional sites may be identified as viable options through the initial site scoping exercise.

It has been noted that the project budget (\$60K) is not substantial and there is a commitment by all parties to ensure we get the maximum output and clarity from the feasibility study. This will enable our community to progress to the next stage of developing facilities of a regional standard. Undertaking a comparative assessment of just two sites (Jenkinson Avenue and the Showgrounds site) will not provide SRV or other potential funders with the required information to commit to additional or future funding.

The feedback from SRV is clear. If we undertake a comparative assessment of the two nominated sites, we will identify a preferred location, but this will not satisfy industry expectations regarding the required due diligence for such a significant project and ultimately, we will be required to undertake a broader site assessment and analysis before our recommendation is accepted. Funding was sought and received from SRV for a feasibility study to identify the best possible option for a regional facility for our community following a process that is rigorous, transparent and meets industry expectations.

Project Governance



A *Project Control Group* (PCG) will be established and will act as a high-level steering committee responsible for ensuring that the project outcomes are met, and that project budget, time and quality criteria are achieved. It will be comprised of representatives from Sport and Recreation Victoria, State Sporting Associations, the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and Horsham Rural City Council.

A *Project Working Group* will provide recommendations to the PCG on key project issues for decision making and will include representatives from Horsham Rural City Council and Sport and Recreation, Victoria.

A *Project Reference Group* will facilitate input into the planning and design of the new facilities, usually from user groups or the community. The Project Reference Group will be comprised of representatives from relevant local sporting clubs and the community.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Sustainability considerations include natural, social and economic elements of the proposed multi-sport precinct.

Community Engagement

The Feasibility Study will include a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed in accordance with the IAP2 best practice model and Council's Community Engagement process. The Project Consultant will develop the plan in consultation with Council's Community Relations and Advocacy Team and with input from both the PWG and PCG.

The Feasibility Study requires intensive engagement with key stakeholders, a minimum being:

- Sport and 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.

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.

The draft Feasibility Study will require a period of public feedback. The Project Consultant will prepare an Engagement Report including recommendations for changes to the draft Feasibility Study resulting from the engagement process.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Study will provide a detailed analysis of options relating to a multi-sport precinct, reflecting industry best practice in the co-location and multi-use of publicly funded infrastructure. The Feasibility Study is a comprehensive project that will reference existing plans, strategies and inputs conducted within the municipality and that has informed the pre-planning work of proposed regional sport and recreation assets, including:

- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report December 2017
- City to River Masterplan December 2019
- Horsham CAD Wimmera River Technical Report May 2019
- Horsham Sports Facility Demand Study May 2019
- Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activity District Background Report May 2019
- Open Space Strategy December 2019
- Social Infrastructure Framework 2020.

Collaboration

Refer to Community Engagement section above.

Financial Implications

The Feasibility Study has a budget of \$60,000. \$30,000 funded by SRV and \$30,000 from Horsham Rural City Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active Victoria 2017-2021

Strategic Directions:

- Increase the capacity of sport and active recreation infrastructure
- Create flexible and innovative participation options
- Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation
- Invest in state and regional facilities that underpin Victoria's event calendar

Department of Health and Human Services Strategic Plan 2019

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2020-2024

Goal 1 - Community and Cultural Development

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community;
- 1.2. Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation;
 - 1.2.04 Implement outcomes from the multipurpose/indoor sports and community facility feasibility study
- 1.4 Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities

Goal 2 - Sustaining the economy

- 2.3 increase visitors to the municipality

Goal 3 - Asset Management

- 3.1 Determine infrastructure needs and expectations through consultations with developers and the Community

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

Risk Implications

A detailed risk assessment has been done and is part of the Project Plan.

Future funding risk – It is noted that SRV is not the only funding path for sport and recreational assets, however they are highly influential. Sport and Recreation Victoria has a strong and close alliance with RDV and is frequently called on to inform State and Federal Ministers of project suitability, status and viability.

Reputational risk – Community support of a project can influence the likelihood of investment being received. Funding bodies are influenced by communities that work in unified, harmonious and cooperative ways. Projects that are steeped in disunity, divide and dissent generally fair poorer when funding considerations are made, even if a solid and convincing feasibility or business case is presented.

Project delivery risk – Further deliberation and review of the Project Brief may require a variation to extend the timeline of the project. It is an expectation when receiving grant monies that funding milestones will be honoured.

Conclusion

Council staff have revisited and refined the Consultant's Brief. The refined Brief includes further feedback provided by the co funder and reflects the Motion put forward by Council on 26 April 2021.

It is recommended that Council endorse the reviewed Consultant's Brief and release to the Brief to the market.

