

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on

4 April 2022

At 5.00pm

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



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 4 April 2022 in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.00pm and livestreamed at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

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, 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 Penny Flynn formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Chair advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as possible.

4. APOLOGIES

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.

6. OFFICERS REPORTS 4

6.1 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL AND WIM RESOURCE PTY LTD. FOR THE AVONBANK PROJECT..... 4

CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

6. OFFICERS REPORTS

6.1 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL AND WIM RESOURCE PTY LTD. FOR THE AVONBANK PROJECT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/A07/000024

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

Memorandum of Understanding between Horsham Rural City Council and WIM Resource (**Appendix 6.1A**)

Purpose

To endorse the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and WIM Resource, which seeks to confirm the principles of a collaborative approach, recognising the specific roles and obligations of each of the parties.

Summary

- The aims of this MoU is to ensure that:
 - the roles of each party are clearly understood and respected by both parties
 - processes are developed that will assist the parties to facilitate positive local economic and social outcomes associated with the project
 - processes and mechanisms are in place to support clear communication, collaboration and support, and these mechanisms are understood and supported by both parties
 - both parties understand and commit to providing the capacity necessary to deliver the intent of this MoU.
- WIM is a privately owned Australian heavy mineral sands (HMS) resource development company, with one of the largest portfolios of HMS projects in the world.
- The Avonbank Project is WIM's flagship project and is located 15km north of the City of Horsham.
- WIM anticipates mining the mineral sands ore body over a period of thirty-six years.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the proposed MoU between Council and WIM Resource as presented in **Appendix 6.1A** and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the MoU on its behalf.

REPORT

Background

The MoU seeks to confirm the principles of a collaborative approach, recognising the specific roles and obligations of each of the parties.

Discussion

WIM is a privately owned Australian heavy mineral sands (HMS) resource development company, with one of the largest portfolios of HMS projects in the world. WIM's vision is to become a long-term producer of zircon, titanium, and rare earth minerals, these minerals are critical to everyday living. WIM's corporate and technical team have a proven tracked record of mine development having been involved in the development of several Australian HMS mines.

The Avonbank Project is WIM's flagship project and is located 15km north of the City of Horsham. WIM anticipates mining the mineral sands ore body over a period of thirty-six years. It will supply mineral concentrate containing zircon, ilmenite, and minor rare earth by products to offshore markets.

WIM has invested heavily in the project over the past nine years and recently completed a test pit, pilot plant, which represented a major commitment and investment by WIM shareholders to move the project into full scale development.

In addition, there are ongoing environmental and socio-economic related studies as the project moves towards the construction stage. The project is currently at a Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) or Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) stage. This advanced stage of development will enable WIM to commence a fund raising exercise from 2022.

For the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) related studies, WIM expects to complete this process in late 2021 –mid 2022. Subject to final approvals and finance, WIM plans to commence construction within the next three years.

The Avonbank Project is one of the most significant investments likely to occur in the Southern Wimmera region in the past twenty years. Economic modelling has found that there will be substantial net positive economic impacts for Horsham Rural City, the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, and the State of Victoria generally.

Options to Consider

1. Council can choose to resolve to sign the MoU
2. Council can choose not to resolve to sign the MoU

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

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 3 – Sustainability

3.2. A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive

3.4. A region that attracts new investment, technologies and opportunities

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The MoU seeks to confirm the principles of a collaborative approach, recognising the specific roles and obligations of each of the parties. The purpose of this agreement is for parties to develop processes to support working cooperatively and collaboratively, to maximise mutually beneficial community and economic outcomes, and ensure best environmental practice from the development and operation of the Avonbank Mineral Sands Project within the Rural City of Horsham.