

Panel proposes HRCC ward structures

Horsham Rural City Council welcomed the chance to brief Anthony Albanese on key advocacy priorities when the Prime Minister visited the municipality last week.

Mr Albanese toured the city's shopping area before opening the Nature Play Park at the riverfront.

During his speech he complimented Horsham's cafes and made special mention of the Botanic Gardens and the natural beauty of the Wimmera River.

Mayor Robyn Gulline and Chief Executive Officer Sunil Bhalla spoke with Mr Albanese about the city's assets for which Council is seeking government support to upgrade.

"We were very appreciative of the time that the Prime Minister was able to spend with us," Cr Gulline said.

"He has given us some excellent feedback and was genuinely interested in the development of our regional city."

Mr Bhalla said Council spoke to the PM about upcoming funding opportunities from the Federal Government.

"Local communities rely heavily on state and federal governments to help pay for major projects," Mr Bhalla said.

"We will continue to advocate for what our community members have told us is important to them so that they can better connect to jobs, support and opportunities closer to home," he said.



Advocacy priorities shared with the PM:

ROADS

There are a number of major roads within our municipality that require an injection of State and/or Federal Government funds.

CITY OVAL COMMUNITY PAVILION

HRCC is requesting \$4.450 million for a new City Oval community pavilion and change rooms. With netball clubrooms and courts as well as a multipurpose stage already funded – the main community pavilion is

the final project as part of Stage 1 of the City Oval/Sawyer Park Redevelopment.

REGAINING PORTLAND RAIL LINK

Restoring rail freight lines connecting Portland with north western Victoria is crucial for the Wimmera in several ways.

The Portland-Maroon line was once a busy corridor for the movement of Wimmera grain to the Port of Portland. But the permitted speed on the line is now limited to 40kph, making rail freight inefficient compared to B-double trucks.

Rural Revegetation Program: Orders now open

Orders for HRCC's Rural Revegetation program are now being taken.

People who live in the municipality with a property that is 0.4 hectares (one acre) or larger are eligible to order a selection of subsidised native plants.

The tube-sized trees are just 50c each and people can order up to 300 plants depending on the size of their property.

Mayor Robyn Gulline said there were 24 species available this year.

"The three categories are shrubs to 4m,

small trees to 10m and large trees," she said

"The most popular large trees over the years have been the yellow box and bulokes while the golden wattles and callistemon have been sought after in the shrub varieties."

Plants can be collected from the Selkirk Drive depot on Friday 28 July between 8am and 6pm and Saturday 29 July 2023 from 8am to 4pm.

Orders are open until 4pm Friday 7 July 2023 and can be placed online at hrcc.vic.gov.au/rural-revegetation or via paper forms available at the Civic Centre.



Drainage boost for parks and ovals

Winter has well and truly set in, so our parks and gardens team has been busy improving the condition of our sports ovals with HRCC's tow-behind aerator.

Known as a Verti Drain, the 1.3 tonne machine efficiently punches numerous holes up to 400mm deep into turf.

It is used to break up soil compaction and also provides desirable conditions for healthy root growth.

Perforating the soil with small holes allows air and other nutrients to penetrate. It also allows water to drain quicker so that the playing surface has more chance to dry up.

The machine has completed aeration works at Dudley Cornell Park, Sunnyside, Dimboola Road Oval and City Oval and will soon be deployed at Coughlin Park.

Along with sports fields, the machine is also used at other turf areas such as the Botanic Gardens and the riverfront.



TENDERS AND RFQ

23/042
FLOOD RECOVERY ROAD WORKS PACKAGE 8
Regrading, resheeting and restoring gravel roads.
Closes 12noon, Monday 17 July

Q54/2023
QUANTONG OVAL DRAINAGE WORKS
supply and installation of box culverts at the Quantong Oval.
Closes 12noon, Sunday 30 July

All tender, EOI and RFQ details at hrcc.vic.gov.au



WARD STRUCTURES PROPOSED

The electoral structure of Horsham Rural City Council is being reviewed.

An electoral representation advisory panel, supported by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is considering:

- The appropriate number of councillors and wards for the council
- Ward boundary locations
- Ward names.

A preliminary report showing three ward boundary options was released last week and response submissions close at 5pm on Wednesday 19 July.

At the end of the review, the panel will make a final recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

Any change to the electoral structure for HRCC following this review is expected to apply at the next local council elections.

Find out more via www.vec.vic.gov.au or call 131 832.

HRCC to manage Wimmera Libraries

The Wimmera Regional Library Corporation is set to dissolve on June 30, with the management of the new Wimmera Libraries transitioning to Horsham Rural City Council starting July 1, 2023.

This decision aims to streamline operations and enhance library services for the benefit of the community.

It also brings the library in line with the majority of public library services across Victoria, with 85 per cent run by councils rather than library corporations.

The transition will include the integration of the four branches from West Wimmera Shire, ensuring a unified library network throughout the region formerly serviced by the Library Corporation.

Patrons can rest assured that the change in management will have no impact on the services and technology they currently enjoy. All existing library services will continue as usual, providing uninterrupted access to books, digital resources, and educational programs.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 24 July 2023 - 5.30pm

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