9.3 STRATEGIC ADVOCACY PROSPECTUS

Author's Name:	Susan Surrige	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F06/A02/000001

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

Strategic Advocacy Prospectus (**Appendix "9.3A"**)

Purpose

To adopt the Strategic Advocacy Prospectus – "Creating urban rural balance – Horsham Rural City Council priority capital works projects for government and private sector investment".

Summary

- The Strategic Advocacy Prospectus will play an important part in our advocacy work for future government funding.
- The 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.
- It is a living document that can be reviewed and updated internally as required by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Strategic Advocacy Prospectus (**Appendix "9.3A"**)
2. Review the Strategic Advocacy Prospectus when the new Council Plan (2021-2025) is adopted later in 2021.

REPORT

Background

As one of ten regional cities within Victoria, Council has an ongoing advocacy role to the State and Federal Governments and the private sector to develop major projects that enhance the 'liveability' and economic growth of our region now and into the future.

Over the past 2-3 years, Council has undertaken a range of strategic planning processes i.e. City to River, Open Space Plan, Horsham South Structure Plan. This planning has shaped a number of major projects that Council will continue to develop and seek funding for.

The Community Relations and Advocacy team have been working on the development of this Strategic Advocacy Prospectus for the past six months.

Discussion

The prospectus (**Appendix "9.3A"**) 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.

Councillors and Council staff are involved with advocacy with State and Federal Government Ministers and their staff around seeking funding to progress major projects. The Advocacy Prospectus provides an attractive, high level, snapshot of fundable projects that can be used in such meetings and discussions. The prospectus gives a 'glimpse' of individual projects which can be followed up with more detailed information as requested.

The Advocacy Prospectus will also form the basis of a Major Project section of Council's website.

The prospectus has been designed and produced entirely 'in-house' utilising the design and photography skills of Council Officers. The booklet is a stand-alone document that can be refreshed at any time to reflect changes in Council priorities and major projects. Importantly, the booklet has been designed so that individual projects can be extracted as a 1 page flyer as required.

The projects in the prospectus have been grouped in seven key themes:

- Future Horsham – CAD revitalisation projects
- Activating our natural assets – riverfront projects
- Making connections – transport and road projects
- Active Horsham – sport and recreation projects
- Supporting industry – economic development projects
- Making places – community and cultural development projects
- Visit Horsham – tourism projects

The prospectus can be reviewed at any time, but should specifically be reviewed once the new Council Plan (2021-2025) is adopted to reflect any changes or new priorities.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to amend certain projects or pages within the Strategic Advocacy Prospectus before adopting.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The individual projects contained in the Strategic Advocacy Prospectus are based on the current Council Plan and there has been varying levels of community engagement associated with each project and more will occur as and when required.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The development of Council's first Strategic Advocacy Prospective is an example of continuous improvement in the provision of advocacy information and collateral.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The Strategic Advocacy Prospective is derived from the priorities within the current Council Plan 2020-2024.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

As a regional city, it is vital that Horsham Rural City Council has an ongoing pipeline of shovel ready projects to present to State and Federal Government for co-funding opportunities. This new prospectus provides a visual snapshot of Council's priority projects, and can be easily amended as required by Council.

9.4 AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Acting Manager Governance & Information	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F19/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

Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy (**Appendix "9.4A"**)

Purpose

To adopt the updated Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy which has been reviewed to align with the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

Summary

- The Audio Recording of Council Meeting Policy has had minor amendments to align with the new *Local Government Act 2020*.
- The Victorian Government has introduced the new Justice Legislation Amendment (System Enhancements and Other Matters) Act 2021 (JLA Act) to provide for the extension of the COVID-19 temporary measure provisions in Part 12 of the *Local Government Act 2020* through to 26 April 2022.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy attached as **Appendix "9.4A"**.

REPORT

Background

The Victorian Government's *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* introduced into the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGAct 2020) a mechanism to allow for virtual Council meetings to ensure that Council's decision making could continue during the coronavirus pandemic. The recently introduced JLA Act provides for the extension of the temporary measures through to 26 April 2022.

Discussion

The option to hold virtual Council meetings has been an important and successful way for Council to ensure the normal ordinary business of Council could continue through periods of lockdown. Council put in place an Administrative Procedure to temporarily amend Council's Governance Rules to allow for subtle changes in procedure to deal with some practical issues for the conduct of virtual meetings. The guidance provided by this Administrative Procedure has been valuable.

In accordance with State Government health information, Victoria is relaxing restrictions and moving to COVIDSafe settings in the workplace. The opportunity to have Council meetings return to the Council Chamber and members of the public being able to attend Council meetings is welcomed, however, there continues to be strict adherence to the State Government's CovidSafe Guidelines and close monitoring of health directives as issued.

Options to Consider

The prescribed period ends on 26 April 2022. Council may consider the permanent introduction of livestreaming Council meetings post this pandemic legislation.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The re-introduction of the public gallery and the continuation of livestreaming Council meetings improves the accessibility of the Council discussion and decision making process to a broader audience enhancing the engagement of community members.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The ability to have both members of the public in the gallery and livestream the meeting will come with some technical and production challenges however the improved accessibility will be appreciated.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There will be minor additional costs to have a dedicated staff member operating the audio-visual equipment. An additional staff member will also be required to ensure members of the public are kept in a COVIDSafe environment.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

All Government directives including policies and guidelines in relation to the pandemic and COVIDSafe Settings.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Risk Implications

There is a risk that technical issues may interfere with the livestream and audio recording of Council Meetings and may be outside of Council's control. This possibility has been address in the Policy and the Administrative Procedure.

Conclusion

Council will continue to facilitate good governance in accordance with Government legislation and guidelines to ensure that the business of Council can continue in a COVIDSafe setting.

9.5 HAMILTON STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Author's Name:	Susan Surrige / Numair Farooq / John Martin	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Coordinator Community Relations and Advocacy/ Project Office Coordinator/ Director Infrastructure	Directorate:	Infrastructure
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

Nil

Purpose

To consider funding allocation for the proposed Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge project.

Summary

- Council, at its meeting on 1 March 2021, considered a motion for the allocation of funding to the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge, which was lost.
- Councillors, through a rescission motion, expressed an interest in revisiting the matter of Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge funding allocation.
- In October 2020, the Australian Government announced Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 2 funding allocations to all Councils across Australia.
- This report proposes to use the remaining LRCI Phase 2 funds of \$1,125,924 for the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge project.
- It is also proposed to seek grant funding from RDV for \$1,225,000 for the project.
- Discussions about funding contributions have also been held with land developers on the south-east side of the Wimmera River.
- The design review and cost estimate of the preferred option have been completed by an independent consultant. Advice has also been obtained on alternative designs and cost estimates to ensure best value for money.
- Output from the design review process will be used to prepare the tender documents.
- Subject to funding approval from Council at the 24 May 2021 meeting, it is then proposed to proceed to tender forthwith to enable the LRCI funding timetable to be achieved.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge is estimated to cost \$2.00-\$2.20 million and the approaching ramps/landscaping and other ancillary works are estimated to cost \$250,000.
2. Approve the assignment of \$1,125,000 allocated by the Australian Government under its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 2 program to the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge project.
3. Submit an application to Regional Development Victoria (RDV) to fund the balance of the Pedestrian Bridge project, estimated to be \$1,250,000.
4. Negotiate with and seek contributions from the relevant land developers for the sum of \$100,000.
5. Commence the procurement process for the construction of the bridge.
6. Note that the expected project cost is well in excess of CEO's financial delegation and the contract for construction can only be awarded by Council.
7. Consider sources for the balance of funding if the RDV funding application is unsuccessful or the amount allocated by RDV is less than the amount requested.

REPORT

Background

At its meeting on 1 March 2021, Council considered a report on the allocation of funding to the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge, no resolution was made on the bridge project at that meeting. Following the meeting, the CEO received a rescission motion regarding this agenda item. Based on legal advice, a rescission motion is not required, nor can it be accepted, as no decision was made on the motion moved in relation to the funding allocation. As a result, the rescission motion was withdrawn.

The lodging of the rescission motion reflects that Councillors have expressed an interest in revisiting the matter of Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge funding allocation.

Council has been allocated \$1,475,924 under Phase 2 of the LRCI program. Of this amount, \$350,000 was allocated to the Horsham Nature and Water Play Park project at Council's 1 March 2021 meeting. This leaves a further \$1,125,924 to be allocated.

The key constraints of the LRCI funding 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
4. Nominated projects must be approved by the Department of Infrastructure before works can commence.

Discussion

Detailed planning for the Hamilton Street Pedestrian bridge has been continuing, with the final phase being the design review process, which includes:

- Confirmation of the design suitability, including structural analysis
- Development of a construction methodology and timetable
- Preparation of a quantity surveyor's estimates for the cost of construction of the preferred option and budget estimates for alternative designs to get best value for money
- Preparation of tender ready documentation.

Advice from the design review process is that the bridge is estimated to cost \$2.00 - \$2.20 million, and the cost of connecting pathways, landscaping and other ancillary works are estimated as \$250,000. Hence, the total cost is estimated at \$2.45 million.

Subject to funding approval by Council, it is proposed that tenders would be advertised as soon as possible, so that works can be conducted during the drier spring-summer-autumn period of 2021-22, and to ensure that expenditure occurs in time to meet the requirements of the LRCI funding program.

Funding scenario for Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge

It is proposed that the balance of LRCI Phase 2 funding be allocated to the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge project.

It is proposed that Council would seek the balance of funding through the recently released RDV competitive funding round for 2021. If the RDV funding application is unsuccessful, or the amount allocated by RDV is reduced, Council would have to consider and decide on the funding sources to fund the balance of the project cost.

Preliminary discussions have also been held with land developers to investigate the potential for contributions to the bridge. It is proposed to seek a contribution of \$100,000 to the bridge project from the adjoining land developer.

Options to Consider

A range of options have been considered relating to the location and form of the bridge.

The funding mix proposed could enable the project to be delivered without calling on any rates funding.

Sustainability Implications

The bridge project will encourage greater levels of walking and cycling, including for school children to get to schools.

Community Engagement

The outcomes of the earlier public engagement on the pedestrian bridge project have been reported previously to Council.

Since the earlier Council report, there has been a range of feedback provided both directly to Council and via the media. A number of emails have encouraged Council to pursue the pedestrian bridge project, citing the new housing development in the vicinity of the Waterlink Estate, and its ready access to several schools if a bridge was constructed as proposed at Hamilton Street, as well as the recreation and exercise benefits through creation of a new walking/cycling loop.

In contrast, others have written opposing the pedestrian bridge for a range of reasons, including:

- Potential limited use (although this is countered by other community respondents).
- That a second vehicle bridge is needed, as the pedestrian bridge will not address the congestion in Williams Road.
- That the pedestrian bridge at Hamilton Street should be a vehicle bridge.

It should be noted that Council is continuing to pursue a second vehicle bridge as part of a planned investigation into an alternative truck route. This will require much greater funding than that currently available, and will be developed in partnership with Rural Roads Victoria. A proposal to utilise the Hamilton Street alignment for a vehicle bridge is not considered feasible for a range of reasons, principally, the significant disruption this would cause to the residential area on the east side of the river which has not been designed to receive this traffic.

One of the outcomes of the earlier engagement was the identification of a range of issues by the landholders in the immediate vicinity of the bridge site, including in relation to visibility into their back yards and lighting. A draft landscaping plan has been prepared which aims to address these issues. This has been forwarded to relevant landholders, with some positive feedback having been received. Further engagement with the nearby landholders will be conducted when preparations for construction commence.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The tender documents will be prepared and advertised to maximise the opportunity for innovative designs and value for money.

Collaboration

Council staff have worked closely with Wimmera CMA and DELWP staff on a range of matters relating to the bridge project.

Financial Implications

As outlined earlier in this report, the proposed funding mix for the bridge project is:

- LRCI Phase 2 \$1,125,000
- Developer Contributions \$ 100,000
- RDV grant \$1,225,000
- Total \$2,450,000

If the RDV grant is unsuccessful, Council would need to fund the balance from internal reserves.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The bridge project has been identified from a range of Council plans and strategies, as follows:

- 2013 Framework for Managing Growth
- 2017-21 Health and Wellbeing Plan
- 2019 Open Space Strategy
- 2020-2024 Council Plan
- 2020 City to River Master Plan
- 2020 Horsham Urban Transport Plan

Risk Implications

A design review process has been conducted to provide rigour to Council's design and draft construction methodology.

The delivery phase of the project will include the establishment of an internal Project Control Group to identify potential risks and to manage them during the construction process.

Conclusion

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure fund (Phase 2), developer contributions and an RDV grant provide the opportunity for the Hamilton Street pedestrian bridge project to be fully externally funded. Should Council not receive the RDV grant, then an alternative funding source is proposed.

9.6 CONTRACT 21/024 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE TWIN STEER WATER TANKER WITH OPTIONAL TRADE-IN

Author's Name:	Warren Kennedy, Krishna Shrestha	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Fleet Coordinator & Strategic Asset Manager	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F13/A01/000003

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 (Appendix provided in confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

To award Contract 21/024 for the supply and delivery of a new Isuzu FYX 350-350 Twin Steer Water Tanker.

Summary

- Council's water tanker, plant number 1809 is a dual axle water tanker purchased second hand in 1997. To accommodate greater need of water supply for roadworks, it was decided to replace this dual axle water tanker with a truck fitted with a water tank.
- Based on an assessment of fuel efficiency, maintenance costs, trade-in value and potential future major maintenance, it has been scheduled for replacement in the 2020-21 financial year.
- The tender was advertised through the normal processes, with three companies providing responses.
- The tender evaluation panel recommends replacement of the plant 1809 with a new Isuzu FYX 350-350 twin steer water tanker supplied by The Truck Specialist Swan Hill.
- The replacement is to be funded from the plant reserve within the 2020-21 plant budget allocation.

Recommendation

That Council award the tender for Contract 21/024 Supply and Delivery of a new Isuzu FYX 350-350 Twin Steer Water Tanker to The Truck Specialists at a total cost of \$280,037 ex GST, with no trade in.

REPORT

Background

Council's dual axle water tanker, plant number 1809 was purchased second hand in 1997 and is due for replacement, and was included in the 2020-21 plant replacement program. No supplier submitted a trade-in price for this plant item.

Replacement of this plant item is required to meet the continual demand of water for grading and reconstruction works.

Delaying replacement of this plant would result in the need for hiring a water tanker.

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

Discussion

A detailed tender evaluation is provided in the appendix to the confidential report on this subject. Key aspects of the report include:

- Three companies submitted tenders for four different products. The three companies submitted pricing for the identical product. One of the companies submitted an additional product beyond the required specification.
- The evaluation of tenders was based on the criteria presented in the tender specification.
- Tenders were assessed on the basis of best value to Council, and conformance with required specifications rather than the cheapest price.
- The assessment was done with the following parameters:
 - Capability/Capacity: Assessed on i) Operator's assessment/ergonomics ii) Past experience of plant maintenance iii) History of performance of plant iv) Functionality of cabin, steps, etc.
 - Compliance: Assessed on whether the product met the specification specified in tender.
 - Price: Assessed based on i) Current product price ii) the projected cost of fuel over 10 years or 170,000 km iii) Projected cost of parts iv) Projected cost of services v) Potential resale value after 10 years or 170,000 km.
 - Local Content: Assessed based on i) Availability of local distributor ii) Local availability of parts iii) Local availability of services.

Tender returns were received from the following three companies:

- The Truck Specialist
- Ballarat Isuzu
- Winter and Taylor Isuzu.

The tender of The Truck Specialist for an Isuzu FYX350-350 has been assessed as the best value to Council due to its conformance with the tender specification, acceptance by the user group, feedback from users of similar products, resale value and various mechanical parameters. This tender was also the cheapest tender.

Options to Consider

There is only one option to consider as three different suppliers submitted tenders for an identical product at varying prices. The evaluation favoured Isuzu-FYX-350-350 tendered by The Truck Specialist.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The recommended tender is priced at \$280,037, which is within the available 2020-21 plant replacement budget for this item of \$295,000 (including trade-in allowance).

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

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

This twin steer water tanker is required to deliver Council's road grading and road reconstruction program which enables maintenance and improvements to the road network.

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The tender evaluation process has assessed that the preferred replacement water tanker is an Isuzu FYX350-350 tendered by The Truck Specialists, Swan Hill.

9.7 CONTRACT 21/022 CONCRETE OVERLAY AND BARRIER WORKS MOUNT WILLIAM CREEK BRIDGE ON HORSHAM- LUBECK ROAD BRIDGE, ST HELENS PLAINS

Author's Name:	Mazen Aldaghstani	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Manager Engineering Services	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Engineering Services	File Number:	21/022

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 (refer to confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

To award Contract 21/022 for the Concrete Deck Overlay - Horsham- Lubeck Road Bridge over Mt William Creek

Summary

- Tenders were called for the above project, and four conforming tenders were received.
- The cheapest tender was received from MF & JL Willmore for the amount of \$336,216.12, which was assessed as being the best overall tender submission.
- The project cost had been has been estimated as \$405,000 and is fully funded through:
 - Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program \$186,000
 - Victorian Government's Agrilinks Upgrade Program \$219,000
- Details of the tender evaluation are presented in the evaluation report, attached as an appendix to the confidential report on this subject (**Appendix "15.2A"**).

Recommendation

That Council award Contract 21/022 for the Concrete Deck Overlay for the Mt William Creek Bridge on the Horsham - Lubeck Road to MF & JL Willmore of Horsham for a contract sum of \$336,216.12 ex GST.

REPORT

Background

Council's Asset Management team engaged a consultant to assess the integrity of the Mt William Creek Bridge on the Horsham - Lubeck Road. The level two bridge assessment report revealed the following defects:

- Leaking through the joints
- Flexural cracking on most girders.

Leakage between units can cause moisture ingress into cracks, leading to steel corroding and ultimately spalling. Hence, it was recommended to inject the cracks and to consider waterproofing the deck or construct a concrete overlay.

The proposed repair works will require:

- The removal and replacement of the existing outdated safety barriers and kerb
- Reinstating the road pavement and asphalt the approaches at both sides of the bridge.

Council's Engineering team engaged a design consultant to prepare the tender documents for the above including the treatment, waterproofing/concrete overlay, replacement of safety barriers and all associated works.

The diagram below shows the location of the bridge - circled.



Discussion

Key aspects of the tender evaluation were:

- Four tenders were received and the assessment of tenders was based on the criteria as presented in the tender documents.
- After the evaluation process, MF & JL Willmore scored the highest as described in the confidential report on this subject.
- The cheapest tender being \$336,216.12 received from MF & JL Willmore was assessed as presenting the best overall submission, with the applicant nominated as the preferred tenderer.

MF & JL Willmore is a well-known local contractor, having completed a range of projects for Council.

Options to Consider

The primary option to consider would be full reconstruction of the bridge, which would be much more expensive.

Sustainability Implications

Special conditions have been embedded into the contract and site supervision will ensure negligible impact on the environment during construction.

Community Engagement

The key communication aspect with these works will be:

- The interaction between the appointed contractors and Council's project supervisor/manager.
- Communicating the construction work program with affected farmers and other bridge users.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The construction of a deck overlay is a regularly used approach to enhance the strength and extend the life of some types of bridges.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

This project was not identified in Council's budget, but has been fully funded through grant programs as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Australian Government Bridges Renewal Program | \$186,000 |
| • Victorian Government Agrilinks Upgrade Program | <u>\$219,000</u> |
| | \$405,000 |

The tendered cost is within the funded amount.

This project is one of many that highlights the value of both Government's funding programs.

Regional State and National Policies

The Horsham Lubeck Road is a regularly used freight route that links parts of adjoining municipalities with Horsham.

Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 3 – Asset Management

To ensure infrastructure is in place to support our growing community as well as upgrading and maintaining our infrastructure to attract more visitors to our community.

Risk Implications

Standard construction risks will apply. Supervision of works will be conducted by Council Officers to manage these risks.

Conclusion

The preferred tender of MF & JL Willmore will provide the best value to Council for addressing issues with the bridge over Mt William Creek on the Horsham - Lubeck Road.

9.8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

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 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for May 2021.

Summary

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

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for May 2021.

REPORT

Background

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

Discussion

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

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

Funding Announcement: The Hon Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister announced \$4 million in Commonwealth funding to construct a new super roundabout at the intersections of Stawell Rd/Hamilton Rd and Golf Course Rd. This is great news for our city and something our Council has advocated for over many years.

Funding Announcement: Council has secured \$2.1 million from Sport and Recreation Victoria to develop the region's first Nature and Water Play Park. Located at Horsham's riverfront precinct, the park will be free and accessible for all ages and capabilities, all year round. The concept is part of the broader City to River Masterplan to activate the riverfront.

Rural Council's Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Board Meetings: The RCCC Board, which includes the Chief Executive Officers of Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Buloke, Yarriambiack, Loddon and Horsham met on 13 May and 19 May 2021 to consider recommendation to shortlist vendors for the provision of technology solution to six participating Councils.

Municipal Association Victoria (MAV): The Mayor and CEO attended a MAV State Council meeting on Friday 21 May 2021 at the Melbourne Town Hall. The State Council meets twice a year and member councils can submit business to be considered.

Regional Leaders Breakfast: – The CEO attended a Regional Leaders Breakfast at the Horsham Angling Clubrooms on Thursday 29 April 2021.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership (WSMRP): The CEO attended a WSMRP meeting on Thursday 13 May 2021. The group received an update on the proposed Wimmera Health Care Group merger with Ballarat Health Service.

B. Community Engagement

Business Reimagined: A Business Reimagined Series was hosted by Business Horsham on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at The Cattleshed, Horsham Showgrounds. The Hon Michael McCormack MP Deputy Prime Minister attended and spoke about the federal government's support and encouragement of the tree change movement, and how this will impact regional business communities. Other presenters included Marc Sleeman, CEO of Grampians Tourism, Stuart Benjamin, Chair of the state government's Small Business Ministerial Council and Andrea Cross from Horsham Agricultural Society.

Online Budget Q & A: The Mayor hosted a live Q & A session on Wednesday 19 May streamed live via Council's Facebook page. This was an opportunity for anyone to join in and ask questions about the Draft Budget which is out for public comment until 7 June.

C. Projects and Events

Botanic Gardens: Works to seal the major pathways at the Botanic Gardens have commenced. Currently made with quarry dust, the central thoroughfare is used by visitors and also provides important access for vehicles used by staff undertaking necessary daily maintenance. A sealed main pathway will provide for comfortable all weather access to the adjacent areas of the path, in particularly those that are frequently used for social gatherings such as the barbecue and playground area.

Outdoor Dining: Through a number of Council departments working together, the Horsham Rural City Council Footpath Trading Guidelines have been updated to accommodate outdoor dining permanent furniture.

Citizenship Ceremony: The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline conducted a Citizenship Ceremony last Monday 26 April for Amarjit Kaur, Ana Cheng Estevez, Mihaela Guguila and Tazeen Malik.

Skate Park Community BBQ: The Recreation and Open Space Planning team held a community BBQ at the Skate Park to engage on the new amenities under construction and the future of the space. The passion and talent from the skaters was great to see, with a few even competing on an international level. Future planning aims to strengthen the demographic and gender mix and include a variety of slower and quieter spaces to complement the existing activity.

International Volunteer Week: Horsham Rural City Council celebrated National Volunteer Week with a morning tea on Monday 17 May at the Horsham Town Hall to celebrate past and future community efforts. This year the theme was [*Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine.*](#)

Sod Turning Ceremony: The City to River Stage 1 Project Sod Turning Ceremony was conducted by the Mayor; Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister; Dr Anne Webster, Member for Mallee and Ms Danielle Green, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Regional Victoria on Monday 17 May 2021.

IDAHoBIT Day: Wimmera Pride Project held a free community breakfast on 17 May for IDAHoBIT Day at May Park as it represents the global battle fought daily and continual awareness for the work that still needs to get done in combatting discrimination.

Defibrillators Installed: The Facilities Team commenced the relocation of the council managed defibrillators which were previously located inside the facilities. There is now an outside cabinet for each unit with appropriate signage which enables 24/7 emergency access for the community groups and general public. Sites that have had these new units installed include the Haven Hall, Dudley Cornell Clubrooms, City Oval Clubrooms, Horsham Community Sports Pavilion and the Quantong Recreation Reserve Pavilion

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for May 2021.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

- 27 April 2021 - ABC Wimmera radio interview
- 28 April 2021 - Business Panel with Latrobe University students
- 29 April 2021 - Regional Leaders Breakfast
- 29 April 2021 - Met Parks Victoria Chair, CEO and ED Operations with CEO
- 30 April 2021 - Triple H radio with Di Trotter
- 5 May 2021 - Councillor Urban Tour
- 6 May 2021 - Opening of refurbished Coles
- 7 May 2021 - Holy Trinity Lutheran College Year 12 Presentation Ball
- 11 May 2021 - Public Art Opening
- 12 May 2021 - Councillor Rural Tour
- 12 May 2021 - Combined Rotary Recognition of Wimmera Cancer Centre
- 14 May 2021 - Community Vision Listening Post in Roberts Place
- 14 May 2021 - Holy Trinity Lutheran College Year 11 Presentation Ball
- 17 May 2021 - IDAHOBIT breakfast
- 17 May 2021 - ABC Wimmera radio interview with Rebekah Lowe
- 17 May 2021 - HRCC Volunteer's Morning Tea
- 17 May 2021 - 3WM/MixxFM radio interview with Emma Elsom
- 17 May 2021 - Sod turning at Wimmera River with Deputy Prime Minister Hon Michael McCormack, Dr Anne Webster MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Regional Victoria Danielle Green MP, and Emma Kealy MP
- 18 May 2021 - Business Reimagined with Deputy Prime Minister Hon Michael McCormack MP
- 19 May 2021 - Pop up Budget in Roberts Place
- 19 May 2021 - Facebook Budget Q & A
- 20 May 2021 - GWMWater Community Engagement
- 21 May 2021 - Municipal Association Victoria State Council meeting in Melbourne with CEO

Cr Penny Flynn

- 20 April 2021 – Your Council and Climate Change
- 25 April 2021 – Horsham ANZAC Day Services
- 26 April 2021 – Citizenship Ceremony
- 28 April 2021 – Local Women Leading Change – 6 Months On
- 30 April 2021 – Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria – Conference
- 1 May 2021 – Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria – Conference
- 5 May 2021 – Councillors Tour of the Municipality
- 11 May 2021 – Public Artworks Opening, Launch and Walk
- 12 May 2021 – Councillors Tour of the Municipality
- 12 May 2021 – Combined Rotary Clubs – Paul Harris Recognition – Wimmera Cancer Centre
- 17 May 2021 – Wimmera Pride Project – Rainbow Breakfast for IDAHOBIT Day

Cr Di Bell

- 28 April 2021 - Community recreational water meeting
- 29 April 2021 - Business Breakfast – “Seeds for Growth”
- 30 April 2021 - Conflict of Interest training – Edenhope
- 5 May 2021 - Urban Tour of Horsham
- 11 May 2021 – Wimmera Development Association Meeting
- 12 May 2021 - Rural Tour of municipality
- 17 May 2021 - Volunteers Morning Tea
 - I would like to sincerely thank each and every volunteer in our community for their passion and work to support our community in so many ways. Our community would not be the same without you.
- 18 May 2021 - Business Reimagined Series – Event
- 18 May 2021- Domestic Violence Webinar
- 19 May 2021 - Meeting Procedure Webinar
- 20 May 2021 - GWM workshop
- 20 May 2021 - Foodies Night Market – Maydale Reserve

Cr David Bowe

- 30 April 2021 - Victorian Local Government Association Councillor Briefing: Gender Equality Act 2020 (virtual via zoom)
- 1 May 2021 - Wimmera Model Aircraft Association F5 Electric Glider Midway Cup Event
- 1 May 2021 - Haven Market
- 1 May 2021 - Horsham Skate Park – gathering of ideas & improvements for Skate Park
- 3 May 2021 - Council Briefing meeting
- 5 May 2021 - Councillor Tour - Urban
- 10 May 2021 - Council Briefing meeting
- 12 May 2021 - Councillor Tour - Rural
- 17 May 2021 - IDAHOBIT International day community breakfast at May Park
- 17 May 2021 - Volunteer Morning Tea for Volunteer Week at Horsham Town Hall
- 17 May 2021 - Sod Turning Ceremony by Hon Michael McCormack DPM (City to River Stage 1 Project)

Cr Claudia Haenel

- 26 April 2021 - HRCC offices Australian Citizenship Ceremony & Council Meeting
- 30 April 2021 - ALGWA VIC Conference Fitzroy Town Hall
- 3 May 2021 - HRCC offices - Council Briefing
- 5 May 2021 - HRCC offices - Councillor Tour - Urban
- 10 May 2021 - HRCC offices - Council Briefing
- 12 May 2021 - HRCC offices - Councillor Tour – Rural
- 17 May 2021 - HRCC offices - Volunteer Morning Tea
- 17 May 2021 - Horsham Angling Clubrooms - Sod Turning Ceremony by Hon Michael McCormack DPM (City to River Stage 1 Project)

- 18 May 2021 – Horsham Showgrounds - Hon Michael McCormack DPM Business Reimagined
- 18 May 2021 - Victorian Women Lawyers Association Inc.- Domestic Violence in the New COVID Normal – Opportunities for Change and Reform - HRCC offices - webinar
- 19 May 2021 - ALGWA VIC Annual General Meeting - zoom
- 20 May 2021 - Horsham Golf Club - GWM Stakeholders Workshop
- 24 May 2021 - HRCC offices - Council Meeting

Acknowledgments:

- I would like to thank the brave women who spoke and wrote letters when presenting for the Women’s Serenity Garden project council briefing earlier this month, in recognition of domestic violence.
- Can we acknowledge the families who have lost loved ones during an escalation in suicides this past month. I encourage community to stay vigilant and reach out to those who might be in need and to please be kind, as many will be grieving.
- Also grieving is the Horsham community over the loss of respected past Councillor and Mayor Gary Bird. Condolences to all Birdy’s friends and family.
- Thank you also to the many businesses and groups who informed the council group of the developments and updates across the municipality when we went on tour recently, and to over 700 community members who contributed and completed the Horsham Rural City talks surveys, which are invaluable in assisting council to build on the regional city we all want to live in.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Planning Day held at the Horsham Golf Club on Friday 23 April 2021 at 1.00pm

Council Budget Briefing held in the Council Chamber on Monday 3 May 2021 at 5.00pm

Council Briefing Meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 10 May 2021 at 5.00pm

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Lease between HRCC and John Ernest O’Meara, Horsham Centre Cinema, 37-41 Pynsent Street, Horsham

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Refer to **Appendix “13.4A”**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 188

Given by Cr Claudia Haenel

TAKE NOTICE that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held at the Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue, Horsham, on Monday 24 May 2021.

“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 the community on the topic of domestic violence and the need for a tranquil garden space for all women to feel safe.”

Rationale

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.

Refer to **Appendix “14.1A”** for copy of Notice of Motion.

Cr Claudia Haenel

CIVIC CENTRE
HORSHAM 3400
4.5.2021