

Retailers opening doors to accessibility

Horsham Rural City Council is offering business owners help to improve accessibility in local shops.

About 20 per cent of Victorians have a disability and more have mobility issues.

For many where they choose to shop comes down to whether or not a business is inclusive of their needs.

HRCC Business Accessibility and Inclusion Officer Jane Combe said business operators with a good understanding of the impact of disability on their customers were able to attract more shoppers.

"Making it easier for all people to do their shopping is an important step businesses can take to support their community," Ms Combe said.

"If your premises are not accessible for all you may be missing out on significant numbers of potential customers," she said.

There are examples of Horsham businesses that are already seeing the benefits of improving accessibility.

Each Thursday staff from Atlas Fuels fill up the tanks of customers, allowing drivers with mobility constraints to remain in their cars.

The O'Callaghans Parade service station also has a ramp entry to its shop, ensuring people with reduced mobility can access the business.

Terry White Chemmart Horsham provides a great opportunity for people that use mobility devices to access all parts of their business.

This is made possible due to the layout of shelves within the shop. Providing enough room between shelves allows mobility device users to navigate the store confidently and safely.

HRCC wants to help other business operators understand what they can do to make their shops more accessible and inclusive.

The most common examples of barriers



ACCESSIBLE: Businesses that provide improved access and promote inclusive practices will attract more customers.

for people with mobility issues include steps at the entrance to a shop or a front door that is difficult to open.

"It's not just about people with a disability or a mobility issue. Families with prams and people who are weary of germs all benefit from improved convenient access such as automatic doors, ramps or step removal and easy walk-through access in the store," Ms Combe said.

"Accessibility also encompasses a range of things from training your staff on how to accommodate the needs of all people, the font you choose for your menus and website, how you arrange your product and where you place your signage," she said.

Businesses that wish to participate in the project are encouraged to contact HRCC.



PUMPED: Filling up can be a challenge for drivers with mobility issues.

Council will work with the participating businesses by conducting an audit of the business, and will then provide recommendations of inclusive practices that the business can implement in the four focus areas.

TENDERS AND RFQ

23/030
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT EVENT STAGE, BROADCAST BOX, KIOSK AND TICKET BOXES AT HORSHAM CITY OVAL
Closes 12noon, Friday 5 May

Q47/2023
DEMOLITION OF HALL AND OFFICE BUILDING
Closes 5pm, Monday 8 May

S23-018
PROVISION OF VARIOUS HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES - PANEL CONTRACT
Closes 12noon, Wednesday 17 May

23-031
CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TOILET BLOCK - HAMILTON STREET HORSHAM
Closes 12noon, Thursday 18 May

Q49/2023
PUBLIC PLAY SPACE REVIEW AND STRATEGY
Closes 12noon, Friday 26 May

All tender, EOI and RFQ details online at:
www.eprocure.com.au/horsham-rural-city-council



DOOEN COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Dooen community members and groups are invited to join Horsham Rural City Councillors and staff for a community conversation.

**Monday 15 May
5.30pm to 7pm
Dooen Public Hall**

This is an opportunity for people from the Dooen area to raise local issues and questions for Council.

If you want to raise a question or topic for conversation prior to the meeting please contact Fiona Kelly
Phone: 53829725
Email: fiona.kelly@hrcc.vic.gov.au

We look forward to seeing you there.



NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

An additional Council Meeting will be held Monday 8 May 2023 at 5pm to consider the following items:

1. Flood recovery road works – Package 2, Contract 23-026 (Confidential)

2. Request for inclusion on Council's Street Name List – Haven Park Drive

The meeting will be held at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham and also livestreamed at hrcc.vic.gov.au.

Rural roads widened

Contractors have started work on the reconstruction of six kilometres of Horsham-Lubeck Road.

The important agricultural linkage east of Horsham is one of five priority rural roads to be widened to 6.2m.

- Dimboola-Minyip Road – partially completed
- Horsham-Lubeck Road – works now underway
- Noradjuha-Tooan East Road – scheduled for 2024
- North-East Wonwondah Road – Scheduled for the second half of 2023
- Polkemmet Road - partially completed.



The roads were identified as high priorities in HRCC's Rural Road Network Plan which was developed through engagement with rural communities.

Total project cost is more than \$8 million, with a \$5 million contribution from the Commonwealth Government confirmed last year.

"Council is very thankful to the Australian Government for this support which will enable our own roads budget to go so much further," Mayor Robyn Gulline said.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Current Community Engagements

For full details visit the Have Your Say section of the HRCC website



ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

HRCC proposes to amend its Road Management Plan. Any person proposing to make a submission on the proposed amendment must do so before 5pm Friday 26 May 2023.

REVISED GOVERNANCE RULES 2023

There are eleven changes proposed for the current Governance Rules. These are either clarifications, minor procedural changes or updates that reflect an existing practice. Submissions are open until 5pm Wednesday 10 May 2023.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 8 May 2023 - 5pm

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