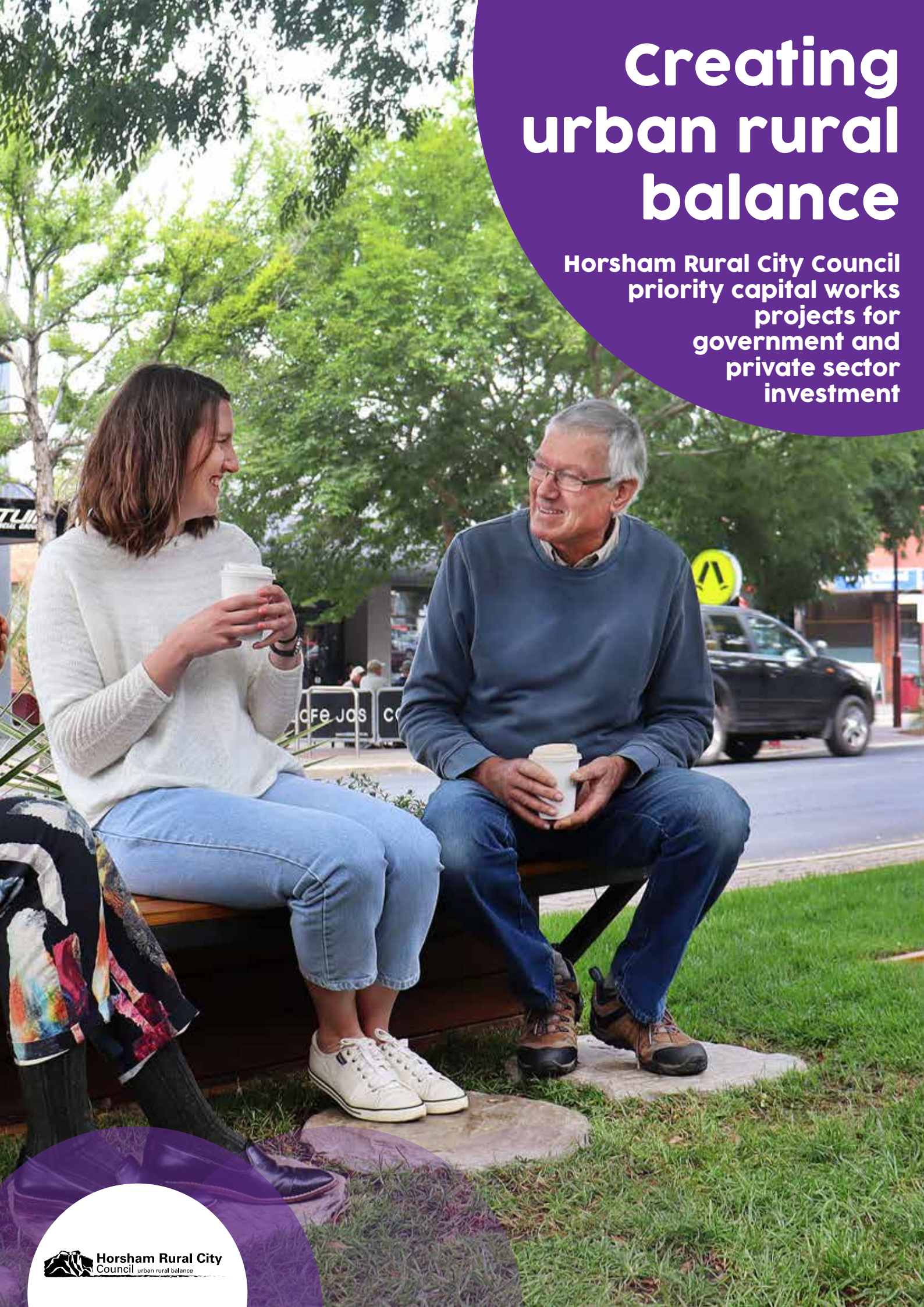


# Creating urban rural balance

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







# Welcome to Horsham Rural City

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

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

We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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



## Who are we?

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

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

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





## Our vision

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

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

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

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

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

## Key project themes

### Future Horsham

#### Revitalizing the Central Activities District

### Activating our natural assets

#### Wimmera Riverfront Precinct

### Making connections

#### Transport

### Active Horsham

#### Sport and Recreation

### Supporting industry

#### Economic Development

### Making Places

#### Community and Culture

### Visit Horsham

#### Tourism

# Future Horsham Central Activity District

## Objective

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

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



Photos Ayesha Sedgman



## Central Activity District Revitalisation

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design

## Horsham Urban Shade

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

\$2 million



## New Government Hub

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Investigation

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design





# Activating our natural assets Wimmera Riverfront Precinct

## Objective

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



## Riverfront Activation

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

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

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

### Project Value

Stage 2 - \$3.6 million



## Horsham Nature Water Play Park

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

### Benefit

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

Increase in economic output \$7 million

Employment outcomes 17 jobs

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$2.45 million

### Council commitment

\$350,000





# Making connections Transport

## Objective

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





## Alternative truck route

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

\$200,000

### Council commitment

\$100,000

## Pedestrian bridge across the Wimmera River at Hamilton Street

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Detailed design

### Project Value

\$2.2 million (construction)

### Council commitment

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

## Upgrade of key freight routes

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$2.2 million

## Cycling/pedestrian shared path enhancements

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Shovel ready

### Project Value

\$1.36 million

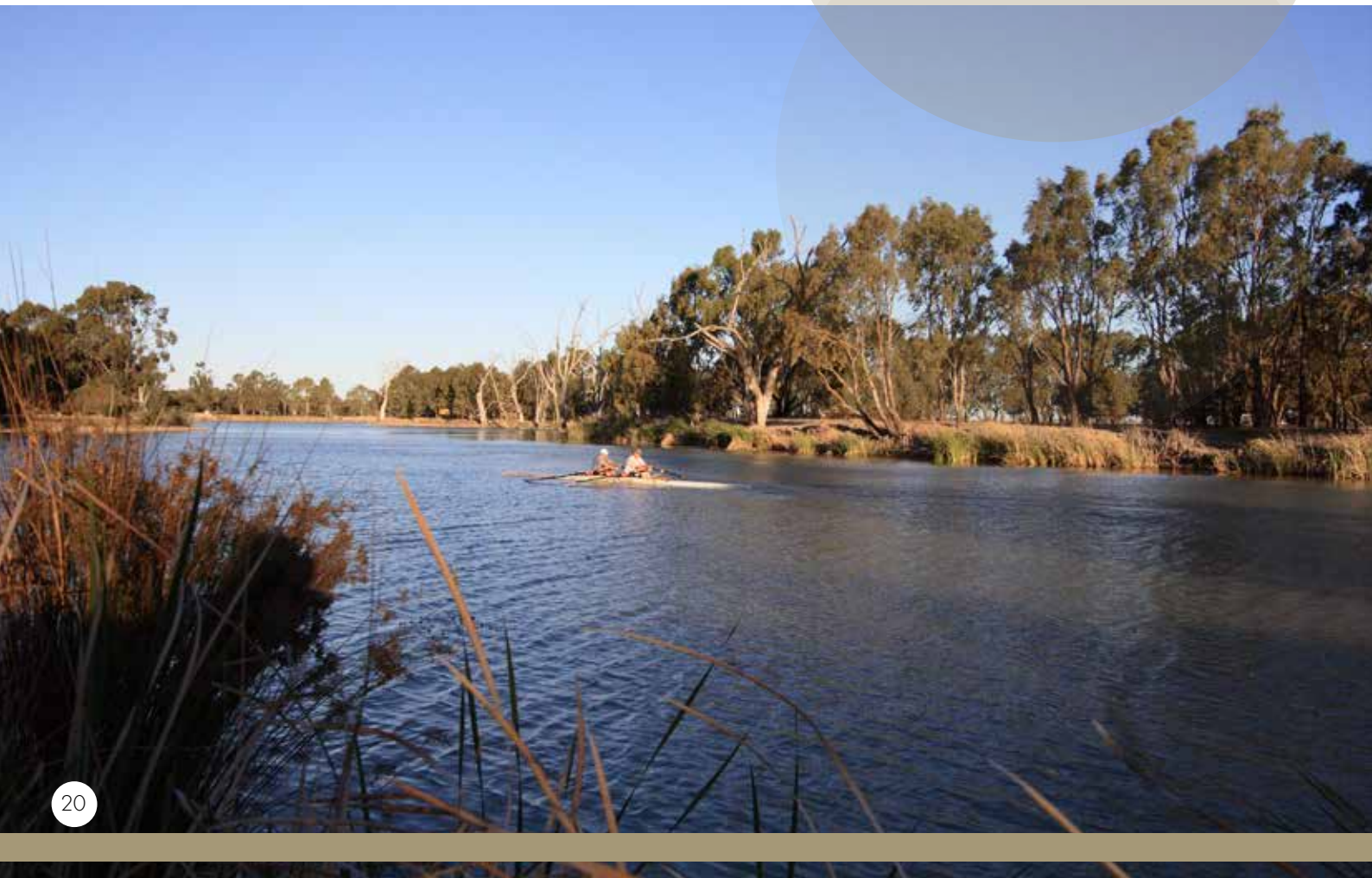
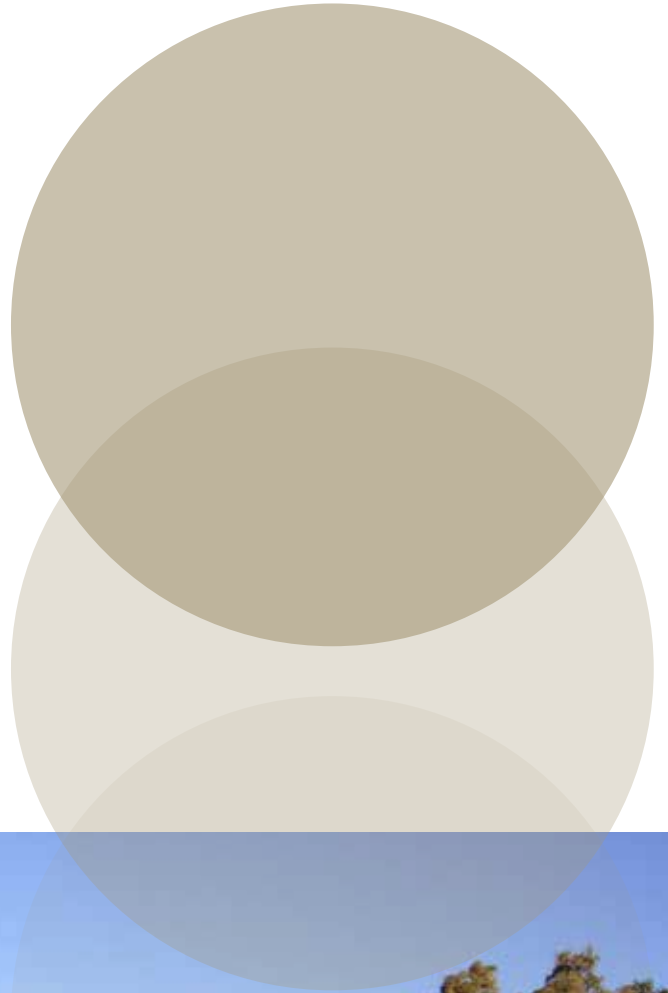




# Active Horsham Sport and Recreation

## Objective

To adopt a strategic approach to developing sporting infrastructure that meets contemporary standards, promotes participation, accommodates regional events, makes efficient use of public land and integrates with urban and river areas.



## Upgrade City Oval

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design

## Regional Indoor/Outdoor Sports Precinct

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

To be determined following detailed design



# Horsham Aquatic Centre

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

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

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

### **Benefit**

Accessible facilities to ensure access for wider community use.

### **Status**

Schematic design

### **Project Value**

\$662,000

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

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

### **Benefit**

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

### **Status**

Schematic design

### **Project Value**

\$1.4 million



Photo Ayesha Sedgman

# Supporting industry Economic development

## Objective

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





# Expansion of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT)

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

## Benefit

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

## Status

Shovel ready

## Project Value

> \$8 million



# Making Places Community and Culture

## Objective

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



Photo Ayesha Sedgman

## The Station Redevelopment

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

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

### **Benefit**

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

### **Status**

Detailed design

### **Project Value**

\$270,000

## Laharum Oval: New community Facility

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

### **Benefit**

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

### **Status**

Shovel ready

### **Project Value**

\$900,000



# Horsham Railway Corridor

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

Staged approach outline:

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

## **Benefit**

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

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

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

## **Status**

Planning

## **Project Value**

To be determined following detailed design

# Visit Horsham Tourism

## Objective

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



Mackenzie Falls, Parks Victoria

## Grampians Peaks Trailhead – Mount Zero

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Pre-planning

### Project Value

\$1.5 million

## Wimmera River Discovery Trail

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

### Benefit

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

### Status

Planning

### Project Value

\$2.95 million



# Grampians Way – road link circling the Grampians National Park

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

## **Benefit**

Enhanced tourism connection for the Grampians National Park

## **Status**

Planning

## **Project Value**

To be determined following detailed design











# Want to learn more?

Speak to the following people

## **Sunil Bhalla**

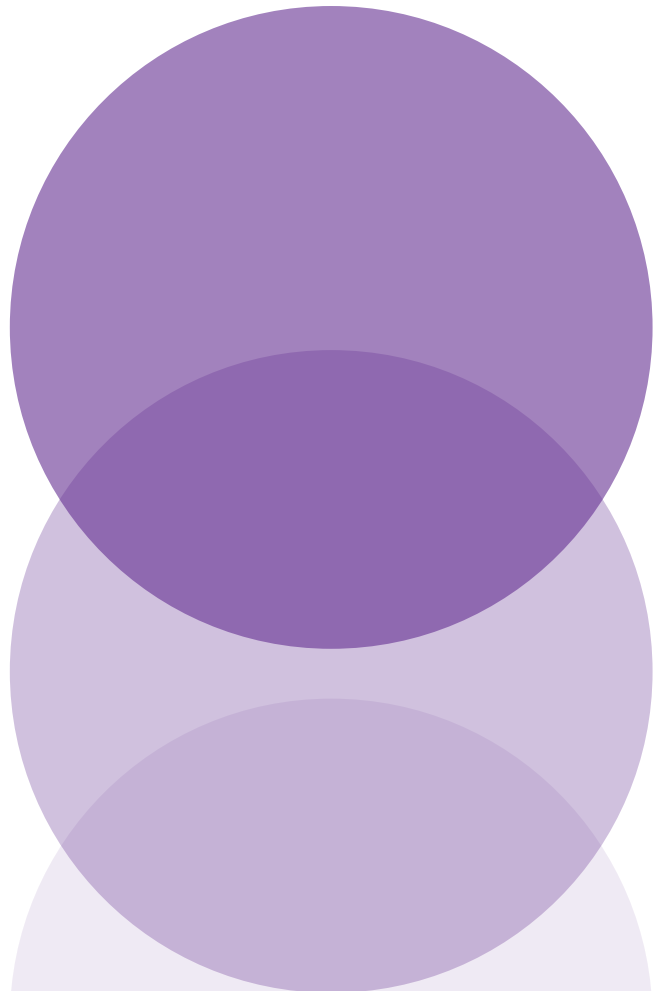
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Council urban rural balance