

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

To be held on
23 October 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 23 October 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 25 September 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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15.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR.....

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

CLOSE



KEVIN O’BRIEN
Acting Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sarah Mclvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Project Officer - Corporate Reporting	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F06/A09/000001

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

2022-2023 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To present the 2022-2023 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council for adoption by Council.

Summary

- The 2022-2023 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council reports on our performance for the financial year, with specific reporting against the Council Plan 2021-2025.
- The Annual Report also contains annual Financial and Performance Statements approved in principle by this Council at its meeting on 25 September 2023.

In preparing this report, the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Act (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* have been fully considered and achieved.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the attached 2022-2023 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**).

REPORT

Background

Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that 'a Council must prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year'. The report must contain

- a) a report of operations of the Council;
- b) an audited performance statement;
- c) audited financial statements;
- d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement;
- e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*;
- f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Discussion

In relation to specific provisions of the legislation above, Council must provide information about the operations of the council, including the results achieved against the prescribed indicators and measures of services funded by the council. Council must also provide information on the progress of major initiatives included in the budget.

The performance statement is to present the audited results achieved against the prescribed performance indicators and measures while the financial statements present the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. Both the Financial and Performance Statements were approved in principle by Council at its September meeting as recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee who considered those statements on 20 September.

The 2022-23 Annual Report presented for adoption meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Options to Consider

Under section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Annual Report must be presented by the Mayor at a meeting of Council open to the public by no later than Tuesday 31 October 2023. There is no provision for an extension or alteration of this deadline. Failure to comply with this deadline may result in a breach of the Act.

Further, the *Act* requires that Councils have submitted to the auditors, their performance statement, and financial statements, incorporated any recommended changes from the auditors and certified the documents by Tuesday 31 October 2023.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

A notice advising the public that they may inspect the 2022-23 Annual Report (including the Auditor's Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023) will be published on Council's website, and in a local newspaper as part of Council's next public notices submission.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Costs associated with production of the 2022-23 Annual Report are included in the 2023-24 Council Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 – Leadership

Strategies

1. Good governance, through leadership and connection with community
2. Good management for financial sustainability

Risk Implications

Council is required by law and as a matter of good governance to prepare an Annual Report in line with legislation and associated regulations. Failure to achieve this outcome may result in a breach of the Act and would have significant and adverse reputational impacts for Council. Further it would raise concerns with state government regulators as to the Council's ability to capably manage its financial and non-financial obligations.

Conclusion

The 2022-2023 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council is commended to Council for adoption.

9.2 DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Author's Name:	Daniel Rees	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Community Inclusion Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F09/A08/000001

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

Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Purpose

To seek Council's approval to establish a Disability Advisory Committee to Council to support the application of equity and access principles in Council decision-making and present an associated Terms of Reference for such a Committee for Council's consideration.

Summary

The introduction of a Disability Advisory Committee will ensure regular opportunities for HRCC staff to engage people with a disability, and amplify those voices in Council's planning and delivery of service and infrastructure projects.

Members of the Committee will have the opportunity to advocate to Council and raise issues on behalf of all people living with disability in the municipality.

The proposed Committee is structured similarly to other advisory committees. It is proposed that the new committee will meet four times a year.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve the establishment of a Disability Advisory Committee; and
2. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Disability Advisory Committee as per **Appendix 9.2A**.

REPORT

Background

In its newly-endorsed Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026 (DAIP), Council committed to establishing a Disability Advisory Committee.

As per Council's Committee Framework, the purpose of an Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing support and advice to Council relating to a service Council provides or the operation of a Council asset. The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body, its role is to help identify key issues and provide advice to Council.

Further the Council's Committee Framework Policy provides principles for the operation of Advisory Committees. Specifically, the Principles require the following:

- 4.5.1 IAP2 level of participation – Involve
- 4.5.2 Advisory committees have a strategic policy focus.
- 4.5.3 They are community wide by sector or are a major economic operation
- 4.5.4 Representatives are skill based and/or are representing a key stakeholder
- 4.5.5 No decision-making responsibility (advisory only)
- 4.5.6 No operational or asset management responsibility
- 4.5.7 Financial management is the responsibility of Council
- 4.5.8 Meeting procedures to conform to Terms of Reference
- 4.5.9 Regular reports to Council in accordance with Terms of Reference
- 4.5.10 Staff are ex-officio members with secretariat responsibilities

Minutes will be provided to Council as per the process for other Advisory Committees and reports on specific issues will be provided as required.

Discussion

Disability is very diverse. It is important to include the perspectives of people that experience a range of different disabilities in our engagement.

Many local government authorities have a Disability Advisory Committee. Such committees ensure Councils receive advice from people with lived experience of disability, as well as others who are experts on issues relating to disability. It is also an avenue to raise the profile of people with a disability, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are highlighted. Many will otherwise face barriers to having a say and participating in civic activities.

The following groups currently provide regular opportunities for HRCC staff to engage with people with physical disabilities and intellectual disabilities:

- Wimmera Mobility Group
 - The Wimmera Mobility Group includes members that use mobility devices.
- Beyond Community Inclusion
 - This is a participation group that meets every day at Beyond Community Inclusion in Firebrace Street, Horsham, it includes participants with intellectual disability.
- General Education Class
 - This class is held at Centre for Participation and includes participants with intellectual disability.

There are no regular opportunities however, for HRCC staff to engage with people with sensory disabilities and psycho-social disabilities.

As well as gaining perspectives from a wide range of people who experience different disabilities, the Committee will also raise the profile of people living with disability within our community. It will ensure people with disability have a say on Council matters and encourage other people living with a disability to participate in civic activities.

The Committee's Terms of Reference includes membership of people with lived experience of disability, people who work in a disability-related role, and people who care for people living with disability. The Committee will consist of up to 10 members.

Once the establishment of the Committee has been endorsed by Council, a recruitment process will be undertaken throughout the rest of 2023. It is the intention that the Committee will begin meeting in early 2024.

Options to Consider

As the Disability Advisory Committee is a formal strategic commitment made by Council in its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026, any decision not to introduce the Committee would require review of the DAIP.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was undertaken during development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan including engagement with approximately 110 people. Of these:

- 21% had lived experience of disability.
- 69% were community members.
- 30% were HRCC staff.
- 20% were carers, family or friends of people that live with a disability.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are significant barriers that people with a disability face in this community around accessing services, accessing information, and participating in economic and civic activities. As an organisation we must establish ourselves as an example of good community inclusion practices.

The Committee will provide a platform for people with disability to be at the centre of how HRCC becomes more inclusive. It is important that we have a resource of people with lived experience of disability to support the organisation in being more innovative in relation to inclusion as well as ensuring we implement more inclusive practices.

Collaboration

Collaboration will occur between HRCC and the Committee in relation to relevant projects that HRCC are delivering.

Financial Implications

Resourcing this Committee includes staff hours to facilitate meetings, follow up on actions, support Committee members and conduct other administrative tasks.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006* (Vic) requires all Victorian councils to have a disability action plan. This identifies actions to remove physical barriers for people with a disability and also focuses on providing inclusive employment and changing community attitudes.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) requires local government authorities to provide equal access to employment, public buildings, goods, services and facilities.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 - Community

Enhance the inclusivity, accessibility and safety of our places and spaces.

2023-2026 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Action 1.1 – Establish a Disability Advisory Committee to provide feedback on Key Council projects, policies and processes.

Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk to Council if we do not establish a Disability Advisory Committee given the commitment to do so articulated in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Conclusion

The establishment of a Disability Advisory Committee will provide HRCC with an important voice in its future decisions. The Committee will raise the profile of people with a disability in our community and highlight the importance of meaningful engagement in this space.

9.3 COLLEGE OVAL PRECINCT– DETAILED DESIGN FUNDING STRATEGY

Author's Name:	Sue Sheridan/Susan Surridge	Director:	Fiona Gormann (Acting)
Author's Title:	Senior Project Manager- Strategic Projects/Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F01/A05/000001

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

Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Funding Guidelines Stream 1 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

To propose a funding application to the Commonwealth Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 1 Precinct Development and Planning.

Summary

- Council, at its meeting on 26 June 2023 resolved to:
 1. Endorse the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report
 2. Prioritise the development of an indoor sporting stadium and precinct at College Oval (Dimboola Road) as presented in the Final Report.
 3. Advance the development of schematic plans for the three precincts (Dimboola Road, Haven Recreation Reserve and Dudley W Cornell Park).
- In early September 2023, a major new funding initiative was announced by the Federal Government that provides an opportunity to gain significant funding for the detailed planning of a precinct as follows:-
 - Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP)– Precinct development and planning (Stream 1) due October 2023 (**Appendix 9.3A**).
- The fund has specific guidelines, funding criteria and documentation requirements.
- This report details the funding strategy for the major redevelopment of the College Oval precinct.
- With such a large investment into the detailed planning stage (Stream 1), Council will then be in a good position to apply for funding of the construction through a future round of the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Precinct delivery – (Stream 2), Growing Regions Fund or other Federal or State Government programs.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Support the application for Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program– Precinct development and planning (Stream 1) for the detailed planning for the College Oval precinct.
2. Approve a Council co-contribution of \$150,000 to be funded through the monies allocated for project planning in the 2023-2024 budget.

REPORT

Background

At its meeting on 26 June 2023, Council resolved to:

1. Endorse the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report
2. Prioritise the development of an indoor sporting stadium and precinct at College Oval (Dimboola Road site) as presented in the Final Report.
3. Advance the development of schematic plans for the three precincts (Dimboola Road, Haven Recreation Reserve and Dudley W Cornell Park).

Council has allocated \$150,000 in the 2023-2024 budget for planning of the College Oval precinct. This funding provides an opportunity to leverage significant funding through the Regional Partnerships and Precincts program - Stream 1.

The outcome of this funding application will be known by the end of November / early December 2023. This will provide around 18 months to carry out all the consultation, detailed plans and agreements for any community groups, Horsham College and key stakeholders that require relocation as part of the concept plan.

Haven and Dimboola will both progress to Schematic plan stage (not construction plans) to seek future funding opportunities in the 2024-2025 project planning budget.

Discussion

The Regional Precincts and Partnerships program is a new grants initiative of the Federal Government. There are several key elements to this program that align strongly with the Indoor Sports Stadium and precinct at the College Oval site:

- Stream 1 is designed to support precinct plans to become investment ready
The Concept Plan for the College Oval precinct has been approved by Council and is ready to progress to 'investment ready' stage through more detailed planning and design.
- Seeks to deliver transformative investment in regional, rural and remote Australia
The facilities to be developed at the College Oval site include a regional level Indoor Stadium (including four high ball courts) and outdoor netball courts, and a municipal hockey pitch.
- Focus on a **partnership approach**, bringing together governments and communities to deliver regional precincts that are tailored to local needs and have a shared vision in how that precinct connects to the region. Establishment of a partnership is essential for application to the program.
The College Oval project features a strong existing partnership with Horsham College and the Department of Education, as well as with relevant State Sporting Associations, local community sporting groups and Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Stream 1 is targeting larger precinct planning projects with a minimum grant of \$500,000 and a maximum grant of \$5million.
The development of this precinct to 'investment ready' status will require a total cash budget of \$2.737million through two distinct phases.
Phase 1 – Schematic Design
Phase 2 – Detailed design with construction drawings and tender documentation.
This is a large scale, 18 months planning project.
- No fixed funding contribution or ratio. To be competitive Council needs to invest both cash and in-kind support for the project.

Council can leverage an existing approved allocation of \$150,000 in the 2023/2024 budget together with \$255,000 of in-kind project management (Senior Project Manager- Strategic Projects).

- Timing of application and assessment process. Stream 1 is open for rolling applications but will only be assessed twice each year. The first assessment period is in November/December 2023 *With the completion of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report, Council has all documentation required to lodge an application by the end of October 2023.*

The funding application (if approved) will be lodged by the end of October to take advantage of the first assessment period for the grant program.

Options to Consider

There are three locations identified in the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report for facility development. The College Oval precinct was the priority for development. The focus of the Regional Partnership and Precinct program is for the development of a precinct (not multiple locations).

Sustainability Implications

This project will provide built-for-purpose sporting and community facilities that will contain modern sustainable design features as appropriate.

Community Engagement

Development of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report involved an extensive engagement process from and involved collaboration with Horsham Secondary College, State Sporting bodies, Sport and Recreation Victoria, local sporting clubs and included current user groups. Further engagement and partnership development will occur through the funded planning project.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The redevelopment of the Dimboola Road Precinct includes a regional level Indoor Stadium (including four high ball courts) and outdoor netball courts, and a municipal hockey pitch.

Collaboration

Council staff have worked closely with Horsham College, Sport and Recreation Victoria, State Sporting associations and local clubs in the development of the Wimmera Regional Precinct Feasibility Final Report.

Financial Implications

This report contains a contribution which is currently in the 2023/2024 Council budget. As outlined below, the proposed funding strategy for the Steam 1 is:

• Regional Precincts and Partnerships (RPPP)	\$ 2,587,000*
• Project Management (In Kind)	\$ 255,000
• <u>Council (23/24 budget)</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
• Total	\$ 2,992,000

* Estimated figure only – Currie and Brown are preparing the QS for the application

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The development of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report included collaboration with Sport and Recreation Victoria as well as a wide range of State Sporting Associations to ensure that the final report supported regional, state, and national plans and priorities.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

- Theme 1 – HRCC will develop the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.
- Theme 2 – Liveability – HRCC will actively work to create a healthy and connected community that is a great place to live, work, invest and explore for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- Theme 3 – Sustainability – HRCC will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.
- Theme 4 – Accessibility – HRCC will meet community needs through connected transport networks and the provision of accessible and welcoming places and spaces.

Risk Implications

The risk of this Funding Strategy lies in the uncertainty around which funding applications will be successful in a highly competitive environment. This risk is mitigated by:

- a) Identification of the funding commitment required by Council.
- b) Good track record in successful applications with the nominated funding bodies.
- c) The progression of the planning for the College Oval precinct will not progress until sufficient funding is available.

There is some additional risk around the need for relocation of sporting groups prior to the commencement of construction (however this will be addressed in the planning stage). This is being mitigated through ongoing open and transparent discussions and following the proposed plan of relocation in the Feasibility Final Report.

Conclusion

The Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report has provided an opportunity for upgrades or the development of new sport and recreation facilities that offer physical and mental health, social, environmental, and economic benefits to the Horsham municipality and the broader region.

To provide these benefits and optimise usage by community, new and upgraded infrastructure will be designed to reflect changing sport and recreation participation trends, leisure patterns and community expectations.

9.4 HORSHAM CITY OVAL GRANDSTAND HERITAGE FINDINGS

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Fiona Gormann (Acting)
Author's Title:	Acting Director Communities & Place	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/A07/000026

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

Planning Permit NO PA2200355 – City to River – Stage 2 (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Sawyer Park City Oval Concept Plan (**Appendix 9.4B**)

Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment (**Appendix 9.4C**)

Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment - Revised (**Appendix 9.4D**)

Horsham City Oval Grandstand – Heritage Citation Report 30 August 2023 (**Appendix 9.4E**)

Purpose

To provide Council with an overview of the discussions that transpired to support the Horsham City Oval Grandstand inclusion into the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Summary

- The Heritage Study Part One (2012) and Part 2 (2014) did not include the City Oval Grandstand.
- Council received correspondence from a community member in support to retain the 97-year-old grandstand and its 97-year-old history.
- A Letter received from the Executive Director Heritage Victoria dated 10 September 2020 advised a Notice of Refusal – Nominated of Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400 to the Victorian Heritage Register.
- A Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment was undertaken by Grieve, Gillett and Anderson, in March 2022 and found the Grandstand meet Criterion A, D and G.
- The Sawyer Park City Oval Endorsed Concept Plan (**Appendix 9.4B**) (Planning Permit NO PA2200355) (**Appendix 9.4A**) identified a new grandstand with maintenance area under, terraced seating with incorporated ramped access to grandstand. May 2022.
- At the request of Council, Landmark Heritage undertook a peer review of the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment originally undertaken by Grieve, Gillett and Anderson in March 2023. They provided further information and concluded with the same conclusion that the Grandstand meet Criterion A, D and G. (**Appendices 9.4C and 9.4D**)
- As part of the Heritage Study Review 2023, Landmark Heritage were commissioned to complete a Heritage Citation for the Horsham City Oval Grandstand (**Appendix 9.4E**).

Recommendation

That Council include the City Oval Grandstand citation as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.

REPORT

Background

Part One and Part Two of the Heritage Studies (2012, 2014) did not identify the City Oval Grandstand as a significant building to be included within the Horsham Planning Scheme heritage overlay.

In 2019 the City to River Master Plan was finalised and the concept plan for Sawyer Park identified that the Grandstand was to be demolished and replaced with a new grandstand.

A local resident informed Council during 2019 and 2021 that in their opinion the building had heritage significance and as a result Council commissioned a Heritage Assessment on the City Oval Grandstand. This resulted in the Heritage Assessment identified Criteria A, D and G were met.

Grieve, Gillett Anderson heritage assessment found the Horsham City Oval Grandstand determined the place to be of historical and social significance. This places less importance on the physical fabric (the building) of the place, and more on the *social and historical associations* (what people do in the place) that it has formed for the community.

The planning permit PA2200355 acknowledged the historical and social association significance by endorsing the Sawyer Park Concept Plan that states:

Grandstand - Following assessment of its heritage value and limiting accessibility constraints, the Grandstand will be replaced and HRCC will investigate interpretive measures to ensure the historical and social aspects of the grandstand valued by the community are recognised. Research and oral history from stories and memories associated with the building, together with physical elements from the structure will be meaningfully and respectfully interpreted and integrated into the redevelopment.

A further peer review by Landmark Heritage concluded with the same findings.

The table below identifies the associated timelines with the City Oval Grandstand and identifying its heritage significance.

Grandstand	Date	Outcome
Heritage Study	2012 2014	Part 1 of the Heritage Study completed. Part 2 of the Heritage Study completed. (Grandstand not included in either study)
City to River Master Plan	2019	City to River Masterplan was developed. (Grandstand identified to be replaced by a new development)
Letter to Council	December 2019 -July 2021	Various submissions lodged in regards to the City Oval redevelopment. (It was determined to undertake a heritage review for the City Oval Grandstand)
Letter received from Executive Director Heritage Victoria	10 September 2020	Notice of Refusal – Nominated of Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400 to the Victorian Heritage Register.

Officers Reports

Grieve Gillett Anderson Heritage report	March 2021	Grieve Gillett Anderson completed an initial review of the Grandstand and identified Citations A, D and G.
City to River Master Plan	May 2021	City to River Concept Plan was endorsed as part of the Planning Permit (PA2200355).
City Oval Grandstand site visit	December 2022	Landmark Heritage undertook a site visit of the City Oval Grandstand to further inform the Heritage Assessment undertaken by Grieve, Gillett Anderson.
Peer review	December 2022	Landmark Heritage peer review of Grieve Gillett Anderson report and identified Criterion A, D and G.

Discussion*City Oval Grandstand Heritage Assessments*

The City Oval Grandstand was determined not to have State Significance by Heritage Council Victoria after receiving a nomination to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. Heritage Council Victoria also undertook a nomination review following a request by the nominator.

Council received a copy of the Notice of Refusal for the Nominated of Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400 to the Victorian Heritage Register and a copy of the Request for a Nomination Review.

Council was advised that Horsham Rural City Council would undertake a nomination review on behalf of the Heritage Council Victoria. To inform this review Council was required to provide further information as a result of an RFI to Council from the Heritage Council Victoria. This information was addressed by Council on 20 October 2020.

The Heritage Assessments undertaken by Grieve Gillett Anderson Heritage determined that the Grandstand is significant in the following areas:

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century through to the present day. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham. (Criterion A)

Citation A is about ensuring people can come to this location and participate in sporting and social activities and gatherings.

The Grandstand is of representative significance as a good representation of this place typology, being a public facility supporting sport and other recreational and social activities. While very simple in form, the Grandstand is still largely intact beneath the current metal cladding. (Criterion D)

Criterion D is about the timber hidden under the metal cladding.

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events since the turn of the century. It has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, and regional sporting competitions. (Criterion G)

Criterion G is about the City Oval site and the events and activities held there.

The Grieve Gillett Anderson report dated March 2021 concluded with the following:

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are considered to be of local heritage value, and should be considered for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay within the Horsham Rural City Council's Planning Scheme.

The assessment of significance has determined the place to be of historical and social significance. This places less importance on the physical fabric, (the building), of the place, and more on the social and historical associations, (activities that have occurred and continue to occur at the City Oval i.e. football and events), that it has formed for the community. This affords a level of flexibility in development opportunity, even if the place achieves a formal heritage listing. The continued use of the place for community recreation and socialisation is a key component of the significance that should be maintained into the future.

Notwithstanding the above, there are works that could be considered to improve the appearance of the Grandstand to reflect a more original configuration. These include replacement of the metal wall cladding with a more appropriate material, and potentially the repair / replacement of remaining timber cladding, depending on its condition; the reinstatement of timber seating in lieu of the aluminium bench seats; and the provision of interpretive material to assist in the understanding of the place's heritage value.

Planning Permit

A Planning Permit was approved in 2022, after Council had undertaken the heritage assessment of the City Oval Grandstand, for the City to River redevelopment, the endorsed plan notes the replacement of the Grandstand with the following:

It was deemed that following assessment of the heritage value and limiting accessibility constraints, the Grandstand will be replaced and Council will investigate interpretive measures to ensure the historical and social aspects of the grandstand valued by the community are recognised. Research and oral history from stories and memories associated with the building, together with physical elements from the structure will be meaningfully and respectfully interpreted and integrated into the redevelopment.

Also noted on the Planning Permit No PA2200355

- a) All work must be undertaken in accordance with DELWP Land Owner Consent.
- b) The permitted works do not include the demolition or redevelopment of the Grandstand which has been identified as of Local Significance and forms part of the Heritage Study.

The notes in the planning permit ensure that the new development is designed in a way which meaningfully and respectfully interpretive the history and stories from the Grandstand into the design elements of the new development this will include the use of the City Oval Grandstand timbers (physical fabric) into the new construction.

Landmark Heritage Peer Review 2022

Another peer review undertaken by Landmark Heritage concluded with the same findings as Grieve Gillett Anderson report. This followed a site visit of the Grandstand in December 2022.

Options to Consider

1. That Council chooses to include the City Oval Grandstand as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.
2. That Council chooses not to include the City Oval Grandstand as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Sustainability Implications

The recommendation to include the City Oval Grandstand into the Heritage Study Review 2023 will not result in any adverse environmental or sustainability impacts. A future planning scheme amendment tasked with implementing the recommendations of Heritage Study Review will have positive environmental and sustainability effects as it will ensure that places of heritage significance will be conserved and that their significance can be considered at any future planning permit stage.

Community Engagement

All other heritage citations have been released for comment for six weeks. Letters have been sent to all land owners and occupiers included in a heritage citation. Due to the level of complexity of the feedback provided, submitters will be able to speak with council planning officers or Landmark Heritage. Following consultation, Landmark Heritage will review all compiled feedback, comments and submissions received during consultation and will revise heritage citations accordingly. It is also important to note that there will be other opportunities to provide feedback and submissions through the planning scheme amendment at Exhibition.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Protecting heritage will have a positive social impact as it will ensure that places of cultural heritage significance will be conserved and their significance can be properly considered early and in a meaningful way maintaining and enhancing the community's sense of place and identity.

Collaboration

Council has responded positively to a local resident and carried out its responsibility and diligence under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 by undertaken a heritage assessment, applying for a planning permit which recommends that the City Oval Grandstand be included in the Heritage Study Review 2023. Council also undertook an additional peer review of the Heritage Assessment and completed a site visit by a heritage advisor.

Financial Implications

The releasing of the heritage citations will have a financial implication for Council. Consultation with land owners and revisions to heritage citations will incur a cost as Council requires a heritage consultant to review all feedback provided, provide a response and recommend a change to a citation if necessary. A budget is included the 2023-2024 budget to prepare for and exhibit planning scheme amendments. This budget will be used to finalise Statements of Significance as well as any financial implementation associated with a future planning scheme amendment including Exhibition.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local governments have a statutory obligation to ensure that the planning schemes "conserve and enhance those buildings, areas of other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical, or otherwise of special cultural value" (Planning and Environment Act 1987). They do so by undertaking heritage studies and assessments of places thought to be of heritage value. Councils use this information to decide if a place's heritage significance is enough to warrant statutory protection through the application of a heritage overlay.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Heritage protection has been frequently raised as a high priority for the community during public consultation on a variety of plans and strategies. This feedback has influenced the development of heritage related objections and strategic directions.

Risk Implications

Financial risk

Where heritage is overlooked, not adequately managed or funded, there is significant financial risk to Council, owners and communities alike. If Council does not proactively manage its heritage by allocating sufficient skilled resources and funds this can lead to wasted time and costs at a higher number of VCAT or planning panel hearings, defending inadequate action. The cost of legal representation and officer work is substantial. Additionally, Council-owned or managed heritage assets become costlier to repair over time if not properly maintained.

Risks to the public

When heritage assets are neglected and become derelict as a result of inadequate protection, management or maintenance, there may be a direct risk to the safety of the public.

Reputational risk

Communities expect Council to protect significant heritage places and assets and make good decisions about changes to heritage places. Councils must also look after their own heritage assets, including buildings, parks, monuments and gardens. Council could experience criticism in the press and negative media attention if a heritage place is demolished, inappropriately developed or if Council heritage assets are not maintained.

Criticism and negative feedback from the community

Although Council have completed a previous Heritage Study in two stages, between 2012 and 2014. A formal Heritage Amendment to implement the recommendations never actually took place. Council could experience criticism and negative feedback from the wider community due to the additional overlays and any controls proposed for properties deemed as being of heritage significance.

Conclusion

Council has met its statutory obligation to ensure that the planning schemes “conserve and enhance those buildings, areas of other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical, or otherwise of special cultural value” (Planning and Environment Act 1987) for the City Oval Grandstand by undertaking the Grieve Gillet Anderson Heritage Assessment, the Heritage Assessment Peer review, developing a draft City Oval Citation and recommending through the Planning Permit PA 2200355 that the City Oval Grandstand be included in the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Councils in Victoria are obliged to conserve places of cultural heritage significance through the preparation of heritage studies and the application of appropriate planning controls to conserve places identified in heritage studies.

The Horsham Heritage Study Review has been prepared, and Council officers will be requesting at a later date that it be adopted, and that a planning scheme amendment be prepared to give effect to the findings and recommendations of the Study.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.5 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Fiona Gormann (Acting)
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 August (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Purpose

To present the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for August 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 August 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 August 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 within 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
1.3.6 (2 year)	Implement priorities from Horsham North Local Area Plan for the Horsham Rail Corridor Project	Finalise Rail Corridor landscape plan	Draft landscape plan finalised and ready for community feedback in November.
		Finalise concept design of the Pedestrian underpass.	Completed and incorporated into draft landscape plan
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	Draft plan presented to the Project Control Group in August 23

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Spendmapp

Spendmapp report for August 2023 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

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

Grampians Tourism - Industry Partner Program 2023 / 2024



Image: Chris and Sam Spence – Norton Estate Wines

Marc Sleeman CEO Grampians Tourism and Gloria McRae Tourism and Business Development Officer Horsham Rural City Council, worked in partnership during the month of August meeting with our tourism businesses and new industry partners to learn more about what makes this region such a unique destination. Our region offers a truly authentic experience to our visitors.

The business visitation related to destination marketing and in turn highlighting our regions strengths by working with industry and stakeholders.

Norton Estate Wines, Westside Horsham, Riverside Caravan Park, Capital Horsham, Kalish Ashram Yoga, Happy Wanderer Holiday Resort and Mount Stapylton Wines where just a few businesses undertaken.

Business Visitations for the Month of August 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
Total	244	89	68	401

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	July FY 23/24 Businesses Occupied	August FY 23/24 Businesses Occupied	August FY 23/24 Businesses Vacant	August FY 23/24 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	41	2	95%
Firebrace St - 99	90	90	9	91%
Hamilton St - 17	15	16	1	88%
Wilson St – 34	29	29	5	85%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	22	23	5	82%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	25	25	2	93%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	23	23	1	96%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	245/272	247/272	25	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.

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
2.1.2 (ongoing)	Design, promote, participate and support municipal activities and events as scheduled including NAIDOC, Volunteers, International Women’s Day & Seniors Week	Events reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Planning underway to activate the pop up riverfront café during Summer. A series of events will be held through Dec-March.
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	An expression of interest to operate the pedal boats has been released to the public in August.
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	A meeting with WCMA was attended in August to engage with stakeholders with regard to a Green Lake Water Action Plan. The consultant will be looking at the whole precinct.
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	A community meeting was held in August and it was resolved to revisit the process of forming the advisory committee. This will be decided at a public meeting in September.

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
3.2.1 (ongoing)	Work with local business leaders throughout the municipality to develop business confidence and growth	2 business forums held annually	CAD CRG identified the Town Square as their priority project.
(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	Two business newsletters were sent 4 and 25 August. The first newsletter received 391 opens and 21 clicks. The second newsletter received 352 opens and 52 clicks.
(yearly)	Update and audit the Council Website Business Page	The annual audit identified no outdated information	The Wimmera Business Centre page on the Council website has been updated with new information and an online room booking form.
(ongoing)	Encourage homebased and start-up businesses to expand through the Wimmera Business Centre	Having two start-up businesses per year gain support through the WBC.	The WBC spare office has just been leased by a home based business taking the next step. The WBC is now at 100% capacity. A hot desking office is in the process of being set up.
(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
(ongoing)	To promote Live the Grampians Way to local businesses and engage with people who show an interest in moving to the region	Ensure every person who contacts Live the Grampians Way has received a welcome/information sheet and follow up phone call	Grampians Tourism have contracted a new marketing company to promote the existing Live the Grampians Way site and each Council will now manage their own enquiries and continue to promote the opportunity for businesses to list their vacancies on the site.

STATUTORY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning

Horsham and Natimuk Housing Strategy (including Affordability and Diversity)

The Horsham and Natimuk Housing Strategy has commenced with the appointment of SGS Economics and Planning as the project consultants. An inception meeting undertaken in August and work has commenced on delivering the first milestone of the project which is a Technical Background report that will include a population and housing trends analysis, housing needs analysis, capacity assessment, gaps analysis and land suitability assessment. This will involve consultation with internal and external technical experts.

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.5.3 (2 years)	1.5.3 Engage early with traditional owners in identifying and recognising places of cultural heritage significance.	Report to Council on engagement with Traditional Owners on strategic planning projects	BGLC to undertake a consultation session for the Horsham South Structure Plan. GHD have been appointed to undertake this work with BGLC.
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	A Council report has been prepared to provide Councillors with the background information and next steps for consultation.
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 a project inception meeting has been undertaken with the Project Control Group.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	A workshop has been undertaken in August with representatives from various state agencies and internal Council departments to seek direction on the Future Urban Structure. The workshop was well attended with representative from WCMA, GWM Water, DTP and DEECA.

Planning Applications Determined

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

Type	AUGUST 2023		AUGUST 2022	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	2	850,000	4	1,002,510
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	5	769,850
Subdivisions	3 (36 lots)	-	6 (69 lots)	50,000
Other	2	98,000	-	-
Total	7	948,000	15	1,822,360

(*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 August 2023 is 10 compared to 20 in the same period in 2022/2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 38 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 compared to 71 in the same period in 2022/2023.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of **August 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	-	-	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	1	140,000	-	-
Dwelling resitings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	31,277	1	50,000
Removal/Demolish	2	49,247	1	22,220
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	1	63,900
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	5	220,524	3	136,120

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

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	5	2,583,500	7	3,314,952
Alterations to Dwellings	1	34,430	4	131,785
Dwelling resitings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	4	118,639	10	336,080
Removal/Demolish	1	34,980	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	6	5,579,980	7	982,116
Signs	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	17	8,351,529	28	4,764,933

A total of 8 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$279,021 from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 compared to 4 Building Permits at a total value of \$150,496 for the same period in 2022/2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 29 Building Permits at a total value of \$11,804,105 from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 compared to 48 at a total value of \$14,677,197 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, 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.

9.6 ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Kevin OBrien	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Acting 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 Acting Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 2023.

Summary

The Acting 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 Acting Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 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 28 September 2023 via Teams.

Joint State/Local Government Monthly CEO Forum: CEOs, Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Victoria attended the forum held on Wednesday 4 October 2023. Discussions were held on the Public Intoxication Reform.

WSM Regional Partnership Mid Quarter Briefing: The Acting Chief Executive Officer attended (virtually) the WSM Regional Partnership Mid Quarter Briefing meeting on Thursday 5 October 2023. Discussions were held on the Homes Vic Housing Investments in WSM and New Housing Programs and an update was provided for the WSMD Regional Housing Initiatives.

Victorian Local Government Grants Commission: The Acting Chief Executive Officer attended the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission meeting on Tuesday 17 October 2023. Some of the items discussed included General Purpose Grants, Local Roads Grants and Trends in Grant Outcomes.

Council CEO Emergency Management Briefing- Spring Preparedness: The Acting Chief Executive Officer attended the Council CEO Emergency Management Briefing- Spring Preparedness on Wednesday 18 October 2023. Items discussed included BOM and Agency Preparedness and Relief and Recovery Preparedness.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The Acting CEO from Horsham, and CEOs from West Wimmera, Buloke and Hindmarsh met (virtually) on Thursday 19 October 2023. DJSIR discussed Flexible Local Transport Solutions.

RCV General Meeting: The Acting CEO attended (virtually) the RCV General Meeting on Thursday 19 October 2023. Victorian Executive Director from Property Council attended as a guest speaker to provide an overview of the Property Council's reaction to the Housing Statement and open discussions regarding the impact for regional cities.

Funding Opportunities:

Nil

B. Community Engagement

Natimuk Public Meeting No.2: The CEO and Mayor attended the Natimuk Public Meeting No. 2 at Natimuk on Wednesday 27 September 2023.

C. Projects and Events

Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge Opening: The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mayor and Councillors attended the official opening of the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge on Tuesday 3 October by Senator Jana Stewart.

Citizenship Ceremony: Council welcomed 8 new citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 4 October 2023. Countries of origin included The Philippines, Nepal and India.

NuSeed 10 Year Anniversary Event: The Mayor and Acting CEO attended the NuSeed 10 Year anniversary Event on Wednesday 11 October.

D. Staff Matters

Nil

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 Acting Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 2023.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

Committee Representation	
02/10/23	Aboriginal Community Roundtable
13/10/23	MAV State Council meeting in Melbourne
Other Council Activities	
26/09/23	ABC Wimmera radio interview
26/09/23	Daughters of the West Graduation Ceremony
27/09/23	Natimuk Community Meeting
29/09/23	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
03/10/23	Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge Official Opening by Senator Jana Stewart
03/10/23	Pimpinio Fellowship Evening
04/10/23	Officially open the U3A Community Expo
04/10/23	Welcomed 8 new Australians at Citizenship Ceremony
04/10/23	Civic Construction Foundation Regional Forum
06/10/23	Uke Can Sing Seniors Concert at Horsham Neighbourhood House
06/10/23	Music Bingo fundraiser for Horsham Rural City Band at RSL
07/10/23	Arapiles Cycling Event – Natimuk
08/10/23	Horsham and District Orchid Society Orchid Show at Maydale Pavillion
08/10/23	Horsham Croquet Club – Come and Try day
11/10/23	Nuseed 10 th birthday of Horsham Innovation Centre
12/10/23	MAV Annual Conference and Gala Dinner in Melbourne

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
22/09/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group
11/10/23	ALGWA Vic Finance Subcommittee Meeting
19/10/23	Regional Cities Meeting

Other Council Activities	
2/10/23	Aboriginal Community Round Table Meeting
3/10/23	Official Opening of the Hamilton Street Bridge
3/10/23	Citizenship Ceremony
12/10/23	MAV Annual Conference
12/10/23	MAV Gala Dinner
13/10/23	MAV State Council Meeting
14/10/23	Opening of Horsham Spring Garden Festival
14/10/23	2023 Art Fair
14/10/23	Horsham Arts Council Production
15/10/23	100 th Anniversary Sailors Home Hall
17/10/23	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission
18/10/23	Centre for Participation AGM

Cr David Bowe

Other Council Activities	
04/10/23	Community Clubs Expo – Horsham Town Hall, attended from 10am-12noon
06/10/23	Uke Can Sing Along as part of Seniors Festival 2023 - Horsham Neighbourhood House, attended from 2.30pm-4pm
07/10/23	Horsham & District Spring Orchid Show- Maydale Pavilion, Horsham Show grounds, attended from 11.30am – 1.30pm
09/10/23	Council Briefing – Council Chambers
14/10/23	Horsham Spring Festival - Horsham Botanic Gardens, attended from 1pm-5pm
14/10/23	Rotary Club of Horsham East Art Fair – Horsham Town Hall attended from 10.50 am-11.20am
17/10/23	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission– Council Chambers
18/10/23	Gambling Harm Awareness Week - Gambling regulation in Victoria with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) – online
20/10/23	Effective Leadership in Housing - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - Tackling Victoria's Housing Crisis Webinar Series, (First of the three)- Strategies & Tools for Local Governments - online

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Other Council Activities	
27/09/23	CEO 6 monthly meeting
29/09/23	Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) survey review webinar
03/10/23	Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge Official Opening by Senator Stewart
04/10/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
04/10/23	Citizenship Ceremony
05/10/23	Chat with Cr. Claudia
11/10/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
12/10/23	<p>Sister Cities Conference Wyndham City Council Sister Cities Australia in partnership with Wyndham City Council 2023 National Conference Wyndham Civic Centre 45 Princes Street Werribee <i>"Sister Cities – Linking the World Together"</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Government, the State Government, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Home Affairs, the Consular Corps, the Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race – which is part of the Melbourne/Osaka sister city relationship, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, case studies of various relationships which are currently active as well as the recent establishment of a new relationship, and our international guest Taylor Marston Youth Director of Global Cities New Zealand. <p><i>"The Benefits of Sister City Relationships"</i> the Hon John Brumby AO Chancellor of La Trobe University and Former Premier of Victoria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International relations and sister cities; the cultural aspects of sister cities; past, present and future of sister cities; youth involvement in sister cities; the role of the Consular Corps in sister city relationships; the twinning of parliaments; state to state relations; sister school relationships; success stories; the establishment of a new relationship and much more. If your Council has, has had, or is looking to establish a new sister city relationship, this Conference was a must. Thank you to the generosity of Wyndham City Council; this Conference was presented free of charge to Councillors, Consular Corps representatives, departmental officers, cultural and community groups, schools and interested individuals. There was also the presentation of the Sister Cities Australia National Awards at the Mayoral Luncheon held during the Conference.
17/10/23	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission meeting- HRCC Chambers
17/10/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
18/10/23	Alliance for Gambling Reform webinar - Gambling Harm Awareness Week - Gambling regulation in Victoria with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ron Ben-David, Deputy Chair of the Commission, VGCCC - why the VGCCC has changed has changed so much over the last year. • Scott May, Deputy CEO, VGCCC - Scott will speak to what difference those changes are making in the work of the VGCCC and how councils can be involved. • Tanya Fletcher, Head of Strategic Inquiries Unit, VGCCC – Tanya talks about how the Unit will function as a further example of recent changes at the VGCCC, and the importance of councils and the community in the success of the Unit. • With an introduction from Alliance for Gambling Reform CEO Carol Bennett • Given recent announcements in Victoria, losses to EGMs topping \$3 billion for the first time, as well as the growing focus on online gambling, we thought this was a good time to engage with councils who would like to know how they can build their capacity to lead and educate their community, and partner with other Victorian Alliance Leadership Councils to promote reform that reduces the rapidly escalating harm from all types of gambling in our communities. • Whether your community is growing more worried about gambling advertising and the various ways gambling is normalised to young people, or battling harm from EGM losses, or concerned about vulnerability to applications for venues or additional machines, getting involved with the Alliance will support both officers and councillors to respond to this public health issue that needs continued collective grass roots advocacy to shift the deep-rooted hold this industry has on decision makers • The VGCCC: New name, new paradigm - <i>Gambling regulation in Victoria after more than a year under a new model</i>. With more than 12 months of operation, the VGCCC has seen a changed approach to gambling regulation in Victoria. What does the future hold for gambling operators and how can councils work with the regulator to identify opportunities for regulatory responses, as well as reform? The VGCCC will outline how councils can (and should) play a role on behalf of their communities.
<p>19/10/23</p>	<p>VLGA Connect Live Panel - Children's Week Special: Child-Friendly Cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are integral to the fabric of our communities, but their ability to shape the communities in which they live is limited by the opportunities afforded to them by adults. This webinar will look at the importance of children participation, voice and representation in decision making processes and ways in which we can engage and empower children from all backgrounds to become active citizens • Host Chris Eddy will be joined by a panel of speakers to discuss how local government can work to amplify children’s voices in matters that impact them • Meena Singh - Commissioner Aboriginal Children and Young People • Lauren Thomas - Senior Project Lead for Child Youth Participation Engagement - Australian Childhood Foundation <p>Natalia Krysiak - Architect, Urban Designer and Play Consultant Cities for Play Founder</p>

20/10/23	<p>VLGA Connect with Chris Eddy & Kathryn Arndt - Tackling Victoria's Housing Crisis Webinar Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • navigate recent state government announcements and the complex housing issues in their communities, featuring subject matter experts on land use and housing, short term accommodation regulations and community engagement. • provides information and best practices, facilitate discussion and answer questions to help local governments better address housing issues in our communities. • an overview of Victoria's housing crisis, the development process, barriers to more housing development and help Councillors and officials navigate their role in addressing the housing crisis • Dr Allison Stewart, Deputy CEO, Infrastructure Victoria • Melinda Jacobson, Senior Facilitator, MosaicLab • Simon Newport, CEO, Homes Victoria
23/10/23	Council Meeting

Cr Bob Redden

Other Council Activities	
27/09/23	CEO Council Meeting
03/10/23	Official Opening Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge
04/10/23	Attend Seniors Festival Town Hall
04/10/23	HRCC Citizenship Ceremony
09/10/23	Council Briefing, Emergency management Fire Risk,
11/10/23	Art Fair Horsham East Rotary, Town Hall
12/10/23	Art Fair Horsham East Rotary, Town Hall
13/10/23	Shane Boland exhibition, Art Gallery
14/10/23	Botanic Garden Spring Festival
17/10/23	VLGA grants meeting, HRCC
18/10/23	Report on Gambling, Rebecca Peterson

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 9 October 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

Nil

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

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 199

Given by Cr Ian Ross

TAKE NOTICE that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham on Monday 23 October 2023.

“That HRCC allow free parking for the Christian Community Food Centre and Legacy House”.

Background:

For many years Council had negotiated with charitable organisations that while on duty parking was free; this needs to continue.

Refer to **Appendix 14.1A** for copy of Notice of Motion.

Cr Ian Ross

CIVIC CENTRE
HORSHAM 3400
18 October 2023

Annual Report

22

23



Acknowledgement of Country

"The 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."



Accessibility

To receive this publication in another format: telephone (03) 5382 9777 or email council@hrcc.vic.gov.au

TTY service (text only communication): telephone 133 677 and ask them to contact Horsham Rural City Council on (03) 5382 9777

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All documents produced by Horsham Rural City Council and referred to in this document can be found on our website – <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Governance-and-Transparency/Public-Documents/Council-Publications>

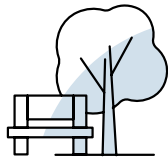
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Community Vision

“In 2041, Horsham region is a vibrant, liveable hub that thrives on strong economic growth and social connectedness. Empowering people to live, work and access opportunities for recreation and culture, now and into the future.”



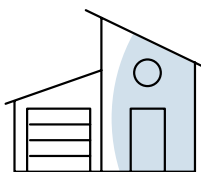
SUSTAINABILITY

A sustainable community is driven by strong economic growth in a healthy, safe and natural environment.



ACCESSIBILITY

An accessible community is a connected hub supported by an extensive transport network. It is designed to meet the growing demand for services and supports education and wellbeing.



LIVEABILITY

A liveable community is a place where green spaces are prioritised and specialised services are available to promote both physical and mental health and wellbeing.



COMMUNITY

A welcoming community connects the diverse population and enables all people to feel a strong sense of belonging. It is underpinned by a framework of community consultation and accountable and transparent decision making.

Report of Operations

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Introduction

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* and acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

The report details the achievements and performance of Horsham Rural City Council over the past year. It is an important document that provides a transparent record of Council's activities in meeting the needs of the community as set out in the Council Plan.

Council Snapshot

City Profile



20,429

Population
Median Age - 41



4,266

Sqkm of land



Major industries

- Healthcare
- Social Assistance Services
- Grain Growing



Major Centres

Horsham followed by Natimuk and 37 smaller localities



Major Employment Sectors:

- Health and social assistance
- Retail
- Construction
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Education and training
- Accommodation and food services
- Public administration and safety

¹ ABS 2021 Census – www.quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au

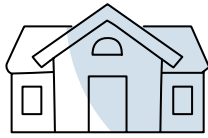


Description of Operations

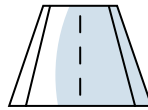
Horsham Rural City Council is responsible for more than 70 services to the community ranging from emergency, community services, arts, culture and recreation to matters concerning economic development, governance and finance. We deliver a comprehensive range of building, planning and regulatory services, along with providing and maintaining important infrastructure such as buildings, roads, drains and parks for community use and enjoyment.

Council's Strategic Objectives, Strategies, Initiatives and Priorities to further improve the health, prosperity and wellbeing of our community through the provision of services and facilities are described in the 2021-25 Council Plan and associated 2022-23 budget, and reported upon in the Performance section of this document.

The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the strategic objectives is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures. Council also has a wide range of responsibilities under Victorian and Federal legislation.



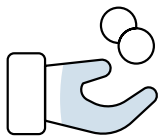
12,816
rateable properties housing
20,429 residents



Connecting family, friends,
work and play through
2,986 kilometres
of maintained roads



7,452 tonnes of waste
and 1,930 tonnes of recycling
diverted from landfill



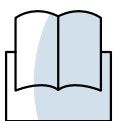
Connected community through
grants and donations provided
to not-for-profit groups to
the value of **\$366,837**



100%
participation in 4 week
Key Age and Stage visit by
Maternal Health Nurses



109 animals
were rehomed and
540 collected



57,568
library items loaned



Fitness and social
enjoyment through
102,562 aquatic centre
visits



151,031 square metres
of road resealed connecting
community across our region





Major Achievements

Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge

The Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge connecting the east and west banks of the Wimmera River was completed and opened for public use in June 2023.

The 74-metre cable-stay bridge will link Hamilton Street between Coughlin Park and the Showgrounds. The pedestrian bridge links the newly developed residential areas on the south-east side of the Wimmera River with Horsham's Central Activity District, several schools and the Wimmera Base Hospital, and provides improved economic, safety, recreational and liveability outcomes for our city.

This new bridge integrates the existing trails along the beautiful Wimmera River and when combined with the Anzac Centenary Bridge it creates a continuous 10 kilometre loop along the Wimmera River.

Horsham Rural City Council had successfully applied for \$1.225 million from the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, adding to the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure contribution. As a result, the entire project's construction was funded at no cost to our ratepayers.



Nature and Water Park

Horsham Rural City Council was honoured to have Prime Minister The Hon Anthony Albanese open our Nature and Water Play Park after Council secured \$2.45 million from State and Federal Governments to fully fund the region’s first Nature and Water Play Park.

Located at Horsham’s riverfront precinct near the rowing club, the park is free and accessible for all ages and abilities, all year round.

The Nature and Water Play Park includes a gently flowing water course, manually operated hand pumps, systems of adjustable dams and weirs, spray heads and pop jets – suited to operation by

children of all ages. There are also play elements that can be used all year without water flow, including small boulders for climbing, logs for balancing, stones for jumping along and Sandpits. The Park also features barbecue shelters and a fully accessible toilet, which will help families enjoy the park for decades to come.



Riverfront meeting place

The long-awaited Riverfront Meeting Place opened for use to the public over the Labour Day long weekend.

This free event featured a DJ and food trucks helping to attract a large crowd who enjoyed

the atmosphere surrounded by beautiful natural waterway of the Wimmera River. The new Riverfront Meeting Place is located where Firebrace Street meets the Wimmera River, this has created a place for our community and visitors to relax, connect and enjoy our stunning natural environment.

This work has been completed as part of the City to River Masterplan and was made possible through funding from state and federal governments.



Jubilee Hall

Horsham’s Jubilee Hall underwent a revitalisation with a significant investment of \$225,000, providing a new venue for various local groups. The Horsham Rural City Council had successfully secured a Creative Victoria grant of \$150,000 through the Creative Neighbourhoods Infrastructure Support Program.

Recognising the sentimental value Jubilee Hall holds within the community, the Mayor expressed the Council’s dedication to preserving this cherished landmark. With its establishment dating back to 1924, Jubilee Hall has served as a beloved gathering place for numerous community organisations. The renovation plans encompass enhancing acoustics, accessibility, and security, while

also establishing dedicated spaces for band rehearsals, dance/theatre performances, and visual arts.

Additionally, the project aims to create a shared meeting room and office facilities, further enhancing the hall’s functionality and appeal.



Young Mayors Program

This year Horsham Rural City Council began a new partnership with the Foundation for Young Australians and launched the Young Mayors Program for our municipality.

The Young Mayors program supports people aged 17 years and under to become elected members to the municipality’s Youth Council. The Youth Council will continue to play an active role in local democracy and decision-making capacity over issues affecting young people. This in turn will assist Council in establishing policies and programs better reflecting the concerns, needs and desires of local young people.

Horsham Rural City Council is dedicated to creating an inclusive community for all and for providing opportunities for young people succeed.

Mayor's Message

This Annual Report details Horsham Rural City Council's achievements against the 2021-2025 Council Plan strategic objectives and is the third report of this Council.

While producing an Annual Report is a statutory requirement, it is also time for an organisation to reflect on the previous 12 months and to highlight its achievements and report on the progress of key projects and service delivery.

It was a year where we delivered more long-awaited improvements to our riverfront precinct.

The Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge, Nature Play Park and Riverfront Meeting Place are projects that have activated Horsham's greatest natural asset – the Wimmera River.

I am pleased to say we completed some rural road projects as well – thanks to financial contributions from the Federal Government as well as our increased budget allocation in this area.

We've also had challenges.

As an organisation we all share a common goal to do the best we can for our community and we are always looking for opportunities to improve.

That's why we as a Council requested the appointment of a Municipal Monitor as part of its commitment to good governance and to help guide the Councillor team.

In her final report, Monitor Jude Holt recommend that Council invested in a community leadership program to support potential candidates at the 2024 local government election.

We thank Ms Holt for the assistance she provided across her six-month appointment. It's now up to us to deliver the improvements that have been highlighted.

We were fortunate to receive significant grant funding for a number of significant projects.

Attracting our fair share of funding from higher levels of government is crucial for the ongoing livability of our region, so the importance of continuing our advocacy efforts cannot be overstated.

Success in lobbying for extra funding is more important than ever, given the current environment of rate-capped Council income and challenges associated with escalating supply cost increases and skills and labour shortages.

This year also saw a new identity introduced to represent our municipality. A modern logo and blue and green colour scheme replaced the former purple and green corporate colours that had been in use since 2008.

The new logo's shapes represent iconic Wimmera aspects such as reeds, crops and yabbies and the typography is inspired by stencilling on historic landmarks in the city and the lettering used on wool bales.

The new branding now appears on locality council signs, building signs, websites, and all external correspondence. New entrance signs were also erected at both Western Highway entrances to the city.

It's been another big year of community engagement. Thank you to residents who completed a Council survey, sent us a letter or attended a Council forum or meeting.

The following strategies were adopted with the help of community input:

- Wimmera Regional Multisport Feasibility Study
- Horsham Skate Park Concept Plan
- Horsham North Local Area Plan
- Central Activity District Streetscape Plan
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The feedback we receive from our engaged community is insightful, helpful and enters our considerations when we make decisions as a Council.

Thank you also to the dedicated Council staff for their work to deliver on the objectives of the Annual Action Plan.



Cr Robyn Gulline
Mayor

Chief Executive Officer's Message

The past financial year was extremely busy with major infrastructure projects under way or completed.

Key projects included:

- Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge
- City Oval netball upgrades
- Riverfront activation including the Nature Play Park
- New floor at Horsham Town Hall's Heritage Hall
- Resurfacing of the Quantong Oval.

It really is pleasing to see so many people in our community making the most of our new community assets.

The Nature Play Park has so far proven to be very popular and the new pedestrian bridge has made travelling to central Horsham quicker and more enjoyable for thousands of residents on the south side of the river.

I am pleased to say we have delivered all of these projects amid rising inflation and continuing shortages in the civil construction industry, all while maintaining our sound financial position.

Another challenging aspect to 2022-2023 was the spring floods.

We were fortunate that there was limited damage to property during the flooding event in October. However, the unremitting rainfall in the latter months of 2022 caused widespread damage to our road network.

We are still working hard to repair much of it. Where we can, we have accessed financial support via the Federal Government's Disaster Relief Package which provided half a million dollars to assist in the repair.

Hundreds of defective roads have been fixed, but there are still hundreds left that need work.

As with the floods of 2011 and 2016, this is a significant project that calls for long-term solutions over quick-fixes. We thank our community for your understanding while we roll out our high quality roadwork response, and for your support in continuing to report road maintenance issues.

The big wet required our staff to go above and beyond in other ways.

For example, roadside slashing and general mowing programs faced their biggest challenge with the highest growth rates of vegetation ever.

Likewise the stagnant water meant our environmental health team had to respond to outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases, including Ross River Fever and Japanese Encephalitis, by stepping up their mosquito control programs.

Another major piece of work that is making a real difference in our community is our new Better Sorted Waste kerbside collections. For urban residents we introduced an additional collection for organics, and this has meant that we are sending 50 per cent less waste to the Doon Landfill.

We are now also separating glass from our recycling collection and the crushed by-product will be used to build roads and footpaths.

Council's cash flow position remained stable allowing operational capabilities to continue to serve the community. Furthermore, it assists Council to deliver capital projects and works which benefits our community and places our municipality as an attractive region to visit and invest in.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge Councillors, the local community and all Horsham Rural City Council staff who are working to ensure we are a growing regional city.



Sunil Bhalla
Chief Executive Officer

Horsham Rural City Talks EXPO



Major Changes

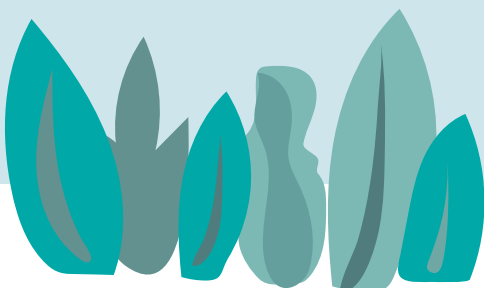
Strategic Engagement Expo

The Inaugural Strategic Planning Expo held in September 2022 was an important event organised by Council. The expo served as an essential platform for community engagement in our municipality. It allowed council to gain valuable input from residents regarding future planning initiatives. Council representatives sought feedback and suggestions from attendees, encouraging them to voice their

opinions on various aspects of strategic planning.

The expo had an overwhelming response from the community, with a diverse range of people attending the event. Through interactive displays, presentations, and workshops, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the Council's plans and contribute their ideas.

Council expresses its thanks to the community for their active participation and valuable contributions. The feedback gathered at the Strategic Planning Expo plays an essential role in shaping the Council's future strategic planning processes, ensuring that community's needs and goals are considered.



Major Capital Works

This year, Horsham Rural City Council worked on several capital works projects throughout the municipality as part of improving accessibility, connection and sustainability for the community. The table below provides details of some of the capital works projects that Council funded during 2022-23.

Major Capital Works	Amount (\$)
Horsham Town Hall – Stage 2 heritage hall, staff room & workstations, upgrade boiler & theatre lighting.	485,591
City to River – Nature Play Park, waterfront activation and City Oval Netball courts.	3,154,009
City Oval – Netball & football clubrooms, changerooms & stage 1 Sawyer Park event stage & broadcast box.	547,840
Urban Roads – Micro surfacing, Otta Seals, urban reseals and renewal of kerbs and channels.	1,226,323
Rural Roads – Micro surfacing, heavy patching, final seals, resheeting, upgrades (Horsham-Lubeck Rd, North East Wonwondah Rd, Polkemmet Rd).	3,154,093
Plant & Equipment – Council's renewal and replacement program for plant.	2,081,547
Footpaths and Cycleways – Horsham North footpaths, includes Mary St, bike path renewals and extensions (includes Wimmera River Pedestrian Footbridge).	1,921,352
Aquatic Centre – Accessible change rooms.	575,288
Industrial Estate – Roads & drainage at WAL Hub, Burnt Creek & Enterprise Industrial Estates.	168,917
Parking management plan implementation.	616,247
Total	13,931,207

Our Council

Horsham Rural City Council has seven Councillors elected every four years by the residents of the municipality. Voting is conducted via postal vote, with the most recent election held on 24 October 2020.

The seven Councillors are the elected representatives of all residents and ratepayers across the municipality. They have responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation. The Mayor is elected for a one-year period each November and is voted in by the Councillors.

Our Councillors are listed here.



Mayor Cr Robyn Gulline
First elected: 24 October 2020
 robyn.gulline@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0437 941 806



Deputy Mayor Cr Penny Flynn
First elected: 24 October 2020
 penny.flynn@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0437 929 678



Cr David Bowe
First elected: 24 October 2020
 david.bowe@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0437 894 605



Cr Claudia Haenel
First elected: 24 October 2020
 claudia.haenel@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0437 971 592



Cr Les Power
First elected: 22 October 2016
Re-elected: 24 October 2020
 les.power@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0419 922 687



Cr Bob Redden
First elected: 8 September 2022
 bob.redden@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0409 490 285



Cr Ian Ross
First elected: 24 October 2020
 ian.ross@hrcc.vic.gov.au
 0409 330 603



Cr Di Bell
First elected: 24 October 2020
Resigned: 5 August 2022

Our People

Organisational Structure

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) leads an Executive Management Team which includes three Directors. The executive team plans, coordinates and monitors the progress of Council's goals and strategic direction and manages day-to-day business activities. Directors are accountable to the CEO for effective and efficient management of their portfolios and the collective delivery of the Council Plan.



Chief Executive Officer Sunil Bhalla

B Eng (Civil), M Tech (Const),
MBA, GAICD

- Responsible for management and performance of all Council operations including \$60 million budget
- Ensures that day-to-day management of Council's operations are in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and align with the Council Plan
- Provides advice and support to Council
- Has direct responsibility for Council's Directors

Senior Officers Reporting Directly to the Chief Executive Officer



Director Communities and Place Kevin O'Brien

B Theol, Assoc Dip Arts, Dip Man,
Grad Cert Man

Arts, Culture and Recreation

- Miscellaneous Projects
- Performance and Events
- Recreation and Open Space Planning
- Visual Art

Community Services and Safety

- Community Inclusion
- Community Safety
- Environmental Health
- Miscellaneous Projects
- Municipal Emergency Recovery
- Wimmera Emergency Management Project
- Youth and Early Years

Investment Attraction and Growth

- Business Development and Tourism
- Statutory Planning and Building Services
- Strategic Planning and Heritage



Director Corporate Services Kim Hargreaves

BA, LLB

Finance

- General Accounting
- Revenue

Governance and Information

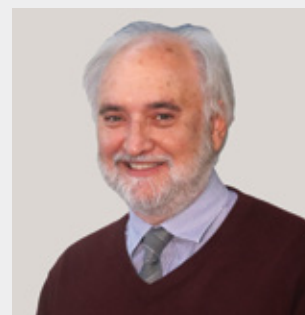
- Community Relations and Advocacy
- Customer Service
- Governance
- Information Technology

People and Culture

- Business Efficiency
- Human Resources
- Occupational Health and Safety

Property Management

- Property acquisition and disposal
- Property use agreements



Director Infrastructure John Martin

BE (Agric)

Engineering Services

- Engineering Design
- Facilities management
- Project Office

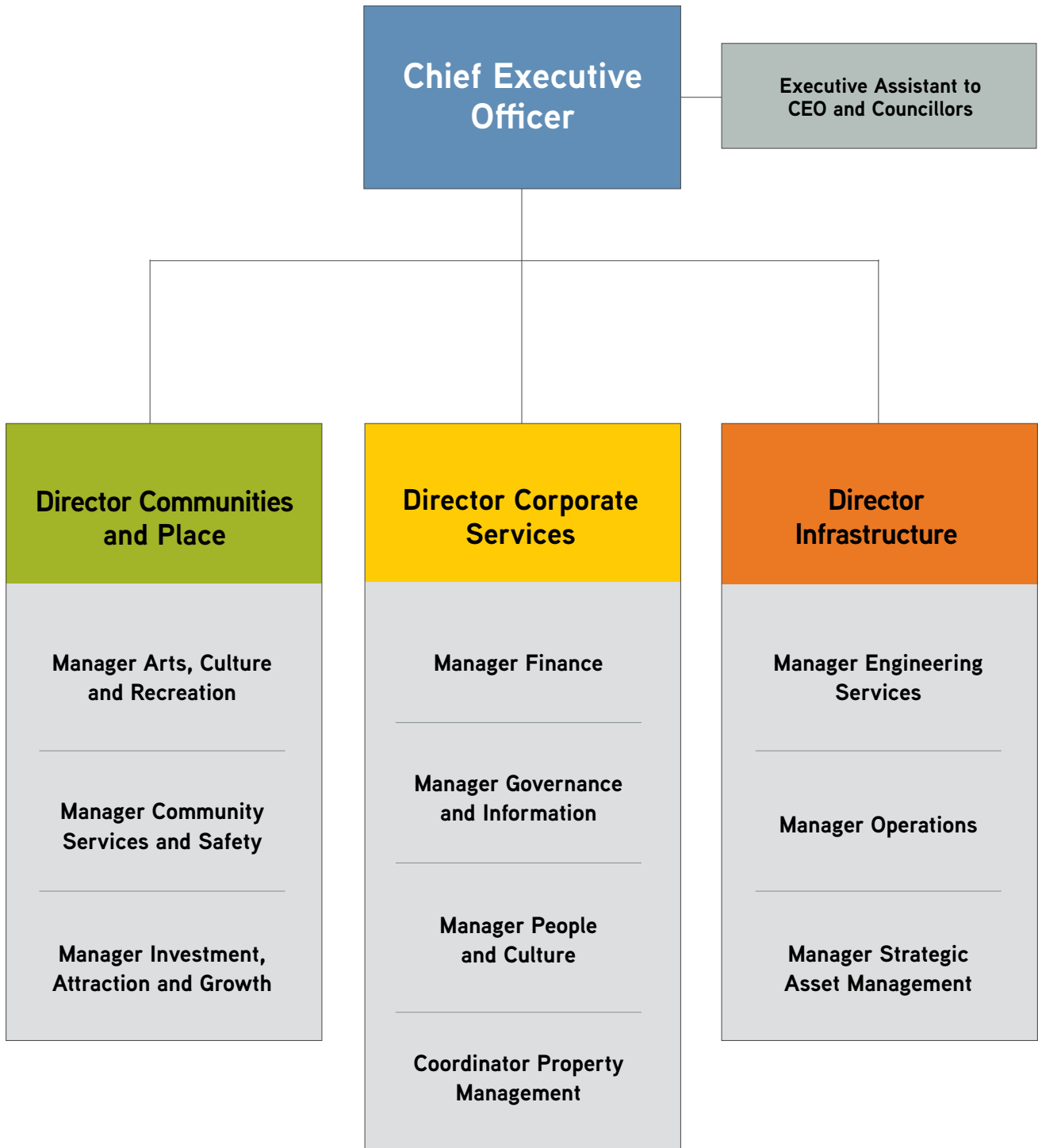
Operations

- Civil Works
- Horsham Rural Livestock Exchange
- Parks and Gardens
- Waste Operations

Strategic Asset Management

- Assets
- Fleet
- Waste and Sustainability

Organisational Structure



Organisational Vision, Values and Behaviours Statement

Our Organisational VISION

A progressive and innovative organisation,
delivering high quality and sustainable services

Our Organisational VALUES



F



A



I



R

WE VALUE

FLEXIBILITY

We are adaptable to changing circumstances

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are responsible for our behaviour and actions

INTEGRITY

We are ethical, transparent and honest in our conduct

RESPECT

We value diversity and appreciate others and will not tolerate sexual or other forms of harassment

MY BEHAVIOUR

- I am willing to embrace new ideas and ways of doing things
- I am committed to finding a way to make it happen
- I seek opportunities for ongoing learning and continuous improvement
- I am willing to compromise for a better outcome

MY BEHAVIOUR

- I lead by example
- I take ownership of my actions and decisions
- I perform my role with pride
- I deliver what I promise

MY BEHAVIOUR

- I do the right thing
- I always bring my best self to work
- I communicate openly and directly
- I act in the best interests of the community

MY BEHAVIOUR

- I treat others the way I expect to be treated
- I care for the people I work with
- I am inclusive and treat everyone equally
- I consider other views to gain a shared understanding

Community Grants and Donations 2022-2023

Each year, Council's Community Development Grants and Donations program allocates funding to an increasingly diverse cohort of local not-for-profit organisations, groups and associations. The program helps groups in the Horsham and district community to deliver vital projects with outcomes like improving community facilities and events, and working together for more engaged and healthy communities. Council provided a total of \$366,837 in Community Grants and Donations this year. Details are provided below.

Sport and Recreation	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
Central Park Tennis Club (Hsm) Inc		2,050
Central Wimmera Clay Target Club Inc		1,000
Horsham Calisthenics College		1,000
Horsham City Rowing Club		1,500
Horsham Colts Cricket Club Inc		423
Horsham Cricket Association		2,392
Horsham Golf Club		3,500
Horsham Lawn Tennis Club Inc		678
Horsham Saints Cricket Club		989
Horsham Swimming Club Inc		1,620
Horsham Table Tennis & Community Centre		4,000
Kalkee Football Netball Club		2,965
Mid West Riding Club		1,000
Natimuk and District Gymnastics Club		2,030
Natimuk Bowling Club		3,300
Natimuk Climbing Club Inc		2,232
Natimuk Golf Club		2,455
Natimuk United Football Netball Club		2,145
Noradjuha Recreation Reserve		7,150
Noradjuha-Quantong Football Netball Club		1,000
Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club		900
Taylors Lake Football Netball Club		950
Toolondo Golf Club Inc		1,000
Wimmera Equestrian Club Inc		5,000
Wimmera HPV Racing Team		6,480
Wimmera Kart Racing Club Inc		10,000
Specific Donation - Horsham Basketball Stadium (Lease)	15,500	

Sport and Recreation	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
Community maintained Recreation Reserve maintenance allocation		
Clear Lake	540	
Dock Lake	12,750	
Dooen Recreation Reserve	540	
Laharum	12,750	
Kalkee	6,375	
Pimpinio	6,375	
Quantong	12,750	
Riverside (Equestrian Outdoor Surface)	540	
Noradjuha	3,165	
Natimuk Showgrounds	6,375	
Toolondo	540	
Coughlin Park (HRCC allocation of outdoor staff resources)	12,199	
Total Community Grants for Sport and Recreation	90,399	67,759
Halls Infrastructure		
	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
Dooen Public Hall COM Inc		3,000
Laharum Hall/School		4,000
Insurance levy for Public Halls	12,580	
(Brimpaen, Dadswells Bridge, Dooen, Haven, Jung, Kanagulk, Laharum, Mitre, Natimuk, Noradjuha, Riverside, Sailors Home Hall, Taylors Lake, Telangatuk, Toolondo, Wonwondah, Clear Lake School, Hamilton Lamb Hall)		
Insurance levy for other community facilities	9,809	
Total Community Grants for Halls	22,389	7,000
Kindergartens		
	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
Haven Bush Playgroup		1,000
Natimuk Kindergarten		3,800
Natimuk Road Horsham Kindergarten		1,667
Maintenance Grants of \$900 for Council's 5 Kindergartens	4,500	
Total Community Grants for Kindergartens	4,500	6,467

General Welfare and Community Services	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
St John Ambulance Australia (Vic) Inc - Horsham Division		1,612
Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc	5,165	
Horsham College Chaplaincy Committee	5,900	
Wimmera River Imp Committee	8,635	
Wimmera River Imp Committee - Police Paddock	2,535	
Total Community Grants for Welfare & Community Services	22,235	1,612
Organisations	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
4th Horsham Scout Group		600
ACT Natimuk		3,500
Arapiles Historical Society Inc		2,500
Gariwerd Artists		1,727
Horsham Agricultural Society		5,772
Horsham Historical Society Inc		2,500
Horsham Men's Shed		4,092
Lions Club of City of Horsham Inc		600
Oasis Wimmera		2,000
Rotary Club of Horsham East		1,000
Salvation Army (Patch Community Garden)		1,500
Sunnyside Lutheran Retirement Village		908
Voices of the Wimmera		704
West Vic Business (formerly Business Horsham)		1,800
Wimmera Filipino- Australian Club		2,000
Wimmera Mobility Group		800
Dadswells Bridge Newsletter	280	
Horsham City Pipe Band	1,800	
Horsham Pipe Band	10,000	
Horsham Rural City Brass Band	1,800	
Natimuk Brass Band	1,800	
Wonwondah North Hall Newsletter	280	
Natimuk & Dist Progress Assoc Inc	1,800	
North West Grampians Newsletter	1,800	
Federation University Horsham Campus Nursing Award	300	
Longerenong Citizenship Award	300	
Horsham College Senior Achievement Award	200	
Horsham College - Alternate Pathways Achievement Award	200	
St Brigid's College Senior Achievement Award	200	
Holy Trinity Lutheran College Senior Achievement Award	200	
Wimmera Assoc for Genealogy	340	
Charitable Organisations - refund of rates (Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, WHCG Op Shop, Craft for a Cause, Jacobs Well)	5,949	
Total Community Grants to Organisations	27,249	32,003

Events	Council Donations (\$)	Council Grants (\$)
Arapiles Community Theatre		6,500
Art is Festival Inc		6,000
Beyond Community Inclusion Inc		3,052
Horsham & District Orchid Society Inc		950
Horsham Arts Council Inc		6,000
Horsham Carols by Candlelight	4,130	
Horsham Fishing Competition Inc		5,000
Horsham Karen Community Group		6,000
Horsham Mothers Day Classic Horsham Committee		1,000
Horsham Rockers Inc		2,000
Horsham Urban Landcare		500
Kannamaroo Festival		6,000
Lions Clubs International 201V2 District		3,192
Natimuk Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc		2,000
The Rotary Club of Horsham East (Grant 1)		6,000
The Rotary Club of Horsham East (Grant 2)		6,000
Horsham Combined Probus Club		500
The Wimmera Pride Project Inc		3,000
Wimmera Catchment Management		1,000
Wimmera Hospice Care Auxillary		900
Wimmera Machinery Field Days Inc		2,000
Wimmera Rockers Danceworld Inc		2,000
Youth grants program		10,000
Total Community Grants for Events	4,130	79,594



Council Plan

The Council Plan 2021-25 sets the strategic direction of Council over a four year period, linking the Community Vision to Strategies, Initiatives and Priorities for Horsham Rural City Council.

The following pages provide details of some of the highlights achieved this year. Further information in relation to outcomes, initiatives and priorities contained in the Council Plan are provided in the Performance section.



Theme 1 – Community

Horsham Rural City Council will develop the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.



Theme 2 – Liveability

Horsham Rural City Council will actively work to create a healthy and connected community that is a great place to live, work, invest and explore for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.



Theme 3 – Sustainability

Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.



Theme 4 – Accessibility

Horsham Rural City Council will meet community needs through connected transport networks and the provision of accessible and welcoming places and spaces.



Theme 5 – Leadership

Horsham Rural City Council, will build trust and connections with the community through good governance, community consultation, accountability, transparent decision making and financial stability.



Theme 1 – Community

Horsham Rural City Council will develop the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.

Strategies and Actions

“An inclusive, accessible, connected and safe community”

Daughters of the West

Horsham Rural City Council has joined forces with the Western Bulldogs' "Daughters of the West" initiative to empower women in our local community.

This 10-week health program, which is offered free of charge, is designed to provide support to women aged 18 and above in terms of their overall health and well-being. It aims to foster connections within the community and encourage active participation through the guidance of exercise professionals.

Mayor Robyn Gulline emphasised the importance of "Daughters of the West" in creating a safe and inclusive environment, where women can come together as a team to improve their health and fitness. She further expressed the Council's commitment to providing accessible fitness and health programs for women in the Wimmera region, which is why Council have allocated \$20,000 to support the implementation of "Daughters of the West."

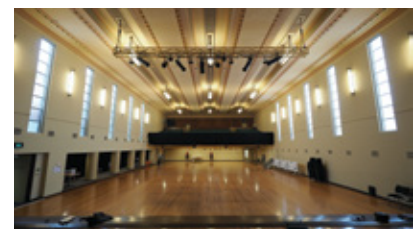
“A community that encourages and celebrates all cultures, heritage and diversity”

Heritage Hall floor gets a new lease on life

In June 2023, work was completed on replacing the floor in Horsham Town Hall's Heritage Hall.

The timber boards in the 1939-built hall were in need of repair and updating to ensure the beautiful 1930's art deco hall could continue to provide meaningful events and functions for our residents and visitors alike. Council had successfully applied for a \$200,000 grant from Heritage Victoria to replace the room's entire surface with like-for-like boards.

The reopened Heritage Hall facilitates the return of large community functions and activities hosted at the auditorium, and preserves the structural integrity of this state heritage listed building.



“A community that is empowered in shaping the future of our region”

Grant Finder

In March 2023 Horsham Rural City Council's new Grant Finder website platform went live.

Council recognised that business and community groups often struggled in the past on where to start looking to find suitable grants to improve their organisations. This is why Council partnered with the Grant Guru website to assist our municipality's community groups and businesses, easing the burden of the time consuming and often daunting task of finding suitable grant opportunities.

Horsham Rural City Council's new Grant Finder section is easily accessible on the Council's website and allows businesses and community groups to create a free account. This account allows them to be provided with the most up-to-date information on available and upcoming grants from all levels of government as well as philanthropic grant programs – all in the one place.

The free website is available for both community and businesses to use and provides these groups with the option to save grants to favourites, prioritise grants, track applications and keep up to date with the opening and closing dates of grants.

“A region that acknowledges and engages with First Nations people on place, connection and truth”

National Reconciliation Week

During this year's National Reconciliation Week, the Horsham Rural City Council actively supported the theme "Be a Voice for Generations" by organising various activities throughout the municipality. National Reconciliation Week took place from May 27 to June 3.

As part of the week-long event, Firebrace Street and Sawyer Park were temporarily renamed. Firebrace Street became Yangga Tyerrang Street ("Walk Together"), while Sawyer Park was renamed Warta Tyerrang Muwil Park ("Come Together All"). Yangga Tyerrang Street proudly displayed National Reconciliation Week Banners, and new town entrance signs were installed on Natimuk Road, Dimboola Road, Dooen Road, and O'Callaghans Parade.

To engage children, colouring activities were made available at Horsham Town Hall and Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub. Additionally, Horsham Town Hall hosted a morning tea event whilst an event in Natimuk highlighted the talent of Wotjobaluk artists.





Theme 2 - Liveability

Horsham Rural City Council will actively work to create a healthy and connected community that is a great place to live, work, invest and explore for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Strategies and Actions

"A destination to live, work, explore and invest"

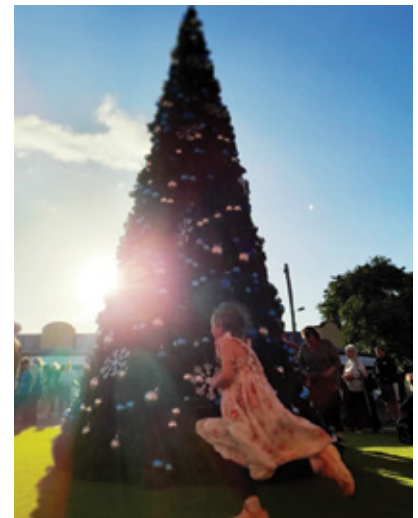
Christmas in the city

Central Horsham's Christmas Extravaganza returned in 2022 with two Friday nights of street activation in the lead up to the festive season.

On Friday 2 December and Friday 16 December, central Horsham came alive with activity and music, with celebrations centred around Friday night shopping and a giant Christmas tree.

The 5pm-to-9pm activities were family-focussed and included a scavenger hunt run by the Horsham Youth Council, live music and a visit from Santa.

The Christmas festivities in the centre of Horsham created a wonderful atmosphere to enjoy for visitors and residents alike. Events of this kind create a warm and welcoming environment in our city.



“A region with a defined identity”**New visual identity**

In March 2023 Horsham Rural City Council unveiled its new visual identity, marking a significant change for the organisation.

Council believes that this new brand will improve our municipality's image whilst promoting our municipality as an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

The things that set the Horsham municipality apart from other regions - our geology, agriculture, waterways and soils, inspired the new branding. The new logo's shapes represent iconic Wimmera aspects such as reeds, crops and yabbies and the typography is inspired by stencilling on the T&G tower and the lettering used on wool bales.

The design creates a meaningful and long term legacy for the organisation and the community.

The rebranding strives to modernise and create a distinctive image that reflects Council's values and aspirations. Our municipality's stunning natural beauty, agricultural heritage and community spirit have inspired the new branding.

Council believes that this new branding will position Horsham well for the future by fostering a strong connection with its residents and other stakeholders, whilst attracting tourism and investment opportunities to the region.

“Diverse and connected open spaces”**Central Activity District Revitalisation continues**

In recent times, Horsham has had a significant transformation in its laneways. These projects are aimed to revitalising the urban areas and enhancing their appeal. The initiative involved a complete modernization for the laneways, resulting in an improvement in their overall appearance.

Artist Jack Rowland painted the laneway wall of Cafe Jas in Roberts Avenue, while Steve Cross painted the Roberts Avenue arcade

between the businesses of Gypsy Willow and Imeldas. Jimmy Dvate installed artwork on the Ward Street facing wall of Horsham Newsagency.

The project received positive feedback from both residents and visitors, who appreciated the revitalized atmosphere and the artistic elements integrated into the laneways.





Theme 3 – Sustainability

Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategies and Actions

"Achieve a sustainable and sound environmental future"

Waste education workshops

This year, the Horsham Rural City Council organised a series of workshops to actively engage our community in the recently introduced Better Sorted Waste service. These workshops were thoughtfully scheduled to align with World Environment Day on June 5th.

One of the workshops took place at Horsham Neighbourhood House, where Council's Waste Education Officer conducted a composting workshop. Additionally, Council visited St. Brigid's College and Horsham College to educate secondary school students on the proper usage of the four different bins. Furthermore, Council made

a visit to "Beyond Community Inclusion" to interact with individuals living with disabilities, engaging in conversations and gathering their valuable feedback.



"A region where climate change impacts are addressed and remediated"



Better Sorted Waste Program

Horsham Rural City Council is committed to addressing issues affecting Climate Change. March 2023 saw the rollout of the municipality's Better Sorted Waste program. This comes after the State Government's Circular Economy Policy was introduced meaning all Victorian councils must introduce food and garden organics (FOGO) collection for all urban households and separate glass recycling collection. This will mean a four-bin system will be introduced across the state of Victoria.

In March approximately 16,000 bins were delivered throughout the municipality with one new bin type for the collection of food and organics, and another for the collection of glass. Helpful information booklets and calendars were also provided to assist residents prepare for the changes.

Council delivered ongoing community engagement to assist the community with improving our collective approach to waste management, and we look forward to reporting to the community on our sustainability outcomes.





Theme 4 – Accessibility

Horsham Rural City Council will meet community needs through connected transport networks and the provision of accessible and welcoming places and spaces.

Strategies and Actions

"A resilient, inclusive and socially connected community"

Flood affected roads

Horsham Rural City Council used federal government disaster relief funding to tackle the enormous task of fixing rural roads impacted by 2022 Spring Floods.

Council has reported more than 1,700 flood-related defects across the municipality. Council treated this work as a high priority to ensure the residents, farmers and businesses could return to their normal travel routines with minimal delays.

The process Council followed in order to access this disaster relief funding was an arduous one

with Council having to apply for each defected road. This included supplying approximately 12,000 before and after photos.

The plan involved a systematic approach to identify and prioritise the damaged roads, ensuring that the most critical areas were addressed first. Council engaged in assessments and evaluations of roads to determine the extent of the damage and the repairs that would be required. Council worked with various stakeholders, including contractors and engineers, to expedite the process.

By implementing this strategy, Council aimed to enhance the

safety and accessibility of the road network, ensuring continuous transportation for residents and visitors alike. The repair blitz demonstrated Council's commitment to efficiently and effectively address the aftermath of the floods and restore the infrastructure vital for the community's safety and well-being.

While these state and federally funded emergency works were underway, Council's ongoing road construction and maintenance activities, as part of the Capital Works Program, continued as normal.



"Diverse services, programs and facilities that are accessible to all"

Footpaths accessible for all

Horsham Rural City Council is taking steps to make footpaths inclusive and accessible to everyone, including individuals with limited mobility or vision impairments. Council recognises the significance of creating an environment that allows all residents and visitors to move around safely and independently.

Outdoor dining furniture and other objects such as signage must be set back a minimum of 1.8 metres from the shopfront to allow for unobstructed pedestrian movement. By implementing measures such as tactile ground surface indicators and ramps, they aim to improve accessibility and eliminate barriers for people with disabilities.

Council worked with the Central Activity District business operators to assist them in understanding and becoming compliant with the footpath guidelines.



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

Plan to offer long day care at Kalkee Road Children's Hub

In January 2023 Horsham Rural City Council provided the very welcome news to its community with young families that a new 90 place long day care centre would be available within the next year. Which is directly aimed at elevating the Wimmera's severe childcare shortage. There are approximately 215 children on the waiting lists across Horsham's four long day care centres.

Council is committed to providing a suitable solution, to our residents as it recognises that the inability to return to work or to move to Horsham to take up skilled positions disadvantages our whole community, putting businesses and services under further pressure to find suitable staff.

Expressions of interest were invited from providers to run the new long day care and all-day kindergarten program out of the Kalkee Road Children's Hub. The Maternal and Child Health Services and Supported Playgroup will continue to operate from the Kalkee Road Children's Hub.

Horsham North Local Area Plan

In May 2023, Council adopted the Horsham North Local Area Plan. A local area plan is a comprehensive plan that sets out a long term vision for a defined area. It aims to address local planning and urban design issues, capitalising on local opportunities. A Local Area Plan provides strategic direction for sustainable change and locally focused outcomes.

Prior to the adoption of the Horsham North Local Area Plan, significant community engagement was undertaken to ensure the community's concerns and ideas were considered and addressed. This ensures that the Local Area Plan meets the expectations of the community with benefits well into the future.





Theme 5 – Leadership

Horsham Rural City Council, will build trust and connections with the community through good governance, community consultation, accountability, transparent decision making and financial stability.

Strategies and Actions

"Position Horsham Rural City Council as a leader in local government"

Wimmera Emergency Management Team partnership benefiting our community

The Wimmera Emergency Management Team is an excellent example of Council collaboration and resource sharing that benefits our community by providing effective emergency management. The councils involved in this collaboration include Horsham Rural City Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council.

This year has seen an upgrade to Emergency Relief Centres, providing each venue with the capacity to run essential services on generator power during an emergency. Another important project in the pipeline is the construction of a stockyard facility at the Horsham pound. This will enable us to provide safe shelter for larger animals across the four municipalities during an emergency. In addition to upgrading the Emergency Relief Centres, the Wimmera Emergency Management Team also developed important resources including emergency awareness and preparedness brochures and fire ready guides for areas of extreme bushfire risk, which allows important emergency messages to reach vulnerable community members.





Advocacy

It is a key function of Council to advocate for state and federal government support so that we can deliver projects our residents, communities and businesses want and need.

Advocacy priorities are established by Council and relate to major capital infrastructure projects developed by Council, as well as regional level services to enhance the liveability and sustainability of the Wimmera into the future.

Council engaged in targeted lobbying and advocacy during the lead up to the state election in November 2022, as well as during the state and federal annual budget processes. This advocacy work at times involves collaboration with other key stakeholders to progress key projects and priorities for the Wimmera and Grampians regions. The results of effective advocacy is seen in funding support for new major projects and new municipal

and regional services.

Throughout the past year, Council attracted specific project funding in excess of \$2.58M from the state and federal governments to undertake a range of infrastructure and service-related projects.

Highlights of this included:

- State funding of \$800,000 to construct new netball facilities at Horsham City Oval
- \$772,500 of Federal funding for specific road infrastructure improvements
- \$129,000 from Regional Development Victoria to complete the redevelopment of The Station
- Ongoing Flood Recovery support from the state and federal governments in relation the October 2022 Wimmera River Flood event.

Council have continued to advocate

for City to River projects, with the first stage of the Horsham City Oval redevelopment partially funded. Work will commence on the fully funded netball facilities and the new major events stage in 2023-24. Council is still seeking funding support for the last remaining component of stage 1, a new community facility and change rooms.

In addition to advocacy for funding of Council infrastructure and service-related projects, Council also actively advocated for a range of priority projects to enhance regional liveability and economic and jobs growth. Details of advocacy priorities that have progressed during the past 12 months are provided opposite.

Priority Projects for

Government and Private-Sector Investment

Alternative Truck Route – The Department of Transport is leading this Feasibility Study investigating a possible alternative truck route for Horsham. Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Horsham Rural City Council are key partners in this process. A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Study has been progressed throughout the year.

Completion of the Murray Basin Freight Rail Freight Project (MBFRP) – Council has advocated strongly to the State Government for the completion of this major project with one important outcome for our region being reduced heavy vehicle traffic on the Henty Highway to the Port of Portland.

Advocate for upgrade to the Maroona to Portland railway to enable efficient movement of freight to the Port.

Council's Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026 was adopted in April 2023. This is a key strategic plan that identifies the work that Council is doing to improve inclusion and reduce discrimination for people living with a disability, both for our own service provision and in the wider municipality.

The Horsham North Local Area Plan was completed in May 2023 including a range of projects for future funding advocacy. Key projects are:

- The investigation of a third underpass and development of the rail corridor landscape plan;
- Land acquisition of surplus Vic Track land in the rail corridor; and
- A Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy.

Increased long-day care provision

in Horsham – Council commenced the process to provide long day care at the Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub to support the acute shortage of long day care places.

Horsham Rail Corridor – continued discussion with Vic Track mainly focussed on process of transfer of land to Council to progress future development of the area. This included finalising with State Government land available to Council, which is considered surplus to Transport requirements and agreement to future location of a new Pedestrian Underpass.

A Horsham Central Activity District (CAD) Streetscape Plan was adopted by Council in August 2022 providing direction and priority advocacy projects. A CAD Community Reference Group was formed in Oct 2022 and the first advocacy projects to be developed are O'Callaghans Parade arrival corridor, Town Square and Children's Park.

Advocacy around the current operations of the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal, the infrastructure constraints at the terminal, and future opportunities for the WAL Hub.

Continued advocacy for the return of passenger rail services to Horsham, in addition to the continuation of the limited Overlander service.

Development of the Natimuk Economic and Social Plan to enhance the business, tourism economy and sustainability of Natimuk.

Avonbank Mineral Sands Project Environmental Effects Statement Council made a submission to the Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee on key areas of interest as follows:

- Radiation
- Monitoring
- Heavy Minerals Haulage – Road verses Rail
- Socio –Economic Impacts
- Noise and Vibration
- Land Use Planning.






Performance and Major Initiatives

Council's performance for 2022-23 has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2021-25 Council Plan. Performance has been measured as follows:

- Results achieved in relation to Monitoring Achievements in the Council Plan
- Progress in relation to the Major Initiatives identified in the budget
- Services funded in the Budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services

Theme 1: Community

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to Monitoring Achievements included in the Council Plan.

Monitoring Achievements	Result	Comments
Implementation of 100% actions identified in the 2019-2022 Community Inclusion Plan		42.4% of actions were completed. 24.3% of actions are in progress and incorporated in the new Disability Access & Inclusion Plan 2022-2026. 33.4% of actions were not completed.
In consultation with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, develop a partnership agreement		As part of recognition and settlement agreement actions, community engagement plans will be developed with Local Government Areas.
Improved diversity in community and programmed events by 10% over the four year period of the Council Plan		Post event evaluation has been introduced after performances at the Horsham Town Hall. Audience feedback informs the quality and diversity of its program. Diversity measures and targets have been set to meet key program metrics.
Ensure gender equity on all Council Committees		This action is currently underway and is addressed in the Gender Equality Action Plan (2021-2025).
Increased reach and diversity of allocation of Annual Community Grants program with a 10% increase of new successful applicants over the four year period of the Council Plan		The 2021-2022 and 2022-23 Community Grants Program attracted successful applications from seven new community groups. This represents a 9.6% increase in reach and diversity over the reporting period for this measure. HRCC is tracking towards exceeding the 10% target by end of FY 2024-25, with ongoing work underway to continually improve reach and diversity.



Completed



Underway



Not Achieved

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to Major Initiatives identified in the 2022-23 budget for the year.








Major Initiatives	Progress
Daughters/Sons of the West Program	This event was held successfully in 2022 and is currently underway again.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2022-23 Budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost \$'000		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas:				
Animal Management	This service provides animal management through implementation of appropriate rules and regulations in relation to keeping of cats, dogs and other animals and livestock within the municipality to minimise disturbance to residents and the community, ensure public safety. It also includes the operation of Council's dog and cat rehousing program.	22	1	-21
Community Safety	This service deals with matters concerning Local Laws including permits and licences, enforcement and fines and fire hazard enforcement.	85	107	22
Emergency Management	To prepare for and mitigate if possible the impacts of an emergency on HRCC and the community through good planning and interoperability with all agencies, includes the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Partnership.	-196	18	214
Emergency Support	This service supports community health and wellbeing during times of an emergency and to support the community to recover from emergency events. Includes support provided to the SES.	336	8	-328
Environmental Health	This service provides health administration, health vending machines and other preventative measures including needle exchange, Tobacco Act reforms and mosquito monitoring. A variety of legislative based services and functions around environmental health issues are also provided.	7	113	106
Social Infrastructure Support	This service provides Recreational and Open Space planning plus the maintenance, insurance and other ongoing costs for the municipality's recreation groups and community facilities. Also includes the community inclusion and the oversight of the Horsham Centre Cinema contract.	1,130	1,241	111

Theme 2: Liveability

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to monitoring achievements included in the Council Plan.

Monitoring Achievements	Result	Comments
1. Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population to increase 5% over 4 year period of Council Plan		Number of visits to aquatic facilities in 2021-22 were 74,664 with a total of 102,562 for the year 2022-23. This is a 27% increase.
2. Participation in Horsham Town Hall programs to increase by 5% over 4 years of Council Plan		Total Gallery, Education and public program attendance for 22-23 was 16,625, an increase of 22.7% from previous year. Attendance to theatre performance for 22-23 was 12,053 an increase of 5.6% from previous year.
3. Participation in Maternal and Child Health service at or over 95% annually		Participation is at 90.58% over all and 93.55% of Aboriginal children for attendance once a year at MCH. This is a nearly 5% improvement on last years figures.
4. Active library borrowers in municipality to increase by 5% over 4 year period of Council Plan		Active borrowers have increased by 11.86% in the past year from 1,366 in 2020-2021 to 1,528 in 2022-2023.
5. Increased number of new planning permits approved for new housing by 2% annually		Planning - 26 for 2022-23 financial year and 68 for 2021-22 financial year.
6. Increase Horsham Rural City population by 5% over 4 year period of Council Plan		2021 Census data lists Horsham municipalities population as 20,429 this is an 4% increase from the 2016 population.
7. Increased number of new building/planning permits approved for commercial development by 2% annually		Building - 51 for 2023 and 64 for 2022



Completed



Underway








Not Achieved

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2022-23 Budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost \$'000		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas:				
Aquatic Recreation	Management of the strategic use of the Aquatic Centre, including major refurbishment and upgrades.	1,309	838	-471
Library	Provides resources and programs aimed at meeting the information, creation, educational and cultural needs of the diverse community of Horsham in an equitable, effective, efficient, responsive and forward looking manner in accordance with the values and objectives of the Library Plan.	636	652	16
Management and Administration	This service provides local and regional facilitation and leadership for planning, developing and delivering community services to meet the needs of the community.	3,879	3,223	-656
Parks and Gardens	Provision of managed areas for sport, recreation and amenities – includes sports grounds, parks, gardens, the Botanic Gardens and playgrounds throughout the municipality.	3,821	3,229	-592
Performing Arts Centre & Visitor Services	This service encompasses the running of the Horsham Performing Arts Centre operations, including performing arts, the Regional Art Gallery and support to visitors accessing the Visitor Services.	1,834	1,878	44
Sports and Recreation	Provision and maintenance of outdoor and indoor sports and recreation facilities throughout the municipality, and works with community groups and user groups to increase participation.	737	4,014	3,277
Streetscape and Public Conveniences	This service provides street tree maintenance, tree planting and removal, along with city centre maintenance on lighting, signage and street furniture, and street cleaning. Climate change initiatives such as environmental footprint reduction program fall within this service. This service also provides operations and maintenance of the public conveniences in Horsham, Natimuk and several rural facilities.	1,601	1,569	-32
Youth and Early Services	This service provides support to families with parenting, health and development, promotion of health, wellbeing and safety, social supports, youth facility "The Station", referrals and linking with local communities.	325	786	461

Theme 3: Sustainability

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to monitoring achievements included in the Council Plan.

Monitoring Achievements	Result	Comments
1. Reduce Council's net carbon emissions by 24% by 2025		Target achieved earlier than planned, more carbon projects being scoped in line with each years sustainability budget.
2. Reduce the municipality's net carbon emission		Number of solar panel projects executed in 2022-2023. Project sites included The Station, Horsham Pavilion and Horsham Town Hall solar extension.
3. Maintain employment in government and health services at current level (as at 2021)		Council continues this through advocacy work for regional employment.
4. Increase the diversion of recyclables from landfill by 40% by 2025		Target achieved – 4 Bin system implemented in April 2023 increasing the diversion rates from approximately 22% to 50%.
5. Increase the utilisation of alternative water sources by 10% by 2025 (reduced use of potable water)		The Council is collaborating with GMMWater on the Integrated Water Management program, which aims to provide reclaimed wastewater to several key facilities in Horsham, including Horsham Racecourse Reserve, College Community Oval, Dudley Cornell Park, Langlands Park, and Horsham Cemetery. Currently, some of these facilities rely on stormwater, but during drier periods, they run out of this resource and have to use potable water for most of the summer. With this project underway, a dependable supplementary water supply will be available for these sites, eliminating the need for potable water usage.



Completed



Underway



Not Achieved

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to Major Initiatives identified in the 2022-23 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy	Evaluation of tenders almost complete. Successful consultant to be engaged the week of 31 July 2023.
Horsham South Structure Plan - Technical Background Reports	A draft Future Urban Structure (land use plan only) has been prepared and considered by the PCG. Agency consultation on the FUS to occur in late August prior to public consultation.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2022-23 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost \$'000		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas:				
Business Development and Tourism	This service covers tourism marketing and development as well as promotion for major events and festivals.	482	464	-18
Commercial Activities	This service includes the contracted facilities such as the Caravan Park and the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal.	67	11	-56
Commercial Operations	This service includes the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange, which provides weekly sheep sales at the Burnt Creek Drive facility servicing primary industry across the Wimmera. Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange is the fourth largest sheep selling centre in Victoria. This service also includes the operations of the Horsham Aerodrome which provides a regional airport for commercial and private aircraft.	-82	309	391
Economic Development	This service provides support to the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (previously Wimmera Development Association), maintenance and administration for the Wimmera Business Centre and general economic development and promotion for the municipality. Land sales and acquisitions, tree plantation and land management costs for the Burnt Creek and Enterprise Industrial estates and Wimmera Agricultural Logistics (WAL) Hub, are also provided under this service.	796	363	-433





Service	Description	Net Cost \$'000		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas:				
Natural Resource Management	This service provides a mix of environmental services covering fire hazards, fire disaster clean up, grass removal, fire plugs, their replacement and markers, footpath cleaning in the CBD and weir operations.	78	85	7
Statutory Planning and Regulations	This service provides statutory planning services such as planning permits, notice of applications, information certificates, scheme appeals, subdivision costs, administration of building control services including building approval, inspection fees, easement approval and State Government levies.	470	554	84
Strategic Planning Services	The function of strategic planning, aims to strategically plan the municipality's land use needs for the future.	371	363	-8
Sustainability	This service manages a range of sustainability related projects from Council's Sustainability Strategy. A reserve has been established to facilitate future energy and water deficiency projects	288	78	-210





Theme 4: Accessibility

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to monitoring achievements included in the Council Plan.

Monitoring Achievements	Result	Comments
1. A reduction in the number of vehicle crashes and their impacts (e.g. number of injuries/fatalities) by 5% by 2025		The Council has undertaken a strategic effort to enhance safety on local roads by implementing various projects, including funding for widening 35 km of sealed roads. A strong compliance system has been developed and implemented in accordance with the Road Management Plan. These collective efforts will continue to contribute to a significant reduction in injuries and fatalities on our local roads.
2. Increase the % of urban population within 400 m of a fully developed open space by 5% by 2025		Smaller (local/ neighbourhood) parks areas had concept plans developed including Anzac Park (Haven), Sunnyside Park and the (municipal parks) including Horsham Skatepark Precinct.
3. Increase the percentage of Tree canopy in Horsham urban areas with a 1% increase by 2025		A tree audit was undertaken by Council's Operations team to establish benchmarks to measure tree numbers and canopy coverage according to the Greening Greater Horsham Municipal Tree Strategy.
4. Improve sealed road satisfaction – excluding arterial roads by 5% annually		Council has made a strong commitment to the community, ensuring that all rural sealed roads will be comfortably drivable at 80 km/hr. To identify rough sections, Council conducted laser roughness collection for all sealed roads. Subsequently, over \$1.5 million was invested to address the rough sections in rural areas, and an additional \$1 million was allocated for fixing issues in urban areas. As a result of these efforts, all sealed roads across the Council's jurisdiction now meet the agreed roughness level.



Completed



Underway



Not Achieved

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to Major Initiatives identified in the 2022-23 budget for the year.






Major Initiatives	Progress
Project Management System	The Rural Council Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) is currently implementing the Civica Altitude ERP system as the first stage of the project, with additional software modules for Community Engagement, Records Management and invoicing to commence implementation 2023-24. The Civica Altitude implementation is progressing well, with Go-Live for the new system scheduled for March 2024. The system will see improvements to the way business is managed internally and also provide better opportunities for ratepayers engage electronically with Council.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2022-23 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost \$'000		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas:				
Engineering Services	Has overall responsibility for delivery of Council's capital works delivery and annual programming, traffic planning, waste planning, road, street and drain design and monitoring of standards adherence (quality assurance) for the infrastructure.	96	504	408
Infrastructure - Rural	This service is responsible for maintaining and constructing roads, bridges and related assets in all non-urban areas of Horsham and Natimuk. This includes the Rural Roads Victoria maintenance contract (which excludes major highways).	4,792	3,923	-869
Infrastructure - Urban	This service provides maintenance and construction of roads, streets, bridges and related assets to the required standards within Horsham and Natimuk. This also includes maintenance of bicycle tracks, drainage, footpaths and off-street car parks.	-694	-171	523
Management and Administration	This service provides administration and support services for the Infrastructure Services department.	3,879	3,223	-656
Operations Management	This service includes management and administration of the Operations Department to facilitate the delivery of core functions and capital programs.	88	157	69
Parking and Traffic Management	This service provides management of parking infringements, maintenance on parking meters, car parking fees, fines and associated costs.	104	106	2
Strategic Asset Management	Responsible for the strategic management of Council's Infrastructure, including the long term planning of asset renewal and capital works.	571	615	44

Theme 5: Leadership

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to monitoring achievements included in the Council Plan.

Monitoring Achievements	Result	Comments
1. Improvement in community satisfaction with customer service by 5% annually (Community Satisfaction Survey)		This year's result was 56, down from 64 (a 12.5% decrease). Customer service outcomes were impacted during the year by a combination of challenging issues including the 2022 spring floods, a Municipal Monitor appointment, and delivery of controversial projects including Council's branding renewal, updated parking meters in the Central Activity District, and the Better Sorted Waste four-bin program rollout.
2. Improvement in community satisfaction with overall Council direction by 5% annually (Community Satisfaction Survey)		This year's result was 34, down from 50 (a 32% decrease). A Municipal Monitor was requested by Council and appointed to oversee internal governance for elected representatives, primarily during the first two quarters of the financial year. During this period, the composition of the elected Council changed, with one resignation and subsequent election of a replacement Councillor.
3. Improve community satisfaction with Council decisions by 5% annually (Community Satisfaction Survey)		This year's result was 42, down from 52 (a 19.2% decrease).
4. Community satisfaction with consultation and engagement by 5% annually		This year's result was 43, down from 53 (an 18.9% decrease).
5. Community satisfaction with Council lobbying on behalf of the community		Data not available. No longer measured through Council's Annual Community Satisfaction Survey.



Completed



Underway



Not Achieved

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to Major Initiatives identified in the 2022-23 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration	The Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) is a collaborative project to implement a range of cloud based software solutions that will assist the three member councils (Rodham, Hindmarsh & Loddon) in providing an enabling environment for the future sharing of corporate functions. RCCC's Vision, is that through shared software solutions RCCC will lead to business efficiencies through improved processes and opportunities for sharing. This directly gives rise to economic benefits by way of improved financial sustainability and opportunity to keep jobs in the region and ultimately drive better social outcomes.
Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration Project/ Software Implementation	The RCCC is currently implementing the Civica Altitude ERP system as the first stage of the project, with additional software modules for Community Engagement, Records Management and invoicing to commence implementation 2023-24. The Civica Altitude implementation is progressing well, with Go-Live for the new system scheduled for March 2024. The system will see improvements to the way business is managed internally and also provide better opportunities for ratepayers engage electronically with Council.

Customer Service Data and Complaints

For the year of 2022-23 Horsham Rural City Council addressed 8,520 customer service requests, representing a 20.6% increase from the previous financial year.

Waste management and animal issues were the two highest demand categories for service requests. While this is consistent with previous years, it is noted that waste related enquiries notably spiked during quarters 3 and 4 as a result of Council's four-bin Better Sorted Waste program rollout.

A total of 199 customer service complaints were lodged at Council during the year.

A breakdown of complaints data can be seen as follows:

Complaints	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
Finalised	31	31	29	40
Open	5	7	42	14
Total	36	38	71	54

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to Major Initiatives identified in the 2022-23 budget for the year.

Service	Description	Net Cost \$'000		
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Provision of the following to support Council's direct service delivery areas:				
Accounting Services	Provides financial services internally to all staff, department managers, project leaders, Council, plus delivers external services in the form of information to government and the community and specific services to Wimmera Development Association and the Wimmera Regional Library Board.	967	936	-31
Community Relations and Advocacy	Responsible for three key areas: Advocacy and grant seeking, media and communications and community engagement.	494	515	21
General Revenue	Provides treasury management including additional borrowings and interest repayments	-32,435	-31,449	986
Governance & Leadership	This service manages and facilitates Council's governance services, the implementation of Council decisions and policies, and compliance with legislative requirements. This also includes the Customer Service, the management of Council's property portfolio (including Leases/Licenses & land sales/purchases), Records Management, the office of the Mayor and Councillors, and the office of the Chief Executive.	1,725	1,788	63
Information Technology	Provides IT hardware and software systems, IT support services to staff, customer services at Horsham and Natimuk and the Council's Records Management service. The goal of this service is to provide efficient and effective access to the information needs of staff and the community, and the management of systems that support this whilst at all times keeping secure Council's information assets from accidental or malicious access, modification or destruction.	1,314	1,427	113
Management and Administration	This service provides management across the areas of finance, IT, rates and organisation development	3,879	3,223	-656
People & Culture	This service is responsible for human resources, payroll, OHS, risk management, industrial relations and organisational performance functions. Payroll also provides services to three separate Council related entities	1,242	857	-385
Revenue Services	Rate collection services encompasses collection of Council rateable income, which ensures consistency in debt management, general rate, municipal and garbage charges. Property services encompasses, collection of property valuations, maintaining a strategically focused property management system.	322	425	103



Service Performance Indicators

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Aquatic Facilities					
Service standard					
<i>Health inspections of aquatic facilities</i>	0	1	1	1	
[Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]					
Utilisation					
<i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i>	6.73	3.03	4.17	5.05	There has been a 21% increase in Aquatic centre utilisation, in part due to the stabilisation or services and hours post Covid, and the public greater confidence in accessing public spaces.
[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]					
Service cost					
<i>Cost of aquatic facilities</i>	\$5.69	\$13.30	\$12.54	\$8.86	Council supported the cost of running the Aquatic centre during Covid (21-22 FY). Council contributions have stabilised post Covid, along with the implementation of the first year of a new contract.
[Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]					



Aquatic Centre frameworks for change rooms.

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Animal Management					
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to action animal management requests</i>	1	1	1	1	
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]					
Service standard					
<i>Animals reclaimed</i>	53.10%	52.83%	57.17%	51.11%	Due to higher rates of animal registration and lower rates of animals collected, the remaining animals tend to be strays without a home.
[Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100					
<i>Animals rehomed</i>	20.73%	28.70%	27.00%	20.19%	Uncontrolled cat breeding and the high prices of sterilisation have led to a large number of feral cats being trapped and humanely euthanised.
[Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100					
Service cost					
<i>Cost of animal management service per population</i>	\$16.58	\$18.65	\$22.41	\$28.28	
[Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]					
Health and safety					
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i>	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100					

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Food Safety					
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to action food complaints</i>	2	1.25	1	1.2	
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]					
Service standard					
<i>Food safety assessments</i>	90.80%	75.31%	67.76%	103.40%	A catch up campaign was undertaken in 2022 which has resulted in a higher number than was due. Also introduction of Class 3A resulted in some Class 2 premises being reclassified.
[Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100					
Service cost					
<i>Cost of food safety service</i>	\$767.58	\$569.69	\$742.39	\$616.65	Council staffing has temporarily decreased from previous year.
[Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]					
Health and safety					
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i>	75.86%	76.47%	70.00%	100.00%	All major and critical non-compliance items were followed up.
[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100					

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Governance					
Transparency					
<i>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</i> [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	18.44%	9.03%	3.77%	34.96%	Changes made in response to recommendations by the Municipal Monitor.
Consultation and engagement					
<i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	41	48	53	43	Council has publicly committed to an action plan addressing community satisfaction in response to recent results.
Attendance					
<i>Councillor attendance at council meetings</i> [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	87.76%	96.43%	96.94%	89.29%	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of elected representation</i> [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	\$31,418.08	\$35,874.87	\$45,389.00	\$55,496.08	In 22-23 FY Council introduced the role of deputy mayor.
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	39	48	52	42	Council has publicly committed to an action plan addressing community satisfaction in response to recent results.

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Libraries					
Utilisation					
<i>Physical library collection usage</i> [Number of physical library collection item loans / Number of physical library collection items]	1.86	1.2	1.35	1.26	
Resource standard					
<i>Recently purchased library collection</i> [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	45.82%	39.87%	41.65%	44.83%	
Participation					
<i>Active library borrowers in municipality</i> [Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100	10.84%	9.08%	7.68%	6.97%	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of library service per population</i> [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	\$22.13	\$24.53	\$25.67	\$26.38	

Service / <i>indicator</i> / <i>measure</i>	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Service standard	100.85%	101.44%	101.07%	102.00%	
<i>Infant enrolments in the MCH service</i>					
[Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100					
Service cost					
<i>Cost of the MCH service</i>	\$64.72	\$62.31	\$64.49	\$61.12	
[Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]					
Participation					
<i>Participation in the MCH service</i>	87.94%	91.31%	85.91%	90.58%	
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Participation					
<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i>	88.76%	97.30%	89.13%	93.55%	
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
Satisfaction					
<i>Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit</i>	100.42%	96.65%	93.93%	100.00%	
[Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100					

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Roads					
Satisfaction of use					
Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	9.8	10.76	10.89	11.46	
Condition					
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	96.62%	99.30%	99.55%	100.00%	
Service cost					
Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$30.73	\$36.62	\$35.13	\$36.96	
Cost of sealed local road resealing [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$5.47	\$5.20	\$7.18	\$8.95	Mainly due to the steep increase in Bitumen, labour and fuel costs in 22-23 FY. Council has also incurred higher cost due to improved Micro-surfacing layer to maintain road safety and condition.
Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	39	47	45	38	Council has been aware that the Roads under Vic Roads have deteriorated significantly and are in touch with the concerned department. However, this has been misunderstood by the public as Council responsible roads. Efforts are in place to inform the public in the appropriate forum and form.

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Statutory Planning					
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to decide planning applications</i> [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	42	63	47	56	Increase in the number and complexity of applications and support required for strategic and major projects.
Service standard					
<i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i> [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	85.57%	78.49%	100.00%	100.00%	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of statutory planning service</i> [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$2,898.33	\$2,328.04	\$2,378.54	\$2,841.25	Increase in the number and complexity of applications and support required for strategic and major projects.
Decision making					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Service / indicator / measure	Results				Comments
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Waste Collection					
Satisfaction					
<i>Kerbside bin collection requests</i> [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households] x1000	82.87	89.56	102.66	184.15	Introduction of the 4 bin system has resulted in more bin collection requests than last year.
Service standard					
<i>Kerbside collection bins missed</i> [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	1.45	0.99	1.9	2.71	Introduction of the 4 bin system including 2 additional waste streams i.e. Glass & FOGO has doubled the number of bins in the municipality resulting in increase in the missed bins percentage.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$121.42	\$123.97	\$140.81	\$151.66	Cost of garbage collection has gone up based on the on the additional service, increase in EPA levy and plant hire rates.
<i>Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$61.64	\$68.42	\$73.58	\$88.12	This has increased due to increase in service numbers as recycling service was extended to rural Horsham + increase in cost of processing.
Waste diversion					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	20.49%	19.91%	19.07%	25.90%	Since the launch of glass & FOGO bin diversion rates have increase to 50%.

Governance and Compliance

Council Meetings

Council conducts open public meetings on the fourth Monday of each month (third Monday in December) at the Civic Centre at 5.30pm. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery. Council meetings also provide an opportunity for community members to raise questions during Public Question Time.

In 2022-23, Horsham Rural City Council held 16 Council meetings. This included 15 face-to-face meetings in the Council Chamber and one online Council meeting.

Council meetings are live streamed on the Council website www.hrcc.vic.gov.au. Audio recordings were made available following all meetings.

The live streaming of Council Meetings has enhanced transparency and increased accessibility.

Live streaming of meetings makes them more accessible to a wider audience. Previous meetings are available on Council's website www.hrcc.vic.gov.au. Meetings can be watched at any time and

previous meetings are indexed to the meeting agenda allowing you to skip directly to the items of interest.

Live Streaming does not extend to any confidential meetings to the public in accordance with Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

During this period, 62 questions were submitted to Public Question Time up from 45 the previous year.

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings for the 2022-23 financial year.

Councillor	Scheduled Council Meeting Attendance (16)
Cr Robyn Gulline	16
Cr Penny Flynn	16
Cr David Bowe	16
Cr Claudia Haenel	12
Cr Les Power	15
Cr Bob Redden (Sworn in as Councillor on 8.9.22)	10
Cr Ian Ross	14
Cr Di Bell (Resigned 5/8/22)	1

*Cr. Claudia Haenel was absent for the July 2022 scheduled Council Meeting due to authorised leave (where authorised leave can include sick leave or WorkCover leave)

Council Briefings

Council Briefing meetings are generally held on the first and second Monday of each month. These meetings provide an opportunity for Councillors to consider, discuss and provide feedback on reports prepared by Council Officers prior to them being finalised and presented to a formal Council meeting. These meetings are closed to the public.

In 2022-23, Council held 27 Council Briefing Meetings (down from 33 the previous year).

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council Briefing Meetings for the 2022-23 financial year.

Councillor	Scheduled Council Briefing Attendance (27)
Cr Robyn Gulline	27
Cr Penny Flynn	25
Cr David Bowe	26
Cr Claudia Haenel	19
Cr Les Power	26
Cr Bob Redden (Sworn in as Councillor on 8.9.22)	20
Cr Ian Ross	21
Cr Di Bell (Resigned 5/8/22)	1

*Cr. Claudia Haenel was absent for the July and August 2022 briefings due to authorised leave (where authorised leave can include sick leave or WorkCover leave)

Governance and Compliance *continued...*

Conflict of Interest

Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council meetings and Councillors are encouraged to complete and submit the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form to the Chief Executive Officer upon receipt of their agenda documentation prior to the meeting. Alternatively,

they may declare their Conflict of Interest at the meeting.

A conflict of interest exists when a personal or private interest may compromise the ability to act in the interest of the public. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

During 2022-23, there were 4 conflicts of interest declared at Council meetings.

Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance whilst performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor is entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government sets the upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors.

Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each Council. In this instance, Horsham Rural City Council is recognised as a Category 2 Council.

The following table contains details of current allowances fixed for the Mayor and Councillors during the year.

Councillor	Allowance \$
Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)	98,710.36
Cr Penny Flynn (Deputy Mayor)	42,425.00
Cr David Bowe	28,869.48
Cr Claudia Haenel	30,739.00
Cr Les Power	30,739.00

Councillor	Allowance \$
Cr Bob Redden	25,067.00
Cr Ian Ross	30,739.00
Cr Di Bell (Resigned)	5,004.00
Total	292,291.81

Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing their duties as a

Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the payment

of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties.

Expense Category	Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)	Cr Penny Flynn (Deputy Mayor)	Cr David Bowe	Cr Claudia Haenel	Cr Les Power	Cr Robert Redden	Cr Ian Ross	Cr Di Bell (Resigned)	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Communication	430	417	394	421	200	362	195	44	2,463
Conferences and Seminars	1,182	1,018		1,635	1,018	626			5,479
Development And Training	7,221	8,321	7,221	9,821	7,221	7,221	7,221		54,247
Memberships	185	185		185				90	645
Transportation				6,140			5,441		11,581
Travel and Accommodation	1,395	1,604		1,960	1,579				6,538
Other	98	89	23	749	159	59	284		1,462
Total \$	10,511	11,634	7,638	20,911	10,177	8,269	13,142	134	82,415

Note:

- Figures in this table may include expenses that were processed but not incurred in the reporting period
- No reimbursements for expenses to members of Council committees were paid by Council during 2022-23

Communication – Monthly fees and usage costs associated with Councillor mobile phone and computer equipment. Any costs associated with personal use are to be reimbursed by the Councillor.

Conferences and Seminars – Registration fees and costs associated with Councillor attendance at local, interstate or overseas conferences and seminars.

Development and Training –

Registration fees associated with Councillor attendance at one-off or short-term training or workshops within Victoria held by government agencies, professional bodies or institutions that support the local government sector.

Memberships – Professional memberships to recognised sector related bodies and other incidental expenditure incurred by Councillors in performing their Councillor role.

Transportation – Taxi fares, public transport costs, parking and toll fees and reimbursements for authorised use of private vehicles for kilometres travelled whilst conducting Council business within and outside the municipality.

Travel and Accommodation –

All travel and accommodation costs associated with Councillor attendance at local, interstate or overseas conferences, seminars, training and workshops.

Other Costs – Other incidental expenditure incurred by Councillors in performing their Councillor role.

Staff Profile

Equal Employment Opportunity

In employment, but also more generally, Council aims to ensure there is no discrimination relating to the characteristics listed under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* such as race, colour, sex, marital status, parenthood, physical or mental impairment, age, religious or political affiliation, gender identity and sexual orientation. A further aim is to ensure the workplace is free from bullying and harassment.

Throughout the year no formal Equal Opportunity complaints were received and overall it is considered that Horsham Rural City Council exercised its duties and responsibilities in accordance with the requirements and obligations of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Occupational Health and Safety

Compliance with the *Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* remains a continuing priority for Horsham Rural City Council, with the aim to ultimately have an injury-free workplace for all our employees.

Post-Covid, the Occupational Health & Safety Officer has returned to regular attendance at the Selkirk Drive Depot, spending mornings at that location and afternoons at the Civic Centre. This arrangement ensures easier and more immediate access to support and advice for operations management, supervisors and employees, who comprise the highest proportion of staff and whose work encompasses an extensive and high degree of health and safety risk.

Changes of management throughout the year in the Corporate Services Directorate have presented fresh perspectives on Council's OH&S direction and practices. Various changes to incident and hazard reporting have been explored and introduced, along with a revised OHS Committee meeting structure. Meetings of the full group are now conducted bi-monthly, with Designated Workgroup Representatives also able to attend a meeting in alternate months to ensure that they have the fullest opportunity to raise and explore issues and concerns.

The online incident and reporting system and associated software have previously been identified for review, with the current roll-out of the new Civica Altitude business enterprise system enabling the assessment of suitable options to get underway in early 2023-24. The review will consider how organisational OHS needs can be best met, whilst ensuring compatibility and efficiency between the old and new systems.

An overall audit of OHS systems and practices has been considered and discussed throughout the year and is planned to be undertaken in early 2023-24.

WorkCover Claims

Throughout 2022-23, and since returning to the WorkCover insurance scheme in 2021-22, Council has established a strong working relationship with its designated insurer, DXC. Most claims that arose whilst Council was in the MAV WorkCover self-insurance scheme prior to this have now been resolved.

Having completed two years of service, DXC is now fully established as Council's insurer and has a comprehensive understanding of recent claims and the few remaining from the self-insurance period.

In November 2022 Council utilised the services of Aegis Risk Management Services on a temporary/short-term basis to ensure that resourcing was in place to support the effective management of WorkCover claims during a period of leave taken by the relevant officer. Based on the success of this arrangement, and mindful of the increasing complexity of the WorkCover system, the need for sustained/focused management of claims, and expanding return-to-work compliance obligations, in late 2022-23 Council entered into an extended partnership with Aegis (until at least June 2024) for the intensive management of HRCC WorkCover claims.

As at the end of the Financial Year there are nine active WorkCover claims impacting current Council staff and being managed by HRCC/Aegis in conjunction with DXC:

- Seven extensive claims, for which occupational rehabilitation provider assistance has been engaged; and
- Two minor "under excess" claims

In addition, there are two matters which involve staff who no longer work with Horsham Rural City Council. These claims are managed directly by the insurer, DXC.

Incident Reports

Total incidents reported for the year were 175. Plant and Vehicle incidents totalled 55. Personal incidents totalled 46. Hazards, near miss, property damage and security incidents account for the remainder of the incidents reported.

WorkSafe notifiable incidents totalled five. All were satisfactorily resolved without any major recommendations being made.

One incident was notified to Energy Safe Victoria and subsequently investigated. A number of recommendations were received and actioned.

Proactive housekeeping inspections across various areas of operation continued throughout the year in Parks & Gardens, Town Hall and Art Gallery, Engineering Services, Asset Management and Governance & Information Management.

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Negotiations for Enterprise Agreement Number Ten (2022-2025) (EA10) commenced in September 2022 and concluded in June 2023, with Enterprise Agreement Number Nine (EA9) having nominally expired on 30 June 2022.

A key difference in EA10 is that the three distinct parts of EA9 (local provisions, the Victorian Local Authorities Award 2001 and the Nurses (ANF – Victorian Local Government) Award 2015) were consolidated into a single agreement. In addition, the following quantum increases will apply to staff rates of pay over the course of EA10:

Year 1 (FY2022-23): 2% or \$32 per week, whichever is higher.

Year 2 (FY 2023-24): 3% or \$40 per week, whichever is higher.

Year 3 (FY 2024-25): 3% or \$40 per week or 75% of the applicable rate cap, whichever is higher.

Further amendments include the addition of leave provisions for staff in various circumstances, such as adoption/permanent care arrangements, IVF treatment and gender transition.

Staff Profile *continued...*

Gender Equality Act 2020

Gender equity is the tool used to achieve gender equality. Gender equality is the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women, men, transgender and gender diverse people.

Equality does not mean that women, men, transgender and gender diverse people will become the same, it means their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on their gender. Gender equity is about fairness to all people. It is about implementing strategies and actions to ensure everybody in the community can participate in the way they want to.

Horsham Rural City Council welcomed the *Gender Equality Act 2020* which requires organisations within the Victorian public sector, including local councils, to demonstrate positive progress towards achieving gender equality in the workplace and in the community.

Horsham Rural City Council's organisational vision for gender equality is "to create a safe, equal and fair workplace where all people, regardless of gender and diversity of background, can access and enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities."

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* which requires local councils to demonstrate positive progress towards achieving gender equality in the workplace and in the community Council is in the process of implementing its 2021-2025 Gender Equality Action Plan. Key actions this year have included:

- Making a commitment to support flexible working, including at senior levels

- Staff consultation to address barriers that may prevent women from applying for senior leadership positions
- Collecting and reporting on intersectional data
- Introduction of mandatory training for staff and Councillors on sexual harassment, including 'bystander' training
- Strengthened transparency and robustness in recruiting, including unconscious bias and gender equality training for selectors and interview panellists
- Introduction of Exit Interviews for exiting staff, reporting data and themes to the Executive to inform retention strategies.

Council is working towards ensuring that gender equality in policies, programs and services is achieved by the completion of Gender Impact Assessments, to assess how the relevant output impacts different genders in different ways. In accordance with the Act, assessments are to be completed on Council programs or services that have a direct and significant impact on the public, taking into account that gender inequality may be compounded by additional disadvantages or discrimination that a person may experience based on Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion and sexual orientation.

Victoria's Compulsory Child Safe Standards

Horsham Rural City Council remains committed to providing and promoting a child safe environment. Council has zero tolerance to child abuse and endeavours to maintain a child safe and child friendly environment where children are safe and secure and have fun. This includes the physical, emotional, cultural and social wellbeing of all children, including promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

Council's Child Safe Policy and Reporting a Child Safety Concern Procedure are key documents in respect of child safety and can be found on the Horsham Rural City Council website – www.hrcc.vic.gov.au.

On 1 July 2023, the new Victorian Child Safe Standards became effective, having been introduced 12 months prior. There are now 11, rather than seven, Child Safe Standards. Council has updated its online training package to reflect these changes and will be ensuring that all staff over the 2023-2024 year complete the training, and that they are aware of and comply with the new requirements and standards.

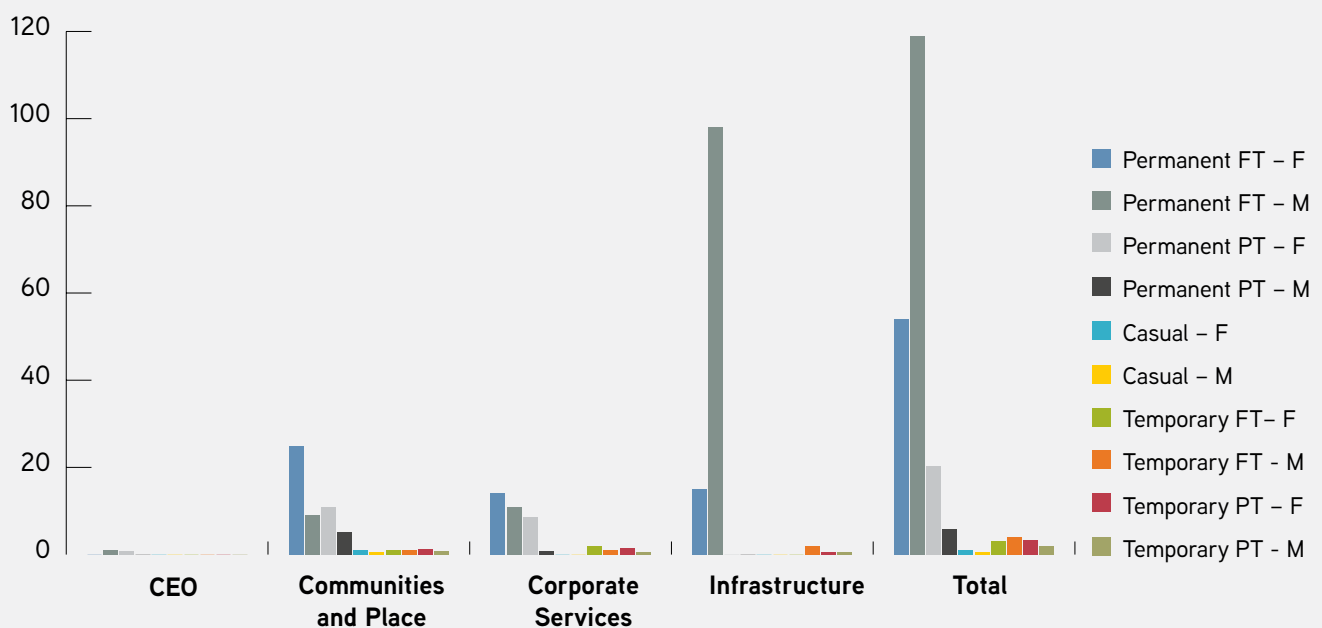


Number of Staff (FTE)

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender is set out below.

Employee type/gender	CEO	Communities and Place	Corporate Services	Infrastructure	Total
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Permanent FT – F	0	25.00	14.00	15.00	54.00
Permanent FT – M	1	9.00	11.00	98.00	119.00
Permanent PT – F	0.80	10.99	8.58	0	20.37
Permanent PT – M	0	5.09	0.80	0	5.89
Casual – F	0	1.09	0	0	1.09
Casual – M	0	0.59	0	0	0.59
Temporary FT – F	0	1.00	2.00	0	3.00
Temporary FT – M	0	1.00	1.00	2.00	4.00
Temporary PT – F	0	1.16	1.50	0.68	3.34
Temporary PT – M	0	0.77	0.60	0.60	1.97
Total	1.8	55.69	39.48	116.28	213.25

FT-Full time PT-Part time F-Female M-Male *currently no staff identify as non-binary



NUMBER OF STAFF (FTE) by Employment Classification

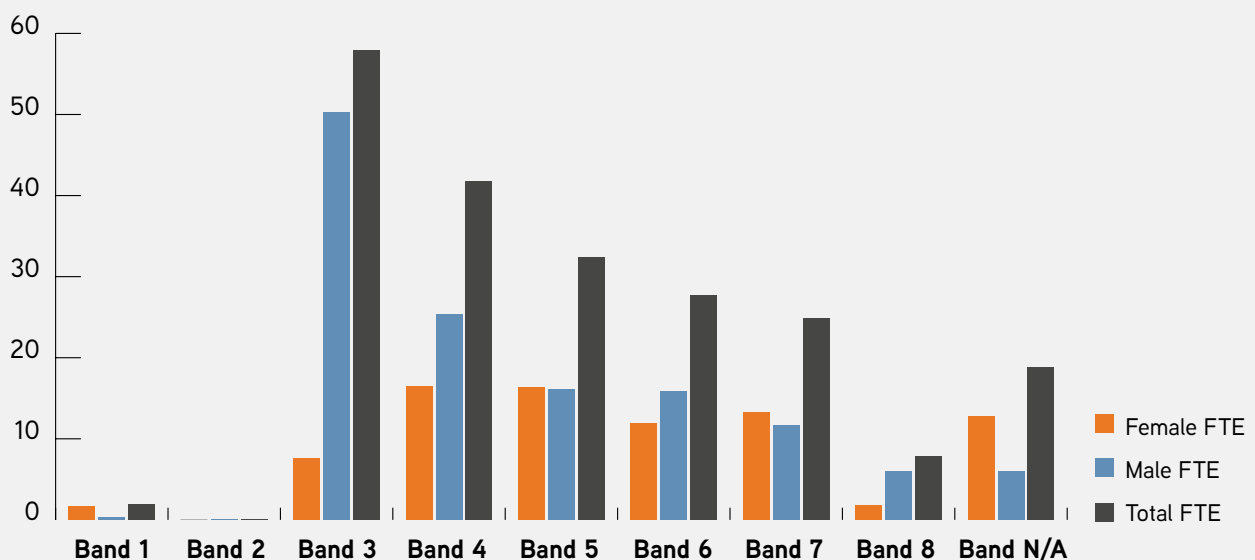
Employment Classification	Female FTE	Male FTE	Total FTE
Band 1	1.66	0.27	1.93
Band 2	0	0.12	0.12
Band 3	7.55	50.32	57.87
Band 4	16.51	25.29	41.80
Band 5	16.33	16.05	32.38
Band 6	11.95	15.80	27.75
Band 7	1.25	11.60	24.85
Band 8	1.80	6.00	7.80
Band not applicable	12.75	6.00	18.75
Total	81.80	131.45	213.25

Professional Development

Council supports and promotes further education and development, including undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications.

During 2022 - 23 Council staff were undertaking the following:

- Wimmera Leadership Program
- LG Pro Emerging Leaders Program
- Human Resource Management
- Rural and Environmental Planning
- Fair Leaders Program
- LG Pro Australasian Management Challenge (team of five staff members)
- Diploma of Project Management
- Master of Infrastructure Engineering and Management



Governance

Horsham Rural City Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.

In the performance of its role, Council must give effect to the following overarching governance principles:

- (a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law
- (b) Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- (c) The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted
- (d) The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making
- (e) Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued
- (f) Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- (g) The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured
- (h) Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making
- (i) The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making

processes including community engagement, public forums and the ability to make submissions to Council.

When engaging the community in a decision-making process, Council promises to:

- Provide a genuine opportunity for the community to have input and an influence on decisions that are the subject of the engagement
- Actively seek out and encourage contributions from people who may be affected by or interested in a decision
- Provide relevant, timely and balanced information, including project funding sources (where available), so people can contribute in a meaningful way including clearly defining negotiable and non-negotiable elements of any subject of engagement and an explanation of why elements are non negotiable
- Provide a variety of appropriate and accessible ways for people to have their say and to speak honestly
- Actively listen so that people's ideas and input assist in making the final decision
- Consider the needs and interests of all people in the decision-making process
- Inform the community about the final decision, and how their input was considered
- Effectively record engagement plans, methodologies, community responses, outcomes and evaluations.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings. Council delegates operational decision making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted Council policies.

Management

Council has implemented a number of statutory and better practice items to strengthen its management framework. Having strong governance and management frameworks lead to better decision making by Council. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed Governance and Management Checklist and include this in its Report of Operations. Council's Governance and Management Checklist results are set out on pages 74–75.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk committee is an advisory committee of Council whose role is determined by Sections 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Audit and Risk committee Charter, which sets out the committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities and reporting, administrative and governance arrangements, was endorsed at the Special Audit and Risk committee meeting on 30 July 2020, and formally adopted by Council on 24 August 2020.

The committee's objective is to provide appropriate independent advice and recommendations to Council on matters relevant to the committee's charter in order to facilitate decision-making by Council in relation to the discharge of Council's accountability requirements

The Audit and Risk committee does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and does not have any delegated financial responsibility. The committee does not have any management functions and is therefore independent of management.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities and Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee are clearly defined in Council's Audit and Risk committee Charter, which is renewed bi-annually and formally approved by Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter is available on the Horsham Rural City Council website – www.hrcc.vic.gov.au or by contacting Council on email council@hrcc.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 5382 9777.

The Audit and Risk Committee provides oversight and guidance on the following matters:

- Council's financial performance reporting
- Compliance of Council's policies and procedures with the *Local Government Act 2020*, particularly the governance principles
- The effectiveness of the management and reporting of Council's risk management and fraud and corruption prevention
- The effectiveness of Council's system of internal controls
- The effectiveness of the internal and external audit functions
- The provision of an effective means of communication between the external auditor, internal audit, management and the Council.

The Audit and Risk Committee has an established Annual Work Program to enable it to discharge its responsibilities effectively, in accordance with the requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter the Annual Work Program is reviewed annually.

Membership

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises two appointed Councillors (one of whom is the Mayor) and three independent members with technical expertise and industry experience.

Members over the past 12 months were:

- Richard Trigg – Chair Independent member
- Mark Knights – Independent member
- Marilyn Kearney – Independent member (first meeting June 2023)
- Vito Giudice – Independent member (final meeting December 2022)
- Cr Robyn Gulline – Councillor representative/Mayor
- Cr Les Power – Councillor representative (first meeting March 2023)
- Cr Penny Flynn – Councillor representative (final meeting December 2022)

Ex-officio members:

- Horsham Rural City Council
- Sunil Bhalla (CEO),
- Kim Hargreaves (Director Corporate Services)
- Internal Auditor – RSD Audit (contractor)
- Auditor General's agent Crowe (attends meetings to report matters of significance in relation to the financial statements)

Internal Audit

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the operations of Council.

RSD Audit have been Council's internal auditors since November 2019. RSD Audit conducted a review of Risk Management, Human Resources and Service and Business Planning.

External Audit

Council's external auditor is the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) who has appointed Crowe for an initial three-year period (until 30 June 2024) to conduct the annual statutory financial statement audit.

Risk Management

Horsham Rural City Council recognises that risk management is an integral part of good management practice and through an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) approach, is committed to establishing an organisational culture that ensures effective Risk Management.

Managing risk is an increasingly important aspect of Local Government, and one that requires commitment across the whole organisation. Council manages its risks to maximise opportunities and minimise losses. Council's risk management supports informed decision-making and encourages the identification of opportunities for continuous improvement through good governance and best practice.

As the COVID pandemic has continued, risk management and business continuity have continued to be at the forefront of Council's operations.

Horsham Rural City Council has a Risk Management Framework in place, which includes Council's Risk Management Strategy.



Organisational Plans, Policies, Procedures and Strategies

This year the following plans, policies, procedures and strategies have been developed and/or reviewed:

Annual Action Plan 2023-2024

Business Continuity Policy

CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

Child Safety & Wellbeing Policy

Civic Events Policy and Procedure

Community BBQ Trailer Policy

Compliance Policy

Council Resolutions Procedure

Creative Horsham 2023-2026 HRCC Arts & Cultural Strategy

Customer Service Standards Procedure

Diabetes Sharps Exchange Program Procedure

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026

Electrical Safety Procedure

Electronic Signature Procedure

Financial Delegations Policy

Fraud and Corruption Control Framework

Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

Governance Rules

Investment Attraction Policy

Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub Health & Safety Emergency Evacuation & Response

Kerbside Waste Collection Policy

Mobile Food and Beverage Trading Vehicle Policy

Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Outside Work Policy

Password and Authentication Policy

Privately Initiated Planning Scheme Amendment Requests Policy

Procurement Policy and Procedure

Procurement Procedure

Records Management Policy

Recovery of Bugged Vehicles Procedure

Reporting a Child Safety Concern Procedure

Road Management Plan

Staff safety during "Catastrophic" fire danger declared days Policy

Community Satisfaction Survey

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey again this year surveyed residents to check their satisfaction with Council's performance and services. For the purposes of the survey, Horsham is classified as a Regional City, along with Bendigo, Geelong, Latrobe, Mildura, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga. The

main objective of the Community Satisfaction Survey is to assess the performance of Council across a range of core measures, and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery.

A total of 400 interviews were completed in Horsham Rural City Council from June 2021 to March

2022. The survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Horsham Rural City Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates.

Council's core measures compared to the previous year, other regional centres and state-wide averages are shown in the table below:

Core Performance Measure	Score					Highest score	Lowest score
	Horsham 2023	Horsham 2022	Regional Centres 2023	Statewide 2023			
Overall performance	45	56	56	56	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years	
Value for money	43	50	50	49	Aged 65+ years	Rural area residents	
Overall Council direction	34	47	47	46	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years	
Customer service	56	68	68	67	Other residents, Aged 50-64 years	Aged 18-34 years, Men	
Waste management	64	70	67	66	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years	
Community decisions	42	48	50	51	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years	
Consultation and engagement	43	48	50	52	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years	
Sealed local roads	38	47	49	48	Other residents	Rural area residents, Aged 50-64 years	

Council's overall performance (index score of 56) is similar to those seen across 2018, 2019 and 2021 and establishes a trend of improvement from the series low index score of 45 in 2020.

Overall council direction improved three points from 47 last year. With Council performing significantly lower than the Regional Centres group and

statewide average for councils on the sealed local roads index. Council is very aware of the need to improve its performance and particularly around community engagement and is actively working to achieve improvements in this space moving forward. Council is committed to making changes to meet the evolving expectations of the community.

Information about the Community Satisfaction Survey and performance of Councils across Victoria can be found on the Know Your Council website – www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au.

Statutory Information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Council.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) gives individuals and organisations a general right of access to documents held by Council. The Act also provides rights of appeal if access to information through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request is not granted.

Requests for access to documents under the Act should be made by:

- Completing the Online FOI Request Form on Council's website – www.hrcc.vic.gov.au
- Writing to Horsham Rural City Council, PO Box 511, Horsham 3402
- Sending an email to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au
Before submitting a request, people should telephone the FOI Officer on (03) 5382 9777, or email council@hrcc.vic.gov.au, to clarify the information they are seeking, how they want to receive it, fees and charges, timelines, consultation with third parties and documents that may be exempt. The application fee during the 2022-23 financial year was \$30.60 plus any access charges that may be levied in accordance with the Freedom of Information Regulations. In 2022-2023 a total of seventeen requests were made, of which seven were processed under the Freedom of Information legislation, and eight processed outside of the legislation. Two requests were withdrawn.

How many requests did Horsham Rural City Council receive?

Personal Requests 11

Non-Personal Requests 6

- Applications fees of \$275.40 were collected. No application fees were waived due to financial hardship.
- Access charges applied \$25
- 2022-23 total charges - \$300.40

What happened?

Part access given	2
Full access given	4
Access denied in full	1
Unclear request, no further correspondence received	0
Withdrawn by applicant	2
Information provided outside FOI process	8
Lapsed after 28 days due to applicant fee not paid	0
No internal reviews were conducted.	
One new appeal to the FOI Commissioner was received challenging a decision made by HRCC.	
One new appeal was made to VCAT challenging a decision made by OVIC.	

Review Applications to OVIC and VCAT

Section 51 (1) review of a decision (OVIC)	1
Section 12 (1) notices served upon the Principal officer	0

Council's Principal Officer is Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer, however, under current Council delegations the officers with authority to make a decision in relation to a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* are: Director Corporate Services

and Team Leader Information and Knowledge. They can be contacted by email council@hrcc.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 5382 9777.

Documents Available for Public Inspection

In line with public transparency principles, Council makes the following documents available for public inspection. Most of these documents are available on the Horsham Rural City Council website – www.hrcc.vic.gov.au – alternatively, please contact Council on email council@hrcc.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 5382 9777 to arrange an inspection.

Overseas and Interstate Travel

A document containing details of overseas or interstate travel (other than interstate travel by land for less than 3 days) undertaken in an official capacity by any Councillor or member of Council staff in the previous 12 months including the:

- Name of the Councillor or member of Council staff
- Dates on which the travel began and ended
- Destination of the travel
- Purpose of the travel
- Total cost to the Council of the travel, including accommodation costs.

Council Agendas and Minutes

The agendas for, and minutes of, Council meetings held in the previous 12 months which are kept in accordance with the Horsham Rural City Council Governance Rules, other than those agendas and minutes relating to a part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and contain confidential information within the meaning of sections 3(1) and 125 of the Act.

Community Asset and Delegated Committee Minutes

The minutes of Community Asset and Delegated Committees established under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Note: Horsham Rural City Council's committee structure has been reviewed and the implementation of the review is currently underway.

Delegations

A register of delegations kept under sections 11 and 47 of the Act including the date on which the last review took place.

Leases

A document containing details of all leases involving land which were entered into by the Council as lessor, including the lessee and the terms and the value of the lease.

Authorised Officers

A register of Authorised Officers, including the date on which the last review took place.

Donations and Grants

A list of donations and grants made by the Council in the previous 12 months, including the names of persons who, or bodies which, have received a donation or grant and the amount of each donation or grant.

Procurement Activity

In 2022-23, Council submitted 39 projects through a competitive tender process for the procurement of works, goods and services in compliance with Council's Procurement Policy and obligations under Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* totalling \$11,954,546 based on available data at the time of this report. Seven major projects are currently under evaluation and contracts yet to be awarded. An additional 39 requests for quotation were awarded under a public Request for Quotation process in compliance with Council's Procurement Policy and obligations under Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, totalling \$2,596,669. Combined competitive procurement for 2022-23 is \$14,551,215. Council currently has 13 categories of annual supply contracts and has engaged 119 suppliers under these contracts.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and responsibilities outlines the basic human rights of all people in Victoria. The Charter requires public authorities such as Victorian State and Local Government department and agencies, and people delivering services on behalf of government, to act consistently with the human rights in the Charter when developing policies, making laws, delivering services and making decisions. It aims to build a fairer, more inclusive community by giving specific legal protection to the following 20 fundamental human rights.

Your right to recognition and equality before the law

Your right to life

Your right to protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

Your right to freedom from forced work

Your right to freedom of movement

Your right to privacy and reputation

Your right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief

Your right to freedom of expression

Your right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association

Your right to protection of families and children

Your right to taking part in public life

Cultural rights

Property right

Your right to liberty and security of person

Your right to humane treatment when deprived of liberty

Rights of children in the criminal process

Your right to a fair hearing Rights in criminal proceedings

Right not to be tried or punished more than once

Retrospective criminal laws

Council has numerous moral and legal obligations in respect to human rights issues. These include specific human rights requirements under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, equal opportunity legislation, bullying and harassment requirements, the *Local Government Act 2020* and federal legislation.

Local Laws

The objectives of local law are to provide for the peace, order and good government of the municipal district; protection, fair use and enjoyment of waterways managed by Council and Council land; safe and fair use of roads and road related areas; protection and improvement of the amenity of the municipal district; keeping and control of animals; and uniform and fair administration of this local law.

Horsham Rural City Council has the following Local Laws:

- *Community Local Law 2021* which commenced on 9 December 2021 this local law is made under Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 42 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.
- Community Local law Number 3 & 4 are now revoked.

2023-26 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Council adopted the 2023-26 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan in April 2023 in accordance with section 38 of the Disability Act 2006.

The Plan aims to reduce barriers and increase inclusion for people with a disability within the Horsham Rural City community.

In the 2022 Census, 6.3 percent (1,272) of local residents reported needing help with self-care, mobility, or communication due to a long-term health condition, disability, or old age. This figure does not capture all people living with disability in Horsham and surrounding communities, which is estimated at approximately 4,000.

Key highlights for disability action in the municipality for the year:

- Develop an internal Access and Inclusion Statement of Intent for Council, and renew the Accessible Events Guide.
- Improve Council's website and content accessibility, in compliance with accessibility standards.
- Review council service delivery processes to ensure adequate support for people with disability.
- Deliver staff training on important skillsets including Easy English and Universal Design for Learning.
- Coordinate and deliver staff training on providing inclusive and accessible customer support.
- Organise Universal Design Training for appropriate Council staff to participate in.
- Continue the development of design specifications for amenities to ensure best practice accessibility.

- Promote relevant local laws and physical access needs to residents and businesses to improve accessibility for people with disability
- Review recruitment processes to ensure job advertisements and application processes are inclusive and support participation.
- Support local businesses to become more inclusive by considering physical access, communication, disability awareness and inclusive employment.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), Council is required to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. This plan sets out a program of actions, which aims to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, and to implement the vision and strategic objectives identified for effective animal management control in the Horsham Rural City Council municipality.

Council adopted the new Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 in June 2022. The plan was prepared in consultation with the Domestic Animal Management Advisory Group, and extensive public engagement in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities under Section 68A of the Act and with reference to the Council Plan and Council Local Laws.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan:

- Documents Council's current animal management processes and practices
- Evaluates whether animal control services provided by Council meet strategic objectives, as set by the legislature and community standards

- Sets out a program of action Council intends to pursue to meet those strategic objectives
- Provides a benchmark against which progress in meeting the strategic objectives can be evaluated
- Provides a review of existing orders made by Council under the Act and Local Laws regarding the management of dogs and cats in the municipality.

A continued improvement process along with collaboration with rehoming organisations has supported us to decrease the number of animals being euthanized and increase rehoming of animals who are available for adoption.

Council has agreements with three rehome groups supporting the placement of unwanted animals in the municipality. These include Phoenix Animal Rescue, Catnap Kitten Rescue Horsham PAWS.

Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the Food Act 1984, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year. No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council this financial year.

Road Management Act Ministerial Direction

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council is required to publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial Directions received.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during this financial year.

Infrastructure and Development Contributions

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a Council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions including levies and works in kind.

For the 2022-23 year Council had no infrastructure or development contributions.

Victoria's Compulsory Child Safe Standards

Horsham Rural City Council remains committed to providing and promoting a child safe environment. Council has zero tolerance to child abuse and constantly endeavours to maintain a child safe and child friendly environment where children are safe and secure and have fun. This includes the physical, emotional, cultural and social wellbeing of all children, including promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

Council's Child Safe Policy and Reporting a Child Safety Concern Procedure are key documents in respect of child safety and can be found on the Horsham Rural City Council website – www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

These resources are currently under review in response to the Victorian Government's adoption of new Child Safe Standards introduced on 1 July 2022. Impacted organisations have 12 months to transition to the new Standards. Until then, the current Standards continue to apply.

Public Interest Disclosures

Horsham Rural City Council is a public body subject to the *Public Disclosures Act 2012* (Vic) (the Act). The purpose of the Act is to encourage and facilitate disclosures of improper conduct by public officers, public bodies and other persons, and detrimental action taken in reprisal for a person making a disclosure under the Act. The Act provides protection to persons who make disclosures or who may suffer detrimental action in reprisal for those disclosures.

Council recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment, misconduct in public office or serious professional misconduct.

The role of the Public Interest Disclosures Co-ordinator is held by the Chief Executive Officer, the Public Interest Disclosures Officer by the Director Corporate Services, and Welfare Manager by the Manager People and Culture.

For the purposes of Section 69 (1) (b) of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*, in the period to 30 June 2022, no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures, or to the Independent Broad-based Anticorruption Commission (IBAC).

Council's Public Interest Disclosure Procedure (2020), provides details of Council's system for reporting disclosures of improper conduct, serious professional misconduct, detrimental action or misdirected disclosures by Councillors or employees.

Governance and Management Checklist

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
1. Community engagement policy (policy under section 55 of the Act outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. Date of adoption: 22 February 2021
2. Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Implemented to support the policy.
3. Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act Date of adoption: 27 June 2022
4. Asset Plan (plan under section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act. Date of adoption: 25 October 2021
5. Revenue and Rating Plan (plan under section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act Date of adoption: 26 June 2023
6. Annual budget (plan under section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act Date of adoption: 26 June 2023
7. Risk policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to council's operations)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 1 June 2021
8. Fraud policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 26 June 2023
9. Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 60ADB of the Emergency Management Act 2013 for emergency mitigation, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 60ADB of the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i> Date of preparation: September 2022
10. Procurement policy (policy under section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act Date of adoption: 30 January 2023
11. Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Business Continuity Management Policy Date of adoption: 27 June 2023
12. Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Disaster Recovery Plan 29 June 2015
13. Risk management framework (framework outlining council's approach to managing risks to the council's operations)	Framework Date of commencement of current framework: 1 June 2021
14. Audit and Risk Committee (see sections 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act Date of re-establishment: 24 August 2020

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
15. Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged Date of engagement of current provider: 23 September 2019
16. Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	Framework Date of adoption of current framework: 30 June 2022
17. Council Plan report (report reviewing the performance of the council against the council plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Report Date reports presented: July - December (27 February 2023) and January to March (26 June 2023)
18. Financial reporting (quarterly statements to the Council under section 97(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> , comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Reports presented to the Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> Date reports presented: July - December (27 February 2023) and January to March (26 June 2023)
19. Risk reporting (6-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports Date of reports: 21 September 2022 and 16 March 2023
20. Performance reporting (6-monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	Reports Date of reports: July to September and October to December (27 February 2023), January to March (26 June 2023)
21. Annual report (annual report under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act Date statements presented: 24 October 2022
22. Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)	Reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act Date reviewed: 22 February 2021
23. Delegations (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with sections 11 and 47 of the Act)	Reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act Date of review: 26 September 2022 and 27 March 2023
24. Meeting procedures (Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act Date Governance Rules adopted: 26 June 2023

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.

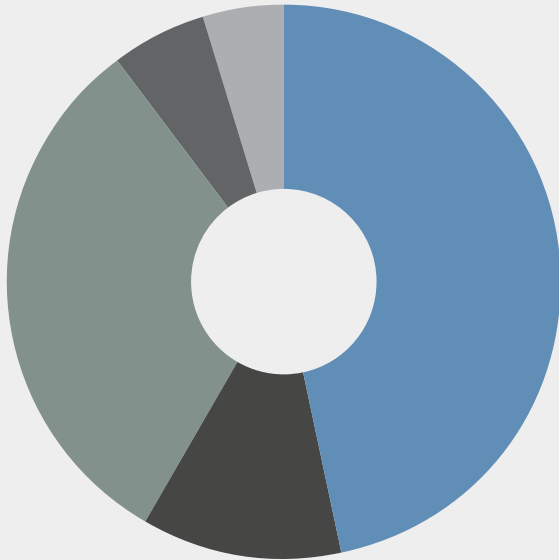


Kevin O'Brien
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 9 October 2023

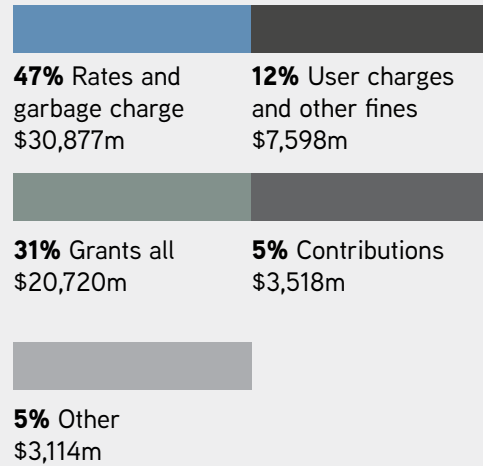


Cr Robyn Gulline
Mayor
Dated: 9 October 2023

Where our money comes from



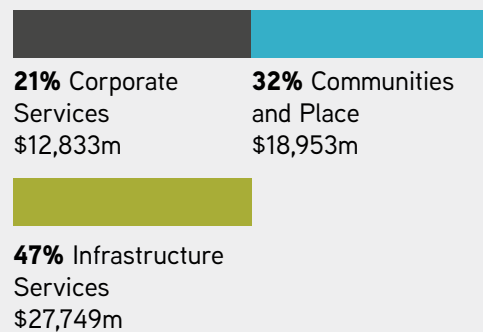
Income



Where our money goes

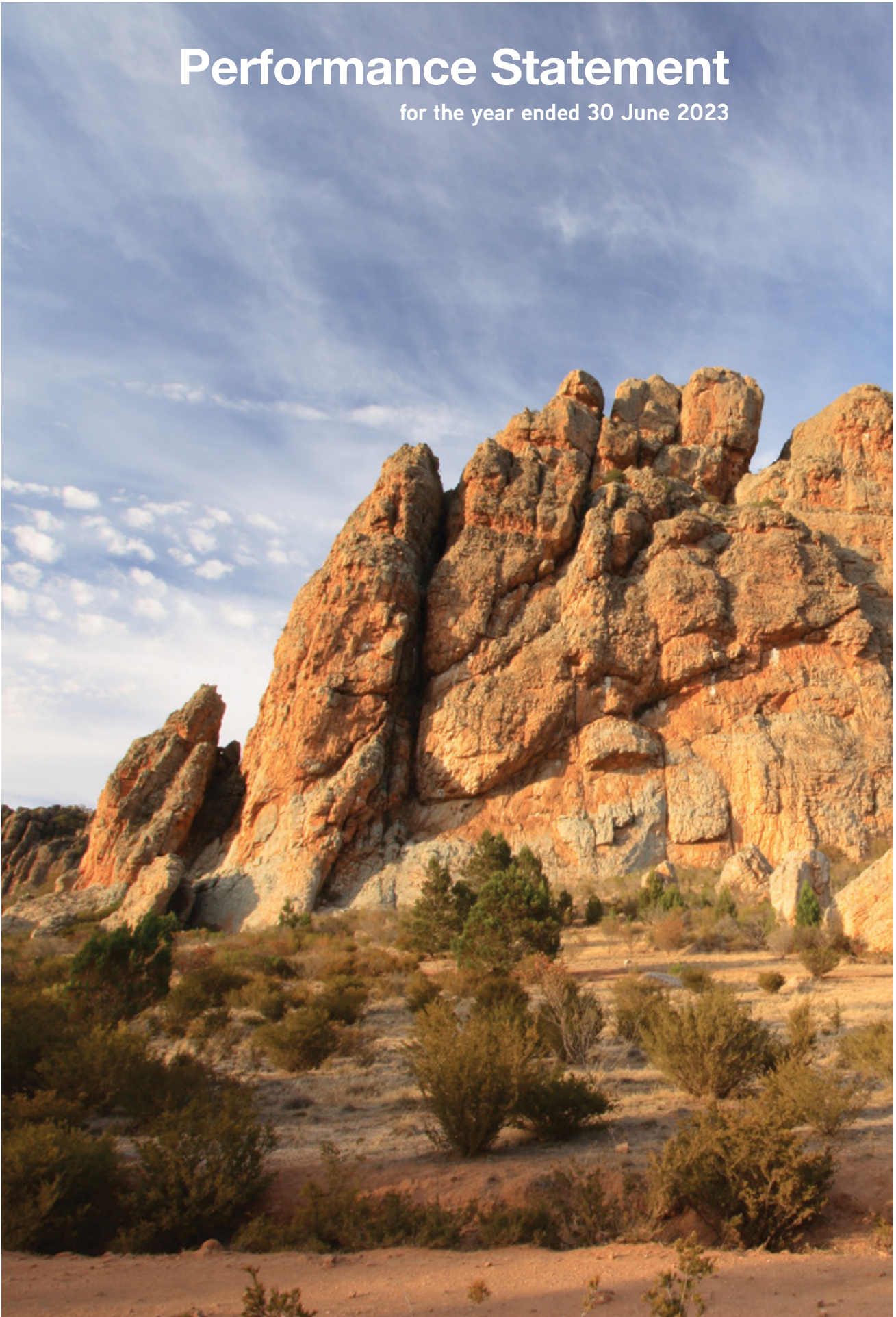


Expenditure



Performance Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2023



2022/2023 Performance Statement**Performance Statement**

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Description of municipality

Horsham Rural City is a regional city in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region of Western Victoria. The Wimmera Southern Mallee encompasses 20 percent of the area of Victoria and only 1 percent of the population. Horsham Rural City Council has an estimated residential population of 20,429 people (2021).

Approximately three quarters of residents live within the urban area of Horsham.

At the 2021 Census, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up 2.2 percent of the population and 90.9 percent of the population were born in Australia. India, England, Philippines, New Zealand and Italy were the most common countries of birth.

Arapiles	Grass Flat	McKenzie Creek	Telangatuk East
Blackheath	Haven	Mitre	Tooan
Brimpaen	Jilpanger	Mockinya	Toolondo
Bungalally	Jung	Murra Warra	Vectis
Clear Lake	Kalkee	Noradjuha	Wail
Dadswells Bridge	Kanagulk	Nurrabel	Wartook
Dooen	Kewell	Pimpinio	Wonwondah
Douglas	Laharum	Quantong	
Drung	Longerenong	Riverside	
Duchembegarra	Lower Norton	St Helen's Plains	

Horsham is a hub in the Wimmera for health care, niche retail, community services and arts and culture opportunities. A dryland and broad acre agricultural municipality, Horsham is home to the Grains Innovation Park (a nationally acclaimed agricultural research centre) and quality educational facilities including private and public secondary colleges, a university and an agricultural college. The municipality also has a rich indigenous history and an abundance of diverse natural assets including recreational lakes, wetlands, the Wimmera River, Mount Arapiles and the Wartook Valley with the Grampians National Park nearby.

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Indicator / measure [formula]	Results				Comment
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Population					
Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$2,710.36	\$2,827.76	\$2,825.91	\$2,928.86	
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$22,522.56	\$24,432.96	\$26,502.28	\$28,796.77	
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	6.70	6.86	6.69	6.81	
Own-source revenue					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,876.81	\$1,852.98	\$1,918.44	\$2,045.98	
Recurrent grants					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$496.21	\$526.03	\$559.94	\$626.31	Mainly due to increase in Victorian Grants Commission in 2022/23.
Disadvantage					
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	
Workforce turnover					
Percentage of staff turnover [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	10.1%	24.8%	22.0%	15.2%	There were lesser staff leaving in 2022/23.

Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the Council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004

"population" means the resident population estimated by Council

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Service/indicator/measure [formula]	Results				Comment
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Aquatic Facilities					
Utilisation					
<i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	6.73	3.03	4.17	5.05	There has been a 21% increase in Aquatic centre utilisation, in part due to the stabilisation of services and hours post Covid, and the public greater confidence in accessing public spaces.
Animal Management					
Health and safety					
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0%	100%	0%	0%	No animal management prosecutions occurred in FY 2022-23.
Food Safety					
Health and safety					
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	75.86%	76.47%	70.00%	100.00%	All major and critical non-compliance items were followed up.
Governance					
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	39	48	52	42	Council has publicly committed to an action plan addressing community satisfaction in response to recent results.
Libraries					
Participation					
<i>Active library borrowers in municipality</i> [Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100	10.84%	9.08%	7.68%	6.97%	
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Participation					
<i>Participation in the MCH service</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	87.94%	91.31%	85.91%	90.58%	
<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	88.76%	97.30%	89.13%	93.55%	
Roads					
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	39	47	45	38	Council has been aware that the Roads under Vic Roads have deteriorated significantly and are in touch with the concerned department. However, this has been misunderstood by the public as Council responsible roads. Efforts are in place to inform the public in the appropriate forum and form.
Statutory Planning					
Decision making					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No planning decisions at VCAT concluded in FY 2022-23.
Waste Collection					
Waste diversion					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	20.49%	19.91%	19.07%	25.90%	Since the launch of glass & FOGO in April 2023, landfill diversion rates have increase by 50%.

Definitions

"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person

"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

"active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

"annual report" means an annual report prepared by a Council under section 98 of the Act

"class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by Council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to Council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

"food premises" has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the Council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004

"major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a Council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to Council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a Council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

"population" means the resident population estimated by Council

Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations and Comments	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Efficiency										
Expenditure level										
<i>Expenses per property assessment</i> [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$4,499.42	\$4,354.31	\$4,339.08	\$4,579.62	\$4,312.85	\$4,383.31	\$4,479.00	\$4,579.85		
Revenue level										
<i>Average rate per property assessment</i> [Total rate revenue (general rates and municipal charges) / Number of property assessments]	\$2,015.17	\$1,914.08	\$1,965.38	\$2,032.15	\$2,126.98	\$2,207.71	\$2,291.00	\$2,377.13		
Liquidity										
Working capital										
<i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i> [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	218.62%	220.32%	228.96%	270.71%	212.13%	232.00%	215.26%	181.85%	The increase in the ratio is mainly due to the receipt in advance of the Victorian Grants commission in the Financial year 2022/23.	
Unrestricted cash										
<i>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</i> [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	-18.35%	-45.88%	-32.14%	79.66%	157.43%	152.91%	142.55%	107.27%	Recognition of Unearned Income/Grants in the current Financial year, change in the levels of Term deposits and Cash and Cash equivalents in 2022/23 contributed to the increase in the Ratio.	
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings										
<i>Loans and borrowings compared to rates</i> [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	17.75%	15.48%	14.46%	13.94%	14.42%	11.64%	23.21%	23.59%		
<i>Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates</i> [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	2.59%	2.39%	1.05%	0.55%	3.62%	12.96%	2.10%	4.34%	Loan of \$1M borrowed in 2012 specifically for Drainage work and Intermodal freight hub was completely paid off 2021/22, improving the Ratio.	
Indebtedness										
<i>Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue</i> [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	22.94%	23.01%	26.80%	22.29%	12.76%	19.99%	26.79%	29.18%	Mainly due to increase in Rates, users fee and Other income and reduction in our Loan liabilities and Provisions in 2022/23.	
Asset renewal and upgrade										
<i>Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation</i> [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	89.47%	108.06%	79.22%	71.15%	127.32%	148.97%	170.12%	126.16%	Due to prioritising the Flood related damages Council resources had to allocated to Non-renewal projects.	
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result										
<i>Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)</i> [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	-8.60%	-1.22%	-11.15%	-5.01%	-3.44%	1.51%	6.70%	1.20%	This has been mainly due to the recognition of Unearned Grants in the current financial year which were previously classified as Unearned income under Current liabilities.	
Stability										
Rates concentration										
<i>Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue</i> [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	55.63%	51.22%	58.67%	54.46%	60.21%	58.40%	56.05%	60.08%		
Rates effort										
<i>Rates compared to property values</i> [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.60%	0.60%	0.56%	0.42%	0.43%	0.42%	0.41%	0.41%	There has been a higher increase in Property values in 2022/23 compared to the increase in the Rates levied which is limited by Rate Cap.	
Definitions	<p>"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS</p> <p>"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than: (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above</p> <p>"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure</p> <p>"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability</p>				<p>"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS</p> <p>"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets</p> <p>"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities</p> <p>"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan</p> <p>"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)</p>				<p>"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges</p> <p>"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant</p> <p>"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties</p> <p>"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year</p> <p>"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.</p>	

2022/2023 Performance Statement

Other Information

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the Long-Term Financial Plan. *The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by Council in the Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2023-24 on 26 June 2023. The budget includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements.

2022/2023 Performance Statement**Certification of the Performance Statements**

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.



Ramakrishnan Subramaniam, CPA
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated : 9th October 2023
Horsham

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Horsham Rural City Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly the result of Council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainability capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the performance statements in their final form.




Cr Robyn Gulline
Mayor

Dated : 9th October 2023
Horsham



Cr Les Power
Councillor

Dated : 9th October 2023
Horsham



Kevin O'Brien
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Dated : 9th October 2023
Horsham



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Horsham Rural City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Horsham Rural City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2023 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • other information and • certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Horsham Rural City Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
18 October 2023



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Horsham Rural City Council ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Ramakrishnan Subramaniam

Ramakrishnan Subramaniam, CPA
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated : 9th October 2023

Horsham

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Horsham Rural City Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.


We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

Cr Robyn Gulline

Mayor

Dated : 9th October 2023

Horsham



Cr Les Power

Councillor

Dated : 9th October 2023

Horsham

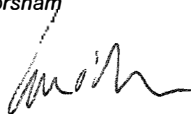


Kevin O'Brien

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Dated : 9th October 2023

Horsham





Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Horsham Rural City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Horsham Rural City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2023 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
18 October 2023



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	30,877	29,757
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	480	382
User fees	3.3	7,118	6,252
Grants - operating	3.4	13,680	11,006
Grants - capital	3.4	7,040	8,453
Contributions - monetary	3.5	365	563
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	3,253	2,239
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	1,092	118
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures	6.3	(436)	390
Other income	3.7	2,458	1,395
Total income / revenue		65,928	60,555
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	19,513	19,630
Materials and services	4.2	22,598	20,980
Depreciation	4.3	15,577	12,793
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.4	330	233
Amortisation - right of use assets	4.5	55	55
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	4.6	137	91
Borrowing costs	4.7	181	185
Finance costs - leases	4.8	10	33
Other expenses	4.9	464	386
Written down value of assets disposed	3.6	671	2,022
Total expenses		59,535	56,408
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		6,392	4,147
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	62,719	38,062
Net impairment of revalued assets increment/(decrement)	6.2	(7,673)	-
Total other comprehensive income		55,046	38,062
Total comprehensive result		61,438	42,209

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	12,853	9,345
Trade and other receivables	5.1	1,682	1,986
Other financial assets	5.1	27,000	29,600
Inventories	5.2	253	213
Prepayments	5.2	318	370
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	6.1	134	459
Other assets	5.2	1,436	2,105
Total current assets		43,676	44,078
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	413	398
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.3	1,939	2,375
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	633,272	574,737
Right-of-use assets	5.8	274	328
Investment property	6.4	2,520	2,520
Intangible assets	5.2	990	1,320
Total non-current assets		639,408	581,678
Total assets		683,084	625,756
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	4,370	4,545
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	693	762
Unearned income/revenue	5.3	4,517	7,618
Provisions	5.5	6,500	6,273
Lease liabilities	5.8	55	53
Total current liabilities		16,134	19,251
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.5	4,730	5,668
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	4,305	4,305
Lease liabilities	5.8	236	290
Total non-current liabilities		9,271	10,263
Total liabilities		25,405	29,514
Net assets		657,679	596,242
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		250,225	244,996
Discretionary Reserves	9.1	18,004	16,841
Reserves	9.1	389,450	334,405
Total Equity		657,679	596,242

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2023	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Discretionary Reserve \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		596,242	244,996	334,405	16,841
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		6,392	6,392	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	55,045	-	55,045	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	4,827	-	(4,827)
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	(5,990)	-	5,990
		<u>657,679</u>	<u>250,225</u>	<u>389,450</u>	<u>18,004</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		657,679	250,225	389,450	18,004

2022		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Discretionary Reserve \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		554,033	239,537	296,343	18,153
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,147	4,147	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.2	38,062	-	38,062	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(5,558)	-	5,558
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	6,870	-	(6,870)
		<u>596,242</u>	<u>244,996</u>	<u>334,405</u>	<u>16,841</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		596,242	244,996	334,405	16,841

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Rates and charges	30,801	29,537
Statutory fees and fines	590	342
User fees	7,696	4,651
Grants - operating	13,199	12,226
Grants - capital	6,091	8,453
Contributions - monetary	365	563
Interest received	723	155
Rent	333	271
Other receipts	1,318	(710)
Net GST refund/payment	1,662	2,258
Employee costs	(20,097)	(19,714)
Materials and services	(24,881)	(20,024)
Other payments	(1,361)	(1,518)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	16,439	16,490
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2 (17,311)	(15,092)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,057	551
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,600	2,400
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(12,654)	(12,141)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Finance costs	(181)	(185)
Repayment of borrowings	11	(127)
Interest paid - lease liability	(54)	(33)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(53)	(51)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(277)	(396)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,508	3,953
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	9,345	5,392
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	12,853	9,345
Financing arrangements	5.6	

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Property			
Land		-	7
Works in Progress		200	-
Total land		<u>200</u>	<u>7</u>
Buildings		626	989
Works in Progress		2,148	690
Total buildings		<u>2,774</u>	<u>1,679</u>
Total property		<u>2,974</u>	<u>1,686</u>
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		2,042	2,334
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		136	412
Art Collection		232	349
Works in Progress		40	48
Total plant and equipment		<u>2,450</u>	<u>3,143</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads		3,088	5,471
Bridges		59	377
Footpaths and cycleways		312	71
Drainage		45	83
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		88	-
Waste management		-	920
Parks, open space and streetscapes		1,088	680
Aerodromes		334	-
Off street car parks		16	35
Other infrastructure		150	44
Work in Progress		6,707	2,582
Total infrastructure		<u>11,887</u>	<u>10,263</u>
Total capital works expenditure		<u>17,311</u>	<u>15,092</u>
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		6,228	4,958
Asset renewal expenditure		8,183	9,409
Asset upgrade expenditure		2,900	725
Total capital works expenditure		<u>17,311</u>	<u>15,092</u>

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Horsham Rural City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20th January 1995 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 18 Roberts Avenue Horsham.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.8)
- whether or not AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$400,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	30,666	30,877	211	0.7	
Statutory fees and fines	498	480	(18)	(3.6)	
User fees	5,569	7,118	1,549	27.8	1
Grants - operating	11,502	13,680	2,178	18.9	2
Grants - capital	8,757	7,040	(1,717)	(19.6)	
Contributions - monetary	121	365	244	201.7	
Contributions - non monetary	450	3,253	2,803	622.9	3
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(132)	1,092	1,224	(927.3)	
Fair value adjustments for investment property	20	-	(20)	(100.0)	
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures	30	(436)	(466)	(1,553.3)	
Other income	2,156	2,458	302	14.0	4
Total income / revenue	59,637	65,928	6,290	10.5	
Expenses					
Employee costs	20,354	19,513	841	4.1	5
Materials and services	21,649	22,598	(949)	(4.4)	6
Depreciation	12,188	15,577	(3,389)	(27.8)	7
Amortisation - intangible assets	260	330	(70)	(26.9)	
Amortisation - right of use assets	55	55	-	-	
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	88	137	(49)	(55.7)	8
Borrowing costs	171	181	(10)	(5.8)	
Finance costs - leases	10	10	-	-	
Other expenses	365	464	(99)	(27.1)	9
Written down value of assets disposed	-	671	(671)	-	
Total expenses	55,140	59,535	(4,396)	(144)	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,497	6,392	1,894	42.1	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(i) Explanation of material variations

- 1 User Fees:**
Budget 2022/23 estimates were conservative, keeping in mind the Covid conditions prevailing at the time of Budget preparation, however actual income was much higher.
- 2 Grants Operating:**
The variance is mainly due to the increase in the Grants amount we received for 2023/24, in 2022/23, that could not be deferred per the Accounting Standards
- 3 Contributions - non monetary**
The increase is mainly due to the Contributed Road assets [\$2.8M] during 2022/23 which was not Budgeted for.
- 4 Other income:**
Higher than Budgeted interest on Council's Term Deposits resulted in higher Interest income [\$1.05M]
- 5 Employee costs:**
There has been a slight decrease in the Employee costs due to many senior staff retiring during the year and with settlement of their entitlements there was decrease in Employee provisions for the year ended June 2023
- 6 Materials and services:**
Significant factors resulting in increase of Materials and Services was due to the unprecedented increase in Fuel price and the flood related expenditure for Roads restoration [Actual spend in 2022/23 is \$800k]. Council has also had to pay higher costs to obtain services of Contractors to complete operational projects planned for the year.
It is also to be noted that Flood impacted Roads restoration costs are being reimbursed by the Government and this has been reflected in the Operating Grants in the Income section.
- 7 Depreciation:**
The increase in Depreciation is mainly due to the Revaluation process of Roads works performed in 2022/23. The Valuers opined that the quality of the Roads reflected a much better condition that what it was earlier stated as. Based on the revised condition of the Roads, value of the Road asset increased by \$65M and consequently Depreciation was proportionately calculated/increased by the Asset system.
- 8 Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses**
There was a higher than Budgeted write off on Infringement dues during the year.
- 9 Other expenses:**
Mainly due to creating the Deputy Mayor position in 2022/23.
- 10 Written down value of assets disposed:**
This presents the value of the assets written off due to termination of their useful life.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Works in Progress	-	200	200	100.0	1
Total land	-	200	200	100.0	
Buildings	5,371	626	(4,745)	(88.3)	2
Works in Progress	-	2,148	2,148	100.0	3
Total buildings	5,371	2,774	(2,597)	(48.4)	
Total property	5,371	2,974	(2,397)	(44.6)	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,158	2,042	(116)	(5.4)	
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	383	136	(247)	(64.5)	
Art Collection	-	232	232	100.0	4
Works in Progress	-	40	40	100.0	
Total plant and equipment	2,541	2,450	(91)	(3.6)	
Infrastructure					
Roads	8,527	3,088	(5,439)	(63.8)	5
Bridges	105	59	(46)	(43.8)	
Footpaths and cycleways	584	312	(272)	(46.6)	6
Drainage	142	45	(97)	(68.3)	
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1,991	88	(1,903)	(95.6)	7
Parks, open space and streetscapes	403	1,088	685	170.0	8
Aerodromes	-	334	334	100.0	
Off street car parks	288	16	(272)	(94.4)	9
Other infrastructure	1,344	150	(1,194)	(88.8)	10
Works in Progress	-	6,707	6,707	100.0	
Total infrastructure	13,384	11,887	(1,497)	(11.2)	
Total capital works expenditure	21,296	17,311	(3,985)	(18.7)	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	6,623	6,228	(395)	(6.0)	
Asset renewal expenditure	11,119	8,183	(2,936)	(26.4)	
Asset upgrade expenditure	3,554	2,900	(654)	(18.4)	
Total capital works expenditure	21,296	17,311	(3,985)	(18.7)	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(i) Explanation of material variations

- 1 Land Work in progress:**
Council has made a payment for this land at an attractive price which is being planned to be utilised in Council's future development projects. This was not Budgeted for in 2022/23.
- 2 Buildings:**
A significant part of our Building projects are Grant dependent and Council is awaiting approval from the relevant Government department. It is expected that approvals will be obtained in 2023/24 and works to commence soon thereafter. [Netball Court Clubrooms \$1.5M, Events stage, Broadcast Box and Storage \$1.05M, Community Centre \$0.7M and others]
- 3 Building work in progress:**
The lack of availability of Contractors mainly due to the flood impact in the municipality has resulted in delaying many of the projects in 2022/23. Mainly related to Projects specified in point 2.
- 4 Art collection**
These Projects were approved outside of the Budget preparation time and backed up with adequate funding. New Horsham entrance sculpture \$32k which was a part of the City to River Activation Project, Silo Art \$82k and, Covid Outdoor Laneway Activation Public Art \$99k. These projects have been acquitted as per the Grant funding agreements.
- 5 Roads**
Delays in the approval of grants by the Federal Government of for Road projects resulted in the delay of commencement of several projects. The projects are planned to be completed in 2023/24. Mainly related to Burnt Creek Industrial Estate \$1.08M, Enterprise Estate Stage 1 \$0.84M, Polkemmet Road \$0.68M and others.
- 6 Footpaths and cycleways**
Due to contractor timing issues, the completion of the Hamilton St pedestrian bridge was delayed. Footpath Rehabilitation - Disability Strategy Upgrade Project \$50k and Extend Bike Tracks \$105k.
- 7 Recreational, leisure and community facilities**
Mainly related to Projects which are almost complete and/or waiting for final approval of work completion. Mainly related to City to River Nature Play Park \$0.85M, Netball court construction \$0.65M, CBD Revitalisation and Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility \$280k.
- 8 Parks, open space and streetscapes**
Mainly related to VicTrack land development south of Mill street \$214k and playground equipment \$200k.
- 9 Off street car parks**
Parking Management Plan Implementation nearing completion \$210k.
- 10 Work in progress:**
Unfinished projects nearing completion and which are planned to be carried out in 2023/24 financial year. Comprising Building, Roads, Footpaths and Cycleways, Offstreet car parks, Recreational facilities and Parks and Open spaces. Some of the projects are multi-year funded and hence work is still being carried out. Few projects are nearly completed [Sports facilities, CBD revitalisation and City to River Nature Play park]. There were also delays in obtaining Approvals for the HVSPP Road funded projects.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

Communities and Place Directorate

Communities and Place Directorate provides community care, family services, emergency management, arts and culture, performance and events, recreation and open space planning. The directorate also provides planning and building services, health and community safety, investment and attraction services, commercial operations, tourism and events.

Corporate Services Directorate

Corporate Services provides administration, management and governance of the municipality including financial services, revenue services (rates), information technology, human resource management, payroll, governance, communications, customer service and information and knowledge.

Infrastructure Services Directorate

Infrastructure Services is responsible for the maintenance and constructing new infrastructure across the municipality. This includes capital works, engineering services, project management, environmental and waster, parks and gardens, emergency management, facilities management and strategic asset management.

Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Communities and Place	9,125	(18,953)	(9,828)	3,190	77,259
Corporate Services	35,515	(12,833)	22,682	7,412	64,380
Infrastructure Services	21,287	(27,749)	(6,462)	10,118	541,445
	65,927	(59,535)	6,392	20,720	683,084

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022					
Communities and Place	5,502	(11,403)	(5,901)	4,952	79,353
Corporate Services	34,373	(10,427)	23,946	5,817	57,456
Infrastructure Services	20,680	(34,578)	(13,898)	8,690	488,947
	60,555	(56,408)	4,147	19,459	625,756

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

	2023	2022
3.1 Rates and charges	\$'000	\$'000

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is the value of the land and all its improvements.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2022/23 was \$6,905 million (2021/22 \$5,228 million).

General rates	24,141	22,832
Municipal charge	2,292	2,734
Waste management charge	4,152	3,931
Interest on rates and charges	20	-
Revenue in lieu of rates	272	260
Total rates and charges	30,877	29,757

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2022, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2022.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Infringements and costs	32	35
Court recoveries	8	9
Issue of certificates	25	32
Local Laws - permits & licences	38	8
Town planning fees	252	152
Land information certificates	125	146
Total statutory fees and fines	480	382

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3.3 User fees		
Administration charges	113	109
Animal control	560	477
Building fees & other charges	199	254
Fees - parking meters	228	222
Performance ticket sales *	1,215	782
Sporting and recreation facilities	86	104
Freight Hub user charge	93	127
Supervision of private subdivisions	46	65
Plan checking fees	15	21
Aerodrome	38	37
Saleyards	531	473
Wimmera business centre income	95	95
Rural revegetation scheme	8	5
Garbage charges	1	3
Garbage disposal	1,282	1,238
Transfer station	464	450
Waste management fees	2,013	1,703
Fire hazards grass removal	4	2
Other user fees	127	88
Total user fees	7,118	6,252
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised over time	1,215	782
User fees recognised at a point in time	5,904	5,470
Total user fees	7,118	6,252

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.* Ticket income consists of ticket sales through Horsham Town Hall.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	11,841	12,002
State funded grants	8,879	7,457
Total grants received	<u>20,720</u>	<u>19,459</u>
(a) Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Commonwealth Government family and children	52	32
Financial Assistance Grant - general purpose	6,370	5,329
Financial Assistance Grant - local roads	3,399	3,064
General Home Care	26	89
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
School crossing supervisors	59	49
Community services	240	53
Maternal and child health	659	636
Youth services	52	39
Library	200	197
Arts and art gallery	170	186
Environmental and landcare grants	75	75
Total recurrent operating grants	<u>11,303</u>	<u>9,749</u>
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>	-	-
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Rural Council Corporate Collaboration project	996	473
Australia Day grants	12	15
Community services	49	90
Flood Support	500	-
Family and children	73	-
Public and community health	84	25
Youth services	3	5
Recreation	1	43
Arts and art gallery	74	41
Economic development	70	70
Aerodrome	239	-
Environmental and landcare grants	107	149
Employment schemes	67	38
Covid 19 grants	102	308
Total non-recurrent operating grants	<u>2,377</u>	<u>1,257</u>
Total operating grants	<u><u>13,680</u></u>	<u><u>11,006</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(b) Capital Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	1,428	1,428
Recurrent - State Government		
Total recurrent capital grants	1,428	1,428
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Community Infrastructure	52	2,060
Physical Services	513	-
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Outdoor recreation	3,067	1,700
Indoor Recreation	-	73
Halls, historic buildings & monuments	225	224
Economic development	-	659
Local roads & ancillary assets	951	1,789
Flood recovery	624	-
Caravan Park	126	444
Recycling and waste grants	53	76
Total non-recurrent capital grants	5,612	7,025
Total capital grants	<u>7,040</u>	<u>8,453</u>

(c) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

General purpose	9,769	8,393
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	7,040	8,453
Other specific purpose grants	-	-
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	3,911	2,613
	<u>20,720</u>	<u>19,459</u>

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner		
<i>Operating</i>		
Balance at start of year	11,710	10,286
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	8,966	5,917
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	<u>(11,609)</u>	<u>(4,493)</u>
Balance at year end	<u>9,067</u>	<u>11,710</u>
<i>Capital</i>		
Balance at start of year	1,919	299
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	291	1,709
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	<u>(1,919)</u>	<u>(89)</u>
Balance at year end	<u>291</u>	<u>1,919</u>

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

3.5 Contributions

Monetary	365	563
Non-monetary	<u>3,253</u>	<u>2,239</u>
Total contributions	<u>3,618</u>	<u>2,802</u>

Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.

Land	183	592
Roads & Bridges	2,805	1,432
Artworks	1	115
Other infrastructure	264	100
Total non-monetary contributions	<u>3,253</u>	<u>2,239</u>

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as revenue at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	2,057	551
Written down value of assets disposed	(965)	(433)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,092	118
The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.		
Written down value of assets written off	(671)	(2,022)
3.7 Other income		
Interest	1,051	79
Interest on rates	-	20
External works	268	190
Road maintenance/works	3	5
Main roads maintenance VicRoads	418	439
Pre-school income	-	16
Other welfare receipts	-	16
Community workshop income	4	3
Art gallery	21	53
Information office	30	39
Children's hub rent	34	67
Theatre rent	-	6
Mibus centre rent	12	12
Commercial properties rent	230	228
Caravan park rent	69	66
Other	317	156
Total other income	2,458	1,395

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	17,835	17,527
WorkCover	314	268
Workcover additional payment	-	703
Superannuation	1,846	1,628
Fringe benefits tax	128	109
Less Labour costs capitalised in non-current assets constructed by Council	(610)	(605)
Total employee costs	19,513	19,630

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super) and other funds	103	114
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Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super) and other funds	1,743	1,541
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Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	148	173
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Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.2 Materials and services		
Contract payments (by department)		
Arts, Culture & Recreation	741	938
Community Services & Safety	78	75
Engineering & Capital Projects	2,993	2,274
Finance	21	38
Governance & Information	92	140
Investment, Attraction & Growth	870	912
Management	86	76
Operations	1,029	740
People, Culture & Performance	340	354
Strategic Asset Management	278	211
Administration expenses	1,591	1,540
Utility expenses	947	946
Contract cleaning	473	407
Advertising	258	220
Agency staff - temporary	1,475	1,226
Consumables	2,652	2,444
Insurance	775	734
Donations	333	367
Legal costs	301	231
Maintenance & operating expenses	5,970	6,221
Library membership	536	512
WDA membership	228	207
Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration	531	167
Total materials and services	22,598	20,980

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4.3 Depreciation		
Property	1,348	1,318
Plant and equipment	1,471	1,164
Infrastructure	12,758	10,311
Total depreciation	15,577	12,793
<i>Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and accounting policy.</i>		
4.4 Amortisation - Intangible assets		
Landfill Airspace	330	233
Total Amortisation - Intangible assets	330	233
4.5 Amortisation - Right of use assets		
Property	55	55
Total Amortisation - Right of use assets	55	55
4.6 Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses		
Parking fine debtors	9	5
Animal fine debtors	129	86
Other debtors	-	-
Total bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	137	91
Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors		
Balance at the beginning of the year	409	342
New provisions recognised during the year	106	67
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	-	-
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	-	-
Balance at end of year	515	409

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4.7 Borrowing costs		
Interest - Borrowings	171	175
Finance costs airspace	10	10
Less capitalised borrowing costs on qualifying assets	-	-
Total borrowing costs	181	185

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council.

4.8 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	10	33
Total finance costs	10	33

4.9 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	52	50
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	23	18
Councillors' allowances	389	318
Total other expenses	464	386

Horsham Rural City Council
2022/2023 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023	2022
5.1 Financial assets	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	4	5
Cash at bank	12,849	9,340
Total cash and cash equivalents	12,853	9,345
(b) Other financial assets		
Term deposits - current	27,000	29,600
Total other financial assets	27,000	29,600
Total financial assets	39,853	38,945

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(c) Trade and other receivables		
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	421	327
Parking infringement Debtors	134	138
Other Infringement debtors	510	370
Provision for doubtful debts - infringements	(498)	(386)
Net GST receivable	343	278
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Loans and advances to community organisations	11	35
Other debtors	778	1,248
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(17)	(24)
Total current trade and other receivables	<u>1,682</u>	<u>1,986</u>
Non-current		
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Loans and advances to community organisations	369	357
Deferred property debts receivable	44	41
Total non-current trade and other receivables	<u>413</u>	<u>398</u>
Total trade and other receivables	<u>2,095</u>	<u>2,384</u>

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of Receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	519	1,235
Past due by up to 30 days	199	37
Past due between 31 and 180 days	1	2
Past due between 181 and 365 days	69	9
Past due by more than 1 year	-	-
Total trade and other receivables	<u>789</u>	<u>1,283</u>

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$515k (2022: \$410k) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$515k (2022: \$410k). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Current (not yet due)	-	-
Past due by up to 30 days	-	-
Past due between 31 and 180 days	19	32
Past due between 181 and 365 days	65	40
Past due by more than 1 year	431	338
Total trade & other receivables	<u>515</u>	<u>410</u>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.2 Non-financial assets	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(a) Inventories		
Inventories held for distribution	253	213
Total inventories	253	213

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets		
Prepayments	318	370
Accrued income	1,436	2,105
Other	-	-
Total other assets	1,754	2,475

(c) Intangible assets		
Landfill air space	1,320	233
add additions	-	1,320
less amortisation	(330)	(233)
Total intangible assets	990	1,320

Landfill
\$'000

Gross carrying amount

Balance at 1 July 2022	1,320
Additions from internal developments	-
Other additions	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,320

Accumulated amortisation and impairment

Balance at 1 July 2022	-
Amortisation expense	(330)
Balance at 30 June 2023	(330)
Net book value at 30 June 2022	1,320
Net book value at 30 June 2023	990

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the asset's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value, less any estimated residual value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	4,181	4,402
Accrued expenses	3	3
<i>Statutory payables</i>		
Net GST payable	186	140
	-	-
Total current trade and other payables	4,370	4,545
(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	502	568
Fire services levy	-	-
Retention amounts	-	-
Other refundable deposits	191	194
Total current trust funds and deposits	693	762
(c) Unearned income/revenue		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	3,039	4,010
Grants received in advance - capital	1,366	3,486
Other	112	122
Total current unearned income/revenue	4,517	7,618

Unearned income/revenue represents contract liabilities and reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of unexpended grants. Unearned income/revenue are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Purpose and nature of items

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

Horsham Rural City Council has received monies as agent for the following: Art Gallery Trust Fund, Mack Jost Trust Fund, Con Kroker Trust Fund, Wimmera Regional Library Corporation, Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (previously Wimmera Development Association) and Horsham Cemetery Trust. Horsham Rural City Council performs only a custodial role in respect of these monies, and the monies cannot be used for council purposes, so they are not brought to account in the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Borrowings - secured	-	-
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	-	-
Non-current		
Borrowings - secured	4,305	4,305
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	4,305	4,305
Total	4,305	4,305

Borrowings are secured by way of mortgage over the general rates of Council

The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:

Not later than one year	-	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,305	4,305
Later than five years	-	-
	4,305	4,305

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

5.5 Provisions

	Employee	Landfill	Total
	\$ '000	restoration	\$ '000
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
2023			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,491	6,451	11,942
Provision movements	2,519	(355)	2,164
Amounts used	(2,808)	147	(2,661)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(57)	(158)	(215)
Balance at the end of the financial year	5,145	6,085	11,230
<i>Provisions - current</i>	4,944	1,556	6,500
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	201	4,529	4,730
2022			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,543	4,378	9,921
Additional provisions	1,977	2,072	4,049
Amounts used	(1,875)	(163)	(2,038)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(154)	164	10
Balance at the end of the financial year	5,491	6,451	11,942
<i>Provisions - current</i>	4,904	1,369	6,273
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	587	5,081	5,668

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	1,434	1,478
Long service leave	429	393
Sick Leave Gratuity	29	15
	1,892	1,886
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	359	315
Long service leave	2,432	2,444
Sick Leave Gratuity	261	259
	3,052	3,018
Total current employee provisions	4,944	4,904
Non-current		
Long service leave	100	461
Sick Leave Gratuity	101	126
Total non-current employee provisions	201	587
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	4,944	4,904
Non-current	201	587
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	5,145	5,491

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave and Sick Leave Gratuity

A liability for annual leave and sick leave gratuity is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.06%	3.69%
- index rate	6.80%	3.85%

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Current	1,556	1,369
Non-current	4,529	5,081
	<u>6,085</u>	<u>6,450</u>

Council is obligated to restore the Dooen site to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

Council reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.06%	3.69%
- index rate	6.80%	3.85%

5.6 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2023.

Bank overdraft	1,000	1,000
Credit card facilities	350	350
Other facilities	4,305	4,305
Total facilities	<u>5,655</u>	<u>5,655</u>
Used facilities	4,363	4,358
Unused facilities	<u>1,292</u>	<u>1,297</u>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.7 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

2023	Not later	Later than	Later than	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	1 year and not later than 2 years	2 years and not later than 5 years		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Management of Facilities	303	303	909	-	1,515
Building maintenance	536	603	625	-	1,764
Waste management	257	904	2,714	-	3,875
Information Technology	235	235	571	-	1,041
Total	1,331	2,045	4,819	-	8,195
Capital					
Roadworks	4,909	-	-	-	4,909
Building projects	456	-	-	-	456
Total	5,365	-	-	-	5,365
	6,696	2,045	4,819	-	13,560
2022	Not later	Later than	Later than	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	1 year and not later than 2 years	2 years and not later than 5 years		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Building Surveyor Services	144	-	-	-	144
Management of Facilities	303	303	303	-	909
Road maintenance	16	-	-	-	16
Building maintenance	41	-	-	-	41
Parks and gardens maintenance	66	-	-	-	66
Miscellaneous operations	293	-	-	-	293
Waste management	647	-	-	-	647
Strategies, studies and plans	289	-	-	-	289
Covid grants	218	-	-	-	218
Information Technology	30	-	-	-	30
Total	2,047	303	303	-	2,653
Capital					
Roadworks	231	-	-	-	231
Recreation	3,885	-	-	-	3,885
Building projects	706	-	-	-	706
Plant	1,625	-	-	-	1,625
Aerodrome	322	-	-	-	322
Industrial Estate development	84	-	-	-	84
Total	6,853	-	-	-	6,853

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(b) Operating lease receivables

Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold shops, a caravan park and a racing centre. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 13 years. All leases either include a CPI based revision or market review of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	256	135
Later than one year and not later than five years	490	221
Later than five years	945	963
	1,691	1,319

5.8 Leases

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, Council uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that Council is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if Council is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless Council is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Under *AASB 16 Leases*, Council as a not-for-profit entity has elected not to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Right-of-Use Assets

	Property \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2022	328
Additions	-
Amortisation charge	(54)
Balance at 30 June 2023	<u>274</u>

Lease Liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	53	53
One to five years	188	314
More than five years	126	85
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	<u>367</u>	<u>452</u>

Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:

Current	55	53
Non-current	236	290
Total lease liabilities	<u>290</u>	<u>343</u>

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of AUD\$10,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. There are no variable lease payments or non-cancellable lease commitments - short-term and low-value to report.

Horsham Rural City Council
2022/2023 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
6.1 Non current assets classified as held for sale		
Industrial land held for sale - at fair value	134	459
Total non current assets classified as held for sale	134	459

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2022 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Found \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Write-off \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Impairment \$'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$'000
Property	118,928	626	183	79	-	(1,348)	(779)	-	400	-	118,089
Plant and equipment	17,314	2,410	1	-	-	(1,471)	(303)	-	84	-	18,035
Infrastructure	434,833	5,180	3,068	-	62,719	(12,759)	(172)	-	906	(7,673)	486,102
Work in progress	3,662	9,095	-	-	-	-	-	(264)	(1,447)	-	11,046
	574,737	17,311	3,252	79	62,719	(15,578)	(1,254)	(264)	(57)	(7,673)	633,272

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP \$'000	Additions \$'000	Write-off \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Closing WIP \$'000
Property	707	2,348	(91)	(317)	2,647
Plant and equipment	48	40	-	(48)	40
Infrastructure	2,907	6,707	(173)	(1,082)	8,359
Total	3,662	9,095	(264)	(1,447)	11,046

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

(a) Property

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Total Land & Land Improvements	Buildings - non specialised	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2022	1,049	48,136	49,185	96,470	96,470	707	146,362
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	-	-	-	(26,727)	(26,727)	-	(26,727)
	1,049	48,136	49,185	69,743	69,743	707	119,635
Movements in fair value							
Additions	-	-	-	626	626	2,348	2,974
Contributions	141	42	183	-	-	-	183
Found	-	79	79	-	-	-	79
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	(280)	(280)	(701)	(701)	-	(981)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	(91)	(91)
Transfers	-	(57)	(57)	457	457	(317)	83
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	141	(216)	(75)	382	382	1,940	2,247
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	(1,348)	(1,348)	-	(1,348)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	202	202	-	202
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	(1,146)	(1,146)	-	(1,146)
At fair value 30 June 2023	1,190	47,920	49,110	96,852	96,852	2,647	148,609
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	-	-	-	(27,873)	(27,873)	-	(27,873)
Carrying amount	1,190	47,920	49,110	68,979	68,979	2,647	120,736

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Art Collection	Public Art	Work In Progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2022	18,245	3,102	4,946	641	48	26,982
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	(7,461)	(2,159)	-	-	-	(9,620)
	10,784	943	4,946	641	48	17,362
Movements in fair value						
Additions	2,042	136	19	213	40	2,450
Contributions	-	-	1	-	-	1
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	(852)	-	-	-	-	(852)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	59	-	-	25	(48)	36
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,249	136	20	238	(8)	1,635
Movements in accumulated depreciation						
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,212)	(259)	-	-	-	(1,471)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	549	-	-	-	-	549
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(663)	(259)	-	-	-	(922)
At fair value 30 June 2023	19,494	3,238	4,966	879	40	28,617
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(8,124)	(2,418)	-	-	-	(10,542)
Carrying amount	11,370	820	4,966	879	40	18,075

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Waste Management	Parks open space and streetscapes	Aerodromes	Off street car parks	Other Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2022	398,694	42,128	27,893	85,927	12,969	8,657	13,494	3,408	4,908	49,102	2,907	650,087
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	(133,904)	(9,516)	(14,013)	(25,173)	(4,719)	(3,248)	(4,425)	(1,437)	(2,557)	(13,355)	-	(212,347)
	264,790	32,612	13,880	60,754	8,250	5,409	9,069	1,971	2,351	35,747	2,907	437,740
Movements in fair value												
Additions	3,088	59	312	45	88	-	1,088	334	16	150	6,707	11,887
Contributions	1,841	-	440	787	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,068
Revaluation	3,880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,880
Disposal	(285)	-	(32)	(3)	-	-	(90)	-	-	(5)	-	(415)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(173)	(173)
Transfers	-	-	14	-	-	-	892	-	-	-	(1,082)	(176)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8,524	59	734	829	88	-	1,890	334	16	145	5,452	18,071
Movements in accumulated depreciation												
Depreciation and amortisation	(7,951)	(422)	(575)	(834)	(444)	(1,039)	(471)	(99)	(70)	(854)	-	(12,759)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	176	-	26	1	-	-	39	-	-	1	-	243
Revaluation	58,839	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,839
Impairment losses	(7,673)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,673)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	43,391	(422)	(549)	(833)	(444)	(1,039)	(432)	(99)	(70)	(853)	-	38,650
At fair value 30 June 2023	407,218	42,187	28,627	86,756	13,057	8,657	15,384	3,742	4,924	49,247	8,359	668,158
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(90,513)	(9,938)	(14,562)	(26,006)	(5,163)	(4,287)	(4,857)	(1,536)	(2,627)	(14,208)	-	(173,697)
Carrying amount	316,705	32,249	14,065	60,750	7,894	4,370	10,527	2,206	2,297	35,039	8,359	494,461

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

<i>Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods</i>	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
Land & land improvements		
Land		1,000
Land improvements	10 - 100 years	5,000
Buildings		
Buildings	15 - 100 years	5,000
Plant and Equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	1 - 30 years	5,000
Office furniture and equipment	3 - 20 years	1,000
Art purchases		50
Infrastructure		
Road pavements and seals	13 - 60 years	5,000
Road formation and earthworks	100 years	5,000
Road kerb, channel and minor culverts	50 - 55 years	5,000
Bridges substructure	110 years	5,000
Footpaths and cycleways	40 - 50 years	5,000
Drainage	100 years	5,000
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	10 - 100 years	5,000
Waste management	3 - 50 years	5,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	10 - 75 years	5,000
Aerodromes	10 - 100 years	5,000
Off street car parks	45 - 90 years	5,000
Intangible assets		
Landfill Airspace	4 years	5,000

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Valuation of buildings

Valuation of buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent company, AGIS Australian Geographic Information Systems. The valuation of buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Valuation of land

Valuation of land was undertaken by a qualified independent valuer, Ben Sawyer, Certified Practicing Valuer of Preston Rowe Paterson Reg No. 63163. The valuation of land is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Land	-	47,920	-	July 2021	full
Specialised land	-	-	1,190	n/a	n/a
Buildings	-	-	68,979	July 2020	full
Total	-	47,920	70,169		

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of road infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with an in-house valuation undertaken by Krishna Shrestha, Manager Strategic Asset Management, BEng (Civil), MEng (Structural), PhD(Bridge), MBA MIEAust CPEng NER RPEQ EA ID 3506525 Victorian Professional Engineer Registration No PE0009434.

Valuation of other infrastructure classes were undertaken by a qualified independent company, AGIS Australian Geographic Information Systems.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	-	-	316,705	July 2022	full
Bridges	-	-	32,249	July 2021	full
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	14,065	July 2018	full
Drainage	-	-	60,750	July 2021	full
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	-	7,894	June 2021	full
Waste management	-	-	4,370	June 2021	full
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	10,527	June 2021	full
Aerodromes	-	-	2,206	June 2021	full
Off street car parks	-	-	2,297	July 2018	full
Other infrastructure	-	-	35,039	June 2021	full
Total	-	-	486,102		

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 5% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$1 and \$750 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$353 to \$7,070 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 15 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 3 years to 110 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land under roads	1,190	1,049
Total specialised land	1,190	1,049

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries

	2023	2022
(a) Investments in associates	\$'000	\$'000
Council's interest in Equity	70.73%	69.46%
Investment in the Wimmera Regional Library - Expires 30 June 2023	854	1,001
Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Regional Library	854	1,001
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	680	650
Change in equity share apportionment	57	(4)
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	(22)	44
Transfers (to) from reserves	(22)	(10)
Distributions for the year	-	-
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year	693	680
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	321	343
Change in equity share apportionment	(182)	(32)
Transfers (to) from reserves	22	10
Council's share of reserves at end of year	161	321
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	1,001	993
Change in equity share apportionment	(125)	(36)
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	(22)	44
Share of asset revaluation	-	-
Distributions received	-	-
Carrying value of investment at end of year	854	1,001
Council's share of expenditure commitments	Nil	Nil
Council's share of contingent liabilities and contingent assets	Nil	Nil

Significant restrictions

In August 2022, Horsham Rural City Council announced their intention to withdraw from the library services. The Corporation entered liquidation on 30 June 2023. As of 1 July 2023, Horsham Rural City Council will assume direct management of library services and a service level agreement will be entered into with West Wimmera Shire Council.

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

For joint operations, Council recognises its direct right to, and its share of jointly held assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of joint operations.

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the interests are initially recognised in the consolidated balance sheet at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise Council's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses and movements in other comprehensive income in profit or loss and other comprehensive income respectively.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(b) Investments in associates		
Council's interest in Equity	48.14%	48.14%
Investment in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (previously Wimmera Development Association)	1,085	1,374
Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Southern Mallee Development	1,085	1,374
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	1,199	742
Change in equity share apportionment	-	(8)
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	(289)	390
Transfers (to) from reserves	(41)	75
Distributions for the year	-	-
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year	869	1,199
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	175	250
Transfers (to) from reserves	41	(75)
Council's share of reserves at end of year	216	175
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	1,374	992
Change in equity share apportionment	-	(8)
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	(289)	390
Share of asset revaluation	-	-
Distributions received	-	-
Carrying value of investment at end of year	1,085	1,374
Council's share of expenditure commitments	Nil	Nil
Council's share of contingent liabilities and contingent assets	Nil	Nil

Significant restrictions

None

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

For joint operations, Council recognises its direct right to, and its share of jointly held assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of joint operations.

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the interests are initially recognised in the consolidated balance sheet at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise Council's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses and movements in other comprehensive income in profit or loss and other comprehensive income respectively.

The consolidated financial statements of Council incorporate all entities controlled by Council as at 30 June 2023, and their income and expenses for that part of the reporting period in which control existed.

Subsidiaries are all entities over which Council has control. Council controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Council. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

Where dissimilar accounting policies are adopted by entities and their effect is considered material, adjustments are made to ensure consistent policies are adopted in these financial statements.

(c) Community Asset Committee

All entities controlled by Council that have material income, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as community asset committees, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

6.4 Investment property	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of financial year	2,520	2,520
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Fair value adjustments	-	-
Balance at end of financial year	<u>2,520</u>	<u>2,520</u>

Investment property is held to generate long-term rental yields. Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefit in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Council. Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, determined annually by independent valuers. Changes to fair value are recorded in the comprehensive income statement in the period that they arise.

Valuation of investment property

Valuation of investment property has been determined in accordance with an independent valuation by Ben Sawyer, Certified Practising Valuer of Preston Rowe Paterson Reg No. 63163, who has recent experience in the location and category of the property being valued. The valuation is at fair value, based on the current market value for the property. The last date of valuation was as at 30 June 2022. There has not been any significant movement in the Indexation of the properties held by Council and accordingly it was decided to not to change the value of the Investment properties for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

Horsham Rural City Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.3.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Horsham Rural City Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer, Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Councillors		
Councillor R. Gulline - Mayor	1	1
Councillor C. Haenel	1	1
Councillor P. Flynn	1	1
Councillor D. Bowe	1	1
Councillor D. Bell - Resignation 5 August 2022	1	1
Councillor I. Ross	1	1
Councillor L.V. Power	1	1
Councillor R. Redden - Commenced September 2022	1	-
Chief Executive Officer - S Bhalla	1	1
Director - Communities and Place - K O'Brien	1	1
Director - Corporate Services - G Harrison (to September 2022)	1	1
Director - Corporate Services - K Hargreaves (from October 2022)	1	-
Director - Infrastructure - J Martin	1	1
Total Number of Councillors	8	7
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	5	4
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid/payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,107	1,132
Other long-term employee benefits	23	21
Post-employment benefits	92	77
Total	<u>1,222</u>	<u>1,230</u>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
\$ 1,000 - \$ 19,999	2	-
\$ 20,000 - \$ 29,999	1	6
\$ 30,000 - \$ 39,999	4	-
\$ 40,000 - \$ 49,999	1	-
\$ 90,000 - \$ 99,999	-	1
\$100,000 - \$109,999	1	-
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$209,000 - \$219,999	-	1
\$220,000 - \$229,999	2	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	-	1
\$270,000 - \$279,999	1	-
\$280,000 - \$289,999	-	1
	13	11

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$160,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP. *

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	318	-
Other long-term employee benefits	7	-
Post-employment benefits	30	-
Total	355	-

The number of other senior staff are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Income Range:		
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	-
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
	2	-

Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:

355	-
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* Due to a definitional change the comparative figures in this note may not align with the previous year's annual report, which included disclosure of senior officers as defined in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.

Fees and charges charged to associates is nil, (2021/22 nil).

Fees and charges charged to entities controlled by key management personnel is nil. (2021/22 nil).

Infrastructure contributions from entities controlled by key management personnel is nil. (2021/22 nil).

Purchase of materials and services from entities controlled by key management personnel is nil.

Purchase of materials and services from associates by key management personnel is as follows:

Council is one of 2 member councils that contributed to Wimmera Regional Library Corporation in 2022/23.

Council contributed \$536,142 in 2022/23 and \$512,323 in 2021/22.

Council is one of 5 member councils that contribute to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (previously Wimmera Development Association).

Council contributed \$228,231 in 2022/23 and \$207,483 in 2021/22.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

The following balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties is nil. (2021/22 nil).

(c) Loans to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party is nil. (2021/22 nil).

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party is nil. (2021/22 nil).

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

At balance date the Council are not aware of any contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Landfill

Council operates a landfill. Council will have to carry out site rehabilitation works in the future. At balance date Council is unable to accurately assess the financial implications of such works.

Insurance claims

NIL

Legal matters

NIL

Building cladding

NIL

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

MAV WorkCare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013, there is a six year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). During the liability period, adjustment payments may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payments is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria. If required, adjustments will occur at the 3-year and 6-year points during the liability period, and will affect participating members.

(c) Guarantees for loans to other entities

The amount disclosed for financial guarantee in this note is the nominal amount of the underlying loan that is guaranteed by the Council, not the fair value of the financial guarantee.

Financial guarantee contracts are not recognised as a liability in the balance sheet unless the lender has exercised their right to call on the guarantee or Council has other reasons to believe that it is probable that the right will be exercised.

Notes to the Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2023 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2024 that are expected to impact Council.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes council to fair value interest rate risk / Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset. To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(c), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.4.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1.50% and -1.50% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.55%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 4 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	4 years
Buildings	4 years
Roads	5 years
Bridges	5 years
Footpaths and cycleways	5 years
Drainage	5 years
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	5 years
Waste management	5 years
Parks, open space and streetscapes	5 years
Aerodromes	5 years
Off street car parks	5 years
Other infrastructure	5 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Share of increment (decrement) on revaluation of <name asset class> by an associate \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
9.1 Reserves				
(a) Asset revaluation reserves				
2023				
Property				
Land and land improvements	38,136	-	-	38,136
Buildings	30,873	-	-	30,873
	69,009	-	-	69,009
Plant and Equipment				
Works of Art	2,259	-	-	2,259
	2,259	-	-	2,259
Infrastructure				
Roads	146,562	55,045	-	201,607
Kerb and Channel	11,351	-	-	11,351
Drainage	34,802	-	-	34,802
Footpaths and cycleways	10,857	-	-	10,857
Bridges	22,272	-	-	22,272
Other Infrastructure	35,950	-	-	35,950
	261,794	55,045	-	316,839
Other				
Land held for sale	1,343	-	-	1,343
	1,343	-	-	1,343
Total asset revaluation reserves	334,405	55,045	-	389,450
2022				
Property				
Land and land improvements	35,223	-	2,913	38,136
Buildings	30,873	-	-	30,873
	66,096	-	2,913	69,009
Plant and Equipment				
Works of Art	1,330	-	929	2,259
	1,330	-	929	2,259
Infrastructure				
Roads	146,562	-	-	146,562
Kerb and Channel	11,351	-	-	11,351
Drainage	15,884	-	18,918	34,802
Footpaths and cycleways	10,857	-	-	10,857
Bridges	7,227	-	15,045	22,272
Other Infrastructure	35,950	-	-	35,950
	227,831	-	33,963	261,794
Other				
Land held for sale	1,086	-	257	1,343
	1,086	-	257	1,343
Total asset revaluation reserves	296,343	-	38,062	334,405

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

(b) Other reserves - Discretionary	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
2023				
CBD Development Reserve	2,202	57	879	1,380
Industrial Reserves	1,878	1,665	356	3,187
Internal Loan Reserve	(2,107)	190	-	(1,917)
Loan Funds Reserve	2,875	835	-	3,710
Major Capex Reserve	4,805	932	460	5,277
Open Space Reserve	439	16	-	455
Plant Reserve	3,104	776	2,055	1,825
Small Projects Reserve	1,547	668	256	1,959
Unfunded Super Reserve	-	-	-	-
Waste Reserve	2,098	851	821	2,128
Total Other reserves	16,841	5,990	4,827	18,004
2022				
CBD Development Reserve	2,739	149	686	2,202
Industrial Reserves	3,273	94	1,489	1,878
Internal Loan Reserve	(3,052)	945	-	(2,107)
Loan Funds Reserve	2,454	423	-	2,875
Major Capex Reserve	3,776	1,123	94	4,805
Open Space Reserve	491	10	62	439
Plant Reserve	4,214	915	2,024	3,104
Small Projects Reserve	1,687	408	547	1,547
Unfunded Super Reserve	600	-	600	-
Waste Reserve	1,961	1,505	1,368	2,098
Total Other reserves	18,143	5,572	6,870	16,841

The above Discretionary Reserves represent an appropriation of funds for the future funding of operational or capital projects. Loan Funds Reserve are held for the final loan repayment to the Department of Treasury and Finance for an interest only loan. Internal Loan Reserves intended use is to borrow from Council's discretionary cash reserves rather than obtain an external loan. The Waste reserves factors in over or under expenditure, which is then used to offset future waste charges or rehabilitation costs.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,392	4,147
Depreciation and Amortisation	15,907	13,081
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(421)	1,904
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(3,253)	(2,239)
Other	(20)	(437)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	(710)	2,020
(Increase) in intangible assets	-	(1,087)
Decrease in right-of-use assets	54	55
(Decrease) lease liabilities	(53)	(51)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	52	(12)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables and other liabilities	(2,061)	652
(Decrease)/increase in assets held for resale	(325)	27
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(40)	27
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	248	(727)
(Increase)/decrease in accrued income	669	(870)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	16,439	16,490

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes all of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2023, this was 10.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2022: 10.0%)).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Horsham Rural City Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation is currently underway for the Defined Benefit category which is expected to be completed by 31 December 2023. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023 (2022: August 2022). The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.8% pa

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

As at 30 June 2022, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 102.2%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.5% pa

Salary information 2.5% pa to 30 June 2023, and 3.5% pa thereafter

Price inflation (CPI) 3.0% pa

Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021). Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at 30 June 2023 was 104.1%.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2022 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2022 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2023, this rate was 10.5% of members' salaries (10.0% in 2021/22). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2022 interim valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2022 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2022 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2022 (Interim) \$m	2021 (Interim) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	44.6	214.7
- A total service liability surplus	105.8	270.3
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	111.9	285.2

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2022.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2022.

The discounted accrued benefits surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2022.

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Vision super	Defined benefits	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	103	114
Vision super	Accumulation	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	1,743	1,541

Council has not paid any unfunded liability payments to Vision super in 2023/22 or in 2022/21

There were \$148,000 contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2023.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$102,000.

Horsham Rural City Council
2022/2023 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2022-23 year.



Council Offices

Horsham

Civic Centre, 18 Roberts,
Avenue Horsham VIC 3400

P (03) 5382 9777

E council@hrcc.vic.gov.au

W www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

Monday to Friday

8:30am to 5pm

Depot

Selkirk Drive,
Horsham VIC 3400

P (03) 5382 9777

Kalkee Road Children's & Community Hub

28 Kalkee Rd,
Horsham VIC 3400

P (03) 5382 9530

Horsham Town Hall

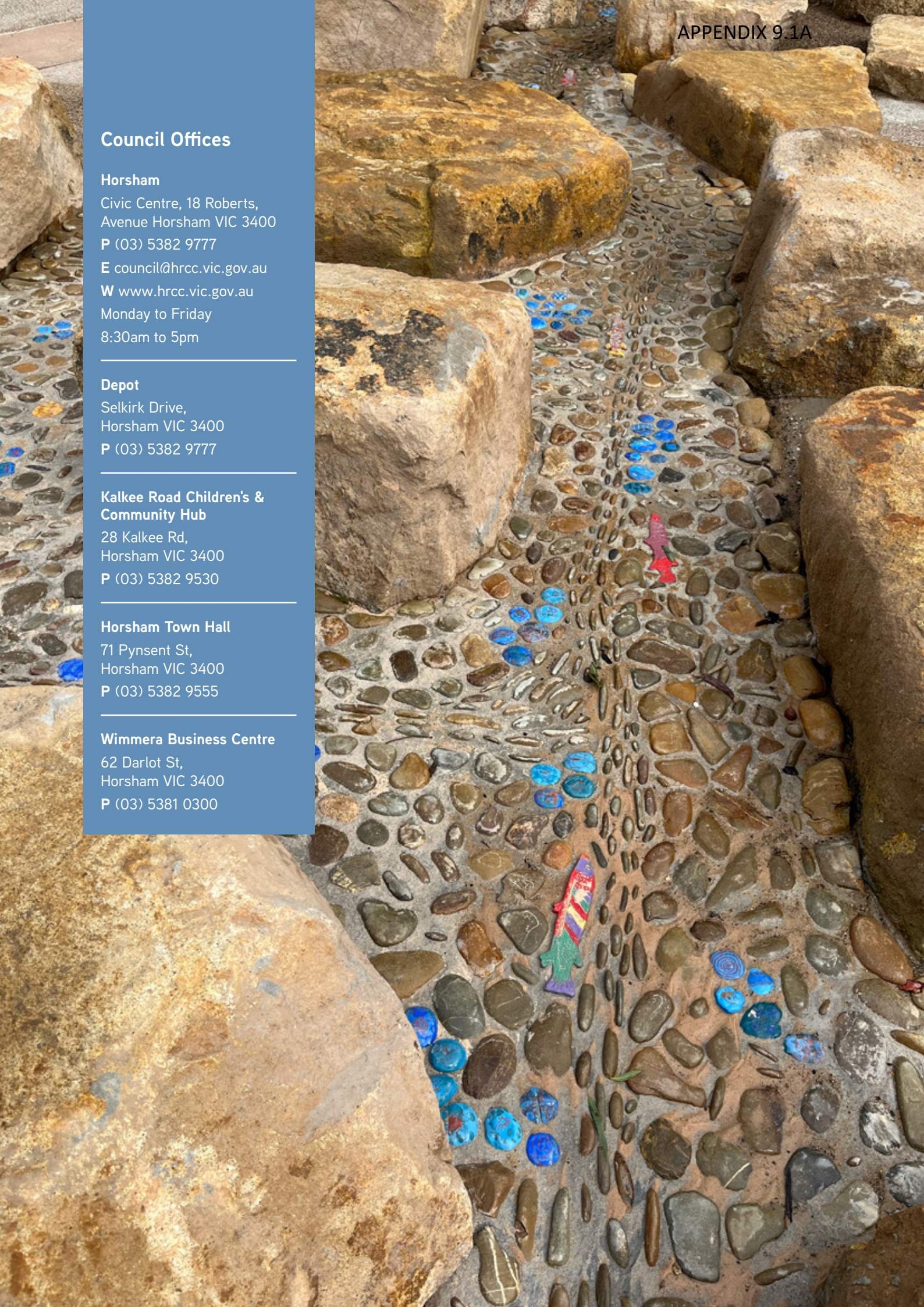
71 Pynsent St,
Horsham VIC 3400

P (03) 5382 9555

Wimmera Business Centre

62 Darlot St,
Horsham VIC 3400

P (03) 5381 0300



1. PURPOSE

To provide support and advice to Council to ensure the needs of people living with disability are considered thereby ensuring Council projects, the organisation and the community are more accessible and inclusive and improve liveability for people with disability.

2. INTRODUCTION

Council committed to the establishment of a Disability Advisory Committee when it adopted the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026. The Terms of Reference outlines the administrative and meeting protocols for the Committee, the process of selection for members, and associated roles and responsibilities.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Committee

The Committee will consist of a maximum of 10 people

The Disability Advisory Committee membership includes:

- 3.1.1 Six people with a disability;
- 3.1.2 Two staff representing organisations, agencies & service providers;
- 3.1.3 Two carers of a person/s with disability.

In the event that the Committee membership does not reach the maximum number of positions, applications for membership will be offered on an ongoing basis until filled.

3.2 Selection

Members will be selected through an expression of interest process which will be advertised in a variety of local newspapers, word of mouth to relevant organisations, plus Council's website and social media accounts.

The selection criteria for membership will include:

- 3.2.1 An understanding of the issues and barriers that people with a disability face in accessing the community;
- 3.2.2 An understanding of the social model of disability, universal design and how that relates to planning in local government;
- 3.2.3 An experience of disability, either from a personal lived experience or in a professional setting.

Membership will aim to achieve a gender balance and should also aim to include a diverse representation of age, experience of disability and cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The Council officer will be responsible for membership selection.

In the event that there are more applications than available positions, the Council officer will assess the applications and recommend appointments, subject to the requirements of the Committee Membership (at 3.1) being met.

Council staff are not eligible to be members of the Disability Advisory Committee.

3.3 Participating Organisations

Nominated Participating Organisations will be contacted by the relevant Council officer and invited to identify a representative for the Disability Advisory Committee.

3.4 Alternative Representatives

As required, alternative representatives may attend meetings on behalf of the named user groups. Alternative representatives are entitled to vote if the main representative of the user group is not present.

3.5 Council endorsement of nominations

Recommendations regarding the filling of any vacancies of the Disability Advisory Committee will be submitted to Council for approval, subject to the requirements of 3.1 and 3.2 being met.

3.6 Specialist Advice

Individuals and groups may be invited to attend Disability Advisory Committee meetings to provide specialist advice. They cannot be involved in the decision making process and cannot vote on the issue.

External individuals and groups that are selected should understand the importance of supporting gender equality and challenging gender stereotypes.

3.8 Term of Office

Membership shall be for a term of two years from 1 July, 2024. The relevance of the Disability Advisory Committee will be reassessed at the conclusion of this date.

Members may apply for re-nomination to the Disability Advisory Committee for a second or subsequent term.

3.9 Resignations

Disability Advisory Committee members who resign prior to the end of their appointment should submit their resignation in writing to the Chairperson.

If a vacancy occurs within two months of the end of the term, the vacancy will not be filled. In all other instances, the vacancy may be filled, subject to the requirements of 3.1 and 3.2 being met.

4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Council

Council will:

- 4.1.1 Allocate an annual operating budget;
- 4.1.2 Provide monthly expenditure reports;
- 4.1.3 Document minutes of each scheduled meeting and distribute minutes to members;
- 4.1.4 Support conversations with the Committee to discuss how members would like to be referred to in meetings;
- 4.1.5 Ensure the confirmed and signed copy of the minutes is forwarded to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au;
- 4.1.6 Ensure a Council officer or delegate is present at all meetings, wherever possible;
- 4.1.7 Determine a schedule of meetings in advance, where relevant. Members may be consulted to determine whether there are any constraints that may limit participation at meetings;
- 4.1.8 Distribute the agenda at least one week prior to the meeting;
- 4.1.9 Rotate staff to document the minutes of the meeting;
- 4.1.10 Select locations for meetings that are safe and accessible for all members;
- 4.1.11 Provide members with updates on how their advice and recommendations have been used;

4.1.12 Council may provide refreshments if a meeting occurs over a meal period.

4.2 Committee

The role of the Disability Advisory Committee is to:

- 4.3.1 Ensure meetings will be two hour or less in length and will not go later than stated;
- 4.3.2 The Disability Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body. Its role is to:
 - a) Help identify issues and barriers that people with a disability experience;
 - b) Provide representative insight and advice into relevant issues such as:
 - i. access to Council services and facilities;
 - ii. projects that impact community members;
 - iii. prioritisation of actions in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan;
 - iv. Council commitments in strategic plans.

4.3 Council Officer

The Council officer of the Disability Advisory Committee will be the Community Inclusion Officer. Their role is to:

- 4.2.1 support the Committee to conduct meetings;
- 4.2.2 support the chairperson with their duties;
- 4.2.3 distribute the agenda prior to meetings;
- 4.2.4 record and distribute minutes.

4.4 Attendance at meetings

Members of the Disability Advisory Committee may participate in the meeting via a conference telephone or similar means, as long as all members can communicate with one another. Such participation constitutes attendance.

If a member misses half of the meetings per year, without explanation to the Chairperson, their position may be considered vacant.

If a member resigns, their position may be filled subject to the requirements of 3.1 and 3.2 being met.

4.5 Confidentiality

Whilst an important role of the Committee will be to champion and help promote the activities of the Committee, information discussed, received, used or created by the Committee may be confidential.

A Committee member must not disclose, discuss or otherwise make public confidential information, unless authorised by the Council officer supporting the Advisory Committee.

4.6 Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest must be declared and the declaration must be recorded in the minutes.

4.7 Media

Media releases, flyers, brochures, pamphlets or other sources of information distributed by the Committee must be approved by the nominated Council officer.

4.8 Chair

Committee members will nominate to be Chair at the first meeting of each year, then the selected Chair will be determined on the second meeting of each calendar year.

The responsibilities of the Chair include:

- 4.7.1 Ensuring all members have the opportunity to voice their opinions;
- 4.7.2 Determining the agenda in consultation with the nominated Council officer;
- 4.7.3 Take requests for agenda items from other members of the Committee.

4.9 Code of Conduct:

All members shall refrain from any form of conduct which may cause any member unwarranted offence or embarrassment. Members are expected to act honestly, treat others with respect and be considerate of the diversity of opinions and experiences of Committee members.

Behaviours that encourage or support bullying, discrimination, sexism or sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Offensive or bad language will not be tolerated.

If any behaviours breach this Code of Conduct, the Chair or Chief Executive Officer will be notified immediately. This member may be directed to step down.

5 OPERATING PROCEDURES

5.1 Quorum and Decision Making

The quorum is at, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

5.2 Councillor report

The standard Council Report template must be used when preparing a report. Such reports will be prepared by the supporting Council Officer for the Disability Advisory Committee.

5.3 Recommendations and Actions

Recommendations will be recorded in the minutes of each meeting with minutes provided to Council at the next available meeting date for information.

Actions arising from the meetings will be recorded in the minutes of each meeting. The supporting Council officer will distribute a list of previous actions with the agenda and minutes for each meeting.

5.4 Supporting Participation

Council may reimburse the cost of necessary expenses for childcare, care of elderly or disabled family members of the Disability Advisory Committee members. The cost of transport to and from meetings for Disability Advisory Committee members, where members would not otherwise be able to attend, may also be considered for reimbursement. Other forms of specific assistance, such as interpreters, will also be provided where possible.

Applications for support must be made when completing the Expression of Interest form. Any claims for reimbursement need to be supported by a tax invoice.

6 EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The composition, activities and Terms of Reference of the Committee will be reviewed at least every four year, or earlier as required by changes in legislation, policy or similar.

7 COMMUNICATION

The Terms of Reference will be included in the promotion of the Disability Advisory Committee. It will also be placed on the Disability Advisory Committee webpage on the Horsham Rural City Council website.

Upon request, the Terms of Reference will also be available to pick up in hard copy from Horsham Rural City Council Customer Service.

8 RESPONSIBILITY

Owner: Community Inclusion Officer

9 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version Number	Approval Date	Approval By	Amendment	Review Date
01	TBA	Council	New Terms of Reference	October 2025



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream One: Precinct development and planning

Opening date:	24 August 2023
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
Date guidelines released:	24 August 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Open non-competitive

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1. Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Precinct development and planning processes

The regional Precincts and Partnerships program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)'s Outcome 3. The Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#).



The grant opportunity opens

DISR publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and provide a proposal that addresses all the eligibility and assessment criteria in order for your application to be considered.



We assess all grant applications against eligibility

DISR assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible.



The Panel assess eligible grant applications

Applications are batched twice a year and reviewed by an Independent Expert Panel (the Panel). The Panel assesses eligible applications against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value for money. The Panel provides a list of meritorious applications to DITRDCA.



DITRDCA provide policy advice on grant applications

DITRDCA provide advice to the decision maker on how the meritorious proposals meet policy and program objectives.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

DISR advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You complete the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program

DITRDCA will evaluate the specific grant activity and regional Precincts and Partnerships Program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (the program).

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR) on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA).

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at section 14.

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the grant program

The program will run over 3 years from 2023-24 to 2025-26. The program was announced as part of the 2022-23 October Budget and reflects the Government's Regional Investment Framework, which:

- values local voices and priorities
- is informed by and builds on the evidence-base
- operates with flexibility and transparency and
- guides coordinated responses across government.

The program seeks to deliver transformative investment in regional, rural and remote Australia based on the principles of unifying regional places, growing their economies and serving their communities.

The program will focus on a **partnership approach**, bringing together governments and communities to deliver regional precincts that are tailored to local needs and have a shared vision in how that precinct connects to the region.

The program presents a new opportunity for regional investment through a unique grants process, which features a strong focus on collaboration and joint investment opportunities. The establishment of partnerships, that include local perspectives, will be critical to delivering place-based infrastructure supported by the community. The program allows governments and communities to establish long-term partnerships and jointly invest in genuine regional priorities. The Government is committed to regional development, renewal and supporting population growth by delivering the infrastructure and housing required to create strong and vibrant communities.

The program will support the planning and delivery of regional, rural and remote precincts. Regional precincts or 'places with a purpose' are user-defined geographic areas with a specific shared need or theme. Regional precincts may include business districts, neighbourhoods, activity centres, commercial hubs or community and recreational areas. They will be located in renewal areas and growth areas in regional centres, regional corridors, regional cities, as well as smaller

town centres that serve as service hubs in more remote communities. The scale of regional precinct projects will vary depending on their location and objectives.

Precincts support better integration of land use and ensure the infrastructure investment complements the broader region and its surrounding communities, spaces, transport and activities. The program's place-based, partnership approach will ensure that precinct proposals are suitably and strategically designed for their specific contexts and maximise outcomes for their communities.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- facilitate place-based approaches to planning, characterised by collaborative partnerships engaging in shared design, stewardship and accountability of planned outcomes
- provide targeted benefits related to productivity, equity and resilience for the people of regional, rural or remote Australia
- support community priorities for regional cities, rural or remote centres and areas
- reflect the Government's approach to regional investment as outlined under the Regional Investment Framework.

The intended outcomes of the Program are to:

- demonstrate the value of partnerships between governments, communities and businesses for effective planning, coordination and delivery of regional infrastructure
- develop and deliver regional precincts comprised of multiple infrastructure components, which provide benefits related to productivity, equity and resilience
- contribute to the Australian Government's current policy priorities, including but not limited to Closing the Gap, transition to a net zero economy, Australia's emission reduction goals, social and affordable housing, and National Cultural Policy.

It is the intent of the Program to:

- deliver grants across a broad geographic spread of regional Australia, including remote and very remote areas
- support precinct projects of differing scales and functionalities
- encourage projects from lesser-resourced applicants.

The regional Precincts and Partnerships Program will be an open grants process, meaning applications can be submitted at any time once the program opens. The program is a non-competitive program to avoid the direct, competitive comparison of applications from organisations of differing sizes and levels of resourcing. This approach provides the ability to ensure the equitable distribution of grants across the country based on the individual merits of a precinct proposal and its benefits to the local community. This allows the opportunity to balance small and large projects and different types of precincts within the funding profile.

There are two grant opportunities as part of this program:

- Stream One - Precinct development and planning: to activate partnerships and to deliver an investment- ready precinct plan
- Stream Two - Precinct delivery: to deliver a specified project or projects as part of a precinct.

We will publish the opening and closing dates and any other relevant information on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines \(CGRGs\)](#)¹.

2.1. About the Stream One Precinct Development and Planning grant opportunity

This grant opportunity is part of the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.

The Precinct Development and Planning grant opportunity provides opportunities to develop a precinct idea through to investment-ready stage. The rationale for Stream One is to recognise that financial constraints can inhibit great concepts being explored further and developed into realistic, well-designed and planned projects.

For Stream One, the **project** is considered to be a plan for the entire precinct, even if you are only considering future investment in one element of the precinct. This contrasts with Stream Two, where the project is one or more elements of a precinct.

The objective of the grant opportunity is to activate partnerships to jointly deliver precinct plans.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to:

- establish partnerships comprised of relevant government entities, community organisations and businesses that have a shared vision for a regional precinct
- deliver precinct plans that are tailored to their local contexts and based on community feedback and engagement
- support precinct plans to become investment ready.

2.2. Partnerships

The establishment of a partnership is essential to the program, which has a focus on bringing together all relevant interested parties to collaboratively plan or deliver precinct proposals. These partnerships are intended to be conglomerates of relevant entities as well as other local stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- State and Territory government
- Local government
- Regional universities
- Not-for-profit entities
- First Nations groups
- Regional Development Australia committees
- Community organisations
- Private enterprise
- Australian Government agencies that have policy/program interests or responsibilities.

Not all entity types listed above are eligible to apply for program funding (see section 4: Eligibility Criteria), however they can form part of the partnership.

The intention behind a partnership is to ensure the precinct is well-considered and allows an opportunity for relevant parties to work through issues, consult early and be investment ready.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-guidelines>

First Nations groups should be involved in the design phase to help shape projects and influence a stronger outcome that incorporates First Nations experiences, culture and design.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$400 million over 3 years for the program's two streams. For this grant opportunity we estimate a total of \$80 million is available over 3 years from 2023-24, noting this may be reviewed and balanced between streams to meet demand or until funding is exhausted.

- The minimum grant amount is \$500,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$5 million.

The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of the eligible expenditure for the project to a maximum amount of \$5 million.

Grants are intended to support a broader commitment to the precinct concept, therefore you are required to demonstrate your contribution and commitment to the proposed precinct in assessment criteria 4. Your contributions can be cash or in-kind (such as land or resources), or a combination of both. We are looking for applicants to show what they can do, monetarily or otherwise to ensure the success of the project.

Any partner contributions and other funding for your project can come from other sources including state, territory and local government grants. Other Commonwealth funding cannot be used for the project. You are responsible for the remaining eligible and ineligible costs.

3.2. Project period

You must complete your project by 31 March 2026.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Organisations (ORIC) registration

and be one of the following entities:

- an Australian State/Territory Government agency or body
- an Australian local government agency or body as defined in section 14
- a Regional University which may be for-profit as defined in section 14
- an incorporated not-for-profit organisation. As a not-for-profit organisation you must demonstrate your not-for-profit status through one of the following:
 - current Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's (ACNC) Registration
 - state or territory incorporated association status
 - constitutional documents and/or Articles of Association that demonstrate the not-for-profit character of the organisation.

4.2. Additional eligibility requirements

We can only accept proposals where you:

- have authority or are close to seeking authority for use of the land or infrastructure required to undertake the proposed project at a nominated site (if you have authority, you are required to provide a letter to confirm this authority from the land or infrastructure owner)
- can identify the intended project partner/s that form your partnership supported with a proposed governance structure for your precinct
- can provide evidence that the relevant State or Territory government have been invited to participate in the partnership
- can provide evidence that the relevant local government agency or body have been invited to participate in the partnership
- can provide evidence that the following organisations have been contacted to seek their support for the concept of the precinct:
 - the relevant Regional Development Australia (RDA) committee
 - the relevant Traditional Owner/First Nations groups for the area.

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

4.3. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- for-profit organisations (with the exception of regional universities). However, they can form part of the partnership
- any organisation not included in section 4.1.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your project must:

- be aimed at meeting the objectives of the grant opportunity, as outlined in Section 2.1
- have at least \$500,000 in eligible expenditure.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and may include:

- scoping, planning, design and consultation activities for the proposed precinct
- development, formalisation and operation of partnership relationships and responsibilities
- business cases and feasibility studies.

We may also approve other activities and studies which are linked to the objectives and outcomes of the program, including but not limited to geotechnical, surveying, flora and fauna, and heritage assessments/investigations.

5.2. Eligible locations

The proposed project must be in a regional, rural or remote location, delineated as entirely outside the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA).

Use the [mapping tool](#) to determine eligibility of your project location.

5.3. Ineligible locations

The following are ineligible locations:

- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Sydney
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Melbourne
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Perth
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Adelaide
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Brisbane
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Darwin
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas - Greater Hobart
- All of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

5.4. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

- For guidance on eligible expenditure, refer to appendix A.
- For guidance on ineligible expenditure, refer to appendix B.

We may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The program delegate (who is a manager within the department with responsibility for administering the program) makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred by you for required project audit activities.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

You may elect to commence your project from the date we notify you that your application is successful. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. The Commonwealth will not be liable, and should not be held out as being liable, for any activities undertaken before the grant agreement is executed.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all assessment criteria in your application. The Independent Expert Panel (the Panel) will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide evidence to support your answers. The application form displays character limits for each response.

Demonstrating value for money is a key requirement and will be assessed by comparing the projected benefits and opportunities created by the project against the estimated cost (refer to Section 8.1). Your response to the below assessment criteria should clearly articulate the expected benefits and opportunities that the project will create.

Only applications that score at least 50 per cent against each assessment criterion will be deemed as meritorious and considered for award of grant funding.

6.1. Assessment criterion 1

Project alignment with program objectives and Australian Government priorities (35 points).

You should demonstrate this through identifying how your proposal:

- a. aligns with regional plans, community priorities and other regional investment strategies and activities
- b. supports a place-based approach to planning, including better integration of land use and regional development and/or renewal
- c. provides economic opportunities, and enhances productivity, equity and resilience
- d. considers and/or measures climate and energy impacts such as disaster risk, emissions reduction, biodiversity, decarbonisation, circular economies, and energy and water efficiency
- e. contributes to the achievement of Australian Government policy priorities and program objectives, including but not limited to Closing the Gap, transition to a net zero economy, Australia's emission reduction goals, social and affordable housing, and National Cultural Policy, relative to the type of project being considered.

6.2. Assessment criterion 2

Project Need (35 points).

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. how your proposal will address an existing public infrastructure gap
- b. how the precinct will deliver improvements and public benefits and/or services in your region
- c. evidence as to why investment in the proposal is needed, including any barriers preventing investment to date
- d. rationale for the elements you are considering for inclusion in the precinct and how these link a place with a purpose.

6.3. Assessment criterion 3

Community engagement, collaboration, and partnership (20 points).

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. how your precinct development and planning process intends to engage with the local community, draw upon local knowledge and information, and identify and leverage opportunities and address challenges within your region
- b. how you and your partnership will work together to achieve the project based on the values of shared design, stewardship and accountability of planned outcomes
- c. the proposed governance arrangements of the partnership and how they will support, enhance or achieve community engagement, and collaboration for the project
- d. how First Nations groups could be involved in the design and planning phase to help shape the proposal and influence a stronger outcome that incorporates First Nations experiences, culture and design.

6.4. Assessment criterion 4

Capacity, capability and resources to deliver a sound precinct proposal (10 points).

You should demonstrate this by providing evidence of:

- a. your ability to undertake or manage the development of project proposals, including your track record of managing similar projects and your access to personnel with the right skills and experience
- b. your proven ability to manage and monitor timeframes, consultation processes, budget and risk management
- c. a resource plan that includes how the project will be supported and the cost of that resourcing
- d. any contributions you or your partners will be providing that would help to strengthen the delivery of the project. Contributions can be non-monetary.

7. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample [application form](#) and the sample [grant agreement](#) published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and attach detailed evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#).

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we can contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility/merit. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the program delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application:

- a project plan or preliminary project outline
- a project budget
- confirmation that you have authority for use of the land or infrastructure at the proposed site, if one has been selected. If the proposed site is not confirmed, you should clearly outline this in your application
- evidence to support your intended partnership (e.g. a letter from project partner/s or other type of agreement), including details of all project partners
- a proposed governance structure for your precinct outlining the roles and responsibilities of each project partner
- evidence of support from local community and business as relevant
- evidence that the relevant State or Territory government and local government agency or body has been invited to participate (e.g. an email or letter)
- evidence that the relevant RDA committee and Traditional Owner/First Nations groups for the area have been contacted to seek their support (e.g. an email, or letter)
- evidence of not-for-profit status (where applicable)
- detailed evidence that supports assessment criteria responses (where applicable)
- trust deed (where applicable).

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. The total of all attachments cannot exceed 20MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can submit an application at any time while the grant opportunity remains open. Proposals will be batched and announcements made twice per financial year, at a minimum until funding is exhausted.

If you are successful we expect you will be able to commence your project within 3 months of receiving the offer of grant funding.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	September/October and March/April
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	November/December and May/June
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1-3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of project	The date you are notified that your proposal has been successful
Project completion date	31 March 2026
End date of grant commitment	30 June 2026

7.3. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

The program's non-competitive process means applicants will be assessed on their individual merit against the assessment criteria, and will not be compared to other applications.

It is intended that applications will be batched a minimum of twice a year, however the number of batches and the timing of each batch may vary depending on the volume and quality of applications received.

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria.

If eligible, your application will be assessed against the assessment criteria by the Independent Expert Panel.

Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage. Any ineligible proposals will not proceed and are excluded from funding consideration.

We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- whether it provides value with relevant money and represents an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources.²

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s of the grant opportunity
- the evidence provided to demonstrate how your project contributes to meeting those objectives
- the spread of projects across geographic areas, precinct types and government objectives

² See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

- the relative resources of the applicant and need for the project
- the relative value of the grant sought.

8.2. Who will assess applications?

An Independent Expert Panel will assess all eligible proposals and make determinations regarding which proposals are meritorious. The Panel will comprise three members from the Urban Policy Forum, who were selected for their expertise in regional development and urban design and renewal. This will enable them to make assessments based on a thorough understanding of regional needs, best practice planning and sustainable development. The Panel will assess proposals against the assessment criteria, applying their expertise, before determining which are meritorious. Only proposals that have been deemed as meritorious in the assessment process will be provided to the Minister for final decision making.

The Panel will have robust governance arrangements and will meet twice per year to assess the proposals across the two grant funding streams.

The Panel members will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs and will be subject to probity requirements as outlined in section 13.

DITRDCA will provide policy advice on meritorious proposals based on policy considerations and the funding envelope available.

DITRDCA's recommendations on meritorious proposals will be based on:

- the Independent Expert Panel's assessment
- alignment with the Government's approach to regional investment as outlined in the Regional Investment Framework
- alignment with current Australian Government policy priorities, and program objectives including but not limited to:
 - [Closing the Gap](#)
 - transition to a net zero economy
 - [Australia's emission reduction goals](#)
 - delivery of housing, particularly social and affordable housing
 - [National Cultural Policy](#)
- budget allocation available to fund projects
- balance of projects between each Stream across budget allocation
- geographic area, Government's policy priorities and types of precincts.

DITRDCA will also identify meritorious applications which propose projects that are:

- located in 'remote and very remote locations'
- submitted by First Nations Community Controlled Organisations
- submitted by 'low rate based' councils.

This information will allow DITRDCA to provide the decision maker with information regarding the diverse range of applicants, particularly lesser-resourced applicants that have submitted proposals assessed as meritorious by the Independent Expert Panel.

8.3. Who will approve grants?

DITRDCA will recommend which meritorious proposals should be considered for funding. The Minister decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of DITRDCA,

the availability of grant funds, and, where necessary, advice from relevant Minister/s for meritorious proposals relevant to their specific portfolio responsibilities.

The Minister's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval
- the grant funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The Minister will not approve funding if there is insufficient program funding available across relevant financial years for the program.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

Due to the nature of the application process, if you are not found meritorious, you will be notified and can submit a new application for the same project while the grant opportunity remains open. You should include new or additional information to improve upon your previous application.

If you were found meritorious but unsuccessful, you will be notified and you can choose to withdraw your application from future panel consideration or submit a variation to your previous application. This variation should include any new or additional information which may enhance your previous application. If a new application is substantially the same as a previous ineligible or unsuccessful application, we may refuse to consider it for assessment.

The previous online proposal can be accessed in portal.business.gov.au after logging in if you wish to build on the information previously provided. You should select 'My applications', click on the Application Summary and select 'view submitted application'. Alternatively, you can request a pdf of your unsuccessful proposal by contacting regionalprecincts@industry.gov.au.

9.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur and cannot make any payments until a grant agreement is executed.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the program delegate or Minister. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

If you enter an agreement under this grant opportunity, you cannot receive other grants for the same activities from other Commonwealth granting programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

We will use a standard grant agreement.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application. We will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the project as approved by the Minister.

10.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

In particular, you will be required to comply with:

- State/territory legislation in relation to working with children

10.3. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any financial contribution provided by you or a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make an initial payment on execution of the grant agreement. We will make subsequent payments six monthly in arrears, based on your actual eligible expenditure. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

We set aside 10 per cent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when you submit a satisfactory end of project report demonstrating you have completed outstanding obligations for the project. We may need to adjust your progress payments to align with available program funds across financial years and/or to ensure we retain a minimum 10 per cent of grant funding for the final payment.

10.4. Grant Payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities³.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on tax.

³ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at ato.gov.au

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#), Section 5.3,. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2. Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of participants directly related to the project

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.2.1. Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include details of your progress towards completion of agreed project activities
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant project activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any project or milestone reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

12.2.2. Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

12.2.3. End of project report

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report.

End of project reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- identify the objectives and outcomes the project has achieved
- be submitted by the report due date.

12.3. Audited financial acquittal report

We will ask you to provide an independent audit report. An audit report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The audit report requires you to prepare a statement of grant income and expenditure. The report template is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

12.4. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum time period allowed in program guidelines
- changing project activities that do not change the outcome of the project.

The program does not allow for:

- an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the grant agreement end date. You can submit a variation request via our online portal.

If a delay in the project causes milestone achievement and payment dates to move to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is enough program funding in the relevant year to allow for the revised payment schedule. If we cannot move the funds, you may lose some grant funding.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

12.5. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period to review your compliance with the grant agreement. For large or complex projects, we may visit you after you finish your project. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6. Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7. Evaluation

DITRDCA will evaluate your project and the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. To support the evaluation of your project, you will be required to collect baseline and routine data as part of your progress reporting, and complete evaluation activities as part of the end of project report.

To support the broader program evaluation, we may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8. Acknowledgement

Signage and communications requirements will be stipulated in your grant agreement.

13. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by DISR. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

13.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager
Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

13.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity and/or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a panel or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Panel members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)⁴ on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

⁴ https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/July%202018/document/pdf/conflict-of-interest-and-insider-trading-policy.pdf?acsf_files_redirect

13.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per below, or
- personal information as per below.

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, the Panel, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)⁵ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

13.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

⁵ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to the Panel and our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

13.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
application form	The document issued by the program delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application ranking.
Australian local government body or agency	A local governing body as defined under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth) as a local governing body established by or under a law of a State.
<u>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)</u>	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
date of effect	Can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant. For this program this is the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.1.
eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the program delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.

Term	Definition
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.4.
eligible expenditure guidance	The guidance that is provided at Appendix A.
First Nations community-controlled organisations	These organisations are an Indigenous Organisation or enterprise and have an Indigenous Corporation Number (ICN) or can declare that they are a Traditional Owner or that their organisation is at least 51 per cent owned or controlled by Indigenous persons or the Indigenous Enterprise has 50 per cent Indigenous ownership.
grant	<p>For the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁶ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁷ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding and specifies the details of the grant.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.

⁶ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁷ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single DITRDCA Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs.
grantee	The organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
guidelines	Guidelines that the Minister gives to the department to provide the framework for the administration of the program, as in force from time to time.
Independent Expert Panel (the Panel)	The body established to assess eligible applications and determine which are meritorious. Panellists comprise a subset of the Urban Policy Forum.
Low rate-based councils	Low rate based councils are determined using the ratio of Financial Assistance Grant to Net Rate Income and are as follows: Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council; Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council; Shire of Woodanilling; District Council of Orroroo Carrieton; Shire of Tammin; District Council of Peterborough; Shire of Wyalkatchem; Shire of Wickepin; Shire of Dowerin; District Council of Karoonda East Murray; Shire of Kellerberrin; Hay Shire Council; Coolamon Shire Council; Lockhart Shire Council; Balranald Shire Council; Weddin Shire Council; Murrumbidgee Council; Tenterfield Shire Council; Narrandera Shire Council; Wentworth Shire Council; Bland Shire Council; Lachlan Council.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
partnership	For the purposes of the grant opportunity – partnership refers to collaboration between organisations/entities towards a shared goal. Applicants are not required to set up formal business partnership structures for the program, however, as noted in the assessment criteria you must demonstrate evidence that partners are committed to the goals of the project.

Term	Definition
personal information	<p>Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:</p> <p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Precinct	Place of purpose as outlined in this document
program delegate	A manager within the department with responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
proposal	A detailed outline of project/s described in your application
Regional University	For the purposes of the grant opportunity – regional university refers to universities with a main campus or presence or universities that wish to establish a campus or presence within a regional area as stipulated by the Greater Capital City Statistical Area.
remote or very remote location	Refers to projects located in ‘remote’ or ‘very remote’ locations per the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Remoteness Structure
selection criteria	Comprises of eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>Value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and ▪ the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Eligible expenditure

This section provides guidance on the eligibility of expenditure. We may update this guidance from time to time; check you are referring to the most current version from the business.gov.au website before preparing your application.

The program delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be incurred by you within the project period
- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred by you to undertake required project audit activities (where applicable)
- meet the eligible expenditure guidelines.

A.1 How we verify eligible expenditure

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify the project budget that you provided in your application when we negotiate your grant agreement. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

The grant agreement will include details of the evidence you may need to provide when you achieve certain milestones in your project. This may include evidence related to eligible expenditure.

If requested, you will need to provide the agreed evidence along with your progress reports.

You must keep payment records of all eligible expenditure and be able to explain how the costs relate to the agreed project activities. At any time, we may ask you to provide records of the expenditure you have paid. If you do not provide these records when requested, the expense may not qualify as eligible expenditure.

At the end of the project, you will be required to provide an independent financial audit of all eligible expenditure from the project.

A.2 Partnership Establishment and operation costs

We consider the costs associated with the establishment of a Partnership as eligible expenditure.

We will not make any payments to you for any expenditure you have incurred prior to the execution of your grant agreement. Examples of eligible Partnership establishment costs can include:

- meeting costs e.g. hiring meeting spaces, hospitality costs, facilitators to bring all parties together in the establishment phase, and for consultation sessions and meeting of partners during the project.
- advertising, social media, publicity associated with consultation activities
- establishing governance arrangements including professional and legal advice

You may show expenditure on the establishment of a Partnership by providing evidence of:

- purchase price
- payments (e.g. tax invoices and receipts from suppliers confirming payment)
- commitment to pay for the services

If you claim expenditure for the establishment of a partnership, we limit this to 10 per cent of the total grant funding amount.

A.3 Labour expenditure

We consider the costs associated with the establishment and management of a partnership as eligible expenditure. This includes labour costs. We will not make any payments to you for any expenditure you have incurred prior to the execution of your grant agreement.

Eligible labour expenditure for the grant covers the direct labour costs of employees you directly employ on the core elements of the project. We consider a person an employee when you pay them a regular salary or wage, out of which you make regular tax instalment deductions.

We consider direct costs for technical, administrative and management related to the partnership establishment and its ongoing management through the life of the project. However, we limit these costs to 20 per cent of the total amount of eligible labour expenditure claimed.

Eligible salary expenditure includes an employee's total remuneration package as stated on their Pay As You Go (PAYG) Annual Payment Summary submitted to the ATO. We consider salary-sacrificed superannuation contributions as part of an employee's salary package if the amount is more than what the Superannuation Guarantee requires.

The maximum salary for an employee, director or shareholder, including packaged components that you can claim through the grant is \$200,000 per financial year.

For periods of the project that do not make a full financial year, you must reduce the maximum salary amount you claim proportionally.

You can only claim eligible salary costs when an employee is working directly on agreed project activities during the agreed project period.

A.4 Labour on-costs and administrative overhead

You may increase eligible salary costs by an additional 30 per cent allowance to cover on-costs such as employer paid superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation insurance, and overheads such as office rent and the purchase or provision of computing equipment directly required or related to the delivery of the project

You should calculate eligible salary costs using the formula below:

$$\text{Eligible salary costs} = \text{Annual salary package} \times \frac{\text{Weeks spent on project}}{52 \text{ weeks}} \times \text{percentage of time spent on project}$$

You cannot calculate labour costs by estimating the employee's worth. If you have not exchanged money (either by cash or bank transactions) we will not consider the cost eligible.

Evidence you will need to provide can include:

- details of all personnel working on the project, including name, title, function, time spent on the project and salary
- ATO payment summaries, pay slips and employment contracts.

A.5 Contract expenditure

Eligible contract expenditure is the cost of any agreed project activities that you contract others to do. These can include contracting:

- another organisation
- an individual who is not an employee, but engaged under a separate contract.

All contractors must have a written contract prior to starting any project work—for example, a formal agreement, letter or purchase order which specifies:

- the nature of the work they perform
- the applicable fees, charges and other costs payable.

Invoices from contractors must contain:

- a detailed description of the nature of the work
- the hours and hourly rates involved
- any specific plant expenses paid.

Invoices must directly relate to the agreed project, and the work must qualify as an eligible expense. The costs must also be reasonable and appropriate for the activities performed.

We will require evidence of contractor expenditure that may include:

- an exchange of letters (including email) setting out the terms and conditions of the proposed contract work
- purchase orders
- supply agreements
- invoices and payment documents.

You must ensure all project contractors keep a record of the costs of their work on the project. We may require you to provide a contractor's records of their costs of doing project work. If you cannot provide these records, the relevant contract expense may not qualify as eligible expenditure.

Where possible, you should engage local labour and services. Eligible contract expenditure may include:

- Legal services
- Architect services
- Design services
- Project management
- Quantity surveying
- Building services.
- Expertise relating to the development of business cases
- Data or research commissioned for the purpose of the project

A.6 Travel expenditure

Eligible travel expenditure may include:

- domestic travel limited to the reasonable cost of accommodation and transportation required to conduct agreed project and collaboration activities in Australia.

Eligible air transportation is limited to the economy class fare for each sector travelled; where non-economy class air transport is used only the equivalent of an economy fare for that sector is eligible expenditure. Where non-economy class air transport is used, the grantee will require evidence showing what an economy airfare costs at the time of travel.

A.7 Other eligible expenditure

Other eligible expenditures for the project may include:

- costs associated with consultation sessions including venue hire and light refreshments (excluding alcohol)
- marketing and branding costs
- administration costs directly related to the project and partnership establishment and management including communications and consultation materials
- staff training that directly supports the achievement of project outcomes
- financial auditing of project expenditure, the cost of an independent audit of project expenditure (where we request one) up to a maximum of 1 per cent of total eligible project expenditure
- costs you incur in order to obtain planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals during the project period, However, associated fees paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments are not eligible
- contingency costs up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the eligible project costs. Note that we make payments based on actual costs incurred.

Other specific expenditures may be eligible as determined by the program delegate.

Evidence you need to supply can include supplier contracts, purchase orders, invoices and supplier confirmation of payments.

Appendix B. Ineligible expenditure

This section provides guidance on what we consider ineligible expenditure. We may update this guidance from time to time; check you are referring to the most current version from the [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au) website before preparing your application.

The program delegate may impose limitations or exclude expenditure, or further include some ineligible expenditure listed in these guidelines in a grant agreement or otherwise by notice to you.

Examples of ineligible expenditure include:

- research not directly supporting eligible activities
- activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources
- costs incurred prior to us notifying you that the application is eligible and complete
- financing costs, including interest
- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers and the construction, renovation or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories
- costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project)
- costs such as renovations and utilities
- non-project-related staff training and development costs
- insurance costs (the participants must affect and maintain adequate insurance or similar coverage for any liability arising as a result of its participation in funded activities)
- debt financing
- costs related to obtaining resources used on the project, including interest on loans, job advertising and recruiting, and contract negotiations
- ongoing maintenance costs
- ongoing upgrades, updates and maintenance of existing ICT systems and computing facilities
- routine operating expenses not accounted for as labour on-costs – including accommodation, overheads and consumables, e.g. paper, printer cartridges, office supplies
- recurring or ongoing operational expenditure (including annual maintenance, rent, water and rates, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges)
- costs related to preparing the grant application
- overseas travel costs.

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where we decide that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or that they are contrary to the objective of the program.

You must ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.

Planning Permit

Permit No: PA2200355
Planning Scheme: Horsham Planning Scheme
Responsible Authority: Horsham Rural City Council

ADDRESS OF THE LAND:

Crown Allotment: 88A Section: 5 Vol: 11798 Fol: 578 Parish: Horsham
123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400
145 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400
147 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400
8 Hocking Street, Horsham Vic 3400
20 O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400
20A O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400
20B O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400

THE PERMIT ALLOWS:

City to River - Stage 2 (City Oval to Sawyer Park) in accordance with the endorsed plans

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS

The conditions No 1 - 3 as attached will apply

Date Issued: 31 May 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line that curves to the right and then loops back down to the left, crossing itself.

Signature for the Responsible Authority

PLANNING PERMIT No PA2200355**City to River - Stage 2 (City Oval to Sawyer Park)****Crown Allotment: 88A Section No: 5 Vol: 11798 Fol: 578 Parish: Horsham****123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400****145 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400****147 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400****8 Hocking Street, Horsham Vic 3400****20 O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400****20A O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400****20B O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400****The following conditions apply:**

Endorsed Plans

1. The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be substantially altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.

Stormwater Management

2. Before any work associated with the development start, a properly prepared drainage plan with computations to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and must include:
 - a. Details of how the works on the land are to be drained and/or retarded.
 - b. Computations including total energy line and hydraulic grade line for the existing and proposed drainage to be utilised by this development.
 - c. Independent drainage.
 - d. Underground pipe drains conveying stormwater to the legal point of discharge.
 - f. Measures to enhance stormwater discharge quality from the site and protect downstream waterways, including the expected discharge quality emanating from the development and design calculation summaries of the treatment elements.
 - g. The provision of gross pollutant and/or litter traps installed at the drainage outfall of the development to ensure that no effluent or polluted water of any type may be allowed to enter the Council's stormwater drainage system.
 - h. Maintenance schedules for treatment elements.
 - i. A maximum discharge rate from the site must be equivalent to predevelopment rate of discharged or capacity of downstream system.

Date Issued: 31 May 2022**Signature for the Responsible Authority**

PLANNING PERMIT No PA2200355**City to River - Stage 2 (City Oval to Sawyer Park)****Crown Allotment: 88A Section No: 5 Vol: 11798 Fol: 578 Parish: Horsham****123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400****145 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400****147 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400****8 Hocking Street, Horsham Vic 3400****20 O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400****20A O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400****20B O'Callaghans Parade, Horsham Vic 3400**

Permit Expiry

3. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- The development is not started within five years of the date of this permit; or
 - The development is not completed within ten years of the date of permit.

In accordance with section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, before the permit expires or within 6 months afterwards the owner or the occupier of the land to which this permit applies may ask the responsible authority for an extension of time.

The owner or occupier of land to which a permit for a development applies may ask the responsible authority for an extension of time to complete the development if the request for an extension of time is made within 12 months after the permit expires; and the development started lawfully before the permit expired.

NOTES ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMIT NO PA2200355:

- All work must be undertaken in accordance with DELWP Land Owner Consent.
- The permitted works do not include the demolition or redevelopment of the Grandstand which has been identified as of Local Significance and forms part of the Horsham Heritage Study.

Date Issued: 31 May 2022**Signature for the Responsible Authority**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NOTICE

WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED?

The responsible authority has issued a permit.

Note: This is not a permit granted under Division 5 or 6 of Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

CAN THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY AMEND THIS PERMIT?

The responsible authority may amend this permit under Division 1A of Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

WHEN DOES A PERMIT BEGIN?

A permit operates:

- from the date specified in the permit; or
- If no date is specified, from:
 - (i) the date of the decision of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, if the permit was issued at the direction of the Tribunal; or
 - (ii) the date on which it was issued, in any other case.

WHEN DOES A PERMIT EXPIRE?

1. A permit for the development of land expires if:
 - the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit; or
 - the development requires the certification of a plan of subdivision or consolidation under the *Subdivision Act 1988* and the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit, unless the permit contains a different provision; or
 - the development or any stage is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit or in the case of a subdivision or consolidation within 5 years of the certification of the plan of subdivision or consolidation under the *Subdivision Act 1988*.
2. A permit for the use of land expires if:
 - the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years of the issue of the permit; or
 - the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
3. A permit for the development and use of land expires if:
 - the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit; or
 - the development or any stage of it is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit; or
 - the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the completion of the development; or
 - the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
4. If a permit for the use of land or the development and use of land or relating to any of the circumstances mentioned in section 6A(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, or to any combination of use, development or any of those circumstances requires the certification of a plan under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, unless the permit contains a different provision:
 - the use of development of any stage is to be taken to have started when the plan is certified; and
 - the permit expires if the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit.
5. The expiry of a permit does not affect the validity of anything done under that permit before the expiry.

WHAT ABOUT REVIEWS?

- The person who applied for the permit may apply for a review of any condition in the permit unless it was granted at the direction of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, in which case no right of review exists.
- An application for review must be lodged within 60 days after the permit was issued, unless a notice of decision to grant a permit has been issued previously, in which case the application for review must be lodged within 60 days after the giving of that notice.
- An application for review is lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- An application for review must be made on the relevant form which can be obtained from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and be accompanied by the applicable fee.
- An application for review must state the grounds upon which it is based.
- A copy of an application for review must also be served on the responsible authority

Sawyer Park City Oval Concept Plan

Stage 2 of the Horsham City Oval Redevelopment
HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987
HORSHAM PLANNING SCHEME
I certify that this is the plan/documentation referred to in
Permit No: PA2200355
JOEL HADFIELD
Coordinator Statutory Planning
Dated 31/05/2022

Introduction

The City Oval has been part of Horsham sporting and community life since the beginning of the 20th Century, with the existing timber framed grandstand built in 1924. The various buildings and facilities have been developed over the intervening years and cater for a range of activities including band practice, children's playground and picnic area, netball, cricket and football, as well as community activities, the Men's Shed and until recently, the Griampians Visitors Information Centre.

This project is the second stage of the City to River Masterplan (adopted by Council in 2019), a long-term plan which aims to enhance and revitalise the Wimmera Riverfront, Showgrounds Precinct and Central Activity District of Horsham over the next 20 years, making Horsham a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

Tract Consultants, working in collaboration with Horsham Rural City Council Project Manager, the project Community Reference Group, and Tonkin Engineers (Traffic and Road Safety), have developed an agreed Concept Plan for the City Oval and Sawyer Park, to create an integrated network of public recreational facilities and open spaces linking to the Wimmera Riverfront. The exhibition of this Concept Plan reflects the Council's commitment to working with the community to gain widespread support and agreement from representatives of all the key stakeholders in the precinct. Having gained endorsement from the Community Reference Group, HRCC is now requesting public feedback on the proposed Concept Plan.

Upgrades to sporting and other facilities

Throughout the City Oval precinct multiple measures are proposed to make the precinct more accessible and to facilitate increased participation in sports across a range of codes. Facilities including; Change rooms and toilets, community meeting and gathering facilities, social spaces, kitchen / canteen, storage and plant rooms, sporting rooms and First Aid will be accommodated in accordance with Sporting Association Facility Standards and guidelines for local and regional sporting events.

[AFL / Netball Association Guidelines and Accessibility Standards]

City Oval

The playing surface will be widened on the short (north and south) axis to enlarge the playing area for both cricket and AFL matches. A new drain and perimeter fences (to oval and site) are proposed to replace existing drainage together with a new broadcast and timekeepers boxes, integrated into the new buildings.

Fencing to the perimeter of the City Oval will be maintained and upgraded to secure the site for licensed events and match days. Entrances into the site will be reconfigured to provide generous openings at all other times to welcome public access through the precinct. A system of retractable gates will enable easy closure of these entrances for ticketed events.

Additional covered viewing areas are proposed, including a new grandstand with ramped access and roofed area.

Grandstand

Following assessment of its heritage value and limiting accessibility constraints, the Grandstand will be replaced and HRCC will investigate interpretive measures to ensure the historical and social aspects of the grandstand valued by the community are recognised. Research and oral history from stories and memories associated with the building, together with physical elements from the structure will be meaningfully and respectfully interpreted and integrated into the redevelopment.

Maintenance area and storage

Parks and Gardens maintenance storage, Grounds Keeper Store and access around the site is provided in a new Maintenance area under the new Grandstand located on Baker Street. Various upgrades to the oval surrounds including; fencing, drainage and access to the playing field - are also proposed.

Community Facility

Replacing the existing Football Club building, the Community Facility will support a wide range of gatherings. The facility will have the potential to cater for a wide variety of groups and will provide greater access to the precinct for members of the community.

Several community groups are currently located on the site and have been contacted to consider appropriate relocation to alternate and workable sites.

Horsham Football and Netball Club - to stay in the precinct

Cricket Vic - to stay in the precinct

Men's Shed - working with them to secure a new location

Horsham Pipe band - looking to find a more suitable location

Horsham Brass band - looking to find a more suitable location

AFL Wimmera - looking to keep in the precinct

Wimmera Live Steam and Model - remain in current location.

St Johns - they looking for alternate locations

• Enhance public amenity and access with improvements to the public realm thereby encouraging passive recreation and an increased diversity of users

• Develop safer pedestrian connections throughout the whole precinct including Sawyer Park, Horsham Botanical Gardens and the Riverfront

• Provide safe and generous pedestrian and cycle routes between the Central Activity District and Sawyer Park City Oval

• Improve the capacity of Sawyer Park as an events space and supplement this with additional events infrastructure at City Oval

• Recognise significance of the Cenotaph and RSL Memorial Drive and improve access and facilities

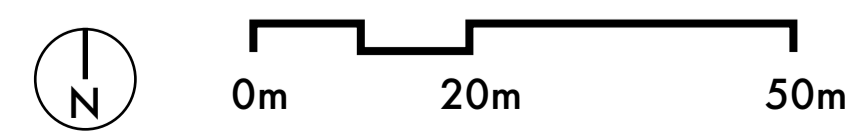
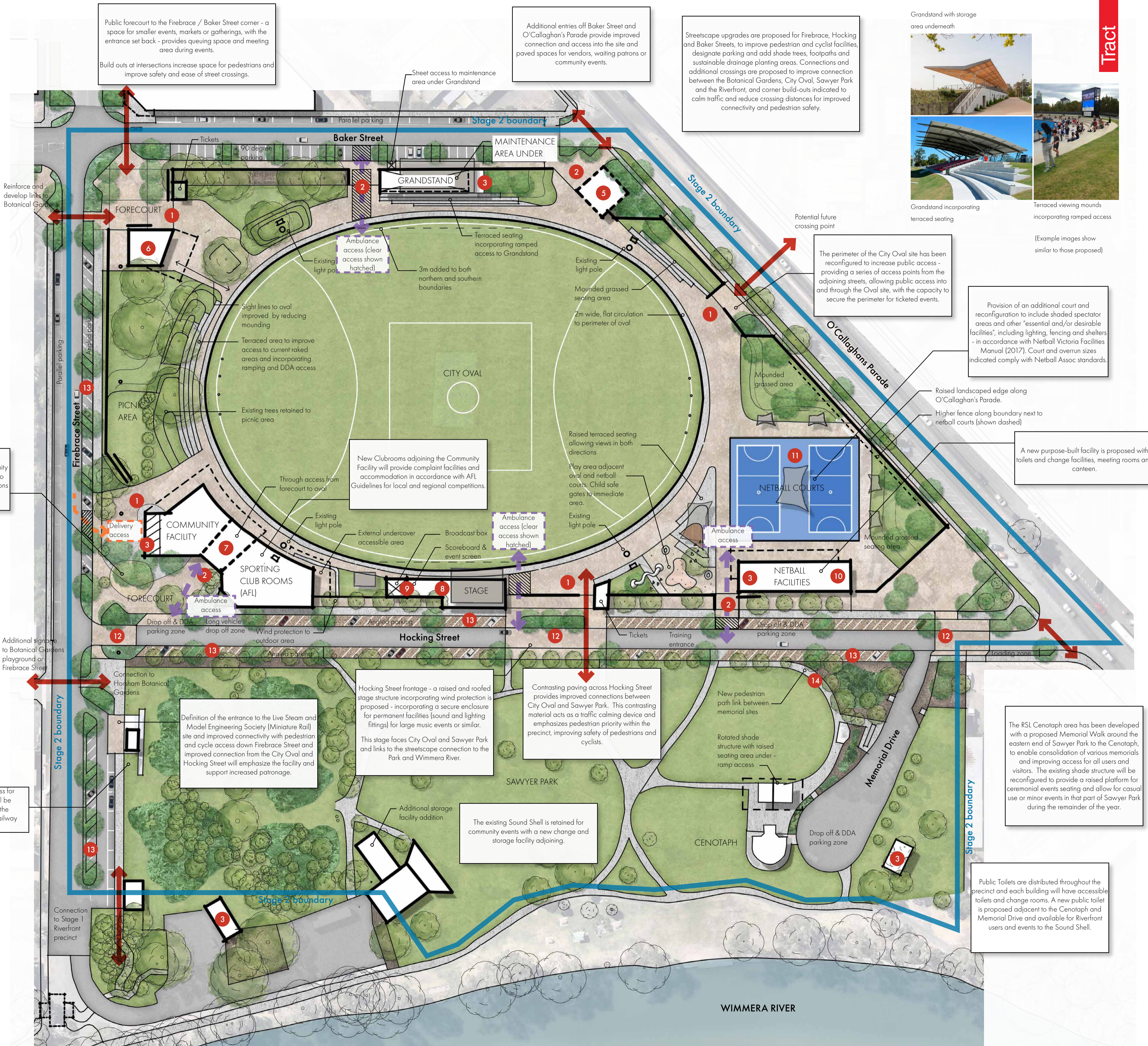
• Acknowledge the role of the Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society and improve access and integration into the precinct

Legend

- 1 Primary entry into City Oval precinct
- 2 Secondary entry into City Oval precinct
- 3 Public toilet - access varies by location
- 4 New Grandstand with maintenance area under
- 5 Existing building refurbished with new use
- 6 Food & beverage area - undercover
- 7 Community facility & sporting clubrooms
- 8 Stage with shelter over & associated event storage
- 9 Broadcast box
- 10 Netball clubrooms
- 11 Netball courts
- 12 Contrasting pavement & crossing point
- 13 45 degree angled parking
- 14 Memorial walk path link

This Concept Plan is exhibited for Public Consultation and feedback from the community. This presentation illustrates the preferred and agreed Concept Plan for the redevelopment of Sawyer Park and City Oval, capturing the intent and objectives expressed by various parties through this process.

Rev C - September 30, 2021.



Grandstand with storage area underneath
Grandstand incorporating terraced seating
Terraced viewing mounds incorporating ramped access

(Example images show similar to those proposed)

Provision of an additional court and reconfiguration to include shaded spectator areas and other 'essential and/or desirable facilities', including lighting, fencing and shelters - in accordance with Netball Victoria Facilities Manual (2017). Court and overrun sizes indicated comply with Netball Assoc standards.

A new purpose-built facility is proposed with toilets and change facilities, meeting rooms and canteen.

The RSL Cenotaph area has been developed with a proposed Memorial Walk around the eastern end of Sawyer Park to the Cenotaph, to enable consolidation of various memorials and improving access for all users and visitors. The existing shade structure will be reconfigured to provide a raised platform for ceremonial events seating and allow for casual use or minor events in that part of Sawyer Park during the remainder of the year.

Public Toilets are distributed throughout the precinct and each building will have accessible toilets and change rooms. A new public toilet is proposed adjacent to the Cenotaph and Memorial Drive and available for Riverfront users and events to the Sound Shell.

The perimeter of the City Oval site has been reconfigured to increase public access - providing a series of access points from the adjoining streets, allowing public access into and through the Oval site, with the capacity to secure the perimeter for ticketed events.

Raised landscaped edge along O'Callaghan's Parade
Higher fence along boundary next to netball courts (shown dashed)

Streetscape upgrades are proposed for Firebrace, Hocking and Baker Streets, to improve pedestrian and cyclist facilities, designate parking and add shade trees, footpaths and sustainable drainage planting areas. Connections and additional crossings are proposed to improve connection between the Botanical Gardens, City Oval, Sawyer Park and the Riverfront, and corner build-outs indicated to calm traffic and reduce crossing distances for improved connectivity and pedestrian safety.

Additional entries off Baker Street and O'Callaghan's Parade provide improved connection and access into the site and paved spaces for vendors, waiting patrons or community events.

Public forecourt to the Firebrace / Baker Street corner - a space for smaller events, markets or gatherings, with the entrance set back - provides queuing space and meeting area during events.
Build outs at intersections increase space for pedestrians and improve safety and ease of street crossings.

Reinforce and develop links to Botanical Gardens

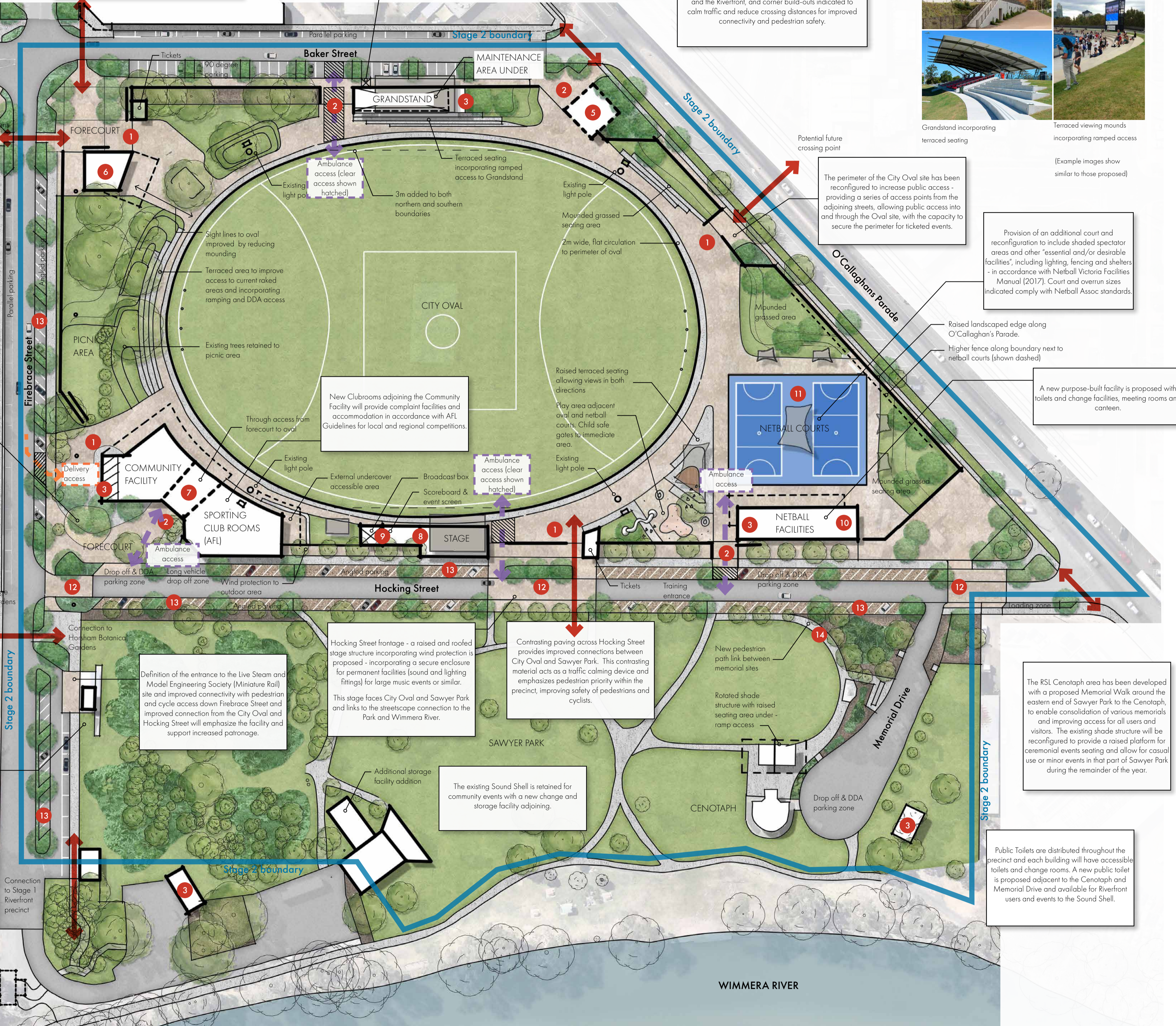
A public forecourt to the proposed Community Facility provides a functional open space to enter the precinct and supports social functions or smaller events.

New Clubrooms adjoining the Community Facility will provide complaint facilities and accommodation in accordance with AFL Guidelines for local and regional competitions.

Hocking Street frontage - a raised and roofed stage structure incorporating wind protection is proposed - incorporating a secure enclosure for permanent facilities (sound and lighting fittings) for large music events or similar.
This stage faces City Oval and Sawyer Park and links to the streetscape connection to the Park and Wimmera River.

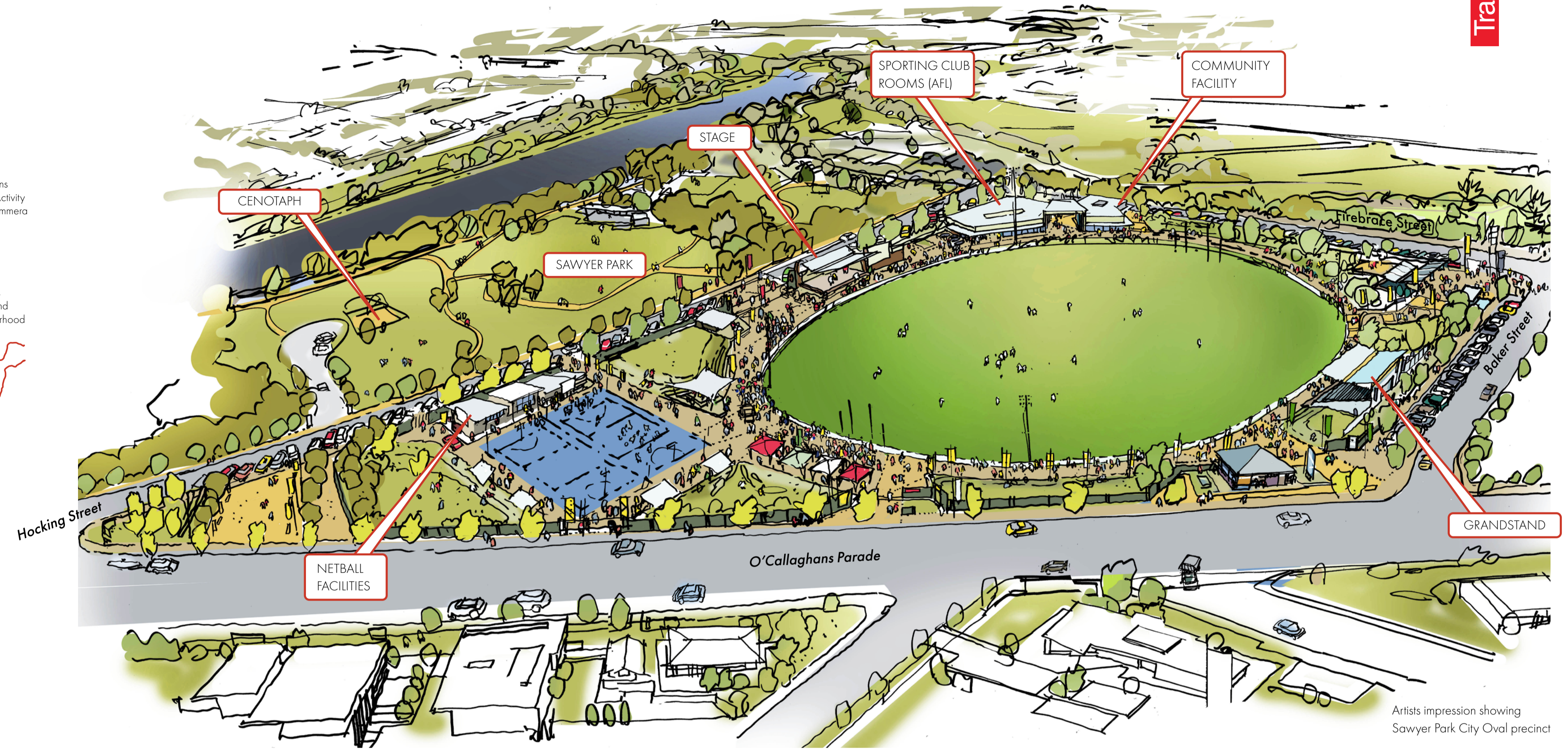
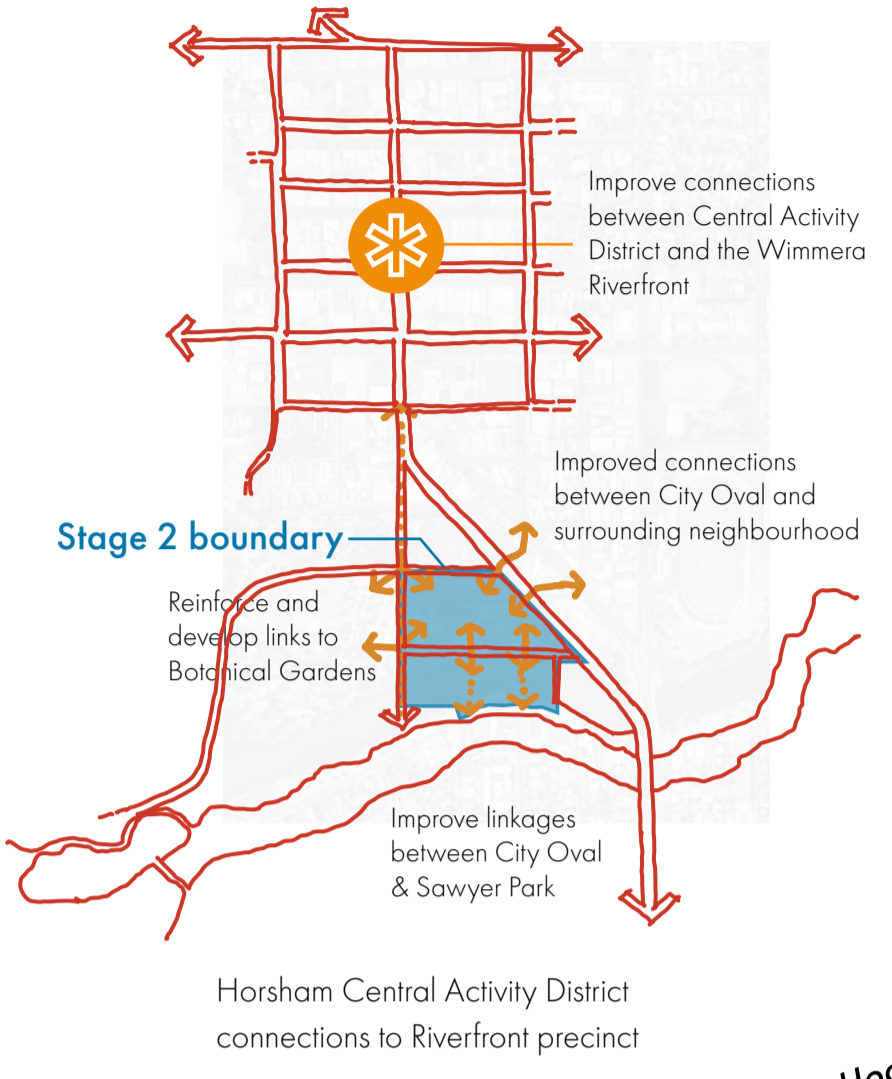
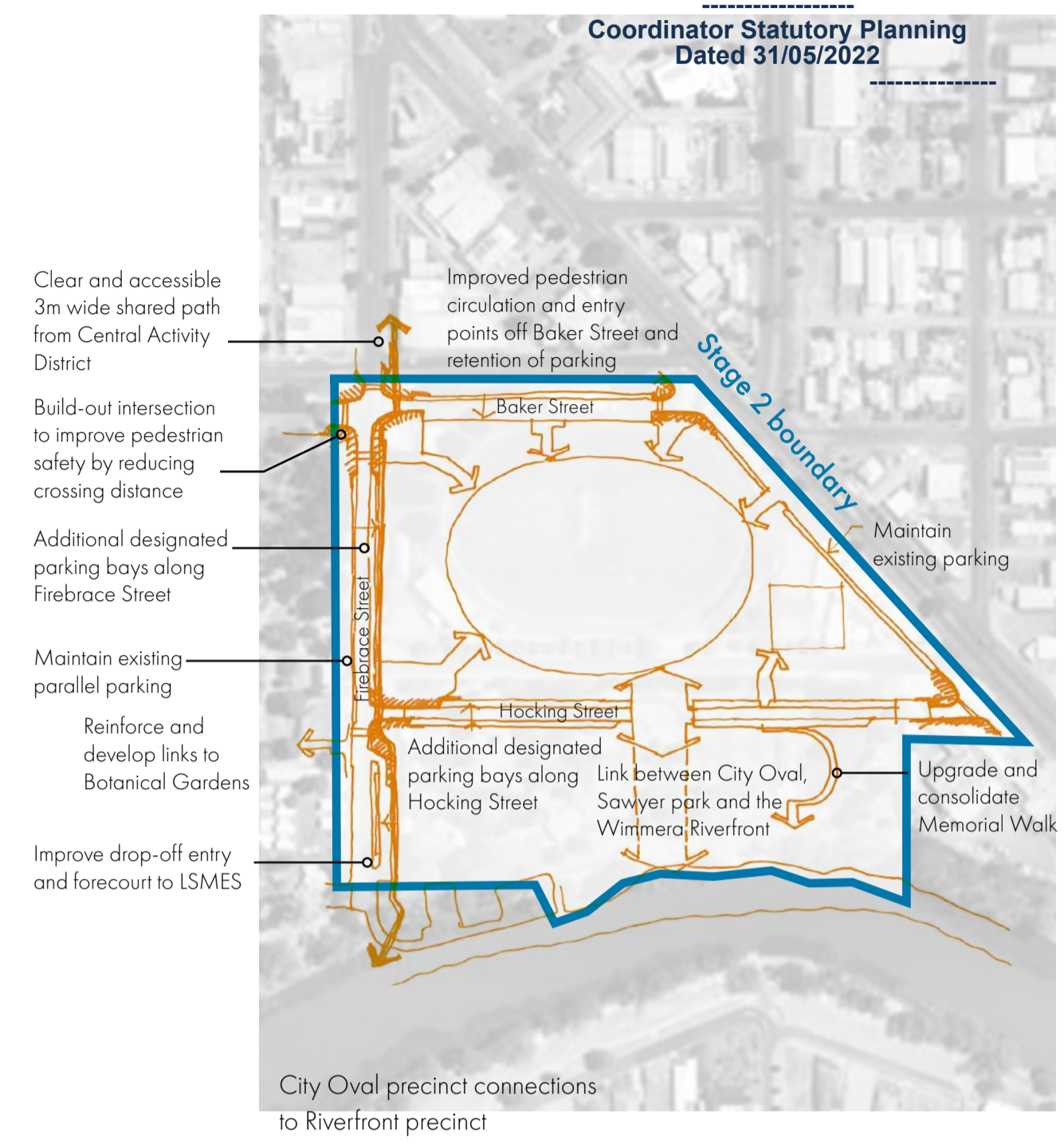
Contrasting paving across Hocking Street provides improved connections between City Oval and Sawyer Park. This contrasting material acts as a traffic calming device and emphasizes pedestrian priority within the precinct, improving safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

The existing Sound Shell is retained for community events with a new change and storage facility adjoining.



Sawyer Park City Oval Concept Plan

Stage 2 of the Horsham City Planning and Environment Act 1987
 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL
 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987
 HORSHAM PLANNING SCHEME
 Permit No: PA2200355
 I certify that this is the plan/documentation referred to in
 JOEL HASTINGS
 Coordinator Statutory Planning
 Dated 31/05/2022



Engagement with Community and stakeholders

Council established a Community Reference Group (CRG) in November 2020, with representatives from key stakeholders to guide and steer the development of the Concept Plan for Sawyer Park City Oval. Council representatives met with each of the CRG stakeholder groups and individual representatives to discuss needs and desires for the development, identify issues and problems and to collate preferences. The CRG has worked with Council and the consultant team (Tract/Tonkin) to develop this Concept plan which is now presented for public comment. Community Reference Group members include representatives from the following stakeholders and community groups:

- Regional Ratepayers
- Returned Services League
- Horsham Rural City Band
- Horsham Pipe Band
- Community members (2 No.)
- Horsham District Football and Netball association (2 No.)
- Horsham Cricket Association
- Horsham City Council Parks and Gardens
- Events Users group
- Wimmera Live Steam and Model Engineering Society

Reference Group aims

- Transform and revitalise the area through improvements that support liveability, active use and economic resilience
- Promote the attractions of the precinct as a destination for the community and visitors – riverfront, gardens, open space, recreational and community facilities
- Increase sustainability and attractiveness through improved water conservation, additional shade, improved accessibility and upgraded facilities
- HRCC have also undertaken a review of Sporting Facilities Demand across the City and region, and are working towards development of existing facilities to cater for ongoing needs and projected sports, recreation and active lifestyle requirements into the future. This study identified the City Oval as the 'jewel in the crown' for Horsham and recommendations made to address issues and upgrade facilities, including:
 - Improved public access to the City Oval throughout the year
 - Upgrade of all facilities to current standards and to address needs of all User Groups
 - Addressing Grandstand issues – access, orientation to weather, materials
 - Events attraction and management
 - Universal Access for all users to toilets, clubrooms and other facilities
- Oval configuration and size to suit regional level sports events
- Shaded spectator areas

Streetscape works

Each of the adjoining streets has been adjusted to better define pedestrian and vehicular areas and to provide improved facilities for pedestrian and cycle circulation around and through the precinct.

Intersection crossings have typically been narrowed with build-outs to improve safety and ease of pedestrian movement, as well as reducing the visual impact of wide pavement areas.

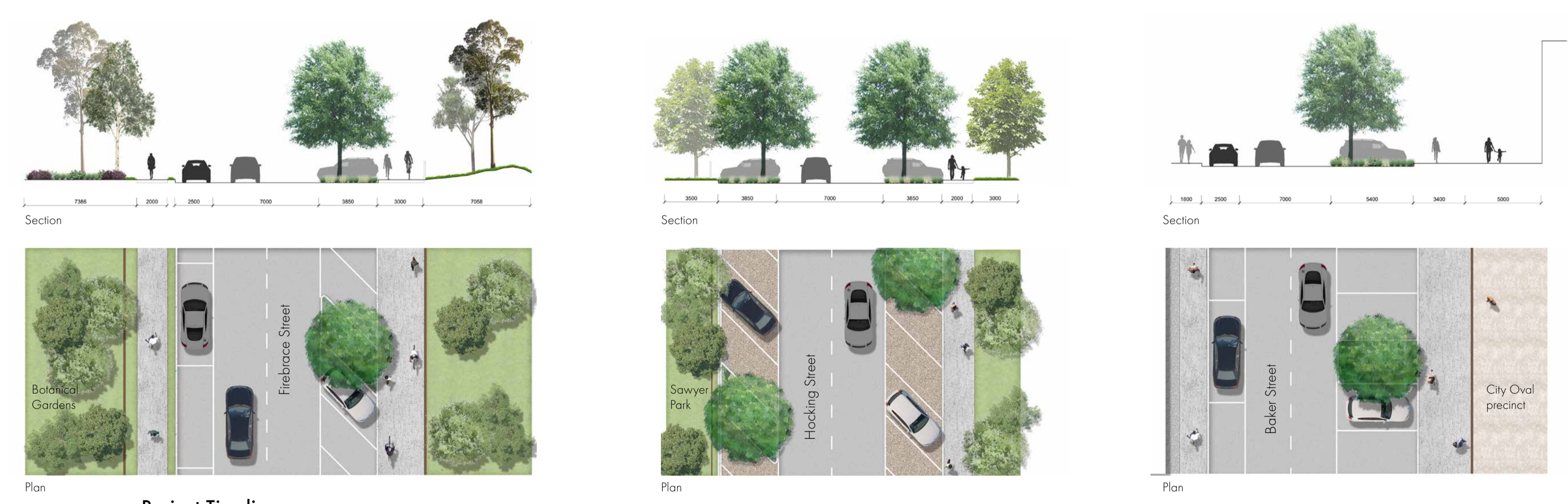
Two-way traffic is maintained to all adjacent streets and on-street parking designated to maximise capacity for on-street parking, especially during larger events at City Oval, Sawyer Park, the Botanical Gardens or the Wimmera Riverfront. As a key location with proximity to all areas of the precinct, the Hocking Street layout has been adjusted to maintain minimal width pavement for two way traffic and allow for parking on both sides during larger events. Parking verges are proposed as spray-seal to reduce the visual impact of sealed pavement and to allow for additional street tree planting for shade, amenity and natural cooling of the street.

Car parking will be clearly defined on each street to maximise the effective use of road reserve space while reducing road pavement. Intermittently spaced sustainable drainage planting areas and street tree planting between sections of parking bays is also proposed. This street layout will maximise the provision of car parking to cater for larger events, while providing greenery and efficient stormwater drainage, shade trees and improved pedestrian and cyclist corridors.

A shared, 3m wide path for pedestrians and cyclists is proposed along Firebrace Street to the Riverfront, facilitating improved connection between the Central Activities District and the River – a key requirement under the agreed City to River Masterplan. This route is reinforced with shade tree planting that extends beyond the frontage of the Live Steam and Model Engineering Society (LSMES) entrance and parking area and connects with existing vegetation corridors along the Wimmera Riverfront.

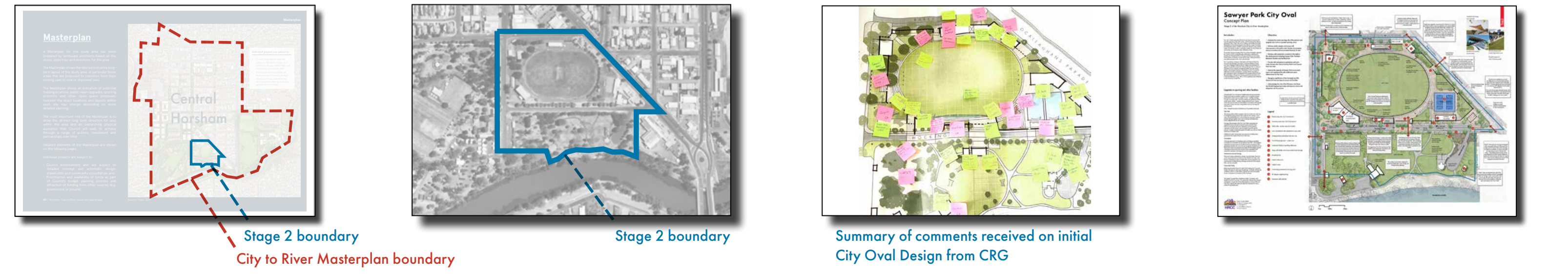
Parking and entry to the LSMES facility has been reconfigured to provide a generous pedestrian drop off area and entrance to the site, with a planting buffer and street trees separating this parking from Firebrace Street and allowing a turn around area.

Street Cross-sections



Project Timeline

- 2018-2019**
 City to River Masterplan developed by HRCC, Urban Enterprise and Tract
 Public Comment sought and received on Masterplan
- February-March 2021**
 Community Reference Group (CRG) for Stage 2 convened
 Development of initial concept plans
- April-May 2021**
 Stage 2 - Draft Concept Plans are progressed considering Community feedback from Masterplan and input from the CRG
- June-July 2021**
 Stage 2 - Draft Concept Plans completed and displayed for Community feedback in June
 Feedback incorporated into final designs



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**GRIEVE
GILLETT
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ARCHITECTURE
INTERIORS
URBAN DESIGN
HERITAGE

HORSHAM CITY OVAL & GRANDSTAND

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT



PREPARED FOR HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL
FINAL REPORT - MARCH 2021

COVER IMAGE:

HORSHAM CITY OVAL AND GRANDSTAND, DATE UNKNOWN: SUPPLIED BY HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

REPORT NAME:	Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment
FOR:	Horsham Rural City Council
JOB NUMBER:	20129

Preparation, review and approval

REVISION #	DATE	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
DRAFT #01	08.01.21	EL	ND	DA
FINAL REPORT	10.03.21	EL	ND	DA

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Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council	10.03.21	-	PDF by email

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1. INTRODUCTION

Grieve Gillett Andersen was engaged by the Horsham Rural City Council, to undertake a heritage assessment of the Grandstand and Oval at the Horsham City Oval. This Assessment has been undertaken to investigate and describe any heritage values that can be attributed to the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand.

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are currently included in the extent of the *Horsham: City to River Vision and Masterplan* which sets out a long-term vision for central Horsham, and will guide the revitalisation of the area over the next 20 to 30 years. There has been community interest in the future of the oval facilities and particularly the grandstand, and a nomination was made to Heritage Victoria to include the place on the Victorian Heritage Register. The nomination was refused.

2. HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The exact date of the establishment of the Horsham City Oval is not known, although is believed to be around 1901. The site was in use prior to this, as gazetted grounds to host the fourth show of the Horsham and Wimmera District Agricultural and Pastoral Society in 1879. Annual shows were held from this time until 1902, when the present site of the Horsham Showgrounds was used for the event.

The current grandstand at the Horsham City Oval was constructed in 1924. A new dressing room was constructed in 1926.

Council considered re-orientating the oval from east – west to north – south in 1949, but this was not pursued at the time. Various works to the grounds occurred in the early 1950s following a state government subsidy, to seal the spectator's ramp and provide seating around the oval, as well as installing wire mesh fencing to the northern boundary. The oval was reconstructed including reseeding in 1952, and irrigation provided as well as an improved drainage system.

The Horsham Football Club has been in existence for over 100 years, and maintains a long association with the oval. The current Football and Netball clubrooms are housed in buildings that appear to date from around the 1980s.

A record crowd of 10,151 attended the match between Minyip and Warracknabeal in September 1952, with the Horsham Times reporting that the ground accommodated the large crowd with ease.



Figure 1: Horsham City Oval with Grandstand in view, date unknown (Horsham Rural City Council)

The oval has been used for many other purposes through its life, including tennis tournaments, band recitals, and school events. Associated facilities including the brick gate entries, shelters and amenities blocks have been constructed over the years to support the continued use of the place by a variety of groups.

The Horsham City Pipe Band was formed in 1923, and the Pipe Band Hall would appear to date from the 1930s – 1940s. The Horsham Rural City Brass Band Hall appears to have been constructed in the 1970s.



Figure 2: Horsham City Oval used for community events, date unknown (Horsham Rural City Council)

3. ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

The Horsham City Oval is an open grassed recreational field, with a number of facilities located around its perimeter. These include:

- The Grandstand;
- Children's playground;
- Picnic facilities;
- WC and amenities blocks, including change facilities;
- The Horsham Pipe Band Hall;
- The Horsham United Football and Netball Clubs facilities;
- Scoreboard;
- The Horsham City Brass Band Hall;
- Brick gateways on O'Callaghans Parade, and the corner of Baker and Firebrace Streets.

Within the grounds are the associated infrastructure elements typical of a sports ground, including lighting, fencing, car parking areas, and a scoreboard.

Within the boundaries of the oval site, are also located the Horsham Men's Shed and the Horsham and Grampians Visitor Information Centre, although these address O'Callaghans Parade rather than the oval.



Figure 3: Horsham City Oval and associated facilities (Googlemaps with GGA overlay)

3.2 THE GRANDSTAND

The Grandstand is a simple timber framed structure located on the north side of the City Oval. It is clad in non-original metal standing seam cladding to the north, east and west elevations, with high level glazing to the east and west. The southern side, facing the oval, is open, with a timber balustrade with wire mesh fixed between timber posts. Three open timber stairs provide access from the ground to the grandstand seating, which consists of aluminium benches tiered to follow the rake of the grandstand floor. A series of timber and steel portal frames support the timber framed skillion roof, which falls towards the oval.



Figure 4, 5: Views of Horsham Grandstand (courtesy Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council)



Figure 6: View underneath the grandstand seating (courtesy Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council)



Figure 7: Under the grandstand showing old lining boards (courtesy Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council)

3.3 CONDITION AND KNOWN ALTERATIONS TO BUILDING FABRIC

The Grandstand is in a fair condition, with relatively recent repair works having been undertaken by Council. Termite and wood rot damage to the timber wall framing was repaired in 2002-2003, and the timber seating replaced.



Figure 8: Horsham Grandstand prior to refurbishment, date not confirmed (Horsham Rural City Council)

3.4 INTEGRITY

The Grandstand retains a moderate degree of integrity, retaining its overall form, open tiered seating configuration, timber post and rail handrail and stair balustrades, and undercroft area.

Its function continues as a grandstand associated with the oval, and its physical relationship with the oval is retained.

Major changes that have reduced the integrity of the structure include the over-recladding with an aluminium profiled product; replacement of the timber seating with aluminium bench seats; and the covering of the timber floor with painted hardboard panels. Despite these works, the original weatherboard cladding, external windows and louvred vents all survive beneath the metal cladding, so contrary to appearances it has a relatively high intactness.



Figure 9: Grandstand prior to recladding:



Figure 10: metal cladding installed



Figures 11, 12: Overall form of grandstand retained: note removal of part of outer stairs, roof platform



Figures 13, 14: Earlier timber seating and floor finishes, replaced with aluminium bench seats, floors covered

4. HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

4.1 ASSESSMENT AGAINST HERCON CRITERIA

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history – historical importance

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century, in a large rural centre. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham. Criterion A is met.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history – rarity

The Oval and Grandstand are not especially rare as a place typology, with similar venues located in most country towns of a certain size. Criterion B is not met.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history – research potential

The Grandstand is a relatively simple structure, unlikely to yield information not already known. Criterion C is not met.

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments – representativeness

The Oval and Grandstand are a good representation of this place typology, being a public facility supporting sport and other recreational and social activities. While very simple in form, the Grandstand is still largely intact beneath the current metal cladding. The co-located sporting facilities, City Pipe Band Hall, City Brass Band Hall, and public facilities collectively form a cohesive example of a City Oval. Criterion D is met.

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics – aesthetic significance

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand generally retain their original configuration. The Grandstand has undergone extensive repairs which have diminished its architectural integrity, although the primary structure, overall form and some original elements remain, albeit not in a visually prominent manner. In its current physical state, the Grandstand is not considered to be of aesthetic significance. Criterion E is not met.

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period – technical significance

The City Oval and Grandstand and associated facilities are not of particular technical or a high degree of creative merit. Criterion F is not met.

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions – social significance

The Horsham City Oval ~~and~~ Grandstand ~~and associated facilities~~ are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events since the turn of the century. The place ~~is an important gathering place for a variety of community groups and~~ has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, ~~and~~ regional sporting competitions, ~~and musical events~~. Criterion G is met.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history – associative significance

Several prominent AFL footballers have played at the City Oval, however these associations have been fleeting. The City Oval and Grandstand are not associated with any particular known person or group of persons of historical importance. Criterion H is not met.



4.2 RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES

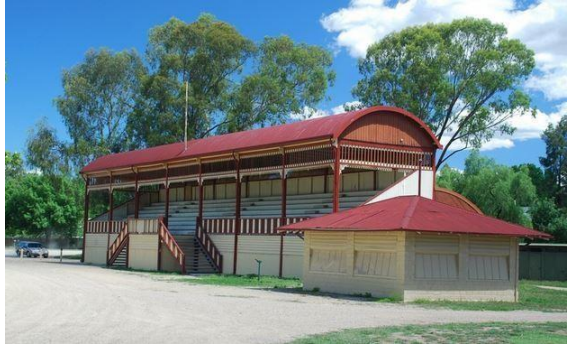


The 2012 Thematic Environmental History, prepared as part of the Horsham Heritage Study (Stage 1) identified themes of importance to the region, which assisted in identifying places of heritage value. The Victorian historical themes of “Making regional centres’ and ‘Living in country towns’ are relevant to the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand.




“Organised sport had long been a central focus of town life in Horsham and surrounding district, both for those participating and spectating, and included a range of additional activities surrounding the sporting calendar, such as fund-raising events. Horsham and district have been the springboard for many local people to be launched into successful sporting careers, both amateur and professional.” (Thematic Environmental History, Dr. Helen Doyle)



5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS


The following [table-list](#) presents other grandstand structures in Victoria that have heritage listings at various levels, to provide some context around the assessment of the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand:

Name / Location	Description	Listing / Significance	Photo
Hamilton Racecourse Grandstand	c1873, high architectural merit and high integrity	VHR – architectural and historical significance	
City Oval Grandstand, Ballarat	1898, Architect designed	National Trust Is significant as a large and intact grandstand dating from the late nineteenth century. The design, especially of the roof, is unique in Victoria	

<p>Benalla Showgrounds Grandstand</p>	<p>1913, 'rare example of timber framed grandstand, barrel roof, ornate balustrade</p>	<p>VHR – architectural significance</p>	 <p>A photograph of the Benalla Showgrounds Grandstand, a timber-framed structure with a prominent red barrel roof and ornate balustrade, set against a blue sky with trees in the background.</p>
<p>Leongatha Showgrounds Grandstand</p>	<p>1922</p>	<p>South Gippsland Shire (local) – historic and aesthetic significance; technically of interest for local brick construction</p>	 <p>A photograph of the Leongatha Showgrounds Grandstand, a brick structure with a green roof and white railings, situated in an open area under a cloudy sky.</p>
<p>Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand</p>		<p>Maribyrnong City Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the course and pattern of history; - important historic events; - rarity; - social importance to the community; <p>association with important person or group</p>	 <p>A photograph of the Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand, a modern-looking structure with a dark roof and white base, featuring a central staircase and surrounded by a fence.</p>

<p>Kingston Grandstand, Hepburn Shire</p>	<p>1902 timber framed grandstand; has been relocated (1922)</p>	<p>VHR historical, architectural and social significance</p>	
<p>Camperdown Turf Club Grandstand</p>	<p>1902-03 architect designed, extended c1913 Timber framed</p>	<p>VHR – architectural, historical and social significance</p>	
<p>Melville Oval Old Grandstand, Hamilton Melville Oval Precinct Southern Grampians Shire</p>		<p>Heritage Overlay (local) The Melville Oval grandstand is of local significance for its historical associations with various sports and recreational pursuits and for the elegance of its Edwardian architecture The building is substantially intact and in good condition. The Melville Oval has local significance because of its historical associations as Hamilton's chief recreational reserve The Oval illustrates the importance of sport and recreation in this typical Victorian country town</p>	

<p>Queen Elizabeth Oval Grandstand, Bendigo</p>		<p>VHR</p> <p>The grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth Oval, Bendigo is important for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as a large, well-conceived and executed late nineteenth century period grandstand, one of the most notable in the state. This excellent example of a comparatively rare building type is in excellent condition. - as an excellent example of the 'boom style' architecture of the Victorian central goldfields. - as a notable design of JR Richardson - for the quality of its workmanship and local materials - as a structure symbolic of regional community aspirations in late nineteenth century Bendigo - as a structure symbolizing the importance of sport to a late nineteenth century regional Victorian community - 	
<p>Penshurst Racecourse</p>	<p>1896 small conventional timber and bluestone grandstand, It has been much altered</p>	<p>Southern Grampians Shire (local) – historical significance</p>	

	and extended.		
Navarre Oval Grandstand, Northern Grampians Shire	1924, architect designed	<p>Northern Grampians Shire (local)</p> <p>predominantly intact example of an interwar grandstand structure</p> <p>The Navarre oval, is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates important visual qualities that include the open grassed sports ground and perimeter eucalypts which establish an important rural setting for the grandstand.</p> <p>The Navarre grandstand, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities for a grandstand structure built during the interwar period. These qualities include the shallow gabled roof form supported by elongated timber columns with large timber brackets.</p>	

In comparison to these other grandstands, the Horsham example is one of the smallest and most modest. In its size, it is similar to the Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand and Navarre Oval Grandstand. Its modest design is most similar to the Maribyrnong example. While the integrity of the Horsham Oval Grandstand is currently low, it appears that its actual intactness is higher than that of the Penshurst Racecourse Grandstand.

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES OF THE PLACE

What is significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand, including the remaining original fabric of the Grandstand, the ongoing use as a sporting facility, and the associated social uses including the City Pipe Band and City Brass Band.

How is it significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical and social significance to the Horsham community.

Why is it significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and



cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century through to the present day. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham.

The Horsham City Oval, Grandstand and associated facilities are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events



since the turn of the century. It is an important gathering place for a variety of community groups and has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, regional sporting competitions, and musical events.

7. CONCLUSION

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are considered to be of local heritage value, and should be considered for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay within the Horsham Rural City Council's Planning Scheme

The assessment of significance has determined the place to be of historical and social significance. This places less importance on the physical fabric of the place, and more on the social and historical associations that it has formed for the community. This affords a level of flexibility in development opportunity, even if the place achieves a formal heritage listing. The continued use of the place for community recreation and socialisation is a key component of the significance that should be maintained into the future.

Notwithstanding the above, there are works that could be considered to improve the appearance of the Grandstand to reflect a more original configuration. These include replacement of the metal wall cladding with a more appropriate material, and potentially the repair / replacement of remaining timber cladding, depending on its condition; the reinstatement of timber seating in lieu of the aluminium bench seats; and the provision of interpretive material to assist in the understanding of the place's heritage value.

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ARCHITECTURE
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URBAN DESIGN
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HORSHAM CITY OVAL & GRANDSTAND

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT



PREPARED FOR HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL
FINAL REPORT - MARCH 2021

COVER IMAGE:
HORSHAM CITY OVAL AND GRANDSTAND, DATE UNKNOWN: SUPPLIED BY HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

REPORT NAME:	Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment
FOR:	Horsham Rural City Council
JOB NUMBER:	20129

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Figure 2: Horsham City Oval used for community events, date unknown (Horsham Rural City Council)

3. ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

The Horsham City Oval is an open grassed recreational field, with a number of facilities located around its perimeter. These include:

- The Grandstand;
- Children's playground;
- Picnic facilities;
- WC and amenities blocks, including change facilities;
- The Horsham Pipe Band Hall;
- The Horsham United Football and Netball Clubs facilities;
- Scoreboard;
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- Brick gateways on O'Callaghans Parade, and the corner of Baker and Firebrace Streets.

Within the grounds are the associated infrastructure elements typical of a sports ground, including lighting, fencing, car parking areas, and a scoreboard.

Within the boundaries of the oval site, are also located the Horsham Men's Shed and the Horsham and Grampians Visitor Information Centre, although these address O'Callaghans Parade rather than the oval.



Figure 3: Horsham City Oval and associated facilities (Googlemaps with GGA overlay)

3.2 THE GRANDSTAND

The Grandstand is a simple timber framed structure located on the north side of the City Oval. It is clad in non-original metal standing seam cladding to the north, east and west elevations, with high level glazing to the east and west. The southern side, facing the oval, is open, with a timber balustrade with wire mesh fixed between timber posts. Three open timber stairs provide access from the ground to the grandstand seating, which consists of aluminium benches tiered to follow the rake of the grandstand floor. A series of timber and steel portal frames support the timber framed skillion roof, which falls towards the oval.



Figure 4, 5: Views of Horsham Grandstand (courtesy Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council)



Figure 6: View underneath the grandstand seating (courtesy Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council)



Figure 7: Under the grandstand showing old lining boards (courtesy Stephanie Harder, Horsham Rural City Council)

3.3 CONDITION AND KNOWN ALTERATIONS TO BUILDING FABRIC

The Grandstand is in a fair condition, with relatively recent repair works having been undertaken by Council. Termite and wood rot damage to the timber wall framing was repaired in 2002-2003, and the timber seating replaced.



Figure 8: Horsham Grandstand prior to refurbishment, date not confirmed (Horsham Rural City Council)

3.4 INTEGRITY

The Grandstand retains a moderate degree of integrity, retaining its overall form, open tiered seating configuration, timber post and rail handrail and stair balustrades, and undercroft area.

Its function continues as a grandstand associated with the oval, and its physical relationship with the oval is retained.

Major changes that have reduced the integrity of the structure include the over-recladding with an aluminium profiled product; replacement of the timber seating with aluminium bench seats; and the covering of the timber floor with painted hardboard panels. Despite these works, the original weatherboard cladding, external windows and louvred vents all survive beneath the metal cladding, so contrary to appearances it has a relatively high intactness.



Figure 9: Grandstand prior to recladding:



Figure 10: metal cladding installed



Figures 11, 12: Overall form of grandstand retained: note removal of part of outer stairs, roof platform



Figures 13, 14: Earlier timber seating and floor finishes, replaced with aluminium bench seats, floors covered

4. HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

4.1 ASSESSMENT AGAINST HERCON CRITERIA

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history – historical importance

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century, in a large rural centre. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham. Criterion A is met.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history – rarity

The Oval and Grandstand are not especially rare as a place typology, with similar venues located in most country towns of a certain size. Criterion B is not met.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history – research potential

The Grandstand is a relatively simple structure, unlikely to yield information not already known. Criterion C is not met.

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments – representativeness

The Oval and Grandstand are a good representation of this place typology, being a public facility supporting sport and other recreational and social activities. While very simple in form, the Grandstand is still largely intact beneath the current metal cladding. The co-located sporting facilities, City Pipe Band Hall, City Brass Band Hall, and public facilities collectively form a cohesive example of a City Oval. Criterion D is met.

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics – aesthetic significance

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand generally retain their original configuration. The Grandstand has undergone extensive repairs which have diminished its architectural integrity, although the primary structure, overall form and some original elements remain, albeit not in a visually prominent manner. In its current physical state, the Grandstand is not considered to be of aesthetic significance. Criterion E is not met.

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period – technical significance

The City Oval and Grandstand and associated facilities are not of particular technical or a high degree of creative merit. Criterion F is not met.

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions – social significance

The Horsham City Oval ~~and~~ Grandstand ~~and associated facilities~~ are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events since the turn of the century. The place ~~is an important gathering place for a variety of community groups and~~ has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, ~~and~~ regional sporting competitions, ~~and musical events~~. Criterion G is met.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history – associative significance

Several prominent AFL footballers have played at the City Oval, however these associations have been fleeting. The City Oval and Grandstand are not associated with any particular known person or group of persons of historical importance. Criterion H is not met.



4.2 RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES




The 2012 Thematic Environmental History, prepared as part of the Horsham Heritage Study (Stage 1) identified themes of importance to the region, which assisted in identifying places of heritage value. The Victorian historical themes of ‘Making regional centres’ and ‘Living in country towns’ are relevant to the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand.




“Organised sport had long been a central focus of town life in Horsham and surrounding district, both for those participating and spectating, and included a range of additional activities surrounding the sporting calendar, such as fund-raising events. Horsham and district have been the springboard for many local people to be launched into successful sporting careers, both amateur and professional.” (Thematic Environmental History, Dr. Helen Doyle)



5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS


The following [table-list](#) presents other grandstand structures in Victoria that have heritage listings at various levels, to provide some context around the assessment of the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand:

Name / Location	Description	Listing / Significance	Photo
Hamilton Racecourse Grandstand	c1873, high architectural merit and high integrity	VHR – architectural and historical significance	 A photograph of the Hamilton Racecourse Grandstand, a large, ornate, two-story structure with a green roof and white railings, situated on a grassy field.
City Oval Grandstand, Ballarat	1898, Architect designed	National Trust Is significant as a large and intact grandstand dating from the late nineteenth century. The design, especially of the roof, is unique in Victoria	 A photograph of the City Oval Grandstand in Ballarat, a large, two-story structure with a dark roof and white railings, situated on a grassy field. A small caption '3 Grandstand' is visible at the bottom left of the photo.

Benalla Showgrounds Grandstand	1913, 'rare example of timber framed grandstand, barrel roof, ornate balustrade	VHR – architectural significance	
Leongatha Showgrounds Grandstand	1922	South Gippsland Shire (local) – historic and aesthetic significance; technically of interest for local brick construction	
Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand		<p>Maribyrnong City Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the course and pattern of history; - important historic events; - rarity; - social importance to the community; <p>association with important person or group</p>	

<p>Kingston Grandstand, Hepburn Shire</p>	<p>1902 timber framed grandstand; has been relocated (1922)</p>	<p>VHR historical, architectural and social significance</p>	
<p>Camperdown Turf Club Grandstand</p>	<p>1902-03 architect designed, extended c1913 Timber framed</p>	<p>VHR – architectural, historical and social significance</p>	
<p>Melville Oval Old Grandstand, Hamilton Melville Oval Precinct Southern Grampians Shire</p>		<p>Heritage Overlay (local) The Melville Oval grandstand is of local significance for its historical associations with various sports and recreational pursuits and for the elegance of its Edwardian architecture The building is substantially intact and in good condition. The Melville Oval has local significance because of its historical associations as Hamilton's chief recreational reserve The Oval illustrates the importance of sport and recreation in this typical Victorian country town</p>	

<p>Queen Elizabeth Oval Grandstand, Bendigo</p>		<p>VHR</p> <p>The grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth Oval, Bendigo is important for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as a large, well-conceived and executed late nineteenth century period grandstand, one of the most notable in the state. This excellent example of a comparatively rare building type is in excellent condition. - as an excellent example of the 'boom style' architecture of the Victorian central goldfields. - as a notable design of JR Richardson - for the quality of its workmanship and local materials - as a structure symbolic of regional community aspirations in late nineteenth century Bendigo - as a structure symbolizing the importance of sport to a late nineteenth century regional Victorian community - 	
<p>Penshurst Racecourse</p>	<p>1896 small conventional timber and bluestone grandstand, It has been much altered</p>	<p>Southern Grampians Shire (local) – historical significance</p>	

	and extended.		
Navarre Oval Grandstand, Northern Grampians Shire	1924, architect designed	<p>Northern Grampians Shire (local)</p> <p>predominantly intact example of an interwar grandstand structure</p> <p>The Navarre oval, is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates important visual qualities that include the open grassed sports ground and perimeter eucalypts which establish an important rural setting for the grandstand.</p> <p>The Navarre grandstand, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities for a grandstand structure built during the interwar period. These qualities include the shallow gabled roof form supported by elongated timber columns with large timber brackets.</p>	

In comparison to these other grandstands, the Horsham example is one of the smallest and most modest. In its size, it is similar to the Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand and Navarre Oval Grandstand. Its modest design is most similar to the Maribyrnong example. While the integrity of the Horsham Oval Grandstand is currently low, it appears that its actual intactness is higher than that of the Penshurst Racecourse Grandstand.

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES OF THE PLACE

What is significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand, including the remaining original fabric of the Grandstand, the ongoing use as a sporting facility, and the associated social uses including the City Pipe Band and City Brass Band.

How is it significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical and social significance to the Horsham community.

Why is it significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and



cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century through to the present day. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham.

The Horsham City Oval, Grandstand and associated facilities are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events



since the turn of the century. It is an important gathering place for a variety of community groups and has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, regional sporting competitions, and musical events.

7. CONCLUSION

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are considered to be of local heritage value, and should be considered for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay within the Horsham Rural City Council's Planning Scheme

The assessment of significance has determined the place to be of historical and social significance. This places less importance on the physical fabric of the place, and more on the social and historical associations that it has formed for the community. This affords a level of flexibility in development opportunity, even if the place achieves a formal heritage listing. The continued use of the place for community recreation and socialisation is a key component of the significance that should be maintained into the future.

Notwithstanding the above, there are works that could be considered to improve the appearance of the Grandstand to reflect a more original configuration. These include replacement of the metal wall cladding with a more appropriate material, and potentially the repair / replacement of remaining timber cladding, depending on its condition; the reinstatement of timber seating in lieu of the aluminium bench seats; and the provision of interpretive material to assist in the understanding of the place's heritage value.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: Horsham City Oval Grandstand
Address: 20 OCALLAGHANS PARADE HORSHAM
Place Type: Other - Community Facilities
Citation Date: 2022 **Significance Level:** Local



City Oval Grandstand

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR -
 HI -
 PS
 Yes

Integrity

The Grandstand retains a moderate degree of integrity, retaining its overall form, open tiered seating configuration, timber post and rail handrail and stair balustrades, and undercroft area.

Its function continues as a grandstand associated with the oval, and its physical relationship with the oval is retained.

Major changes that have reduced the integrity of the structure include the over-cladding with an aluminium profiled product; replacement of the timber seating with aluminium bench seats; and the covering of the timber floor with painted hardboard panels. Despite these works, the original weatherboard cladding, external windows and louvred vents all survive beneath the metal cladding, so contrary to appearances it has a relatively high intactness.

History and Historical Context

Contextual history

The 2012 Thematic Environmental History, prepared as part of the Horsham Heritage Study (Stage 1) identified

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

themes of importance to the region, which assisted in identifying places of heritage value. The Victorian historical themes of 'Making regional centres' and 'Living in country towns' are relevant to the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand.

"Organised sport had long been a central focus of town life in Horsham and surrounding district, both for those participating and spectating, and included a range of additional activities surrounding the sporting calendar, such as fund-raising events. Horsham and district have been the springboard for many local people to be launched into successful sporting careers, both amateur and professional." (Thematic Environmental History, Dr. Helen Doyle)

The exact date of the establishment of the Horsham City Oval is not known, although is believed to be around 1901. The site was in use prior to this, as gazetted grounds to host the fourth show of the Horsham and Wimmera District Agricultural and Pastoral Society in 1879. Annual shows were held from this time until 1902, when the present site of the Horsham Showgrounds was used for the event.

Place history

The current grandstand at the Horsham City Oval was constructed in 1924. A new dressing room was constructed in 1926.

Council considered re-orientating the oval from east – west to north – south in 1949, but this was not pursued at the time. Various works to the grounds occurred in the early 1950s following a state government subsidy, to seal the spectator's ramp and provide seating around the oval, as well as installing wire mesh fencing to the northern boundary. The oval was reconstructed including reseeding in 1952, and irrigation provided as well as an improved drainage system.

The Horsham Football Club has been in existence for over 100 years, and maintains a long association with the oval. The current Football and Netball clubrooms are housed in buildings that appear to date from around the 1980s.

A record crowd of 10,151 attended the match between Minyip and Warracknabeal in September 1952, with the Horsham Times reporting that the ground accommodated the large crowd with ease.

The oval has been used for many other purposes through its life, including tennis tournaments, band recitals, and school events. Associated facilities including the brick gate entries, shelters and amenities blocks have been constructed over the years to support the continued use of the place by a variety of groups.

The Horsham City Pipe Band was formed in 1923, and the Pipe Band Hall would appear to date from the 1930s – 1940s. The Horsham Rural City Brass Band Hall appears to have been constructed in the 1970s.

Description

Physical Description

The Grandstand is a simple timber framed structure located on the north side of the City Oval. It is clad in non-original metal standing seam cladding to the north, east and west elevations, with high level glazing to the east and west. The southern side, facing the oval, is open, with a timber balustrade with wire mesh fixed between timber posts. Three open timber stairs provide access from the ground to the grandstand seating, which consists of aluminium benches tiered to follow the rake of the grandstand floor. A series of timber and steel portal frames support the timber framed skillion roof, which falls towards the oval.

Physical Condition

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

The Grandstand is in a fair condition, with relatively recent repair works having been undertaken by Council. Termite and wood rot damage to the timber wall framing was repaired in 2002-2003, and the timber seating replaced.

Comparative Analysis

The following list presents other grandstand structures in Victoria that have heritage listings at various levels, to provide some context around the assessment of the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand:

- Hamilton Racecourse Grandstand, c1873, high architectural merit and high integrity, VHR – architectural and historical significance
- City Oval Grandstand, Ballarat, 1898, Architect designed, National Trust - Is significant as a large and intact grandstand dating from the late nineteenth century. The design, especially of the roof, is unique in Victoria
- Benalla Showgrounds Grandstand, 1913, 'rare example of timber framed grandstand, barrel roof, ornate balustrade, VHR – architectural significance
- Leongatha Showgrounds Grandstand, 1922, South Gippsland Shire (local) – historic and aesthetic significance; technically of interest for local brick construction
- Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand, Maribyrnong City Demonstrates: the course and pattern of history; important historic events; rarity; social importance to the community; association with important person or group
- Kingston Grandstand, Hepburn Shire, 1902 timber framed grandstand; has been relocated (1922), VHR historical, architectural and social significance
- Camperdown Turf Club Grandstand, 1902-03, architect designed, extended c1913, Timber framed, VHR – architectural, historical and social significance
- Melville Oval Old Grandstand, Hamilton, Southern Grampians Shire, Heritage Overlay (local), The Melville Oval grandstand is of local significance for its historical associations with various sports and recreational pursuits and for the elegance of its Edwardian architecture. The building is substantially intact and in good condition. The Melville Oval has local significance because of its historical associations as Hamilton's chief recreational reserve. The Oval illustrates the importance of sport and recreation in this typical Victorian country town.
- Queen Elizabeth Oval Grandstand, Bendigo, VHR, The grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth Oval, Bendigo is important for the following reasons: as a large, well- conceived and executed late nineteenth century period grandstand, one of the most notable in the state. This excellent example of a comparatively rare building type is in excellent condition. as an excellent example of the 'boom style' architecture of the Victorian central goldfields. as a notable design of JR Richardson. for the quality of its workmanship and local materials. as a structure symbolic of regional community aspirations in late nineteenth century Bendigo. as a structure symbolizing the importance of sport to a late nineteenth century regional Victorian community
- Penshurst Racecourse, 1896, small conventional timber and bluestone grandstand, It has been much altered and extended. Southern Grampians Shire (local) – historical significance
- Navarre Oval Grandstand, 1924, architect designed, Northern Grampians Shire (local), predominantly intact example of an interwar grandstand structure. The Navarre oval, is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates important visual qualities that include the open grassed sports ground and perimeter eucalypts which establish an important rural setting for the grandstand. The Navarre grandstand, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities for a grandstand structure built during the interwar period. These qualities include the shallow gabled roof form supported by elongated timber columns with large timber brackets.

In comparison to these other grandstands, the Horsham example is one of the smallest and most modest. In its size, it is similar to the Maribyrnong Reserve Grandstand and Navarre Oval Grandstand. Its modest design is most similar to the Maribyrnong example. While the integrity of the Horsham Oval Grandstand is currently low, it appears that its actual intactness is higher than that of the Penshurst Racecourse Grandstand.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Horsham City Oval, established in 1901, and the 1924 Grandstand, including its remaining original fabric currently concealed beneath metal cladding, and their ongoing use as a sporting facility, are significant.

How is it significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical, representative and social significance to the Rural City of Horsham.

Why is it significant?

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century through to the present day. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham. (Criterion A)

The Grandstand is of representative significance as a good representation of this place typology, being a public facility supporting sport and other recreational and social activities. While very simple in form, the Grandstand is still largely intact beneath the current metal cladding. (Criterion D)

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events since the turn of the century. It has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, and regional sporting competitions. (Criterion G)

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history – historical importance

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century, in a large rural centre. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham. Criterion A is met.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history – rarity

The Oval and Grandstand are not especially rare as a place typology, with similar venues located in most country towns of a certain size. Criterion B is not met.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history – research potential

The Grandstand is a relatively simple structure, unlikely to yield information not already known. Criterion C is not met.

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments – representativeness

The Oval and Grandstand are a good representation of this place typology, being a public facility supporting sport and other recreational and social activities. While very simple in form, the Grandstand is still largely intact beneath the current metal cladding. The co-located sporting facilities, City Pipe Band Hall, City Brass Band Hall, and public facilities collectively form a cohesive example of a City Oval. Criterion D is met.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics – aesthetic significance

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand generally retain their original configuration. The Grandstand has undergone extensive repairs which have diminished its architectural integrity, although the primary structure, overall form and some original elements remain, albeit not in a visually prominent manner. In its current physical state, the Grandstand is not considered to be of aesthetic significance. Criterion E is not met.

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period – technical significance

The City Oval and Grandstand and associated facilities are not of particular technical or a high degree of creative merit. Criterion F is not met.

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions – social significance

The Horsham City Oval and, Grandstand and associated facilities are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events since the turn of the century. The place is an important gathering place for a variety of community groups and has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, and regional sporting competitions, and musical events. Criterion G is met.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history – associative significance

Several prominent AFL footballers have played at the City Oval, however these associations have been fleeting. The City Oval and Grandstand are not associated with any particular known person or group of persons of historical importance. Criterion H is not met.

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.

Spendmapp Monthly Report

Local Government Area: Horsham Rural City Council

Spendmapp cleans and analyses bank transaction data by time, geography, Expenditure Category and Type allowing continuous monitoring and analysis of local economic activity.

For the month of August 2023:

- Resident Local Spend was \$23.5M. This is a 1.13% increase from the same time last year.
- Visitor Local Spend was \$11.4M. This is a 7.24% increase from the same time last year.
- Total Local Spend was \$34.8M. This is a 3.04% increase from the same time last year.
- Resident Escape Spend was \$11.0M. This is a 6.04% increase from the same time last year.
- Resident Online Spend was \$12.1M. This is a -3.7% decrease from the same time last year.

The 7.24 % increase in Visitor Local Spend suggests a relatively healthy growth in visitor economy activity.

Expenditure by Expenditure Type

These expenditure charts show the long-term pattern of expenditure activity by Expenditure Type across the Horsham Rural City Council LGA. Typically, we see spending spikes at Easter and Christmas; dips in the post-Christmas period; and a steady climb through winter.

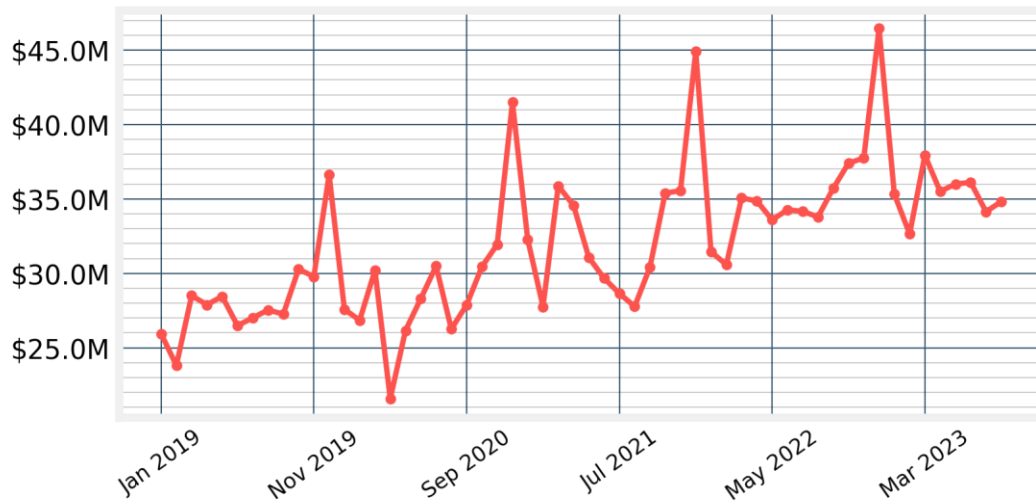
By way of a benchmark, the mean ratio of Resident Online Spend to all resident spending is 0.22. That is, for every dollar spent by resident cardholders anywhere, 22c goes online. Another 34c is in Escape Expenditure and the rest is spent locally.

Over the last few years across most of Australia, total expenditure has been relatively flat, even in fast growing municipalities. The exception to this has often been in Resident Online Spend, which continues to grow relative to Total Local Spend.



Total Local Spend

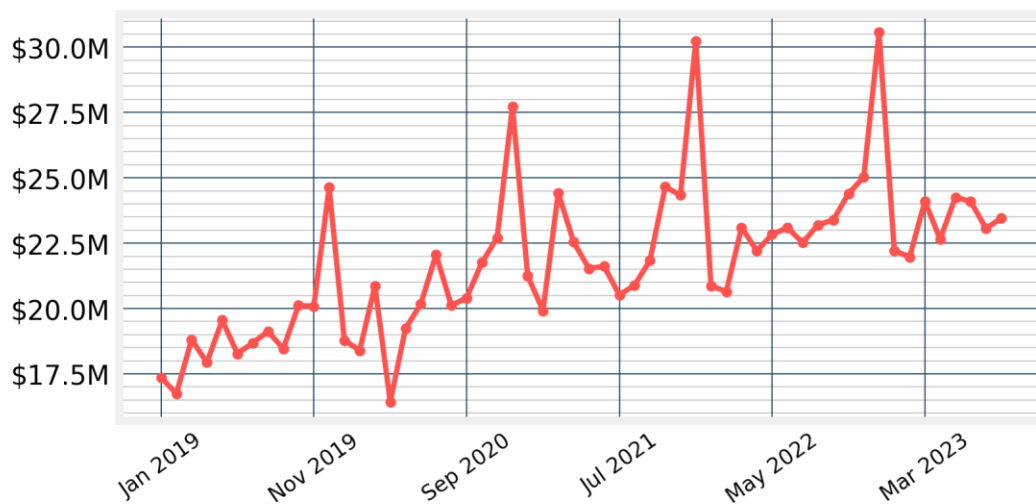
The total amount spent with merchants within the Horsham Rural City Council LGA.



Over the last 56 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Total Local Spend has been upwards.

Resident Local Spend

The amount spent by residents and local businesses with merchants inside the Horsham Rural City Council LGA.



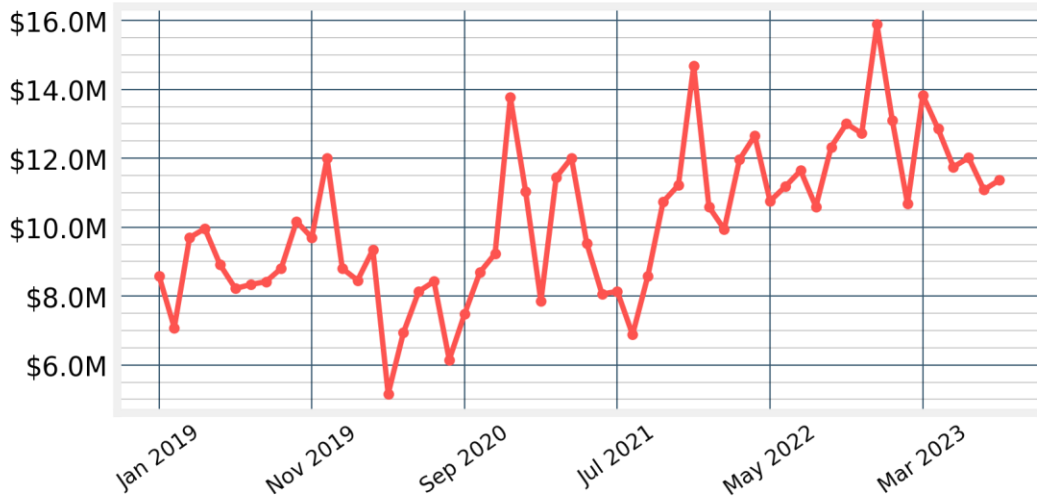
Over the last 56 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Resident Local Spend has been upwards.





Visitor Local Spend

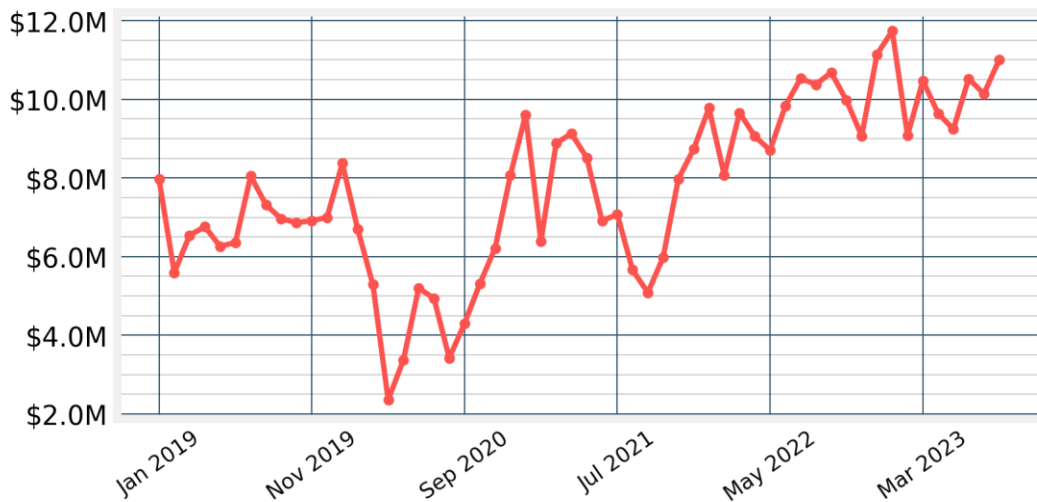
The amount spent by non-residents and non-local businesses with merchants inside the Horsham Rural City Council LGA.



Over the last 56 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Visitor Local Spend has been upwards.

Resident Escape Spend

The amount spent by residents and local businesses outside the Horsham Rural City Council LGA.



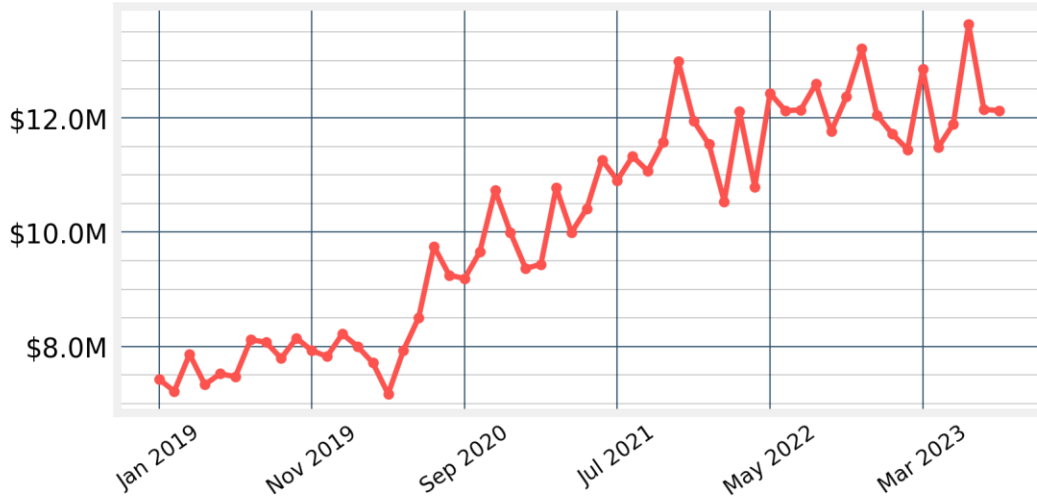
Over the last 56 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Resident Escape Spend has been upwards.





Resident Online Spend

The amount spent by Horsham Rural City Council LGA residents and local businesses with online merchants.



Over the last 56 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Resident Online Spend has been upwards.

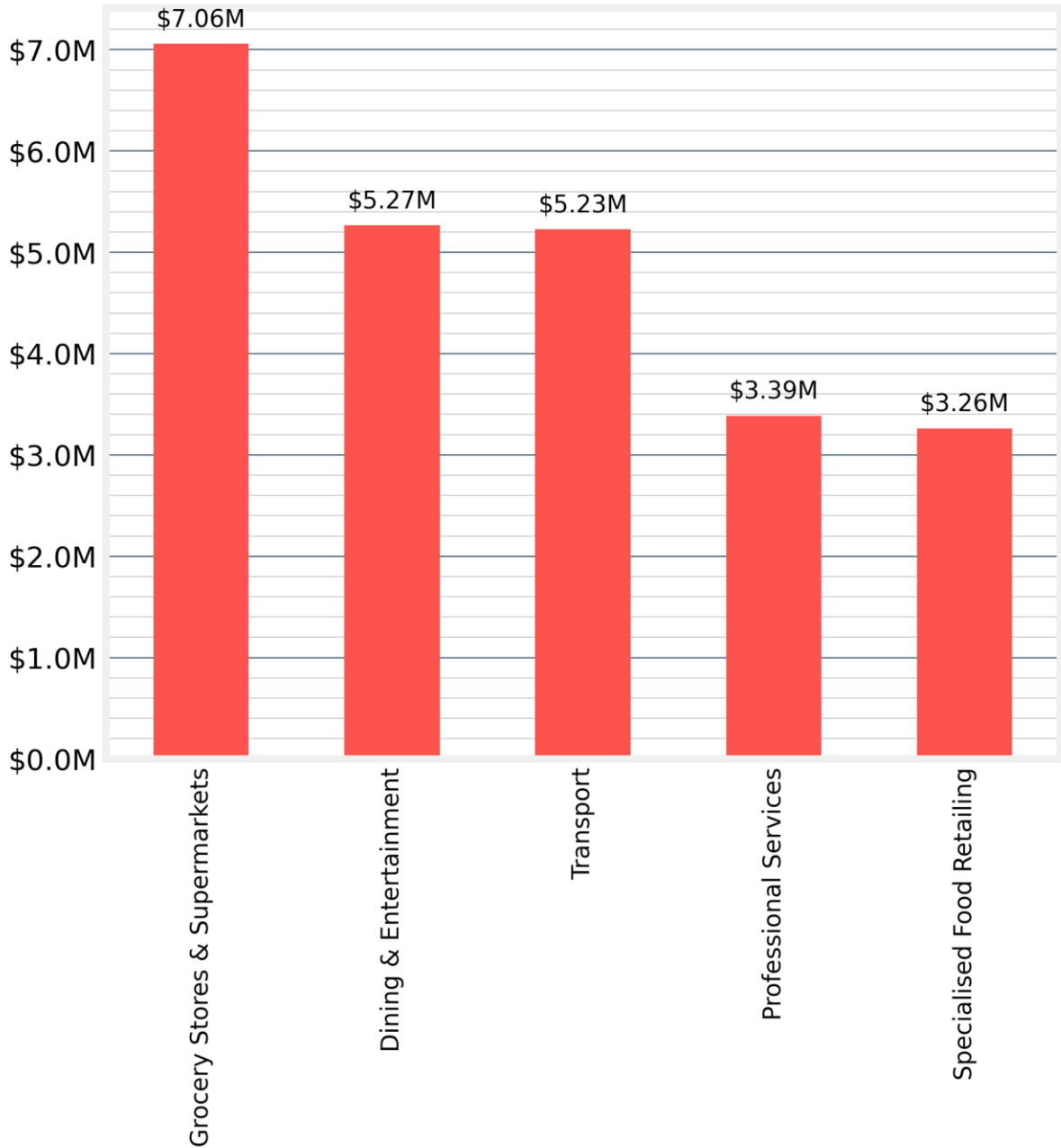




Expenditure by Expenditure Category

The Top 5 Spending Categories for August 2023

Total Local Spend split by the top 5 Expenditure Categories.

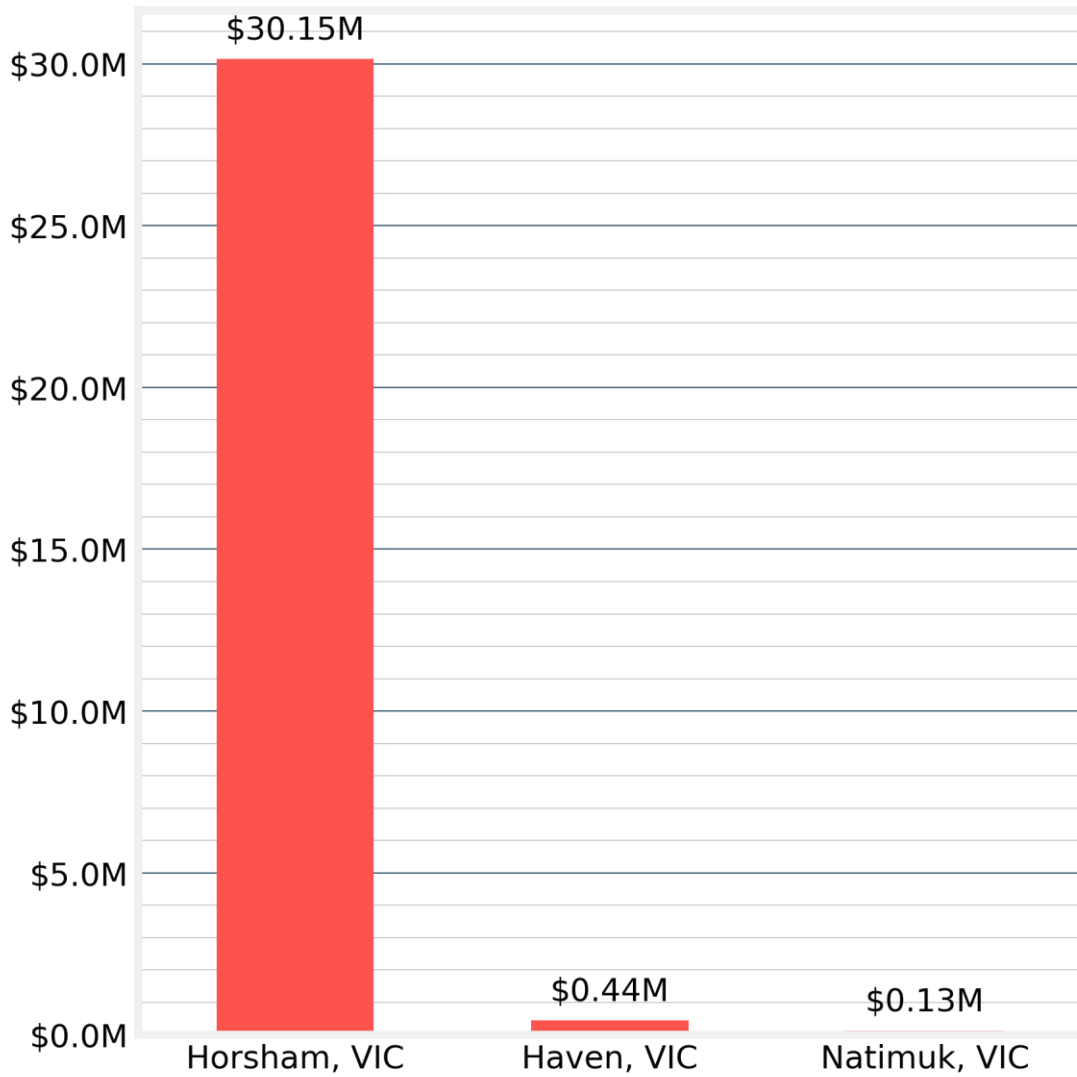




Spend by Origin and Destination

The Top 3 Suburbs by Total Local Spend for August 2023

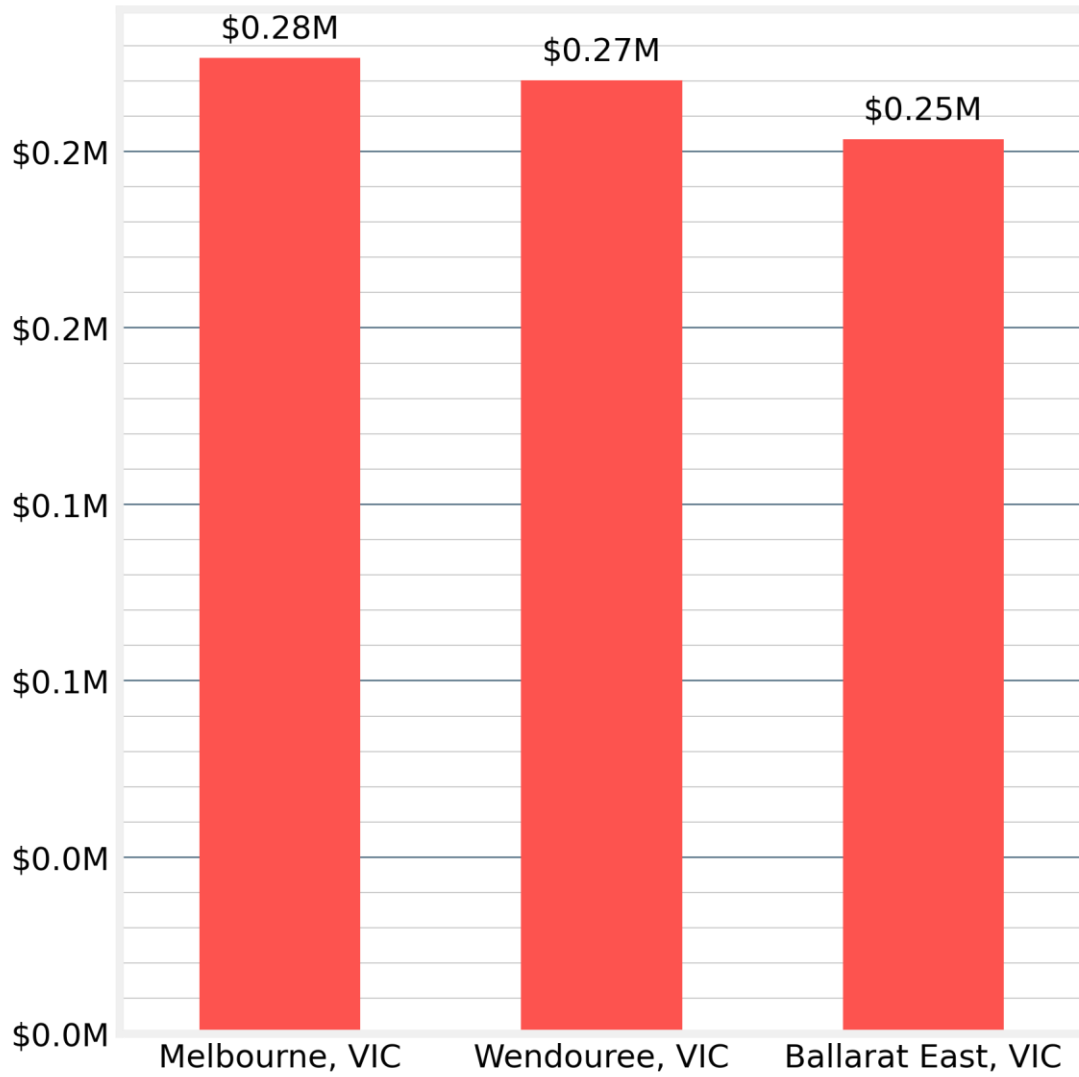
Total Local Spend by Suburbs of destination (i.e. where the spending occurs)





The Top 3 Suburbs by Resident Escape Spend for August 2023

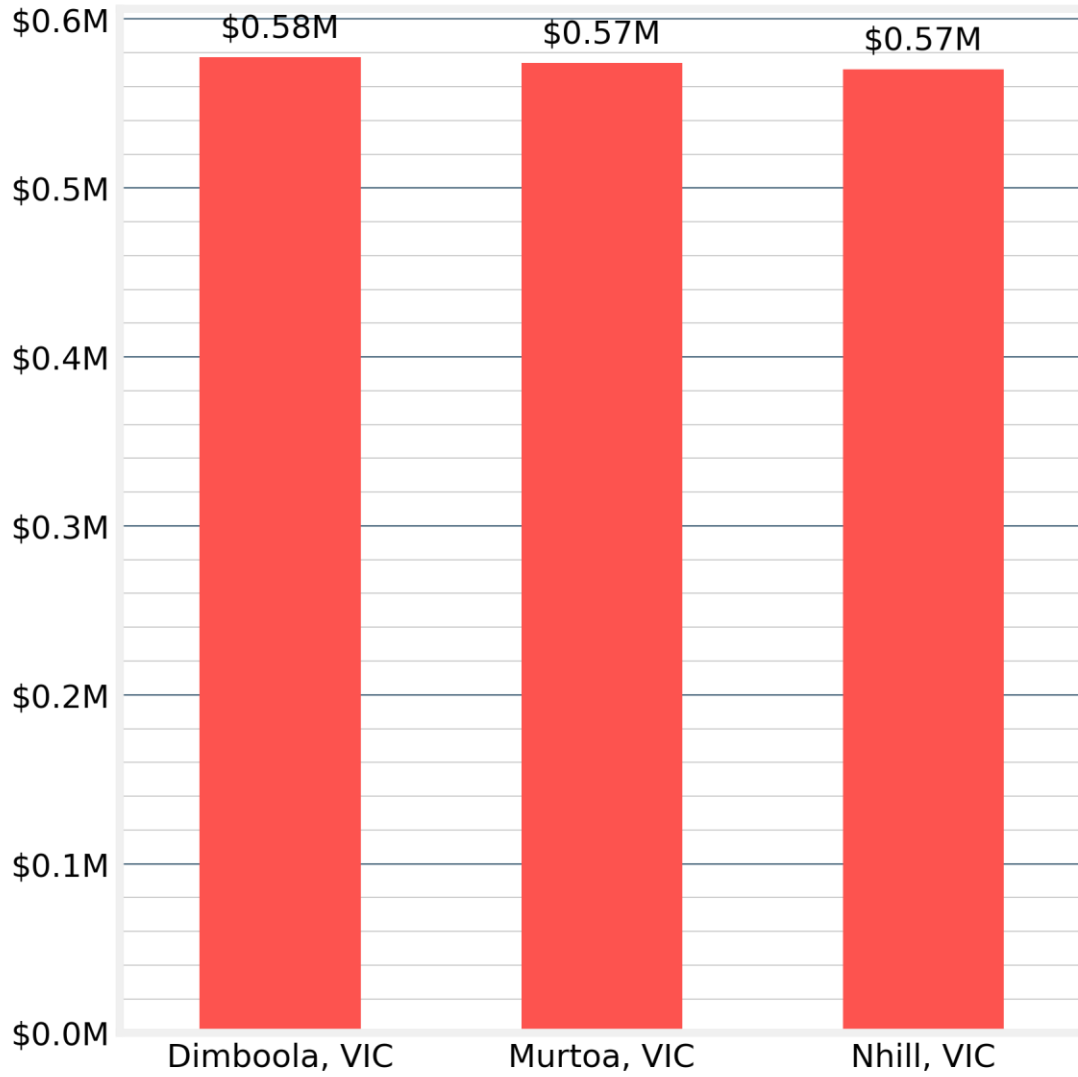
Resident Escape Spend by destination Suburbs (i.e. where the spending goes to).





The Top 3 Suburbs by Visitor Local Spend for August 2023

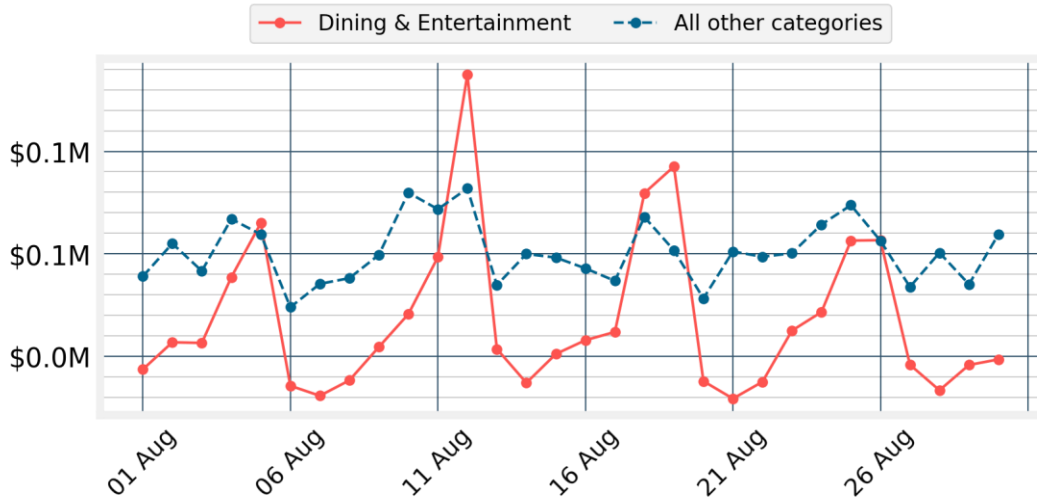
Visitor Local Spend by Suburbs of origin (i.e. where the visitors originate).



Night Time Economy

Night Time Economy for August 2023

The biggest spending night of the month of August 2023 was Saturday 12 August with Total Local Spend of \$0.3M. This was made up of \$0.2M in Dining and Entertainment spending and \$0.1M spending in all other categories.



Disclaimer

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**MINUTES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS
COUNCIL BRIEFING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2023 AT 5:00PM**

TO ATTEND: Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor; Cr P Flynn, Deputy Mayor; Cr D Bowe, Cr C Haenel, Cr L Power, Cr B Redden, Cr I Ross, Kevin O'Brien, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services; Fiona Gormann, Acting Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure

Attended by: Cr P Flynn, Deputy Mayor; Cr D Bowe, Cr L Power, Cr B Redden, Kevin O'Brien, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services; Fiona Gormann, Acting Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure

APOLOGIES: Sunil Bhalla, CEO; Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor; Cr Ian Ross

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SEC 130 and 131, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 AND HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RULES

Nil

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Emergency Management - Focus on Fire Risk (John Martin) **5:00pm – 5:30pm**

4. COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Horsham & Natimuk Housing & Affordability Study Presentation **5:30pm – 5:50pm**

Attending: Jasmine Butler (*Virtual attendance*) & Fiona Gormann

4.2 Finance Report – Monthly (Kim Hargreaves) **Appendix 4.2** **5:50pm – 6:05pm**

Attending: Ramki Subramaniam

4.3 Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (Fiona Gormann)
Appendix 4.3 **6:05pm – 6:20pm**

Attending: Susan SurrIDGE & Sue Sheridan (*Virtual attendance*)

4.4 Annual Report (Kim Hargreaves) **Appendix 4.4** **6:20pm – 6:35pm**

4.5 Disability Advisory Committee (Kim Hargreaves) **Appendix 4.5** **6:35pm – 6:50pm**

4.6 Horsham City Oval Grandstand Heritage Findings (Fiona Gormann)

Appendix 4.6 6:50pm – 7:05pm

4.7 Flood Recovery Works Package 15 (John Martin) **Appendix 4.7** 7:05pm – 7:10pm

5. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

5.1 Audit & Risk Committee Updates & Annual Appointment of Chair (Kim Hargraves)

Appendix 5.1 7:10pm – 7:20pm

6. VERBAL REPORTS

6.1 Container Deposit Scheme, Municipal Service Standards (John Martin)

7:20pm – 7:35pm

6.2 Community Reporting Tool (Kim Hargreaves)

7:35pm – 7:45pm

7. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

7.1 Investment Attraction & Growth Report (Fiona Gormann) **Appendix 7.1**

7.2 VCAT/Planning/Building Update (Fiona Gormann) **Appendix 7.2**

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION (Kevin O'Brien)

8.1 Public Intoxication Reform

8.2 Railway Corridor Landscape Plan

8.3 Regional University Study hubs

8.4 Parking Changes

9. CLOSE

8:12pm

KEVIN O'BRIEN

Acting Chief Executive Officer

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: Mayor, All Councillors and CEO.
NOTICE of MOTION: For Council Meeting, 23 October 2023
FROM: Councillor Ian Ross
RE: Free parking for the Christian Community Food Centre and Legacy House

“That HRCC allow free parking for the Christian Community Food Centre and Legacy House.”

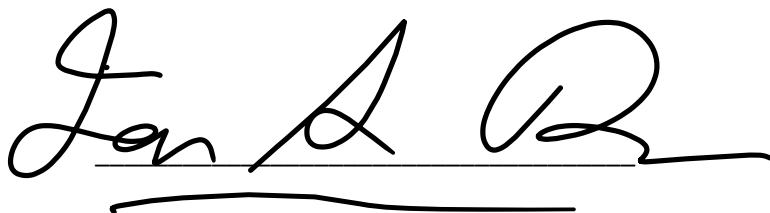
Background:

For many years Council had negotiated with charitable organisations that while on duty parking was free; this needs to continue.

Risk:

Loss of revenue is insignificant; however, there is significant reputational risk if the past agreements are not restored.

Signed:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian A. Ross', is written over a horizontal line. Below this line is a thick, dark horizontal stroke.

Wednesday, 18 October 2023; 9.00am

Dated:
