

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on
18 December 2023
At 5.30pm

In the
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
18 Roberts Avenue, HORSHAM



COUNCILLORS are respectfully requested to attend the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held on 18 December 2023 in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm

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

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk 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 those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor 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 practicable.

4. APOLOGIES

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 27 November 2023 be adopted.

7. 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.

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Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) –Personal Information

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Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information

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Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) –Personal Information

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Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989

15.5 CONTRACT VP384656 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE NEW 4x2 ROAD MAINTENANCE PATROL TRUCK WITH TRADE-IN .
.....
Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information

15.6 CONTRACT VP317860 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE NEW HEAVY TIPPING TRUCK WITH TRI-AXLE TIPPING TRAILER WITH TRADE-IN
Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information

CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
 Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 FLOOD AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT C81HORS AND PANEL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Author's Name:	Kirsten Miller	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Strategic Planner	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F20/A06/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Declared conflict of interest for Map 13 as officer (author of report) owns respective property within this location.

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Amendment package C81hors (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Amendment C81hors Panel Report (**Appendix 9.1B**)

Purpose

To seek adoption of Planning Scheme Amendment C81hors (the Amendment).

Summary

The Amendment received Authorisation from the Minister for Planning on 14 October 2022, to prepare and Exhibit (advertise) the Amendment. Public exhibition has taken place with an Independent Planning Panel (Panel) appointed to consider the submissions.

The Independent Panel Hearing was held on 5 and 6 October 2023 and the Panel report was received by Council on 27 October 2023.

The Panel report recommends that Council proceeds by adopting the Amendment including the 13 mapping changes as recommended by Council and with minor changes made to Clause 02.02-3 (Environmental risk and amenity) located within the Municipal Planning Strategy. This report recommends that Council proceeds by adopting the Amendment and submitting it to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt Amendment C81hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme.
2. Submit the adopted Amendment C81hors together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting final approval.

REPORT

Background

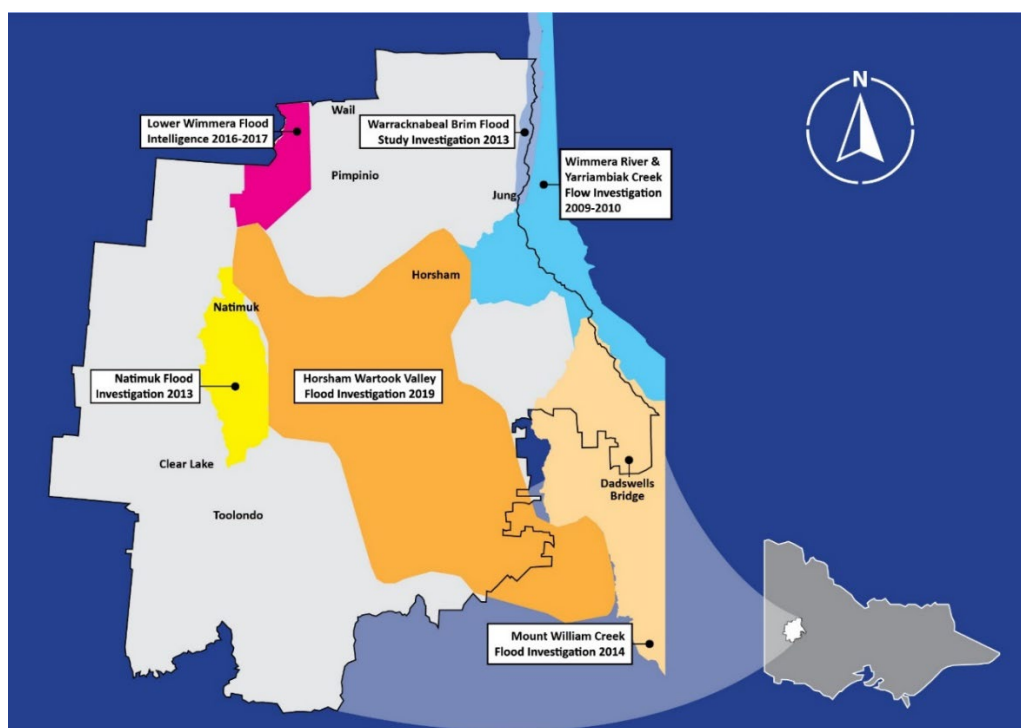
Amendment C81 to the Horsham Planning Scheme was undertaken to address flood risk and ensure appropriate development outcomes in flood affected areas. It was prepared by the Council and Planning Consultant, Transect Planning. The full Amendment package is provided as per **Appendix 9.1A**.

The Amendment affects 2,816 properties across the municipality. In summary, the Amendment:

- Revises the mapping extent of the Floodway Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay within the respective six flood study areas
- Replaces the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 9 (stormwater management area) (DDO9) with the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1 (SBO1)
- Amends and introduces new overlay schedules
- Deletes Schedule 4 to the Design and Development Overlay (flood fringe development) (DDO4)
- Rezones land from the Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)

The Amendment proposes to implement six flood studies prepared by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (Wimmera CMA) through the Horsham Planning Scheme.

1. *Horsham & Wartook Valley Flood Investigation (Water Technology, 2019)*
2. *Mount William Creek Flood Investigation (BMT WBM, 2014)*
3. *Natimuk Flood Investigation (Water Technology, 2013)*
4. *Wimmera River & Yarriambiack Creek Flow Modelling Study Report (Water Technology, 2010)*
5. *Warracknabeal & Brim Flood Intelligence Report (Water Technology, 2016)*
6. *Lower Wimmera Flood Investigations (Water Technology, 2017)*



Six flood studies that cover Horsham

The six flood studies are proposed to be implemented as background documents into the Horsham Planning Scheme. The Amendment documents and maps have been prepared, including an updated version of the incorporated document. Delineation of the flood mapping has been completed with support from the Wimmera CMA to inform changes to zoning and overlays to be inserted into the planning scheme.

Discussion

The Planning Scheme Amendment process



The Planning Scheme Amendment process is prescribed in legislation. Council is required to follow the statutory process in the preparation of Planning Scheme Amendments and Council has met these requirements as follows:

Authorisation

Council resolved to seek Authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and Exhibit the Amendment on 28 February 2022. Authorisation to prepare the amendment was granted under delegation from the Minister for Planning on 14 October 2022.

Exhibition of the Amendment

The Amendment was exhibited for one month from 17 November to 20 December using the following combination of statutory and non-statutory notifications:

- Direction notification (letters and pamphlets) to affected property owners and occupiers (approximately 4,508 letters), prescribed Ministers and authorities and key stakeholder agencies.
- Public notices in the Wimmera Mail Times on 18 November 2022 and 16 December 2022, The Horsham Times on 18 November 2022 and 16 December 2022, and the Government Gazette on 17 November 2022.
- The Amendment documents were made available for viewing and download (website/officers and DTP website).
- A FAQs pamphlet made available on Council's website.
- An interactive map showing the extent of the new overlays was also available on Council's website.
- A number of enquiries resulted in further information being provided in response to land owner queries, either by email or telephone.
- Drop-in sessions held in Horsham (1 December 2022), Dadswells Bridge (6 December 2022) and Natimuk (7 December 2022) attended by Council, the Wimmera CMA and Water Technology.

For the wider community, the Amendment was also advertised on Council's Have Your Say webpage advising that Council was taking submissions in relation to the Amendment. Council took over 50 public calls and met with approximately 20 community members who visited Council Offices to discuss in more detail the content of the letters received.

During the exhibition process, 46 submissions were received for the Amendment, with 8 submissions formally withdrawn and 2 received in support of the Amendment.

Council consideration of submissions

A report was presented to Council at its meeting held on 24 July 2023, where Council received all submissions to the Amendment and supported a request to be made to the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Planning Panel to consider all submissions.

Independent Planning Panel hearing and report

The Independent Panel hearing was held in Horsham on 5 and 6 October 2023. On the first day of the hearing, the Panel had the opportunity to consider Council's submission, accompanied by expert witness testimony from Water Technology consultant. On the second day, six submitters who had requested to present their submissions were given the platform to do so before the Panel.

The Wimmera CMA was also present at the hearing to answer questions.

It is important to note that the Panel considered all submissions that had not been withdrawn, whether or not the submitters appeared before the Panel.

The Panel Report was received on 27 October 2023 and recommends that the Amendment be adopted, to include the 13 mapping changes as recommended by Council and with minor changes made to Clause 02.02-3 (Environmental risk and amenity) located within the Municipal Planning Strategy. A copy of the Panel report is provided as per **Appendix 9.1B**.

Council provided all submitters with a copy of the Panel report on 3 November 2023 and advised the submitters that the report would be made available on Council's website within 10 business days of receipt. This action was undertaken in accordance with Section 26 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The Panel report was made available on Council's website from 10 November 2023.

Panel report findings and recommendations

The Panel report dealt with the following issues:

- Strategic justification
- Threshold issues
- Site-specific submissions.

Strategic justification

The Panel concluded:

- There is clear policy support for the Amendment.
- The changes to Clause 02.02-3 (Environmental risk and amenity) are appropriate subject to the minor changes.
- The deletion of Clause 13.03-1L (Floodplain management – Horsham) is appropriate. The Amendment will deliver net community benefit and sustainable development as required by Clause 71.02-3.

The amended wording to Clause 02.02-3 the Panel recommended is as follows:

Flood studies undertaken by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority have identified flood prone areas and form the basis for the application of the Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay or Special Building Overlay.

Threshold issues

The Panel identified the following threshold issues:

- Validity and accuracy of the modelling
- Impacts from development within the floodplain
- Floodplain management
- Impact on property insurance and values, and the ability to develop

Validity and accuracy of the modelling:

The Panel concluded:

- The methodology of the flood modelling is appropriate and provides an appropriate basis for the FO mapping.
- The LiDAR data can be relied upon as an accurate measure of topography at the time the flood models were run.

Impacts from development within the floodplain

The Panel concluded:

- The Amendment provides an appropriate decision-making pathway for the assessment of flood risk including the impacts on flood storage and impact on existing properties.

Floodplain management

The Panel concluded:

- The fact that floodplain management actions or engineering works could change flood impacts is not a reason to remove overlays from land ahead of those works.

Whilst reaching this conclusion, the Panel observed that that there is confusion in the community about why some culverts are blocked off. Improved communication to the community about roles and responsibilities of culvert and weir management during flood events and coordination between Council and the Wimmera CMA on this issue may go some way to addressing these concerns.

Impact on property insurance and values, and the ability to develop

The Panel concluded:

- Impacts on property values or insurance premiums or the ability to develop land in a particular way are not reasons to remove the proposed overlays from a property.

Site specific submissions

As noted by the Panel, the Council adopted the following approach in response to submissions received to the Amendment:

- Council officer discussions with submitters (in some instances with Wimmera CMA in attendance), with follow up correspondence;
- in some instances, on-site inspections conducted by Council, Wimmera CMA and Water Technology and the modelling reviewed to account for a range of factors including localised topography and existing structures; and
- in some instances, Wimmera CMA providing written flood advice for the Market Lane area, flood level surveys to compare finished floor levels with 1% AEP levels.

Following these consultations, Council proposed thirteen mapping changes to the extent of the FO1 and LSIO1. These mapping changes were based on further assessment undertaken by Water Technology and in consultation with the Wimmera CMA. This resulted in the withdrawal of five submissions. The proposed mapping changes for the three submissions that were not withdrawn were supported by Mr Hughes and the Wimmera CMA.

The Panel also commented:

Council has been thorough and diligent in assessing submissions, including further assessment and review of flood modelling and mapping for specific sites with technical input from Water Technology, and in partnership with the Wimmera CMA. While the Panel accepts that some property owners do not want the overlays applied to their land, they have been applied in a methodical and rigorous fashion.

The Panel supported Council's proposed changes to the mapping extent to the following properties:

- 55 Baille Street, Horsham
- 1-9 Eastgate Drive, Horsham
- 12 Madden Street, Horsham
- 1-12 Market Lane, Horsham
- 1-12 Rushbrook Close, Horsham
- 5 Sloss Street, Horsham
- 14 Wotonga Drive, Horsham
- 503 Bridges Road, Lower Norton
- 3912 Henty Highway, McKenzie Creek
- Berry Lane, Natimuk
- 378 Lake Road, Natimuk
- 767 Three Chains Road, Natimuk
- 173 Hughes Road, Quantong.

Next steps

Subject to the Council's acceptance of the recommendations above, the next step in the Amendment process is to submit the Amendment to the Minister for approval.

Upon the Minister's approval of the Amendment, the Horsham Planning Scheme will be changed incorporating the changes to the Ordinance (which includes the policy change to Clause 02.03-3 and the new schedules to the Floodway, Land Subject to Inundation and Special Building Overlays) and the planning scheme maps which identify the changes to zoning and overlays.

Options to Consider

That Council:

1. Adopts the Amendment in accordance with the Panel's recommendations.
2. Adopt the Amendment with changes to the Panel's recommendations.
3. Abandon the Amendment.

Implications

Option 1 is recommended by this report. This is required so that the Amendment can be approved.

The Amendment is supported by Wimmera CMA, has panel support, and will lead to better development outcomes which supports more resilient, environmentally sustainable, and safer communities.

Option 2 is not recommended because this course of action would carry the significant risk of not being approved by the Minister for Planning, as it would lack the strategic justification and independent scrutiny demonstrated by the exhibited Amendment and Panel Report.

Option 3 is not recommended because this option would preclude the Amendment from progressing any further. There is no planning justification for this approach, and it would be contrary to the recommendations of the six flood studies. It would leave in place the provisions currently in the Horsham Planning Scheme that have been demonstrated to be inadequate in addressing flood risk across the municipality.

Sustainability Implications

The Amendment will assist with the management of environmental hazards posed by riverine and stormwater flooding.

The Amendment has positive economic and social benefits by identifying areas where planning permit assessment can reduce the risk of the harm from riverine and storm water flooding and damage due to a storm surge.

Community Engagement

As noted above, there has been extensive engagement with the community on the Amendment.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Amendment helps to ensure that Council through its planning scheme is improving its response to a potential significant risk issue to life and property that may be caused by flooding. The expansion of exemptions from the need to obtain a permit within the FO and LSIO will ensure that landowners are not unnecessarily inconvenienced.

Collaboration

This project has involved important collaboration between Council, Wimmera CMA and DEECA (formerly DELWP).

Financial Implications

Funding of \$60,000 was provided by DEECA to assist in the implementation of the Amendment. Funding for this project has been budgeted in the following manner:

- A GIS consultant was previously engaged to compile and 'clean-up' the flood extent GIS files to ensure they were fit for the planning scheme Amendment.
- A planning consultant was engaged to lead the Amendment preparation and process up until the Amendment's approval / gazettal.
- Engagement of expert witness from Water Technology to explain to the Panel the flood study methodologies, modelling and changes made to mapping following consideration of submissions.

There is a budget allocation included in the 2023-2024 budget to prepare for and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendments. This budget was used for the balance amount of Planning Panel costs that exceed the grant funding.

It is not expected that this Planning Scheme Amendment will impose any unreasonable costs on Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Clause 13.03-1S of the State section of the Planning Policy Framework includes a number of objectives and strategies on floodplain management. This clause refers to *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* (2016).

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 3 - Sustainability

1. Achieve a sustainable and sound environmental future
3. A region where climate change impacts are addressed and remediated

Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan (2022)

Identifies Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and the Natural Environment as a one of the key challenges for Horsham.

Clause 13.03-1L of the Local section of the PPF includes a section of flood management in Horsham. This policy was introduced following the completion of the Horsham Flood Study (Water Technology, February 2003).

In addition, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has prepared the following flood plans:

- Horsham Rural City Council Flood Response Plan
- East Horsham Flood Intelligence Report
- Natimuk Flood Intelligence Report Risk Implications

Risk Implications

There is a risk if Council as the Planning Authority does not act on the flood mapping it has available. It could be made liable if flooding occurs in the future and damages property developed subsequent to the flood studies. Council can reduce this risk by acting on the scientific based data it has available and applying the appropriate planning overlays as proposed by this Amendment. It is considered that Council has a duty of care to act and identify flooding and properly control development in flood prone areas.

The proposed overlays will help reduce risk of property damage as a result of riverine and stormwater flooding by requiring a planning permit for new dwellings and other buildings and works. In particular, it will enable both Council (as the Responsible Authority) and the Wimmera CMA (as the Floodplain Management Authority) to ensure building floor levels are set above the predicted flood levels and hence minimise economic and personal hardship if flooding is to occur.

The 2016 *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* stresses the importance of using planning controls to help avoid or minimise flood risks. Planning Authorities are required to use available planning controls to manage risks.

For these flood investigation studies to have statutory effect they are required to be included in the planning scheme as a Background document by way of a planning scheme amendment. This process is set out in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Conclusion

The Amendment proposes to introduce and update the application of flood controls across the municipality. The Amendment has been subject to extensive notification and consultation. The Panel supports the Amendment and recommends it be adopted by Council. The final step in the process is, subject to Council's resolution, to submit the Amendment to the Minister for approval.

9.2 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2024

Author's Name:	Sarah Mclvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Acting Governance Coordinator	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F19/A06/000001

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

Council Meeting Dates 2024 (Appendix 9.2A)

Purpose

To seek adoption of Council meeting dates for Horsham Rural City Council meetings for the 2024 calendar year.

Summary

Setting the Council Meeting Timetable 12 months in advance helps facilitate good planning.

Recommendation

That Council:

- Note that the Council meetings for 2024 for the Horsham Rural City Council will be held at 5.30pm at the Civic Centre Horsham, and livestreamed, on the following dates:
 - Monday, 29 January 2024
 - Monday, 26 February 2024
 - Monday, 25 March 2024
 - Monday, 22 April 2024
 - Monday, 27 May 2024
 - Monday, 24 June 2024
 - Monday, 22 July 2024
 - Monday, 26 August 2024
 - Monday, 23 September 2024
 - Monday, 21 October 2024 (note Local Government general elections are being held this month with the requirement for the meeting to consider the annual report being 'on a day not later than the day before election day')
 - Monday, 21 November 2024 – statutory meeting to elect the Mayor for the newly elected Councillor group
 - Monday, 25 November 2024
 - Monday, 16 December 2024
- Advertise the adopted 2024 Council meeting dates on the Horsham Rural City Council website and in the Public Notice pages in a local newspaper.

REPORT

Background

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Council's Governance Rules - *Division 1 – Notices of Meetings and Delivery of Agendas*, Council is required to give public notice of its meeting dates as follows:

Rule 10: Council must from time to time fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings.

Rule 11: Council may change the date, time and place of any Council meeting which has been fixed by it and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public.

Rule 13.4: Reasonable notice of each Council meeting must be provided to the public. Council may do this:

13.4.1. or meetings which it has fixed by preparing a schedule of meetings annually, twice yearly or from time to time, and arranging publication of such schedule in a newspaper generally circulating in the municipal district either at various times throughout the year, or prior to each such Council meeting; and

13.4.2. for any meeting by giving notice on its website and:

(a) in each of its Customer Service Centres; and/or

(b) in at least one newspaper generally circulating in the municipal district

In accordance with section 26 of the Act, a Mayor is to be elected no later than one month after the date of a general election.

Discussion

Each year Council establishes the Council meeting dates for the following calendar year, with the majority of meeting dates scheduled on the fourth Monday of the month. The exception are the meeting in January which is scheduled later in the month and the December meeting which is scheduled earlier. Of note for the 2024 meeting dates is the inability to confirm the date of the Council meeting for October noting the Local Government election that will be taking place that month as well as the s100 requirement for Council to have a meeting to consider the annual report either on a day not later than the day before election day (s100(2)(a)).

This report sets out the Council meeting dates, including the statutory meeting to elect the Mayor. By setting these meeting dates in advance it allows the community, Councillors and officers to better plan for the year ahead.

Options to Consider

Council can opt to change the meeting dates proposed however there is a requirement under the Governance Rules that Council must provide reasonable notice of each Council meeting. This is often fixed by preparing a schedule of meetings annually and arranging publication of such schedule in a newspaper generally circulating in the municipal district either at various times throughout the year, or prior to each such Council meeting.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no financial consequences or impacts from this meeting dates update.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 – Leadership

Risk Implications

It is necessary to have a well-functioning meeting procedures and meeting dates planned in advance to support good governance and good democratic processes.

Conclusion

Council meeting dates have been proposed for 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the agreed processes included in Council's Governance Rules 2023.

9.3 REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON COUNCIL'S STREET NAME LIST - SCHWEDES

Author's Name:	Kayla Mallett	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Rates	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Finance	File Number:	F27/A15/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 130:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020* – Section 3(1):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To seek approval to the inclusion of the name Schwedes on Council's Street Naming list.

Summary

- Richard Schwedes has requested that the name Schwedes be added to Council's Street Naming list to honour his late father, Paul Schwedes.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the inclusion of the name Schwedes on Council's Street Naming list.

REPORT

Background

The *Naming rules for places in Victoria* – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022 (the naming rules) have replaced the 2016 naming rules. They are the statutory guidelines provided for under section 5 of the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*; and are mandatory for all naming authorities in Victoria – councils, government departments and emergency response and public service providers – and include all government-owned or administered roads, features (natural or otherwise) and localities. Based on national standards and policies, they provide a strong basis for standardised and clear naming procedures across the state.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the naming process in Victoria by proposing a name, initiating a proposal or responding to a relevant naming authority regarding a naming proposal. Any applicant requesting to have a new name placed on Council's Street Naming list must submit an application to Council for approval with substantiating information to support their request. Criteria include significant contributions to the local community; linkages to the history of the locality; and/or significant / notable achievements.

Developers should consult the respective road naming authority when preparing plans of subdivision but can put forward their own preferred street name for consideration and approval. Alternatively they can choose to use a particular name from the Council Street Naming list. Council currently has over 60 names to choose from on that list.

Discussion

A naming proposal request has been made by a member/s of the public, Richard Schwedes, to include the name Schwedes on Council's Street Naming list to commemorate his late father Paul Schwedes.

Paul Schwedes born 1937, lived in Horsham from 1968 to 2019. He was an active community member, serving as both the Secretary and Treasurer of the Horsham Cricket Association from the late 1980s, to the early 2000s. During this time, he strongly encouraged many people to play cricket locally and at a representative level. He was also jointly responsible for the introduction of indoor cricket and additional turf wickets to the association.

Paul Schwedes also served in many other capacities with the Homers Cricket Club, Homers Football Club and the Horsham Cricket Association, such as coach and umpire. The Horsham Cricket Association one-day cup is named after Paul Schwedes and Dudley Cornell.

Paul received the Australian Sports Medal and was selected to carry the Olympic Torch for the 2000 relay and, was also the recipient of the Malcolm Roberts Service award, for his dedication to cricket in the Wimmera. Paul was also the owner of retail outlet The Soapbox in Horsham, for 15 years.

Options to Consider

Council can opt not to approve a request for street / road / place naming and may select an appropriate name of their choice after consideration of the requirements of the policy.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Details of how the community can nominate a new name to the street naming list is available on Council's website along with the application form for doing so. This proposal has arisen from a member of the public completing that process.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

This proposal has no financial implications.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities - 2022

Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Horsham Rural City Council Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy

Risk Implications

The process by which the names were provided and the intent for inclusion of the names on Council's Naming list conforms to the naming rules and Council policy which mitigates the risk associated with consideration of their inclusion.

Conclusion

The name Schwedes conforms to the relevant statutory requirements and Council's relevant policy. The request for the addition of name to the Street Naming list was submitted to and processed by Council's Rate Collector as required by that policy. The name is considered appropriate to be added to Council's Street Naming list.

9.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY REVIEW

Author's Name:	Susan Surrige	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Coordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F20/A01/000016

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

Community Grants Policy (Draft) (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Purpose

To seek adoption of the amended Community Grants Policy.

Summary

- A review of the Community Grants Policy is undertaken annually
- A peer review of grant-making processes across other Victorian Councils was undertaken as part of the annual process this year
- Key changes have been recommended to create four grant funding streams which will improve Council's grant making processes for the community.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the amended Community Grants Policy (**Appendix 9.4A**).

REPORT

Background

The Community Grants Policy provides the framework for the delivery of Council's annual Community Grants Program. It outlines the funding priorities, eligibility, application process, assessment criteria and process, timelines and reporting. Guidelines and application forms are also produced to assist community groups in completing applications.

The Policy is subject to an annual review as part of the annual budget process.

Discussion

The annual review this year included a peer review of grant-making best practices across the local government sector. The purpose of this peer review was to look at the range of grants offered by other Councils and also consider relevant application documentation and processes.

The peer review included ten (10) Councils: three (3) regional, six (6) rural and one (1) metro.

The key recommendation for change to the Policy this year is to split the Community Grants program into four streams as follows:

1. Community Development grants
2. . Community Events grants
3. Youth grants
4. Quick response small grants

Each stream will have a nominated financial allocation as part of the overall community grants budget with no proposed increase in the total budget allocation (except for annual CPI increase).

The advantages of splitting the funding into specific streams are:

- Each stream will have guidelines and an on-line application form specific to the grant type
- The streams will have different opening, closing and assessment dates
- The streams will be assessed by a panel of staff with expertise and experience in the relevant service area.

Key details proposed for each stream are as follows:

1. *Community Development Grants stream*
 - No major changes noting community event funding separated into a separate stream.
 - Grants allocations approved by Council
2. *Community Events stream*
 - New guidelines and application process suited to events
 - Applications assessed by staff with events expertise
 - Program to have two rounds each year (while funding is available)
 - Maximum grant and funding priorities the same as for Community Development grants
 - Grants allocations approved by Council

3. *Youth stream*

- Maximum grant \$2,500
- Promoting mentoring of young people to develop application and deliver projects through a not-for-profit auspice
- Ongoing application process (until annual funding allocation of \$10,000 is exhausted)
- Applications assessed by the Youth team, with involvement of the Youth Council
- Grants allocations approved by Council.

4. *Quick Response Small Grants*

- Maximum grant \$1,000
- Funding allocated from annual contingency in the Community Grants Program
- Applicants must be unable to apply for a Community Development, Events or Youth grant due to timing considerations
- Simple application process and quick response
- Grant application assessed by the Community Grants Team
- Grants approved by the Chief Executive Officer

Additional changes recommended:

- Requirement for public liability insurance added in-line with industry best practice
- Mandatory on-line submissions to ensure better document control and record-keeping of grants process (with support from Council staff available as required)
- Additional internal assessment process for land-owner consent
- All applications to be signed by an organisation office-bearer

Guidelines and application forms will be developed in January 2024 to support the amended Policy.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to accept all, part, or none of the recommended changes.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Community education sessions will be provided to the community in February 2024 to coincide with the annual opening round of the Community Development Grants Stream. There will be communications across all available media platforms around the key changes to the grants programs.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The proposed changes to the Community Grants program are the most significant changes in the past ten years. The changes represent continuous improvement in practice based on peer review.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications relating to the changes to the Community Grants Policy. The total allocation presented to Council in April 2024 for consideration in the 2024/2025 budget will be the same as the 2023/2024 allocation with a CPI increase added.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan)

Community Inclusion Plan

Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

Youth Strategy

Age-Friendly Communities Implementation Plan

Risk Implications

This is an established annual Council Grants Program. The proposed changes to the policy reduce Council's risk by including the requirement for groups to have their own public liability insurance, and also ensuring any issues relating to land use and associated land owner consent is addressed.

Conclusion

The annual review of the community grants policy is an opportunity for Council to improve the way this popular and important funding program is delivered to the community.

9.5 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Author's Name:	Fiona Kelly	Director:	n/a
Author's Title:	EA to CEO & Councillors	Directorate:	CEO
Department:	CEO	File Number:	F19/A11/000001

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

Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Completed Council Resolutions Action List – November 2022 to November 2023 (**Appendix 9.5B**)

Purpose

To present the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List and the Completed Council Resolution Action List.

Summary

- Immediately following each Council meeting, all formal resolutions are placed on the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List.
- The Council Report author is responsible for updating outstanding actions on the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List in a timely manner.
- The Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List is reviewed by the Executive Management Team and provided to Councillors quarterly.
- The Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.5A**) and Completed Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.5B**) are formally presented to Council annually.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action attached as **Appendix 9.5A**
2. Receive and note the Completed Council Resolutions Action List attached as **Appendix 9.5B**.

REPORT

Background

Horsham Rural City Council has a Council Resolutions procedure in place to ensure that all resolutions of Council are closely monitored and actioned within the required timeframe.

Discussion

Resolutions of Council are placed on an Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List and circulated to Directors and Responsible Officers immediately following each Council meeting. The author of the Council Report is responsible for ensuring that their actions are updated in a timely manner. The action list is reviewed quarterly by the Executive Management Team and circulated to Councillors. Completed actions are then transferred to the Completed Council Resolutions Action List.

The Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.5A**) and Completed Council Resolutions Action Lists (**Appendix 9.5B**) are formally presented to Council annually.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Nil

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 Leadership

Procedure No P04/003 – Council Resolutions

Risk Implications

There may be significant risks to Council if formal Council resolutions are not monitored and actioned in a timely manner.

Conclusion

This report provides an update on outstanding and completed Council resolutions.

9.6 DRAFT 2023 HORSHAM BICYCLE AND SHARED PATH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Author's Name:	Dale Schmid	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Recreation & Open Space Planning Officer	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Arts, Culture & Recreation	File Number:	F10/A01/000006

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

Draft 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Path Infrastructure Plan (**Appendix 9.6A**)
Public Engagement Plan (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Purpose

To present the draft 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan and recommend that it be released for a period of public engagement.

Summary

- The Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012-2016 provided recommendations for the establishment of a cycling and shared path network across Horsham.
- Despite an annual budget and infrastructure investment, cycling participation rates have decreased since 2006.
- Safe System Solutions was engaged to assist with the development of the 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Path Infrastructure Plan (the '2023 Plan').
- A Community Reference Group (CRG) provided input into the development of the 2023 Plan.
- Existing cycling and shared paths were assessed against AustRoads Safe System principles.
- The audit revealed opportunities to create a connected network reflecting the road hierarchy and opportunities to improve the provision of safe cycling options.
- The 2023 Plan embeds national safety expectations, provides a prioritised infrastructure plan and a prioritisation tool for the implementation of future works.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the draft 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan.
2. Release the draft 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan (**Appendix 9.6A**), for public engagement for the period Monday 22 January 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024.

REPORT

Background

The Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012-2016 (2012 Plan) is the current strategic document informing the implementation of cycling infrastructure across the municipality. The 2012 Plan provides a framework for improvements to the cycling and shared path network. Although the 2012 Plan contains a prioritisation tool. The list of actions within the document is extensive and will take many years to implement and does not reflect contemporary expectations regarding safety and an active transport network.

In December 2020, Council staff commenced an audit of existing cycle and shared paths, and began the development of a prioritisation tool that reflected the road hierarchy, Victorian Movement and Place concepts and the Austroads Safe System principles.

In November 2021, Safe System Solutions was engaged to lead the development of an updated municipal bicycle and shared paths infrastructure plan. Safe System Solutions has extensive experience in the development of bicycle and shared path plans in other regional contexts including: City of Greater Bendigo, Baw Baw Shire and Mildura Rural City Council. Safe System Solutions has also contributed to several technical publications for VicRoads.

Extensive consultation has occurred across the organisation throughout the development of the 2023 Plan with staff providing feedback and advice into the development of the draft Plan. A Community Reference Group (CRG) informed priorities and provided significant input regarding current cycle routes and future network options.

Discussion

Despite the development of the 2012 Municipal Bicycle and Shared Paths Plan and an annual budget allocation of approximately \$100,000 for cycling infrastructure, cycling activity in Horsham is low and declining. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data revealed that in 2006, 174 people cycled to work on Census day, with the number reducing in 2011 to 121 and further reducing in 2021 to 94.

There are many reasons why people choose not to walk or cycle to their destination. Investigation of the barriers and motivations was not the focus of this project; the focus was to audit existing cycle and shared paths against Austroads Safe System principles, develop a list of priority infrastructure projects and a prioritisation tool to assist with the allocation of future works.

The audit identified two significant findings:

1. Except in limited circumstances (such as the provision of off-road pathways), current cycle and shared path infrastructure throughout Horsham does not reflect Austroads principles developed to protect people from cars
2. There is no network of connected cycling infrastructure throughout the Horsham and Haven areas that complies with Safe System principles.

A network involves continuous routes – across intersections and along different levels of the road hierarchy. It is possible that a combination of both perceptions of risk, and variable infrastructure treatments across the urban area have contributed to low cycling numbers identified in consecutive Census results.

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been completed for this project. The GIA revealed that commuter cycling to school or work, is primarily undertaken by boys and men. The GIA revealed that the 2023 Plan will not significantly or directly increase cycling participation outcomes for girls and women. However, the introduction of a connected network of pathways separating bicycles from vehicles, with associated improvements to streetscapes (lighting, seating, shade) will provide essential prerequisites to increase cycling participation. Importantly, connected active transport networks and supporting infrastructure are also elements that encourage walking, an activity favoured by women and girls.

The 2023 Plan embeds Austroads Safe System principles recognising that people make mistakes and that wherever possible and unless traffic speeds are reduced to 30-40km/h vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians should be separated. Nationally endorsed Safe System principles are reflected in Vic Roads technical manuals and Transport Accident Commission (TAC) funding guidelines for planning and infrastructure improvements.

The 2023 Plan contains a list of priority projects. Priority projects reflect planning undertaken by Department of Transport and the identification of a road hierarchy. The road hierarchy influences the selection of safety treatments. High volume, high speed (50-60km/h) roads are associated with arterial and collector roads and require protected or separated cycling treatments. Access and Link roads throughout residential areas generally reflect reduced traffic volumes and speed. Traffic calming measures throughout residential areas are required.

Safe System principles have been embedded in the development of a localised prioritisation tool that can be used to assess emerging infrastructure priorities and guide annual infrastructure planning.

A network of cycle and shared pathways provides opportunities for increased active transport options for many people within our community. Active transport and physical activity are clearly aligned with improved health outcomes. To increase participation, clear messaging is required that safety is paramount. Messaging may be achieved via a variety of safety treatments: separating cyclists and cars, traffic calming measures, road colours, road surface treatments and signage. There can be no moments of indecision between cars and cyclists. Messaging can also occur through the provision of street furniture and improved street amenity: shade, seating, lighting.

The 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Path Infrastructure Plan (the 2023 Plan) has been developed to guide the creation of a connected cycling and walking network providing safe active transport options for our community. The 2023 Plan embeds nationally endorsed Safe System principles. A prioritisation tool has been developed to identify the sequencing of works (subject to internal and external funding opportunities) and to assess and prioritise requests for new cycle and shared pathways.

Options to Consider

The following options are available:

- 1 Release the 2023 Plan for public engagement to test the draft network and connections that have been identified.
- 2 Note the 2023 Plan but continue to implement the works program as described in the 2012 Plan.

The 2012 Plan has not resulted in the development of a network of cycle paths that reflect nationally endorsed safety principles and cycling rates throughout Horsham have decreased since 2006.

It is recommended that the 2023 Plan be released for public feedback regarding the proposed draft network and that a more targeted approach to the provision of cycling infrastructure be pursued.

Sustainability Implications

Active transport (walking and cycling) is a climate friendly transport option. Providing more suitable and connected cycling and shared path infrastructure will enable more people to choose active transport options and may reduce dependence on motor vehicles.

Community Engagement

A CRG was established in 2021 to provide advice and feedback regarding the current bicycle and shared path network with Horsham and to identify priorities relating to the 2023 Horsham Bicycle and Shared Path Plan. The CRG met three times to provide input into the plan and review the draft plan.

During 24-29 June 2021, a Community Expo provided an initial opportunity to receive public feedback about the priorities of a cycling and walking network. Key areas of concern identified from the Expo included the need for connectivity, accessibility (including maintenance) and signage.

If approved for release, a period of community engagement will occur to receive feedback regarding the proposed cycling and shared path network.

A Public Engagement Plan is attached (**Appendix 9.6B**).

It is proposed that public engagement on the plan will commence Monday 22 January 2024 and conclude Friday 16 February 2024.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Implementation of the 2023 Plan will result in the consistent application of the Austroads Safe System principles. Application of the Safe System principles will create both the perception and the reality of a connected, continuous network of shared cycle and walking paths that link neighbourhoods to key destinations throughout the Horsham urban environment.

Collaboration

The City of Ballarat recently updated their Cycling Action Plan 2017-2025 and staff from the City of Ballarat were consulted through the initial stages of the development of the 2023 Plan to provide advice and learnings from the process they followed.

Financial Implications

The 2023 Plan will inform bicycle and shared path infrastructure works. The Plan includes estimated costs and a priority list of works designed to strategically develop a connected network of paths.

Funding for these works will be from a range of sources including Council's annual budget and Long Term Capex Plan, and from external grants.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active Victoria 2022-2026

Strategic Framework:

- Establishing thriving places and communities that are safe, fair and inclusive
- Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1: Community

An inclusive, accessible, connected and safe community

Theme 2: Liveability

1. A destination to live, work, explore and visit
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

Theme 4: Accessibility

Improved and connected transport services and networks in and around the region

2. An integrated, strategic and needs based approach to investing in our places and spaces

Council plans and strategies relevant to the development of the 2023 Plan include:

- Horsham Open Space Strategy 2019
- Horsham South Structure Plan 2020
- Horsham Urban Transport Plan 2020
- Horsham North Local Area Plan 2023
- Central Activity District (CAD) Revitalisation Plan 2023

Risk Implications

There are two areas of risk associated with the 2023 Plan.

1. That the Austroads Safe System principles are not consistently applied according to the road hierarchy. This would result in a patchwork of cycle and shared paths and a continuation of current practice,
2. That the prioritisation tool is not applied to guide the allocation of annual budgets (and the Long Term Capex Plan). There may be some requirement for flexibility as alternate, external funding options become available, but generally, the prioritisation tool should guide the implementation of works.

Conclusion

The draft 2023 Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan has been developed with the support and input from an industry consultant, a CRG and Council Officers.

The 2023 Plan provides a framework for the staged implementation of a connected network of shared pathways that reflect Austroads Safe System principles and engineering design standards.

When implemented, a connected network of shared cycle and walking paths will enable residents and visitors to choose active transport to travel to and through the centre of Horsham and to key destinations within Horsham and the developing area of Haven.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.7 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

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

Spendmapp Report October 2023 (*data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry*)
(Appendix 9.7A)

Purpose

To present the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for October 2023.

Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report provides the progress and outcomes achieved through the delivery of the investment attraction strategy and implementation plan during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for October 2023.

REPORT

Background

An Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report is tabled monthly at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Discussion

The work undertaken across Investment Attraction and Growth Department includes Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Building Services, Business Development and Tourism.

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan progress and key achievements for the month of October are articulated in the information and tables, as follow.

Actions are measured by goals and set timelines. The timelines are indicated by years which relate to financial years.

Year 1 - 2022-2023

Year 2 - 2023-2024

Year 3 - 2024-2025

Year 4 - 2024-2025

Year 5+ 2025+

The teams will focus on delivering actions with in the current financial year whilst carrying out the necessary planning to ensure targets are meet in sequential years.

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.10 (ongoing)	Undertake regular meetings between Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities	10 forums held per year	Meeting held in October between WSM Development and HRCC Investment & Business Development Team 3/10 meetings held at 13/10/23
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	Stage one Feasibility Study and Business Case complete. Tender has been awarded for stage two Master Plan and Detailed Designs and work has commenced.
2.6.1 (ongoing)	Promote recreational activities in our natural environment to increase destination tourism and visitation	Activities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	A marketing campaign has been undertaken with the Caravanning Australia Magazine summer edition as a place to Explore, Discover & Uncover our treasures

Officers Reports

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.7.1 (ongoing)	Identify and seek out commercial opportunities to activate the riverfront	Commercial opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	A commercial business has put forward a proposal to operate the Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River. Negotiations are continuing.
2.8.1 (ongoing)	Support the delivery of tourism opportunities on the Wimmera River, Mt Arapiles and lakes in our region	Tourism opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	An agreement has been undertaken with a TV production segment, that will take place in November in partnership with the Australian Fishing Network and will go to air on 7 Mate early in 2024. The segment aims to promote our local waterways. The visithorsham website has been update to now include a separate section relating to Fishing within the region.
3.1.3 (2 years)	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan and Dadwell Bridge Community Action Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	The Natimuk PAC has been formed and first meeting was held in October
(ongoing)	Host seasonal workshop sessions with Grampians Tourism and Wimmera Mallee Tourism to organise and update our businesses and tourism operators about relevant information for the region	4 industry workshops have been hosted	The Tourism & Business Development Officer. Met with the new Grampians Tourism marketing officer and visited our tourism operators during October. The next Grampians Tourism Forum is scheduled for November.
(ongoing)	Ensure constant communication through e-mails and business newsletters with tourism operators and local businesses regarding what is happening in the region	A minimum of 10 business newsletters distributed annually 4 business forums are held annually	The business newsletter was sent on the 27 October. It received 368 opens and 35 clicks.
3.4.2 (ongoing)	Work with local business to activate the Horsham city centre (CAD)	Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Planning has commenced to once again activate the CAD over the Christmas period with the Roaming Advent Calendar initiative along with the Window display competition.
(ongoing)	Attract businesses to lease vacant shops in the Horsham city centre through the Wimmera Business Centre	Vacant shops reduced from 24 shops to 20 in the first year and maintained at or below 18 shops for the succeeding years	See table below

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Australian Fishing Network – Promotional Opportunity



Council’s Business Development Team will be undertaking an opportunity to work with the Australian Fishing Network, during the month of November.

The Business Development Team accepted a proposal from the Australian Fishing Network (AFN) to deliver a promotional television campaign showcasing our “Waterways and Fishing” within the region.

The Fishing Show produced by Australian Fishing Network delivers episodes to Australia wide audience through the 7 Mate Network. The show segment reaches an annual audience of 1 million viewers from across Australia.

The Fishing Show produced by Australian Fishing Network delivers episodes to Australia wide audience

Filming will take place early November 2023, featuring waterways such as Taylor’s Lake, Green Lake, Lake Toolondo, Wimmera River and possibly Lake Wartook, with the episode going to air in early 2024.

The Business Development Team will have access to footage shots of the episode featuring our municipality. Further to this AFN will edit the footage and provide council with a vignette for our social / digital marketing, which will feature on the <https://visithorsham.com.au/waterways-fishing/> website. There will also be a full page inclusion within the Freshwater Fishing magazine.

The Business Development Team is extremely pleased to also engage David Brennan from WMCA as our local talent person to feature in the episode and speak of our lakes and fishing opportunities. David has a wealth of knowledge in this field.

Business Visitations for the Month of October 2023

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event contacts	Over all contacts for the month
February	13	8	15	36
March	35	6	12	53
April	20	13	10	43
May	15	8	4	27
June	28	4	5	37
July	71	17	15	103
August	62	33	7	102
September	34	15	9	58
October	19	16	10	45
Total	297	120	87	504

Occupied Businesses:

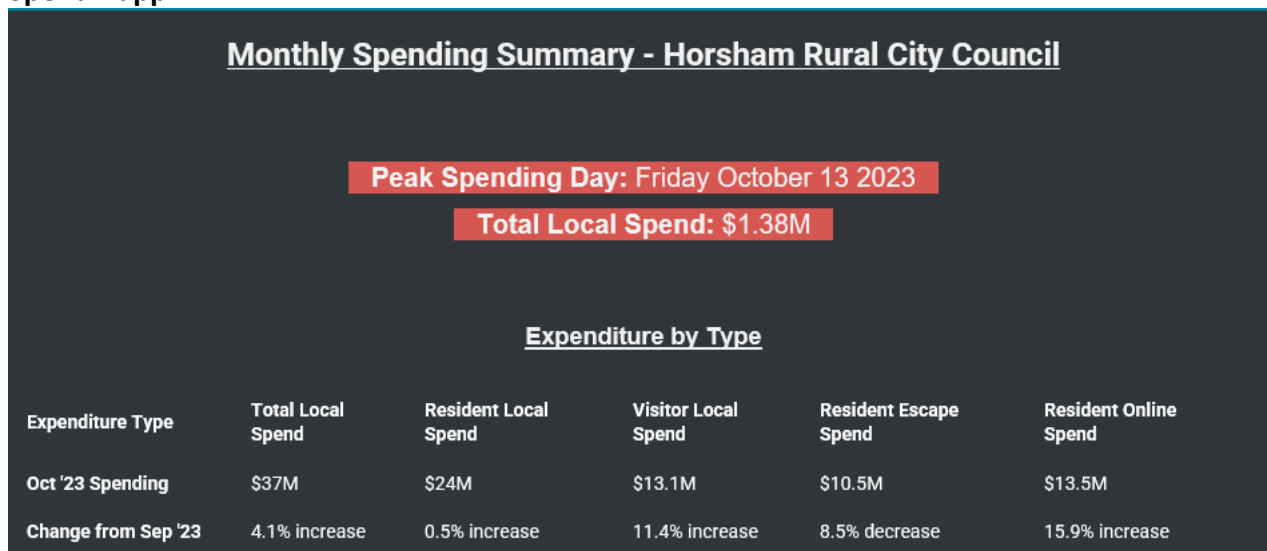
Street and Number of Businesses	September FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	October FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	October FY 22/23 Businesses Vacant	October FY 22/23 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	41	2	95%
Firebrace St - 99	91	90	9	90%
Hamilton St - 17	16	15	2	88%
Wilson St – 34	28	29	5	85%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	25	25	3	89%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	25	25	2	93%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	23	24	0	100%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	249/272	249/272	23	91%

(Businesses are determined by whether they are 1. A premises, 2. Have customers 3. Exchange money; i.e Centre Link and the Cinema are included, and the Public Library is excluded). There are four known shops that are not suitable for occupancy as they require major renovations or are being used as a secondary business not requiring a retail front. These shops are reflected in the vacant shop numbers and unfortunately reduce the percentage of occupied businesses.

Caravanning Australia Magazine – Marketing Opportunity

Council’s Business Team has undertaken a two page marketing campaign with the Caravanning Australian Magazine. The article to be featured in the summer edition. This article speaks of and gives an overview of Horsham, Natimuk, Wartook and Dadswells Bridge with the call to action being www.visithorsham.com.au website.

Spendmapp



Spendmapp report for October 2023 (Appendix 9.7A)

*data is from bankcard transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry

Grampians Tourism News

Kerrie Mulholland has been appointed as Grampians Tourism Partnership Manager, Kerrie has more than 25 years experience in tourism and hospitality and is passionate about the industry with previous roles including Director of Sales and Marketing at the W Melbourne.

During the month of October, both Kerrie Mulholland and Gloria McRae visited a number of our tourism businesses to simply touch base and gauge how their business operations is progressing. Great feedback and a welcoming presence was received from our operators. Next visitation will be undertaken in the Wartook Valley region.

STATUTORY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.4	Develop an open space contribution rate(s) and a new local Public Open Space Contribution Policy.	Policy adopted by Council and Horsham Planning Scheme amended	A fee proposal is being considered for an external consultancy to deliver this work.
1.6.4 (2 years)	Implement the Horsham Heritage Study to protect buildings and places of historic cultural heritage to reinforce a 'sense of place' and celebrate Horsham's character and distinctiveness	Horsham Planning Scheme amended	Letters have been sent to landowners whose properties have been identified by the study, to advise that their property is locally significant.
2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy and complete an amendment to the planning scheme	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	SGS Economics and Planning have been appointed and have commenced technical work on this project.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	The Future Urban Structure is being finalised for public consultation.
(2 years)	Complete a Planning Scheme Review as a vehicle for specifying desired outcomes across the municipality	Planning Scheme Review Completed and suggested changes implemented	The Planning Scheme Review report is under internal review.

Statutory Planning

C82 Corrections Amendment

The C82 Correction Amendment has been approved by the Minister for Planning. It corrects mapping errors and anomalies within the Horsham Planning Scheme, including rezoning to reflect public and private land ownership and resolving land in two zones, and realignment of heritage overlays to match statements of significance.

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of October 2023 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	OCTOBER 2023		OCTOBER 2022	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	6	1,976,790	7	3,070,464
Industrial/Commercial	2	30,000	5	288,000
Subdivisions	4 (8 lots)	-	9 (41 lots)	2,000
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	12	2,006,790	21	3,360,464

(*Please note: Not all applications have a \$ figure)

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023 is 25 compared to 58 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 46 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023 compared to 123 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of **October 2023** and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	47,696	1	723,000
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	36,179	3	153,099
Removal/Demolish	1	9,680	1	64,680
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	4	93,555	5	940,779

Permits issued by other Private Building Surveyors for this Municipality or by Government Departments:

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	3	1,613,627	6	2,962,360
Alterations to Dwellings	6	596,508	3	207,184
Dwelling resitings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	6	609,177	5	166,479
Removal/Demolish	-	-	4	79,810
Industrial/Commercial	3	3,408,565	1	750,000
Signs	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	18	6,227,877	19	4,165,833

A total of **15** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$2,948,653** from **1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023** compared to **35** Building Permits at a total value of **\$1,802,447** for the same period in 2022-2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **71** Building Permits at a total value of **\$28,977,435** from **1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023** compared to **80** at a total value of **\$23,154,432** for the same period in 2022-2023.

Options to Consider

Not applicable – no decision required

Sustainability Implications

Report provides overview of the development and business activity across the region with no direct sustainability implications.

Community Engagement

Report has been prepared in consultation with range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSM), West Vic Business, and Grampians Tourism and on Council's website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Report provides overview of activity and assists with continuous improvement.

Collaboration

Report has been prepared in collaboration with Council officers across Planning, Building and Business Development and Tourism Support.

Financial Implications

NIL

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable – no direct relationship or requirements

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme Three - Sustainability - Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategy 2: A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive.

Risk Implications

Not applicable – no decision required

Conclusion

The monthly Investment Attraction and Growth Department report provides the opportunity to give Council and the community an insight into the projects being undertaken to grow our municipality and Horsham as a regional city.

9.8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	File Number:	F06/A01/000001

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

Nil

Purpose

To present the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for December 2023.

Summary

The Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance and matters which may not be subject of Council reports or briefings.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for December 2023.

REPORT

Background

At the 24 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council, it was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer provide an operational report to Council.

Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are summarised below.

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

RCCC Board Meeting: The RCCC Board met (virtually) on Thursday 14 December 2023 via Teams.

RCV General Meeting: The CEO attended (virtually) the RCV General Meeting on Thursday 30 November 2023. Housing Australia provided an update on Federal Programs, specifically the National Housing Infrastructure Facility Critical Infrastructure loans and grants program.

Funding Opportunities:

Expression of Interest lodged for the Growing Regions Fund for the new City Oval Community Facility has been approved to proceed to full application – due 15 January 2024.

B. Community Engagement

Nil

C. Projects and Events

Christmas Extravaganza: The Christmas Extravaganza kicked off on Friday 1 December with the Roaming Advent Calendar initiative which involves 24 local businesses promoting shopping on a particular day to go into the draw to win a \$200 gift card.

The Christmas Window Display competition also began at the end of November with the winner to receive a \$2500 advertising package from ACE Radio. The winner of the competition was Plant Haven and we announced this at our family Christmas event at the riverfront on Friday 8 December.

This event included a play performance from Horsham Little Theatre along with children's activities, food trucks, market stalls and the official tree lighting ceremony. Luckily the weather didn't deter many people as there was a great turnout and lot's of fun had by all.

D. Staff Matters

Orange Muffins: A lunch time information session was held on 5 December 2023 to raise awareness for the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.

International Day of People with a Disability (IDOPWD): A short film viewing was held for the staff during lunch time on 6 December 2023. IDOPWD is on 3 December each year.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 - Leadership

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for December 2023.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

Committee Representation	
28/11/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Board Meeting
4/12/23	Chaired the Aboriginal Community Roundtable
7/12/23	Audit and Risk Committee
14/12/23	Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) meeting in Bendigo
Other Council Activities	
28/11/23	ABC Wimmera radio interview
29/11/23	Met with Grampians Health Chair and CEO and attended the AGM
29/11/23	Horsham East Rotary Club's District Governor visit
1/12/23	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
7/12/23	Wimmera Truck Centre Official Opening
7/12/23	HRAG "Wimmera by Greg Mallyon" official opening
7/12/23	Aceradio – End of Year event
8/12/23	Turned on Christmas Tree lights at the Horsham Christmas Extravaganza
9/12/23	Filipino Masquerade Ball
10/12/23	Horsham's Carols by Candlelight
11/12/23	Wesley Fundraising committee meeting
12/12/23	WSM Regional Participation Action Plan – Community Visioning Workshop
12/12/23	Horsham Little Theatre Company performance
14/12/23	Council Depot – End of Year event
14/12/23	Container Deposit Scheme opening at AXIS Worx

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
6/12/23	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee – online
Other Council Activities	
7/12/23	Levelling the playing field: enhancing local social cohesion through intercultural sport -Intercultural Cities Australian National Network – online webinar.
7/12/23	Horsham Regional Art Gallery - Opening of Wimmera - Greg Mallyon
9/12/23	70th Horsham Basketball Association Anniversary

11/12/23	Council Briefing – Council Chambers
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Cr Bob Redden

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
3/11/23	Rail Freight Alliance committee meeting, online
Other Council Activities	
8/11/23	Council briefing
11/11/23	Remembrance Day Ceremony ANZAC Cenotaph
13/11/23	Council Briefing
16/11/23	Election of Mayor
17/11/23	Town Hall Art Gallery, 'Infinite possibilities'
20/11/23	Council community meeting at Haven
22/11/23	Public consultation Rail Corridor Plan, Kalkee Road Hub

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
6/12/23	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting
15/12/23	Western Highway Action Committee meeting - Melton
Other Council Activities	
29/11/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
30/11/23	ALGWA Vic Zoom
3/12/23	Women's Electoral Lobby AGM Zoom
6/12/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia Christmas breakup
7/12/23	Grampians Tourism meeting, Pomonal Estate
7/12/23	WIMMERA by Greg Mallyon – Opening Horsham Regional Art Gallery
8/12/23	Renewable Energy Zone Priority Areas - VicGrid consultation zoom
13/12/23	MAV Free From Violence Local Government Forum - guest speaker Grace Tame
14/12/23	ALGWA Vic members feedback - Zoom
14/12/23	MAV meeting
14/12/23	The Future of Firefighting in Victoria - Zoom
18/12/23	Council Meeting

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 11 December 2023 at 5:00pm

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Wimmer Intermodal Freight Terminal Advisory Committee held on 7 September 2023
- Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange Board Meeting held on 23 November 2023

Refer to **Appendix 13.4A**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings of Councillors – Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Sealing of Documents
- 13.3 Inward Correspondence
- 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION