
MINUTES of the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held online and livestreamed at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au at 5.15pm on 14 February 2022.

PRESENT

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor), Cr Di Bell, Cr David Bowe, Cr Penny Flynn, Cr Claudia Haenel, Cr Les Power, Cr Ian Ross.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Councillors

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, 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.

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline formally welcomed Councillors, staff, members of the public and the media to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as possible. She also stated that the meeting was being streamed live on the internet.

The Mayor advised that Councillors participating in the meeting by electronic means will be taken to be present and part of the quorum for the meeting, provided that they can hear proceedings, they can see and be seen by other members in attendance, and they are able to speak and be heard by those in attendance. The Mayor asked Councillors individually to confirm that they could see and hear other members in attendance and be able to speak. Confirmed by all Councillors.

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

5. 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.

Cr Di Bell noted that she is employed in the CBD at her daughter's business and does not have a conflict of interest in relation to the Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan item at this point in time.

6. OFFICERS REPORTS

6.1 MICROSURFACING SEALING CONTRACT 22-013

Author's Name:	Dianna Blake	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Coordinator Project Office	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Engineering Services	File Number:	F02/A05

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason:

Appendix

Nil (*Appendix provided in confidential report on this subject*)

Purpose

To award contract 22-013 Microsurfacing Sealing (Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing).

Summary

- Microsurfacing sealing is a road pavement preservation treatment that extends the life of existing roads.
- Officers have identified 40 road sections across Horsham Rural City that are suitable for microsurfacing sealing treatment.
- This is part of an overarching strategy to improve the cost-effectiveness of Council's road renewal program, driven by better quality data on road conditions.
- Public tenders were called for supply of microsurfacing sealing, as this is outside the scope of Council's existing supply contracts.
- The price of the preferred tender is indicative given that final pricing will be based on actual quantities of material used, and some sections may require several coats/additional thickness to achieve the required pavement profile.
- This treatment program will be implemented in many locations across the municipality over the next five years, with a similar number of locations anticipated to be treated each year (around 40-50), so the contract is offered as a one-year contract with two, two-year options.
- This road surface remediation program is to be funded from the 2021-22 budget allocation

Recommendation

That Council award contract 22-013 Microsurfacing Sealing (Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing) to Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd at their tendered price of \$1,307 ex GST per cubic metre (anticipated first year spend \$313,104.92 ex GST).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council award contract 22-013 Microsurfacing Sealing (Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing) to Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd at their tendered price of \$1,307 ex GST per cubic metre (anticipated first year spend \$313,104.92 ex GST).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Microsurfacing is a commonly used technique for road renewal for many other road authorities, but has only recently been utilised at Horsham Rural City Council. This technique involves the application of varying thickness bituminous surfacing to roads that are showing mild levels of roughness, and increases their lives, without involving major reconstruction. It therefore provides a cost-effective means of increasing asset lives.

Laser-collected roughness data has been analysed to identify sections of roads requiring treatment. These sites have then been ground-truthed to verify the need for and appropriateness of this treatment

The first year of the contract includes a specified list of sites for treatment. Subsequent years will be based on the rates established under the contract.

The work under the contract includes but is not limited to:

- Implementation and maintenance of a quality system
- Traffic control
- Preparation of stockpile sites
- Design of seals
- Protection of existing utility asset roadway covers such as manhole and valve lids, etc.
- Sprayed bituminous surfacing (including supply of all materials)
- Recovery/spotting of line-marking and painted pavement markings, protection of existing raised pavement markers and placement of temporary reflective pavement markers
- Cleaning of stockpile sites.

Discussion

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

- Two companies responded to the request for tenders.
- Each company submitted a conforming tender and one submitted an additional non-conforming tender.
- Tenders were assessed on the basis of best value to Council, and conformance with the required specifications rather than the cheapest price.

The submission from Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd was assessed as the best value to Council due to its conformance with the tender specification and pricing.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to progress directly to reconstruction of these roads, but this is a significantly more expensive option.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Microsurfacing sealing has not been used in Horsham Rural City before for pavement remediation. It is expected to deliver significant savings in our road renewal program by extending the lives of roads, delaying the need for a full reconstruction.

Collaboration

Not Applicable

Financial Implications

The recommended tender is priced at \$313,104.92 ex GST, which is within the available 2021-22 budget for this work. The budget estimate for the tender was \$512,940. As indicated earlier, the actual cost may vary slightly from the tendered price, as it is based on the actual quantity of material used.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 4 - Accessibility

Achievement 4 – Sealed road satisfaction – excluding arterial roads

Risk Implications

While not being used previously in this municipality, the use of microsurfacing is well established in other areas. Normal construction risks apply, which will be managed through Council's Project Office.

Conclusion

The tender evaluation process has assessed that the preferred contractor is Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd, at their tendered price of \$1,307 ex GST per cubic metre.

6.2 HORSHAM CENTRAL ACTIVITY DISTRICT REVITALISATION: DRAFT STREETSCAPE PLAN

Author's Name:	Evan Burman	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Strategic Planner/Urban Design Lead	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment, Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F06/A23/000001

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

CAD Revitalisation: Draft Streetscape Plan (**Appendix 6.2A**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan and place it on public exhibition for community consultation.

Summary

- The Horsham CAD Streetscape Plan has been developed after two stages of community consultation so far.
- The previous stage of the project identified the issues and opportunities (through the Urban Design Analysis) for a range of public realm projects and streetscape within the CAD, which the community have had an opportunity to comment on.
- The response has been generally positive and a range of feedback has been received.
- The next stage of the project will invite feedback on the proposals put forward in the Draft Streetscape Plan which will then be reviewed by Council officers and reported back to Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Draft Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan.
2. Place the Draft Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan on public exhibition and invite community feedback.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Draft Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan.
2. Place the Draft Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan on public exhibition and invite community feedback.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Horsham CAD Revitalisation project (the Project) sits under the broader scope of The City to River Project and is also based on the CBD Revitalisation Strategy (2017) which provided recommendations for infrastructure and public realm upgrades with the CAD (or CBD).

The Project commenced in September 2021 and has progressed from the *Urban Design Analysis* stage into the development of the *Draft Streetscape Plan* for community engagement.

Discussion

As set out in the Draft Streetscape Plan, the broad improvement strategies are as follows:

1. Develop the off-street laneway network into a series of comfortable and interesting places that also provide a safe and convenient pedestrian network throughout the CAD.
2. Make Firebrace Street the 'postcard' street and the premier place for dining, meeting and greeting in Horsham.
3. Strengthen character and identity by promoting and restoring heritage features and telling the stories of the town and the area.
4. Create more outdoor places for meeting, gathering and socialising in Horsham's Town Centre.
5. Improve physical and visual connections between the Town Centre and broader Horsham.
6. Improve the streetscapes of Horsham's Town Centre with more shade, lighting, furnishings, paving and planting.
7. Green the Town Centre and better utilise the streets and public spaces to create a cooler, more climate-ready urban environment

These strategies are then further developed into a series of proposed projects that will form part of the more detailed implementation plan:

Proposed Project List

- Project 1 – Create the 'Horsham Walk'.
- Project 2 – Reconfigure Firebrace Street.
- Project 3 – Undertake facade improvements to heritage buildings.
- Project 4 – Develop Advertising Signage Controls.
- Project 5 – Build a Town Square in Horsham's Town Centre.
- Project 6 – Build a pedestrian-friendly environment on Ward Street to support the Town Square and connectivity between Roberts Street and the Town Hall.
- Project 7 – Create better connections to locations beyond the Town Centre such as the skate park, bowl club, tennis courts and river.
- Project 8 – Create a safer pedestrian experience within the Town Centre.
- Project 9 – Improve Wilson Street.
- Project 10 – Create a streetscape design palette manual and begin to implement.
- Project 11 – Revive the Horsham Shade project and start the #1000 trees for Horsham campaign.

Options to Consider

At this stage of the project, Council is seeking community feedback on the Draft Streetscape Plan and the feedback will be reviewed to ensure that the best outcomes for the Horsham town centre are being investigated and identified.

A report that comprehensively discusses the outcomes of the community engagement will be presented to Council following this stage of community engagement, and options will be presented to Council at that time, based on the community feedback.

Sustainability Implications

The project aims to revitalise the CAD through a series of interventions, one of which is increasing tree canopy cover through the re-configuration of some streets, increasing public and green spaces and the planting of (1000) trees across the CAD in order to increase canopy cover from 9.9% to 15% cover by 2031, in accordance with the Draft Greening Greater Horsham Strategy.

Community Engagement

The community has already provided valuable feedback on the project through two stages of engagement, one that occurred in September and then further engagement in November, which involved both online (via the Have Your Say web page) and in-person engagement involving Council officers and members of the consultant team (UrbanFold).

The on-street engagement was very useful and provided a range of feedback in addition to the online engagement which was also very informative, demonstrating that the community is well engaged and there are a range of views on how the Horsham town centre could be improved.

The range of views are summarised as follows:

- Some members of the community have a negative perception of the current town centre, whereas others like the current town centre with its landscaping
- Many streets are difficult to cross because they are either busy or there are other obstacles (not accessible for all users)
- There was generally strong support for increased greenery and tree planting (with reference to pop-up park on Roberts Ave.)
- The pop-up park in Roberts Ave. is very popular and well received by the community – many would like to see it made permanent
- Outdoor dining has become popular and necessary due to Covid-19 (accommodating increased dining areas is supported by some members of the community)
- Plenty of parking close to shops (convenient).

In terms of improving the town centre, the community provided the following feedback:

- Parking, lighting, greenery, shade and seating could all be improved
- More trees should be planted
- Improved public realm with better priority for walking and cycling
- Improved pedestrian crossings throughout the town centre
- Improved landscaping, noting that many people like the current landscaping
- Generally improve the appearance of the town centre
- Improve walkability within the town centre

- The provision of open space in a central area
- Activation of the laneways and more outdoor dining
- Opposition to parking meters (remove parking meters)
- Opposition to parallel parking, noting that some people commented on the over-supply of parking and want to see safety improved and the removal of angled parking was supported by some
- Footpaths and paving
- Improving pedestrian safety at a number of intersections.

The next stage of community engagement will commence from 21 February and conclude 25 March.

This will include engagement with residents from surrounding LGAs who access services/carry out business in Horsham.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Draft Streetscape Plan proposes changes to the Horsham town centre (CAD) which are innovative and would improve the streetscape and public realm for current and future users, improving amenity and accessibility for all users. This project forms the first step in Council's efforts to continue to improve Horsham to make the town and municipality more attractive and liveable for the community and visitors.

Collaboration

During the development of the Draft Streetscape Plan, there has been collaboration with Department of Transport to ensure that the current funding opportunity and the design of upgraded roundabouts, integrates well with any other proposed streetscape changes, particularly along Firebrace Street.

Financial Implications

The delivery of projects within the Draft Streetscape Plan will rely on future planning and budget allocation, particularly larger projects such as the re-configuration of Firebrace Street. State government funding streams (such as the current Regional Roads Victoria funding for the upgrade of roundabouts) will continue to be important for the future improvement of Horsham.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 2 - Liveability

Strategies

1. A resilient, inclusive and socially connected community
2. A destination to live, work, explore and invest
3. A region with a defined identity
4. Diverse and connected open spaces
5. Quality opportunities and facilities that meet the health and wellbeing needs and interests of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
 - Create engaging spaces and places for social connection and wellbeing to build community resilience
 - Promote the municipality as a destination highlighting Horsham as a base in Western Victoria, halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide

Horsham Urban Transport Plan

Theme 1 - Streets for People

1.6 Increase street activation

- 1.6.1 Consider the trial installation of “parklets” as a quick win, to provide seating or outdoor dining areas by removing isolated on-street parking spaces (to be considered in the context of the City to River Project)
- 1.6.3 Increase footpath widths to accommodate areas of landscaping, outdoor dining, sheltered seating areas and ad hoc events

1.7 Roundabout safety

- 1.7.1 Work with Regional Roads Victoria to trial a consistent roundabout treatment in Horsham to reduce speeds and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists including:
 - Enlarge vehicle mountable annulus and install mountable corner radii at the roundabouts located in the CAD to reduce vehicle speeds
 - Install set back pedestrian crossings on each arm of the roundabouts located in the CAD to prioritise pedestrians over vehicles

1.8 Reduce vehicle speeds in the CAD and urban areas

- 1.8.1 Reduce the visual and actual width of streets by widening footpaths, installing medians, narrowing traffic lanes, widening bicycle lanes and street tree planting

City to River Masterplan 2020

CAD Revitalisation

1: Implement the recommendations of the CAD Revitalisation Strategy

- This includes improving streetscapes, prioritising pedestrian/cycling transport and connectivity and better integrating the CAD and the riverfront precinct with clear visual connections and landscaping.

2: Develop a series of meeting places in the CAD

- Establish a series of meeting places in the CAD, which link with other CAD anchors including the Town Hall, May Park and the Riverfront.

Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021

Theme 3: A Vibrant Central Activity District

- Strategy 8: Continue to develop Horsham’s Central Activities District (CAD) into a vibrant hub of retail, commercial, entertainment, hospitality, cultural and community activity.

Risk Implications

There is some risk that community reaction could prevent some of the proposed changes occurring and that future users of the Horsham town centre are left with a legacy of inaction.

The Horsham town centre has enormous potential and the CAD Revitalisation Streetscape Plan would deliver some significant changes that can continue to be built upon as the town develops and attracts new businesses and residents.

Conclusion

The Draft Streetscape Plan is the culmination of work to date, including a comprehensive urban design analysis and several stages (including previous years) of community engagement that have informed the development of the Draft Streetscape Plan.

The next stage of community engagement will assist and inform Council officers and the consultants in terms of the community's reaction to the proposals. The feedback will be reviewed and used to finalise the Streetscape Plan which will include an implementation plan for the projects, which will then be reported back to Council recommending its adoption.

7. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr David Bowe

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

CARRIED

The time being 5.42pm, the meeting closed to the public.

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 5.48pm

DocuSigned by:

Robyn Gulline

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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson