

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on

26 June 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 26 June 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, Wergaia, Jupagulk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr 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 possible.

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 22 May 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.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

| | |
|--|--------------|
| REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION | 6 |
| 9. OFFICERS REPORTS | 6 |
| 9.1 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 2023 | 6 |
| 9.2 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CONTROL POLICY | 9 |
| 9.3 GOVERNANCE RULES (REVISIONS 2023) | 12 |
| 9.4 CREATIVE HORSHAM 2023-2026 – HRCC ARTS & CULTURAL STRATEGY | 15 |
| 9.5 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION POLICY REVIEW | 20 |
| 9.6 WIMMERA REGIONAL MULTI-SPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY | 23 |
| 9.7 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT | 30 |
| 9.8 BUDGET 2023-2024 AND UPDATED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2021-2024 | 33 |
| 9.9 CITY OVAL COMMUNITY FACILITY FUNDING STRATEGY | 39 |
| REPORTS FOR INFORMATION | 45 |
| 9.10 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT | 45 |
| 9.11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT | 54 |
| 10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 57 |
| 11. URGENT BUSINESS | 62 |
| 12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS..... | 63 |
| 13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS | 64 |
| 13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS..... | 64 |
| 13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS..... | 64 |
| 13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE..... | 64 |
| 13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES | 64 |
| 14. NOTICE OF MOTION | 65 |
| 15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS | |
| 15.1 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION INCENTIVE..... | |
| <i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information</i> | |
| 15.2 LAND ACQUISITION | |
| <i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(a) – Council business information</i> | |
| 15.3 HORSHAM CITY OVAL EVENT STAGE 23/030 | |
| <i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information</i> | |
| 15.4 FLOOD RECOVERY ROAD WORKS-PACKAGE 5, 6, 7 CONTRACT 23/035, 23/036, AND 23/037 | |
| <i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) – Private Commercial Information</i> | |
| 15.5 CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE REPORT: JUNE 2023..... | |
| <i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) –Personal Information</i> | |

CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA

Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 2023

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Author's Name: | Sarah McIvor | Director: | Kim Hargreaves |
| Author's Title: | Project Officer – Corporate Reporting | Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Department: | Governance and Information | File Number: | F18/A14/000001 |

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

Quarterly Performance Report – January to March 2023 (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To present the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 3, 1 January to 31 March 2023.

Summary

- The Quarterly Performance Report is a key component of our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency and accountability back to Council and the community.
- The Quarterly Performance Report brings together a range of reports including:
 - Quarterly Finance Report
 - Progress against Annual Action Plan deliverables
 - Service Performance Indicators
 - Councillor Expenses
 - Progress against Major Projects and Capital Works
 - Customer Service Performance
 - Consolidated data on Community Engagement has now also been added.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 3, 1 January to 31 March 2023 (**Appendix A**).

REPORT

Background

Council's operations are large and complex, with over 80 different broad service delivery areas from road maintenance and construction, waste collection, parks, building and planning, to early years, visual and performing arts. This diversity in services creates challenges in many facets of Council's operations, which then create challenges in reporting on these to Council and the broader community.

The Quarterly Performance Report encapsulates a quarterly budget report, progress against the Annual Action Plan, the tracking of any major initiatives, Council expenses and key data relating to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. It now also encompasses a report on Council's community engagement activities for the quarter, which will be continued and developed further in future quarterly reports.

To further support our reporting, Council has a Financial and Performance Reporting Framework in place that provides guidance on reporting processes. It states the following:

"Councillors take ultimate responsibility for the performance of Council and are accountable to the ratepayers and community of the municipality. As Councillors are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Council, they rely on policies, procedures and internal controls to provide assurance about the information reported to them and in turn reported to the community and other stakeholders."

The provision of relevant information on a regular basis is an important part of that internal control process and is necessary for the various levels of Council to carry out their responsibilities and obligations to the community in the management of Council business.

Central to Council's Quarterly Reporting Framework, are the following objectives:

- Council is committed to providing accurate, correct and quality information to the community relating to its performance;
- Council is committed to providing high quality relevant internal and external reporting, in a timely manner;
- Council is committed to providing regular targeted reporting to Management, its Audit and Risk Committee, Councillors and the community;
- Council is committed to sound governance through the alignment of performance reporting with its strategic direction; and
- Performance reporting is integral to better understanding of how Council is performing in its delivery of key strategies and operations from the Council Plan.

Discussion

As a part of Council's continual improvement process, this report provides Councillors and the community with updates on progress against the Annual Action Plan 2022-2023 and other key strategic items. The report also provides Local Government Performance Reporting (LGPRF) data which is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. LGPRF data is listed as "Service Performance Indicators" within the report.

A report on community engagement has been added to this report and provides an overview of Council's community consultation on a wide array of projects and initiatives over the course of the financial year. A brief overview of planned engagement for the fourth quarter is also included.

Options to Consider

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable other than any reporting included in the report on council's environmental and sustainability goals.

Community Engagement

The Quarterly Performance report is prepared through cross-departmental consultation within Council. Following EMT endorsement, it will progress to Council Briefing before formal endorsement at a Council Meeting.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Ongoing refinements are made to ensure the report provides clear and concise reporting on key strategic items.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

This report is prepared using existing staff resources.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan – all aspects

Risk Implications

Provision of good quality, regular reporting of financial and non-financial information to the community mitigates against the risk of poor financial governance and possible financial mismanagement. The Municipal Association of Victoria's Good Governance Guide provides that *"the Council is ultimately accountable for the financial management...it should not have a hands-on role... but it needs to ensure that it has sufficient information to be satisfied that finances are in order and that the budgetary and financial planning goals are being met"*.

Conclusion

The Quarterly Performance Report provides a regular and succinct report for Council and the community to assess Council's performance against a number of key measures.

9.2 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CONTROL POLICY

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Author's Name: | Andrea Coxon | Director: | Kim Hargreaves |
| Author's Title: | Governance Officer | Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Department: | Governance and Information | File Number: | F19/A12/000001 |

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

2023 Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Framework (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Purpose

To present Council with an updated Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, including the Fraud and Corruption Control Framework.

Summary

- The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and accompanying Framework has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Standard for Fraud and Corruption Control* (AS8001:2021)
- The purpose of this policy is to outline Horsham Rural City Council's expectations for effective fraud and corruption control.
- Council is committed to the prevention, deterrence and investigation of all forms of fraud and corruption, and will not tolerate fraud or corruption. Councillors and council officers will act ethically and in accordance with relevant codes of conduct at all times.
- Council's Audit and Risk Committee has endorsed the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy for progression for adoption.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the 2023 Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Framework (**Appendix 9.2A**).
2. Formally rescinds the administrative Fraud and Corruption Control Procedure (P04/018), and discontinues the draft Fraud and Corruption Control Plan previously tabled.

REPORT

Background

Council's Fraud and Corruption Control Plan (2016 – 2020) was a strategic plan that established a framework to ensure that robust practices were in place for the effective detection, investigation and prevention of fraud and corruption of any description. This Plan was developed in consultation with the Audit and Risk Committee and presented to Council in 2016. In 2021 a review of the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan (including associated documents) became part of the Audit and Risk Committee work plan.

Discussion

Council is committed to the prevention, deterrence and thorough investigation of all forms of fraud and corruption to mitigate against risks including financial loss and loss of public confidence.

In developing the 2023 Policy, both the *Australian Standard for Fraud and Corruption Control* (AS8001:2021) (the Standard) and feedback from the Audit and Risk Committee were considered. The Standard represents an industry benchmark for mitigating fraud and corruption control risks in organisations, and includes revised updates to definitions of both fraud and corruption. It also provides that the past practice of adopting 'Fraud Control Plans' should be replaced with 'Fraud and Corruption Control Systems' (or Frameworks).

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and associated Framework (as per the practice outlined in the Standard) was tabled at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 16 March 2023 and represents the culmination of the progress made against the intended review. The Framework outlines foundations of fraud and corruption and control and sets out response, detection and prevention strategies, and a clear outline of accountabilities across the organisation.

The Audit and Risk Committee have endorsed the document with a recommendation that the Policy be adopted. It is further recommended that the following two related documents be rescinded or discontinued:

- Rescind the administrative Fraud and Corruption Control Procedure (P04/018); and
- Discontinue the draft Fraud and Corruption Control Plan previously tabled with both the Committee and EMT.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Nil

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The revision of policies and procedures align with Council's commitment to continuous improvement.

Collaboration

This policy was revised with input from the Audit and Risk Committee and informed by the Australian Standard.

Financial Implications

The Policy is designed to mitigate financial risks by developing protocols to prevent fraud and corruption.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 - Leadership

Risk Implications

A risk assessment will be conducted by the Executive Management Team following adoption of this Policy. This ensures risks are appropriately mitigated, with all key stakeholders aware of their obligations under the Policy.

Conclusion

Horsham Rural City Council has zero tolerance for any fraudulent activity or corrupt behaviour. The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Framework makes clear Council's commitment to the prevention, deterrence and investigation of all forms of fraud and corruption.

9.3 GOVERNANCE RULES (REVISIONS 2023)

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Author's Name: | Diana McDonald | Director: | Kim Hargreaves |
| Author's Title: | Coordinator Governance | Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Department: | Governance and Information | File Number: | F19/A12/000001 |

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

Governance Rules (2023) (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Governance Rules (2023) Consultation Feedback (**Appendix 9.3B**)

Governance Rules (2023) Submissions (**Appendix 9.3C**)

Purpose

To present the revised Governance Rules for adoption.

Summary

- Actions recommended by the Municipal Monitor were considered/actioned as part of a review of the Governance Rules.
- Eleven minor amendments were identified, aimed at improving and clarifying Council Meeting processes.
- Council resolved to release the draft Governance Rules to the community for feedback between 26 April and 10 May 2023.
- Three individual submissions were received, and have been collated and summarised for Council's consideration.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the summarised consultation feedback (**Appendix 9.3B**) and detailed submissions (**Appendix 9.3C**).
2. Adopt the revised Governance Rules (2023) (**Appendix 9.3A**).

REPORT

Background

Governance Rules provide an essential framework to ensure the effective conduct of Council Meetings at Horsham Rural City Council. The Rules are a cornerstone of good governance for all Victorian councils and a legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

HRCC is committed to maintaining high standards of integrity and transparency at its formal meetings. This includes maintaining a contemporary set of rules that safeguard open, robust and orderly debate, valid and ethical decision-making, and effective recordkeeping.

Discussion

The Governance Rules have undergone extensive review in the years since the introduction of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Following the appointment of a Municipal Monitor to Horsham Rural City Council, further actions were identified for consideration or action.

In total eleven changes were proposed for the current Governance Rules, aimed at improving and clarifying Council Meeting processes.

The draft Governance Rules was presented to Council at the April Council meeting with a recommendation that Council “receive and note the amended Governance Rules (**Appendix 9.3A**) and seek community feedback over a 14-day period.” The draft document was then open for public comment between 26 April and 10 May 2023.

Council received three individual submissions during the consultation period. The submissions have been collated and are presented as an attachment to this report for Council’s consideration. Once approved by Council, the final version of the Governance Rules (2023) will be enacted.

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

In developing and amending its Governance Rules, Council has undertaken an effective process of community engagement as per section 60(4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Governance Rules (Revisions 2023) was open for community input via Council’s *Have Your Say* webpage for the period 26 April 2023 to 10 May 2023. The opportunity to provide feedback was advertised in local news media and via Council’s social media and weekly e-newsletter.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 – Leadership:

Strategy 1: Good governance, through leadership and connection with community

Strategy 3: High organisational standards focussing on continuous improvement

Strategy 4: Accountable and transparent decision-making

Risk Implications

Council must maintain a set of effective Governance Rules in line with contemporary best practice to appropriately mitigate risks including statutory non-compliance and reputational risk. Accordingly, the proposed amendments build on a model document originally provided by Maddocks lawyers, with changes informed by contemporary best practice and recent recommendations from an independent Municipal Monitor.

Conclusion

The Governance Rules provide an essential framework to ensure the effective conduct of Council Meetings at Horsham Rural City Council. The Rules are a cornerstone of good governance for all Victorian Councils and a legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

9.4 CREATIVE HORSHAM 2023-2026 – HRCC ARTS & CULTURAL STRATEGY

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Author's Name: | Michelle Rethus | Director: | Kevin O'Brien |
| Author's Title: | Creative Services & Events Lead | Directorate: | Communities & Place |
| Department: | Arts, Culture & Recreation | File Number: | F20/A02/000001 |

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

Draft Creative Horsham Strategy 2023 – 2026 (Appendix 9.4A)

Purpose

To present the draft Creative Horsham Strategy.

Summary

The Creative Horsham Strategy has been developed to continue the work commenced as part of the Arts & Culture Plan 2014-2018. The development process has been lengthy and tackled the complexity of Covid during community engagement, but now sees the draft ready for finalisation post public feedback. The development process has seen the following:

- Creation of a data snapshot to benchmark local arts activity
 - Regional Arts Victoria engaged as the consultant
 - Review and learnings taken from the previous Arts & Culture Plan 2014-2018
 - Input from key Cultural Services staff
 - Reference and links to the new Council Plan and Annual Action Plan.
 - Consultation and engagement completed over a 6 month period which captured data from:
 - Horsham Talks Expo - high level input from the broader public (July 2021)
 - Policy scan & review (Aug 2021)
 - Creative Industries Survey (Aug-Sept 2021)
 - 1:1 interviews and summary report (Oct 2021)
 - Community Conversations Sessions (Nov 2021)
 - Follow up community conversations with under-represented groups (Nov- Dec 2021)
 - Consultation with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC)
 - Visitation and destination data input (Nov- Dec 2021)
 - The development of a set of guiding principles, five key themes and a series of actions.
 - Creation of final Creative Horsham Strategy and Appendices.
- Over 400 have people provided input, background and information into the development of the plan.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the draft Creative Horsham Strategy 2023-2026.
2. Make available the draft Creative Horsham Strategy 2023-2026 for public feedback for a period of 4 weeks.

REPORT

Background

The Creative Horsham Strategy has been developed to continue the work commenced as part of the HRCC Arts & Cultural Plan 2014-2018. Regional Arts Victoria, was engaged as Consultant to review existing policies, undertake community engagement and draft the new Creative Horsham Strategy. The project was allocated \$20K to undertake the work.

Learnings were taken from the previous Arts & Culture Plan 2014-2018, which contained a large number of stretch targets not aligned with HRCC resources and structures. This resulted in a number of actions not being achieved. As such, the objective for this new Strategy was to be more realistic and reflect the need to consolidate work structure and processes, work within existing resource constraints and leverage opportunities to enable success.

In the draft strategy, a set of actions sit underneath each theme – this is presented as a key project highlight for focus in the Creative Horsham Strategy. Earlier drafts detailed actions as quick wins, work in progress and emerging opportunities, however subsequent edits and reviews have simplified actions aligned to the themes.

The impacts of Covid saw many staff relocated from the Horsham Town Hall venue to other parts of Council's business. This alongside the closure and then re-establishment and rebuild of venue audiences and programs has had a real impact on the capacity to deliver this project. Changes to and recruitment of key staff to existing and vacant roles within the Cultural Services Team has also caused disruption and delayed the delivery of this project.

Discussion

The Creative Horsham Strategy outlines a vision that builds on and references Councils' Community Vision being:

Arts & culture contributes to making the Horsham region a vibrant, liveable hub that thrives on strong economic growth and social connectedness.

This vision is underpinned by four guiding principles (inclusion, innovation, reconciliation, and collaboration). Five themes emerged early in the strategy's development, these have remained consistent and reinforced through the extensive community engagement. These themes are:

Theme 1: Destination

Entice visitors to the region with a compelling offer of things to do and see in and around Horsham

Theme 2: Participation

Ensure that everyone can make, do or see art and culture in the Horsham region

Theme 3: Venues

Our places of Arts and Culture serve the Horsham Community

Theme 4: Partnerships

Support the people and organisations with whom we make Arts and Culture

Theme 5: Communications

Celebrate and coordinate the way we tell our stories

The Strategy will be delivered and implemented through the mechanism of five operational areas of the Arts and Culture Team. The operational areas include:

- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts, inclusive of Horsham Regional Art Gallery;
- Education services
- Visitor Services and
- Space Activation, inclusive of Public Arts and Arts Development

The Creative Horsham Strategy also aligns with themes and priorities of the HRCC's Community Vision and Council Plan

Format and structure of the Strategy

The Strategy highlights a key project per theme (five projects in total) to focus effort and resources of Council's Cultural Services.

Each theme is summarised, with feedback from consultations integrated and evidenced against the theme. Other Council plans are referenced. There are a number of existing programs, strategies and priorities already in place at the time of developing Creative Horsham. The work of this Strategy does not exist in a vacuum, and the likelihood of success for any ambitions outlined here increases when it builds upon current strengths of the community and Council. The Strategy thus incorporates Actions already committed to or under way, in addition to those newly identified through Creative Horsham.

The Strategy will be supported by Council's commitment to developing Service Plans. These along with individual work plans (currently under development) will support the implementation of the Plan across the five operational functions within the Creative Services Team. Evaluation will be linked to the delivery of agreed services and actions, with implementation aligned against individual work plans.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement has been conducted in the development of the draft. This commenced with the formation of an initial Project Advisory Group prior to Covid. During Covid, participation declined with feedback from members suggesting targeted and thematic consultation was of greater relevance.

This transacted into more direct consultation through workshops and themed consultation. Resulting in participation in the 2021 Horsham Talks Expo attended by 204 people, a series of public consultation sessions with the community, co-hosted between Regional Arts Victoria and industry experts was also undertaken. A survey was distributed to the local community to collect key data from creatives and creative organisations.

Throughout the process, a number of one-on-one interviews were also conducted with individuals from across the community providing detailed input which strengthened many of the concepts and contributions to the Plan.

This plan places particular and important focus on developing an ongoing and respectful relationship with Barenji Gadjin Land Council. This relationship has grown, evolved and matured over recent years and is a key current and future focus of the Strategy.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Partnerships forms one of the 5 key themes of the Plan and will greatly influence the plans' achievement through leveraging resources outside of Council and the arts. Links to Regional Development, Tourism, Events, Education and Inclusion are sources for new partnerships and collaborations.

Financial Implications

The Strategy and commitments presented, focus primarily on what is achievable with existing resources, venues, spaces, people and funds. The plan focusses on key actions that the Cultural Services Team has at its' discretion, autonomy and control to deliver. The plan also recognises, that many actions and quick wins can be achieved in collaboration with other teams within Council, and in partnership with community groups, artists and state based and regional cultural providers and services.

There will be times when specific arts based funding becomes available to achieve projects outside of the committed program. Opportunities to leverage existing Council resources with external funding to deliver creative outcomes, events and initiatives will be pursued. New and yet to be identified opportunities will likely arise outside of the existing Strategy, however, alignment to themes and guiding principles will ensure that any new opportunities are sense checked and referenced.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The Federal Government has released *Revive*, its new cultural policy that sets the plan for Australia's arts and culture sectors across the next five years.

Creative Victoria released its *Creative State 2025* Strategy which is designed to grow jobs and skills, and secure Victoria's reputation as a global cultural destination and bold creative leader. Creative State 2025 aims to engender stability, create opportunity and stimulate growth for Victoria's creative workers, businesses and industries. Creative Horsham has references to this key Victorian strategy.

Creative Horsham will be informed by its role and position as a *Regional Creative Industries Leader* in its relationship to both the Federal and State Government's strategic creative priorities.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Arts and Culture is a key driver to achieving the Community Vision. Direct links are as follows:

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1: Community

Strategies:

2. A community that encourages and celebrates all cultures, heritage and diversity
3. A community that is empowered in shaping the future of our region
4. A region that acknowledges & engages with First Nations people on place, connection and truth

Theme 2: Liveability

Strategies:

1. A resilient, inclusive and socially connected community,
3. Quality opportunities and facilities that meet the health and wellbeing needs and interests of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Risk Implications

The key risk as is the case for all strategies and plans is being able to be delivered in a timely way and resourced. This risk has been mitigated by ensuring the actions are aligned with the day to day operations of the town hall informing programming etc. and also that these actions are reflected in future service planning.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council support the release of the draft Creative Horsham Strategy 2023-2026 for public feedback for a period of 4 weeks.

9.5 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION POLICY REVIEW

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

Investment Attraction Policy (current) (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Investment Attraction Policy (clean version) (**Appendix 9.5B**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Investment Attraction Policy.

Summary

The Investment Attraction Policy creates a framework for the provision of investment attraction incentives to either new business investment or the significant expansion of existing business in the Horsham Rural City Council area.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Investment Attraction Policy as attached in **Appendix 9.5B**.

REPORT

Background

The report is required to enable the Investment Attraction Policy (**Appendix 9.5A**) to be reviewed, advise Council of changes to the policy and seek adoption of policy for a further three years.

Discussion

This is an important policy as it provides a framework to provide support for new and expanding developments within our municipality. The key proposed change is to expand types and level of assistance to include financial assistance with the development of business cases, feasibility studies, planning applications undertaken by a professional consultant.

Where the incentive is provided as a financial contribution toward the development Council can determine to deferred payment until the development has been completed or Council is satisfied that the development will proceed to execution.

Justification for the proposed change to the policy is as follows:

- We have precedence where undertaking of a feasibility studies, etc. has been supported by this policy i.e. Mt Zero Feasibility study and tourism feasibility case (to support Wilson/Bolton)
- To strengthen the policy and make it more transparent. The policy is best placed to support this type of work.

Options to Consider

1. Council can choose to adopt the Investment Attraction Policy with changes
2. Council can choose not to adopt the policy

The Council officer preference is for Council to adopt the policy to enable a transparent and consistent framework when determining whether a new development or expanding businesses should receive support from Council.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Council allocates \$15,000 each financial year to support the Investment Attraction Policy / Investment Attraction Initiative Scheme

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 3 – Sustainability - A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive.

Destination Horsham - Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The in-kind support or financial contribution provided to new developments and expanding business is a small gesture of appreciation and gratitude Council can provide to these business and companies for having confidence to develop further in our municipality.

9.6 WIMMERA REGIONAL MULTI-SPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Author's Name: | Mandy Kirsopp | Director: | Kevin O'Brien |
| Author's Title: | Coordinator, Recreation and Open Space | Directorate: | Communities and Place |
| Department: | Arts, Culture and Recreation | File Number: | F06/A13/000001 |

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

Wimmera Regional Multi-sport Feasibility Study Final Report (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Wimmera Regional Multi-sport Feasibility Study Phase 2 Engagement Report (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Purpose

To present the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study.

Summary

- The Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study (The Study) commenced in August 2021 as a result of a Council resolution to undertake an independent feasibility study to consider the preferred location for the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct.
- The Study investigated the demand and potential locations for regional level facilities being located in a single multi-sport precinct.
- Following consultation with State Sporting Associations (SSAs) and examination of local population and participation trends it became clear that a single precinct of regional facilities was neither financially viable nor possible due to land availability.
- A distributed model of new and upgraded facilities was proposed and tested, with sporting infrastructure being classified as regional, municipal or local.
- Recommended locations and concept plans have been reviewed by the SSAs and by local sporting clubs located at the identified sites and have been strongly supported.
- High level costings have been obtained and the Feasibility Study has been completed.
- The concept plans allow for future proofing if demand for sports or their status as a regional facility changes for example grass to synthetic for Hockey and Athletics.
- A decision on future regional sports provision is critical now rather than delaying this further.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study (**Appendix 9.6A**).
2. Prioritise the development of an indoor sporting stadium and precinct at College Oval (Dimboola Road) as presented in the Study.
3. Advance the development of schematic plans for the three precincts (Dimboola Road, Haven Recreation Reserve and Dudley W Cornell Park).

REPORT

Background

Council's endorsement of the City to River Masterplan, 25 November 2019 included the requirement to undertake an independent feasibility study to identify a preferred location, the functional requirements of a multi-sport precinct, the viability, economic and social impacts of such a precinct, and possible operational models of the facility.

In 2021, funding for a Feasibility Study was jointly provided by Sport and Recreation Victoria and Horsham Rural City Council. The purpose of the Study was to:

- Identify the functional requirements of a regional multi-sport precinct consistent with State Sporting Association planning.
- Determine the feasibility of a multi-sports precinct that can meet the needs of the users and provide a facility that can cater for regional sporting activities and events.
- Determine the most suitable location for a multi-sports precinct, referencing previous work undertaken by Horsham Rural City Council and considering all other factors including new information.

Otium Planning Group was engaged to assist with the study. Otium Planning Group has more than 28 years' experience and has completed in excess of 1,700 projects in the Sport, Recreation and Leisure industry. Many of the projects relate to facility feasibility studies, development of masterplans, recreational strategies and business and operational plans.

Stage One of the Study involved an investigation into sporting participation trends and local demographics, and facility requirements including required land mass if playing areas, ovals and pavilions were upgraded to a regional level. State Sporting Associations were consulted and provided strategic advice regarding facility requirements and the likelihood of regional facilities being fully utilized. Six sites were identified and assessed.

Stage One analysis revealed that:

- The land required for a precinct of regional facilities (15ha) is not available and would involve significant expense to purchase
- A mix of regional, municipal, local level facilities is required to meet current and projected usage.

Stage Two of the Study explored options for a distributed model of facility improvements using a combination of council owned and other land, and a mix of facility upgrades reflecting current and projected participation requirements. Stage Two analysis revealed that:

- Land is available to provide both upgraded and new sporting facilities
- Existing infrastructure (ovals and courts) can be upgraded
- Projects can be staged when funding becomes available
- The mix of regional, municipal and local facility upgrades is consistent with SSA expectations for the growth of the different sports.

State Sporting Associations have endorsed the distributed model of strategic facility upgrades. Concept plans and high level costings have been prepared. Local sporting clubs have been consulted.

Discussion

The Feasibility study is underpinned by an extensive engagement process with State Sports Associations, local sporting user groups and other key stakeholders in determining the current and future demand for new sporting facilities. The Study identifies the development priorities Council needs to consider over the next 10-20 years based the current sports participation trends, population demographic shifts and aging infrastructure across the Horsham community.

The Study examined recommendations from previous, recent strategies and plans and considered a range of additional elements to effectively respond to Council's request to resolve the preferred location of a regional sporting precinct.

Analysis revealed that a single precinct of regional level facilities for multiple sports is not economically feasible for our municipality. The required land mass is not available, construction costs would be prohibitive and local participation numbers (current and projected over a 10 year period) would result in facilities not being fully utilized.

The Study examined alternate options to provide upgraded sporting facilities and an indoor sporting stadium. The investigation identified that a mix of regional, municipal and local facilities is required to cater for the current and emerging sporting needs of our community and that a distributed model of sporting precincts provides affordable options of upgrades that can be implemented as funding becomes available.

A total of 13 State Sporting Associations were consulted throughout the development of this project. Nine State Sporting Associations were consulted on the projects' final concept designs and the distributed model recommendations. Letters of support have been received from the nine SSAs; these include:

- Athletics Victoria
- Badminton Victoria
- Basketball Victoria
- Cricket Victoria
- Football Victoria
- Hockey Victoria
- Netball Victoria
- Tennis Victoria
- Volleyball Victoria

Four other State Sporting Associations were informed that due to cost constraints their sport was not included in the final design recommendations for the three sporting precincts.

These sports are: AFL Victoria, Gymnastics Victoria, Squash Victoria and Table Tennis Victoria.

Local sporting clubs and community groups currently located on sites identified in the study have been consulted and will continue to be engaged as the project is further developed. A summary of feedback from local clubs is provided in both the Feasibility report and in the Phase 2 Engagement report. **(Appendix 9.6A and Appendix 9.6B).**

Site analysis

The study investigated a total of 10 sites, involving 14 landowners and land managers. Initially, six sites were assessed. The sites were:

- Jenkinson Avenue
- Remlaw & Natimuk Road
- Racecourse Reserve
- South of Police Paddock
- South of the River
- Showgrounds

An additional four sites were also considered:

- Horsham Velodrome
- Dudley W Cornell Park
- Haven Recreation Reserve
- Dimboola Road Oval (Horsham College)

Details of the sites, the assessment criteria and landowner feedback is provided in the Feasibility report **(Appendix 9.6A)**.

Based on the component schedules identified by the SSAs, high level concept designs have been developed for the three preferred sites. This distributed delivery model proposes the strategic geographical positioning of smaller sports precincts across the north, south and west of Horsham.

Dimboola Rd site – Regional indoor stadium (including four high ball courts) and outdoor netball courts, plus municipal hockey pitch

Haven Recreation Reserve site – Regional tennis, two municipal soccer pitches, local cricket oval, community Hub and open space

Dudley W Cornell Park site – Municipal athletics facility and two local cricket ovals with additional car parking and expanded main oval

Concept plans for the three sites are provided on pp 76-79 in the Feasibility Report **(Appendix 9.6A)**.

The concept plans allow for future proofing if there is change in status to a regional level sport. For instance, a synthetic surface for athletics and hockey. At this stage a synthetic surface is not recommended due to the current status of the sport being classified *Municipal*, also due to current participation numbers and the cost difference between grass and synthetic impacting on overall feasibility, however this has not been ruled out and therefore has been allowed for in the concept plans.

Options to Consider

1. Endorse the findings of the Feasibility Study.
2. Receive the Feasibility Study and request further information.
3. Receive the Feasibility Study and undertake no further action.

Recommendation:

Because of the high level of detail in the Study, extended consultation with State Sporting Associations, alignment with facility requirements, consideration of local financial constraints and opportunities, and the strategic distribution of upgraded sporting and active recreation opportunities throughout Horsham, Option 1 is recommended.

Sustainability Implications

The Otium Analytics Benefits Assessment Model analyses the economic benefits of a proposed project and converts social and health benefits to an economic value. Otium's Social and Economic Benefits Model provides an assessment of projects to identify:

- Direct economic benefits in terms of capital, revenue and jobs created
- Indirect economic (flow-on) benefits in terms of additional economic activity and jobs, and social and health benefits in terms of criminal and social justice benefit, human capital and personal health benefit.

The Feasibility Study identifies and quantifies improvements to both our economy and our community through the provision of up-graded and new, fit-for-purpose sporting facilities that are distributed across our community and that provide a combination of formalised sporting infrastructure and community accessible, active recreation opportunities.

Community Engagement

The Feasibility Study has involved extensive consultation with both internal and external individuals and groups that include:

- Sport and Recreation, Victoria
- Thirteen State Sporting Associations
- Fourteen land owners/land managers
- Surveys distributed to 40 sporting organisations and 23 schools
- Consultation with 16 local sporting groups
- Consultation with members of the local community
- Meetings with HRCC officers

Details of consultation is provided in the Feasibility report (**Appendix 9.6A**) and the Phase 2 Engagement report (**Appendix 9.6B**). Further consultation is occurring with local groups and on-going, detailed consultation will occur with both the SSAs and specific sporting groups during the detailed design stage of project delivery.

There is strong support from the SSAs and local community groups for the sites as proposed. These sports are keen for Council to make a decision to move forward after a long history of past delays and lack of decision making, leaving the future infrastructure provision for a number of regional sports unresolved.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The findings of the Feasibility Study identify the importance of aligning local development with state level strategic plans, of exploring options and testing assumptions. The Dimboola Rd site (indoor stadium, indoor-outdoor netball courts and dedicated hockey oval) is an example of a partnership between two agencies (Department of Education and Local Government) to achieve maximum community benefit.

Feedback from SSAs has identified emerging technologies that will increase usage of the stadium and provide additional training opportunities for sporting codes. This includes: opportunities for hockey to train indoors, alternate floor surfaces that minimise maintenance and opportunities for volleyball to be played both indoors and on outdoor surfaces.

Collaboration

Sport and Recreation Victoria has provided high level guidance re: the content and strategic output required of the Study.

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority provided advice regarding flood modelling and water flow and catchment that was particularly relevant when the Velodrome and Showgrounds sites were being considered.

Financial Implications

High level Quantity Surveyor (QS) cost estimates for the three sites have been developed.

| Cost Item | Dimboola Road Site | Haven Recreation Reserve Site | Dudley W Cornell Site | Total |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------|
| | <i>Regional Indoor/Outdoor Stadium and Municipal Hockey</i> | <i>Regional Tennis, Municipal Soccer, Local Cricket, Community Hub and Flexible Open Space</i> | <i>Municipal Athletics Upgrades and Local Cricket</i> | |
| Total Building Works | \$16,745,000 | \$4,928,000 | - | \$21,673,000 |
| Net Construction Cost* | \$28,886,000 | \$10,161,000 | \$6,469,000 | \$45,516,000 |
| Total Construction Cost** | \$32,649,535 | \$11,451,190 | \$7,320,280 | \$51,421,005 |
| Total Project Cost*** | \$36,600,000 | \$12,236,000 | \$7,759,000 | \$56,595,000 |

*Includes Building Works, Demolition, Road works, Car Parking, Landscaping, External Services & ESD Initiatives

**Includes* plus Infrastructure Upgrade Allowance, IT, Construction and Design Contingency,

***Includes * and ** plus Furniture Equipment & Fittings, Consultant Fees and Headworks and Authority Charges

Note: Current pricing has been used in the calculations and prices are subject to change.
The model provides the ability to stage the delivery of each site.

Council will be relying on significant amounts of external funding for the projects from a combination of external (State and Federal funding sources). There will be also internal, HRCC funding required.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active Victoria 2022-2026 – A strategic framework for sport

Connecting communities – All Victorians have access to high quality environments and appropriate participation opportunities

Key Direction – Deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable community sport and active recreation infrastructure.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 1 - Community

Initiative - Promote and support the municipality's key tourism, events and local and cultural offerings

Theme 2 – Liveability

Initiative - Encourage participation, diversity and growth in sports, events, arts and culture

Theme 4 – Accessibility

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

The Study builds on a significant body of work that has already occurred within HRCC:

- Horsham Multi Use Indoor Sports Stadium – Phase 1 Feasibility Report, 2016
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report, 2017
- Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021
- Open Space Strategy 2019
- Horsham Sport Facilities Demand Assessment Version 4, 2019
- Joint Sports Proposal Horsham Multipurpose Sports Precinct, 2019
- Horsham South Emerging Option Plan 2020
- The Social Infrastructure Framework 2020
- Horsham City to River Master Plan, 2020

Risk Implications

The Feasibility Study has investigated a variety of elements that contribute to risk. Contributing elements include:

- Municipal demographics including the age, socio-economic and health status of the population and the impacts on participation trends in organised sport
- Participation trends (locally and state wide) evident pre and post the Covid-19 pandemic
- State wide trends towards an increase in informal, social and active recreation opportunities with analysis that although there has been an increase in passive recreation, many of the organised activities that are currently being conducted in Horsham should remain stable if clubs and associations are well managed, sustainable and have access to fit for purpose sporting facilities and supporting infrastructure
- The QS cost estimates are based on 2023 figures and are subject to change
- Cost-benefit analysis of the economic returns from significant infrastructure investment.

The Feasibility Study presents development options that meet a variety of site criteria, have been costed, tested against state wide strategic plans and that provide significant community benefit. There is significant reputational risk if the findings of the Study are not endorsed and the Study is adopted without action.

The Horsham community, Horsham Rural City Council and State based funders have committed significant time, energy and resources to resolving the issue of facility improvement and regional level sporting infrastructure over many years. It is important the community and Council are able to confidently work to resolve and move forward with facility improvement across the municipality and region. Appetite to invest in additional exploration is very low, and it is now time to progress the recommendations and reap the benefits of improving the regions' liveability by attracting more visitation, increasing participation and improving health outcomes.

Any further delays in regards to development of regional sports facilities will continue to impact on the liveability and health and wellbeing of the community. A decision on future sports provision is critical now rather than delaying this further.

Conclusion

The Wimmera Regional Multi-sport Feasibility Study resolves a Council direction to identify a preferred location, the functional requirements of a multi-sport precinct, the viability, economic and social impacts of such a precinct, and possible operational models of the facility.

The 18 month investigation identified that a mix of regional, municipal and local facilities is required to cater for the current and emerging sporting needs of our community and that a distributed model of sporting precincts provides affordable options of upgrades that can be implemented as funding becomes available.

Three sites, each comprised of multiple sporting facilities have been identified and concept plans and high level costings have been developed. The distributed model and recommendations for varying facility upgrades is supported in writing by nine State Sporting Associations.

9.7 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Author's Name: | John Martin | Director: | John Martin |
| Author's Title: | Director Infrastructure | Directorate: | Infrastructure |
| Department: | Infrastructure | File Number: | F02/A05/000007 |

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Draft (Amended) Road Management Plan 2023 (**Appendix 9.7A**)

Purpose

To present the Road Management Plan as amended.

Summary

- The regular monitoring and reporting of achievement of Road Management Plan maintenance targets, based on reliable systematic data has highlighted two areas where amendments to the Plan are considered justified.
- It is proposed to change the Plan so that vegetation growth over footpaths is managed through the existing provisions of Community Local Law No 3 (2021).
- It is also proposed to introduce a lower classification of roads for some roads that are used only as fire access tracks or that have never been formed.
- A public engagement process on these changes has been conducted. No issues were raised during this process that might suggest the amendments could not occur.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the amended Road Management Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**).

REPORT

Background

It is proposed to amend the Road Management Plan to address some administrative processes relating to the Plan. These are:

- To establish a lower road category “Tracks” which do not receive routine maintenance or inspections by Council.
- To clarify the process for landowners to maintain vegetation from their properties where it overhangs footpaths.

The Council report from June 2022 provides detailed background on this matter, including the review of Road Management Plans of some other Councils. These other Plans demonstrate that our Road Management Plan establishes time frames for response which are either unrealistic or which do not reflect historic levels of service. Specifically:

- The process established in the Road Management Plan for requiring landholders to remove vegetation overhanging footpaths cannot be established in the time frame given. Other Councils do not include this in their Road Management Plan, instead relying on a process through their Community Local Law (or equivalent).
- There are some minor roads that do not have a history of maintenance by Council, and are generally only distinguished from the adjoining land by the presence of wheel tracks, through the natural vegetation.

Discussion

While it had been intended that the consultation process for this amendment would occur immediately following preparation of the Council report in June 2022, this did not occur until later.

The following engagement process was undertaken:

- Letters were sent to all landholders adjoining the roads proposed to be downgraded to “tracks” in December 2022.
- A notice was placed in the Government Gazette on 26 April 2023 advising of the intention to amend the Road Management Plan (as required in the Road Management Regulations 2016).
- This was also notified in Council’s public notices over several weeks at that same time.
- The amendment was also announced in Council’s weekly email newsletter.

Results of the engagement are discussed below.

Importantly, this amendment will not change the following aspects:

- Council will continue to monitor footpaths for overhanging vegetation and require landholders to remove this. The close-out process will differ as it will be managed through the Community Local Law rather than the Road Management Plan.
- The roads classified as tracks have not been receiving regular maintenance. Council will continue to respond to reasonable requests, e.g. for fire access.

Options to Consider

If Council were to consider not to amend the Plan, then Council may not be able to achieve full compliance with the Road Management Plan, in particular in relation to the time frame in the current plan for removal of vegetation overhanging footpaths. The process to seek cooperation from landholders and then enforce it can take two to three months, and is difficult to manage within the Road Management Plan framework.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Four responses were received to the proposed amendment. These are summarised in the table below.

| Respondent | Issue | Consideration / Outcome |
|--------------------|---|---|
| B Dunn | Phone call, concerned about the proposed downgrading of Victoria Valley Rd. | Explained that it would be no change in actual maintenance standards, Council would still respond to reasonable requests for maintenance for fire access. |
| C Mibus | Concern expressed about closure of Combes Rd adjacent to their property. | Explained that the road would not be closed, just that its status would be administratively changed. |
| M Bourchier-Wilson | Seeking further information about the proposed change of status of roads. | Detailed explanation provided on the nature of the change. No subsequent specific submission received. |
| K Ross | Seeking further information about the purpose of the amendments | Detailed explanation provided on the nature of the change. No subsequent specific submission received. |

In summary, it is considered that no change to the proposed Amendment is required based on this community feedback.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The proposed changes represent part of the continuous improvement in Council's approach to compliance with its Road Management Plan.

Collaboration

Nil

Financial Implications

The proposed changes will lead to minor cost savings with road inspections, but no reduction in road maintenance – the relevant roads do not have a history of regular maintenance.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

This report relates to amendments to the existing Council Road Management Plan.

Risk Implications

The Road Management Plan is a key document for Council to manage its risks. The measures proposed in this report are intended to reduce Council's risk exposure by changing some parts of the Road Management Plan which are not practicably able to be complied with, but without any change in the level of community risk.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments to the Road Management Plan will facilitate Council achieving full compliance with the Road Management Plan, without any change in service levels to the community.

9.8 BUDGET 2023-2024 AND UPDATED REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2021-2024

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| Author's Name: | Simon Rennie / Zac Gorman | Director: | Kim Hargreaves |
| Author's Title: | Finance contractor / Management Accountant | Directorate: | Corporate Services |
| Department: | Finance | File Number: | F18/A14/000001 |

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

Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2023-2024 (**Appendix 9.8A**)

Updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 (**Appendix 9.8B**)

Draft Budget and revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 - Summary of responses (**Appendix 9.8C**)

Draft Budget and revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 – Responses received (**Appendix 9.8D**)

Purpose

To present the Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2023-2024 and note the updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024.

Summary

- The Budget 2023-2024 is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and in consultation and discussion with Councillors and Council Officers.
- The Budget 2023-2024 has been prepared through a process of consultation and discussion with Councillors and Council Officers, and aligns with objectives as set out in the 2021-2025 Council Plan. It has also been prepared with reference to the Annual Action Plan Year 2: 2023-2024.
- The Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 has been revised to incorporate minor changes as a result of the budget development process. This reflects that consideration was given to the differentials and Municipal Charge within the Budget, and that there has been an increase in the Council component of the Pension Concession.
- The community were invited to inspect the Draft Budget and the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 from 23 May 2023 to 9 June 2023.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt Horsham Rural City Council Budget 2023-2024 and the subsequent 3 financial years, as attached in **Appendix 9.8A** pursuant to Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
2. Declare the following rates and charges for the 2023-2024 financial year:

(a) Amount intended to be raised:

An amount of \$32,636,457 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates and the annual service charge, which is calculated as follows: General Rates \$25,140,682, Municipal Charge \$2,292,200, Waste Management Charge \$4,663,575, Supplementary Rates \$220,000, Interest on Rates \$40,000 and Revenue in lieu of rates \$280,000.

(b) Rates Information:

General Rates - A general rate be declared in respect of the 2023-2024 rating year, being the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

3. Declare that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified in 4.1.1(n) of the budget document.
4. Declare each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land by the relevant rate in the dollar as indicated as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Residential | \$0.004058 |
| Farm | \$0.002029 |
| Commercial | \$0.003855 |
| Industrial | \$0.004058 |
| Cultural and Recreation | \$0.002029 |

5. Declare a Municipal Charge for 2023-2024 of \$200.00 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied.
6. Declare an Annual Service Charge for the collection and disposal of refuse in respect of the 2023-2024 Financial Year and set out below:

| | | |
|---|----|--------|
| Urban Bin Service | \$ | 497.00 |
| Rural Bin Service | \$ | 348.00 |
| Additional General Waste Bin | \$ | 140.00 |
| Additional Recycling Bin | \$ | 140.00 |
| Additional Organics Bin | \$ | 140.00 |
| Additional Glass Bin | \$ | 80.00 |
| Commercial Bin Service (weekly general waste/fortnightly recycling) | \$ | 480.00 |
| Additional/Standalone Commercial General Waste Bin (weekly) | \$ | 300.00 |
| Additional/Standalone Commercial Recycling Bin | \$ | 180.00 |
| Additional Commercial Organics Bin | \$ | 180.00 |
| Additional Commercial Glass Bin | \$ | 90.00 |

7. Declare the Setting of interest rate on unpaid rates and charges.
The Council will charge interest for rates and charges which have not been paid by the due dates, as specified under Section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989.
8. Declare the payment of rates and charges that a person can pay a rate or charge (other than a special rate or charge) by: Four (4) instalments which are due and payable on the dates fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette; or paid in full on 15 February 2024.
9. Notes that the fees and charges in the Budget have been updated from the Draft Annual Budget with the following changes:

- a. Statutory Fees and Charges have been increased by 4% per cent due to the fees and fines being set as part of the Victorian State Budget and gazette 23 May 2023;
 - b. Changed the wording in Rates and Property Management to better reflect the service.
 - c. Changed Urban and Rural Bin service unit of measure to “per property”.
 - d. Changed cat registrations unit of measure to “per cat”.
10. Authorise borrowings of \$400,000 for the City Oval Capital works project.
11. Note that the Burnt Creek Industrial Estate Capital Expenditure approved in the 2022-2023 financial year changes the income funding the project from external grants to (be funded by) the industrial land reserve. The project is now being completed over the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 budget years.
12. Adopt the updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 (**Appendix 9.8B**).
13. Receive and note the comments received on the Draft Budget 2023-2024 and updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 (**Appendix 9.8C and 9.8D**).

REPORT

Background

This year's budget is the seventh year of budget preparation under the State Government's Fair Go Rates system with the rate cap set at 3.5 per cent by the Minister for Local Government. It is against that figure that this budget has been framed.

Council has a range of both internal and external cost pressures to contend with, and still recognises the need to play an important role as the regional city for the western area of the state, with the provision of quality services to more than just our own residents. There continues to be growth and development within the community, which, over time puts pressure on service delivery costs such as the supply of parks and gardens, maintenance of roads and footpaths etc.

Discussion

Key Statistics

- Total Revenue: \$62.0 million (2022-23 = \$59.6 million)
- Total Expenditure: \$56.1 million (2022-23 = \$55.6 million)
- Surplus/(Deficit)for the year: \$5.9 million surplus (2022-23 = \$4.0 million surplus)
- Underlying operating result: \$3.9 million deficit (2022-23 = \$5.7 million deficit)

Budget Influences

In preparing the Budget 2023-2024, several internal and external influences have been taken into consideration as they impact significantly on the services delivered by the Council in the budget period and resulting budget position. Further budgetary pressure is felt as a result of the current inflationary environment, particularly where cost increases of materials and services far exceed the Rate Cap of 3.5 per cent.

Capital Works

The proposed capital works budget is \$22.86 million which is made up of \$6.88 million of new projects, \$12.04 million in renewal and \$3.95 million in upgrades. The capital works program will be funded by \$8.26 million of grant funding, \$13.67 million of Council cash from operations, reserves and investments, and \$400,000 of new borrowings.

Capex Summary

The roads and related infrastructure capital program has a budget provision of \$6.8 million, of which some \$5.5 million relates to renewal of existing assets. There is also budget provision of \$4.2 million budget provision for further progress on the City to River works, featuring the City Oval netball courts and netball pavilion, the events stage and initial works on the community centre/change room facility. The Wesley Performing Arts Centre refurbishment has a proposed budget \$1.958 million, dependent on significant grant funding of around \$1.4 million to enable these works to proceed.

Rates and Charges

Council has increased its additional "Council funded" rebate to pensioners from \$30 to \$50. This is over and above the state government rebate. As the policy trigger of +3.5% of the Farm General Valuation has been met, the Differential has been reviewed but will remain at 50% of the residential rate.

Some of the reasoning behind this decision was that currently residential properties share the same percentage of the total Capital Improved Value (CIV), (approx. 46% of the total value of all properties respectively) but residential properties are now responsible for nearly double the rates revenue than Farm. This would indicate that both vertical and horizontal equity, benefits as well as residential “capacity to pay” have reached their limit concerning altering the differential in the 2023-2024 budget.

The Municipal Charge remains constant at \$200 with concern that any further drop this year would further disadvantage higher valued Farm and Residential properties, as a higher differential would have to be calculated. The flat fee provides horizontal equity to evenly spread the cost of services over the municipality and the differentials applied are as follows:

| RATING DIFFERENTIAL | RATING DIFFERENTIAL % |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| General/Residential | 100% |
| Industrial | 100% |
| Commercial | 95% |
| Culture and Recreation | 50% |
| Farm | 50% |

Centralised Annual Valuations

Since 2019, the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the sole valuation authority to conduct annual valuations for rating purposes. The Budget 2023-2024 includes preliminary valuation data from the VGV with valuations as at 1 January 2023. All rating information contained within the budget, including rates in the dollars, is based on these updated valuations. However, the preliminary valuations are yet to be certified by the VGV and are therefore subject to change.

Current draft valuation data suggests an average increase across the municipality of 17 per cent. This does not mean Horsham Rural City Council will generate 17 per cent additional rates revenue, rather it will influence how much of the total rates revenue is contributed by each individual property (noting the cap at 3.5%). Movements in individual property valuations (CIV) will have an impact on individual rate notices and are difficult to communicate through the Budget 2023-2024 document.

Section 4.1.2(f) of the Budget 2023-2024 provides an indication of the valuation movements for each rating differential group, however, individual property valuation movements will not be advised until the 2023-2024 annual rates notices for each property are distributed.

Financial Performance Indicators

Section 5 of the Budget 2023-2024 documents Council’s current and projected forecast across a number of prescribed indicators. These indicators are useful for analysing Council’s financial position and are further supported by the Financial Policy Statements adopted in Council’s 2022-2032 Financial Plan.

Options to Consider

The Council Budget is a statutory requirement and must be adopted each financial year by 30 June.

Sustainability Implications

Rate capping continues to place restrictions on Councils ability to raise its own source income and places an ever increasing reliance on grants from other tiers of government the availability of which can change over time. Council’s share of the overall tax revenues of all tiers of government (approximately 3%) is also a factor as additional responsibilities and obligations are being given to council without adequate

consideration of the taxation implications. These issues mean that Council must be mindful of its own financial sustainability and therefore take a more conservative approach to debt than other levels of government and/or the private sector may take.

Community Engagement

Council has already completed an engagement with the community around the Annual Action Plan Year 2: 2023-2024. The community was provided the opportunity to provide feedback on the Annual Action Plan during February 2023 with the Plan then utilised to drive the development of the initiatives that sit within this budget. With these actions of community engagement now complete, Council presented the draft budget as an essentially finalised document with engagement at IAP2 level of “informing the community”.

In relation to the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024, the document was adopted by Council in October 2022 and the only changes being made since reflect the Budget notes and change to the Council funded pensioner rebate increasing from \$30 to \$50.

The community were invited to provide feedback on the Draft Budget 2023-2024 and the updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 from 23 May 2023 to 9 June 2023, with two individuals contacting Council specifically in relation to the draft budget within the allocated inspection period. A third individual contacted Council on 16 June, a week after the inspection period concluded, so their comments were not addressed as part of the summary of responses but their comments were provided to Councillors for consideration.

No feedback was received in relation to the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024.

Financial Implications

All matters under discussion impact on the Council Budget 2023-2024.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The state policy with most significance for Councils budget is the Fair Go Rates system that sees the capping of council rate increases set by the Minister for Local Government each year.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The 2023-2024 Budget, and Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 have been prepared with reference to the Community Vision 2041, the 2021-2025 Council Plan, and the Annual Action Plan Year 2: 2023-2024.

Risk Implications

The budget is a key document for the good governance and operations of Council and, as such, needs to be adopted by the 30 June each year.

Conclusion

The Budget 2023-2024 and updated Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 have been developed through a sound process of consultation and review. The budget is considered fiscally responsible whilst still providing a degree of important economic activity within the municipality. The Budget 2023-2024 and revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024 are ready for adoption.

9.9 CITY OVAL COMMUNITY FACILITY FUNDING STRATEGY

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Author's Name: | Susan Surridge | Director: | Kevin O'Brien |
| Author's Title: | Coordinator Community Relations and Advocacy | Directorate: | Communities and Place |
| Department: | Governance and IM | 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

Growing Regions Fund Guidelines (Appendix 9.9A)

Purpose

To propose a funding strategy for the Community Facility project within the City Oval and Sawyer Park Redevelopment Stage 1.

Summary

The City Oval Sawyer Park redevelopment Concept Plan was adopted 21 November 2021. Since then three Stage 1 projects have been developed to 'shovel ready' stage for funding:

1. Redevelopment of Netball facilities
2. Event Stage
3. Community facility

Project 1 - fully funded and has commenced to tender and construction phase

Project 2 - fully funded, with site clearing works having commenced. The final tender for this process is being awarded at the June 2023 Council meeting.

Project 3 - Detailed designs for the Community Facility have now been completed and the revised QS report as at April 2023 is \$8,945,360. This is a significant increase from the original QS budget dated February 2022 of \$6.8million. This increase is in line with conditions in the Victorian building industry, and in particular the increase in pricing of structural steel. The **total budget for Project 3 of \$9,611,110** also includes the additional cost of demolition of existing facilities, construction of two ticket boxes, a food kiosk and completion of landscaping at the north-west entry to City Oval. The completion of these works will ensure a regional standard events and sporting facility for Horsham and the wider Wimmera Mallee region.

This report details the funding strategy for Project 3, the final component of the redevelopment of City Oval and Sawyer Park precinct Stage 1.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Submit an application to the Commonwealth Government's Growing Regions Fund Round 1 to complete the Community Facility project – Total Budget \$9,611,110, **Grant request of \$4,805,000** (noting maximum of 50%).
2. Allocate Council expenditure of \$4,806,110 funded through borrowings and inclusion in the CAPEX budget over two financial years: 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.
3. Submit an application to SRV if a timely funding opportunity arises before the end of the year, noting that State funding programs under SRV are yet to be announced following the May State budget and the maximum grant opportunity is likely to be \$800,000 which could offset some of Council's co-contribution.

REPORT

Background

The City Oval Sawyer Park Redevelopment Concept Plan was finalised by the Community Reference Group and adopted by Council in November 2021. Following this, Council at its meeting on 24 January 2022 agreed to submit funding applications to undertake the three components of Stage 1 of the City Oval Sawyer Park Redevelopment.

1 – Redevelopment of Netball facilities

Total Project Cost \$3,000,000

Funded by:

SRV Grant \$ 800,000

Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI Phase 3) Grant allocation \$1,856,792

HRCC Capital works budget \$ 343,208

Outcome – Successful grant application to Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) of \$800,000

2. Event stage and supporting infrastructure

Total Project Cost \$3,000,000

Funded by:

Regional Tourism Victoria Grant \$2,000,000

Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI Phase 3) Grant allocation \$1,000,000

Outcome – Successful grant application to Regional Tourism Victoria of \$2,000,000

3. Community Facility and change rooms (Community Facility)

Outcome – Application lodged but funding program was cancelled following the 2022 elections and the change to the Albanese Labor Government

The Council Report of 24 January 2022 meeting also noted that:

*If all applications are successful, the Council co-contribution to Stage 1 is reduced to **\$3.6 Million** and*

Council's co-contribution will be funded through borrowings and inclusion in the CAPEX budget over two financial years: 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Following the outcome of the applications for 1 & 2 above, the first two projects have progressed to detailed design and tender stage, with budgets as follows:

Table 1

| Project | Total Cost | C'wealth Funding | State Funding | Council Funding |
|--|------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Redevelopment of Netball Facilities | 3,000,000 | 1,856,792 | 800,000 | 343,208 |
| 2. Event stage and supporting infrastructure | 3,008,218 | 1,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 8,218 |
| Total | 6,008,218 | 2,856,792 | 2,800,000 | 351,426 |

Council is funding 5.8% of the total cost of the first two projects at City Oval

The first round of the Commonwealth Government's Growing Regions Fund has been announced, with expressions of interest to be submitted by 1 August 2023. Program Guidelines are contained in **Appendix 9.9A**. This is a competitive program that will allocate grants of between \$500,000 and \$15million, and require a minimum \$1:\$1 funding contribution from the applicant. To make an application through this fund, Council must provide matching contribution of at least 50% of the total project budget for Project 3.

Note: the Draft 2023-2024 Council Budget includes Capex Expenditure of \$1,050,000 allocated to the City Oval Community Facility

Discussion

Having successfully funded the first two elements of the City Oval Sawyer Park Redevelopment Phase 1 through almost entirely State and Commonwealth government funding, Council is now required to approve a funding strategy for the remaining project – the Community Facility.

The funding strategy to complete Project 3 (Community facility, change rooms, the additional cost of demolition of existing facilities, construction of two ticket boxes, a food kiosk and completion of landscaping at the north-west entry to City Oval) is based on maximising Commonwealth and State funding opportunities.

The Growing Regions application will request funding of \$4.805million

The Council contribution of \$4,806,110.00 is proposed to be funded through Council's CAPEX budget over the following years:

Table 2

| City Oval Community Facility | Grants | Council Funds | Loans | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Yr 1 2023/2024 | 0 | 1,050,000* | 0 | 1,050,000 |
| Yr 2 2024/2025 | 4,805,000 | | 3,756,110** | 8,561,000 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | 4,805,000 | 1,050,000 | 3,756,110 | \$9,611,110 |

* The 2023-2024 total CAPEX budget (DRAFT) for Buildings of \$7.8million has been boosted by a grant of \$1,428,396 from the Commonwealth Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund (LRCI) Phase 4. This funding has been allocated to capital works projects including: micro surfacing of urban roads; rural roads final seals; and renewal of footpaths and at the same time frees up internal Council funds of \$1,050,000 that have been allocated to the Community facility project

** Loans/Reserves – external borrowing or internal borrowing (Council Reserves)

The Council Report of 24 January 2022, approved maximum borrowings of \$3.6million to complete all of Stage 1 of the City Oval Sawyer Park redevelopment. Total planned borrowings in Table 2 above of \$3.756million, just slightly above the original maximum.

Council has a number of Capital Reserves that are used for internal borrowings. A decision on whether to use internal or external borrowings for the City Oval project will be made in accordance with Council's cash flow requirements throughout 2024-2025

Updated Funding strategy for City Oval and Sawyer Park Redevelopment Stage 1 – Total Project Cost \$15.619million

The following table summarises the overall cost and funding sources required to complete all three elements of City Oval and Sawyer Park Redevelopment Stage 1

Table 3

| Stage 1 Components | Total Cost | C 'Wealth | State | Council | Loans |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Netball Facilities – fully funded | 3,000,000 | 1,856,792 | 800,000 | 343,208 | 0 |
| 2. Events Stage – fully funded | 3,008,218 | 1,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 8,218 | 0 |
| 3. Community Facility - application | 9,611,110 | 4,805,000 | 0 | 1,050,000 | 3,756,110 |
| TOTAL | 15,619,328 | 7,661,792 | 2,800,000 | 1,401,426 | 3,756,110 |

Under this strategy Stage 1 will be completed with the following funding ratios:

- Commonwealth 49%
- State 18%
- Council/Loans 33%

The key factor in this funding strategy is to successfully apply to the Growing Regions Fund to secure co-funding of \$4.805million. The first round of this new grant funding program will be highly competitive.

Options to Consider

No other options available to consider at this point in time

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 City Oval and Sawyer Park Concept Plan involved an extensive community engagement process from November 2020 to September 2021 and involved collaboration with a Community Reference Group. This included current user groups and general community representatives. Engagement included one-on-one meetings with user groups, face-to-face community engagement and a six week public consultation period. The final Concept Plan was endorsed by the Community Reference Group before adoption by Council.

Ongoing engagement with Sport and Recreation Victoria, all user groups and relevant State Sporting Associations have guided the completion of the final facility design with tender documents.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The redevelopment of the City Oval and Sawyer Park precinct includes many innovative concepts, including an accessible grandstand, tiered seating around the oval and the development of an outdoor entertainment stage at the oval to provide for major outdoor events.

Collaboration

Council staff have worked closely with the Community Reference Group, Technical Reference Group and key sporting associations in the development of the Concept Plan

Financial Implications

This report contains a significant financial implications for Council.

The matching funding required from Council for the project is \$4,806,110.00. Of this, \$1,050,000 has already been allocated in the draft 2023-2024 budget. This allocation was achievable whilst still maintaining Council normal Capital Works Program through the additional funding provided by the Commonwealth Government's LRCI Phase 4. This leaves a funding gap for Project 3 of \$3,756,110.

If the Growing Regions Fund application is successful, the project will proceed and this commits Council to an increase in borrowings (external and/or internal) of \$3,756,110 in 2024-2025. This amount is within the \$3.6million range of initial maximum borrowings in January 2022.

If the Growing Regions Fund application is not successful, Council will not proceed with the project at this point in time, and will continue to seek future funding opportunities.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Sport and Recreation Victoria and relevant State Sporting Associations have been involved with the development of both the Concept Plan and detailed design of the new facility

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The redevelopment of City Oval and Sawyer Park is the second stage of the 2020 City to River Master Plan and is included in other key documentation of Council including the current 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 key risk in this process is whether or not Council's application to the Growing Regions Fund is successful. This is fully mitigated by the fact that the project will not proceed until external grant funding is received.

Conclusion

City Oval is recognised as the premier oval in the region, but one that is ageing with sub-standard facilities. The Community Facility project is the 'final piece of the funding puzzle' for Stage 1 of the City Oval Sawyer Park Redevelopment Concept Plan. Funding of this component will address the key concerns around current conditions i.e. community facilities and change rooms that do not reflect current AFL guidelines or accessibility standards.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.10 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

SpendMapp Report April 2023 (**Appendix 9.10A**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for April 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 April 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 February are articulated in the information and tables, as follow.

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

Year 1 - 2022-2023

Year 2 - 2023-2024

Year 3 - 2024-2025

Year 4 - 2024-2025

Year 5+ 2025+

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

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

| Council Priorities | Action | Goal Measured by | Progress |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| 2.10 (ongoing) | Undertake regular meetings between the Wimmera Development Association and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities | 10 forums held per year | Meeting held in April between WDA and HRCC Investment & Business Development Team 9/10 meetings held at 14/4/23 |
| (2 years) | Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan | Aerodrome Masterplan development | A community and industry survey was conducted during April. Summary findings will be available in May. An industry focus group meeting is scheduled for May with key stakeholders. |
| 5+years | Investigate with stakeholders on the potential for Burnt Creek to become a green industrial area through vegetation offsets and carbon sequestration | Investigation outcomes reported to Council | Consultant appointed to undertake a 10yr Off-set Reserve Management Plan. |
| 3.5.1 (2 years) | Prepare submission of the EES for the Avonbank mining project to ensure that the licence reflects world best practice | Statutory Planning to prepare submission for consideration by council | Avonbank Mineral Sands Project EES on Exhibition and will close 26 May 2023. Council preparing a submission for the Inquiry and Advisory Committee |

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

| Council Priorities | Action | Goal Measured By | Progress |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| 2.7.1 (ongoing) | Identify and seek out commercial opportunities to activate the riverfront | Commercial opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report | An event was held at the pop up riverfront café site on Sunday April 2. An overwhelming amount of people attended and great feedback received from both community, mobile traders and musicians. |
| 3.1.3 (2 years) | Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan | Plan Developed & Progress report to Council | Advertising for the Natimuk Advisory Committee will commence in May. |
| 3.2.1 (ongoing) | Work with local business leaders throughout the municipality to develop business confidence and growth | 2 business forums held annually | The first CAD CRG meeting was held on 5 April. These meetings will now be held monthly. The group elected a chair and their first task is to elect the priority project for the next year |
| (ongoing) | Host seasonal workshop sessions with Grampians Tourism and Wimmera Mallee Tourism to organise and update our businesses and tourism operators about relevant information for the region | 2 industry workshops have been hosted | A third Grampians Tourism (GT) Sustainable Tourism Industry Forum was recently held on 20 April at Mt William Station in Willaura. Two other forums were held: First – 20 October held in the Horsham Region at Barangaroo WinesSecond – 16 February held at Dunkeld All three industry forum had representative from council business team. (target achieved) |
| (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 | 1 business newsletter was sent in April The newsletter received 347 opens and 34 clicks. |
| 3.3.1 (yearly) | Update and audit the Council Website Business Page | The annual audit identified no outdated information | Updates to the Wimmera Business Centre webpage are underway to include a meeting room booking link and enquiry form. |
| Council Priorities | Action | Goal Measured By | Progress |
| 3.4.2 (ongoing) | Work with local business to activate the Horsham city centre | Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report | The CAD CRG held their first meeting in April. They will be involved in the implementation of the CAD Revitalisation Plan. |
| (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 |
| Monthly | Develop a dynamic and up-to-date business database system to ensure information is correct, up-to-date and cross references the most recent ABR data | Data base developed and used | Remplan ABR data has been updated to reflect the current Census data. We now have access to the most up to date business data. |

GRAMPIANS TOURISM – April 2023



Grampians Tourism Business and Industry Forum:

Grampians Tourism Industry Forum was held on Thursday 20 April at the Mt William Station Willaura in the Eastern Grampians

This being the third Industry Forum delivered by Grampians Tourism. Providing the latest international, events and marketing updates.

HRCC representatives Gloria McRae Business Development & Tourism Officer and Michelle Rethus Creative Services & Events Lead attended the session along with other regional representatives from across all four councils of the Grampians.

Guest speakers were:

Kristy Malapa, Industry Relations Manager at Tourism Australia.

Tourism Australia is the Australian Government agency responsible for attracting international visitors to Australia, both for leisure and business events.

Nigel Preston, Director at Single Track Events

Delivering the first Grampians Peaks Trail Run 100 Miler 23 to 26 November 2023.

Single Track Events produce and promote trail running events delivering participants experience. This being the newest world class trail run that will be situated in the Grampians National Park. Participants will run on the track of the Grampians Peaks Trial from the Mt Zero to Dunkeld. This event will attract national and international competitors to our wider region.

Will Abbott Managing Director at Mount William Station

The homestead a heritage property, set at the foothills of the Grampians National Park. Mount William Station, has been fully renovated to its full glory. The 7,500-acre estate has been a place of sanctuary for generations, now providing high end accommodation. It's sure is a place to pause and simply enjoy. Amazingly beautiful.

Robert Crack, Head of Marketing & Partnerships at Grampians Tourism

Presented an overview concept of the GT marketing program and concepts.

Dr Tim Harrison, CEO at Ararat Rural City Council –

Welcomed representative to the forum.

One Hour Out Marketing Opportunity - Undertaken by HRCC Business Team

Council's Business Team engaged with One Hour Out to deliver a marketing campaign showcasing the Wartook Valley and Dadswells Bridge operators.

OHO is a website and social media platform profiling all the best outdoors and cultural experiences. Starting One Hour Out from Melbourne with options for two and three hours out into regional destinations. The online publication dedicated to telling the stories of regional people and places. The target audience for followers of One Hour Out are 25 to 40 year olds trend setters who may live in inner Melbourne and the like.

The project aim is to create a better understanding of the regional offerings in particular the Wartook Valley and Dadswells Bridge areas. By improving connections between those who live and work in the city to the regional centres.



As part of the project OHO had undertaken a photo shoot of businesses including a range of other regional attractions along with a feature article in order to ensure our region has a presence on the OHO social media outlet from the very start.

The businesses selected by HRCC Business Team will receive follow up social media promotions and their profiles remain on the website ongoing.

Wartook Valley engaged the following businesses:

Kailash Ashram Yoga, Rosehaven Farm, Mt Stapylton Wines, Meringa Spring, Old Rosemont Quits, Grampians Olive Co, Happy Wander Holiday Resort.

Dadswells Bridge engaged the following businesses:

Grampians Edge Caravan Park, Dadswells Bridge Precinct (Giant Koala, Indian Restaurant, Deutscher's Turkey Farm), Old Dadswells Town and attraction Mt William Creek Nature Trail.

Many thanks goes to our wondering regional operators who were willing to take part in the campaign. Attached image is from Kailash Ashram Yoga owner David Wegman, featuring talent Olivia Morris, Liv Cullen and Jay Dillon OHO photographer.

National Small Business Summit

Annie Mintern and Olivia Morris attended the National Small Business Summit in Melbourne during April. Speakers at the event included Peter Dutton, Leader of the Opposition; Julie Collins, Minister for Small Business; Natalie Suleyman, Minister for Small Business and more.

The conference addressed topics such as global trends and impacts in small business, regional resilience, the industrial relations reform and the impact on small business.

Whilst in Melbourne they also attended a VTIC (Victorian Tourism Industry Council) networking event which was held at URBNSURF/Three Blue Ducks and was a spotlight on one of their members.



Occupied Businesses:

| Street and Number of Businesses | March FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied | April FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied | April FY 22/23 Businesses Vacant | April FY 22/23 Percentage Businesses Occupied |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included | 40 | 38 | 5 | 88% |
| Firebrace St - 99 | 90 | 93 | 6 | 94% |
| Hamilton St - 17 | 16 | 17 | 0 | 100% |
| Wilson St – 34 | 28 | 28 | 6 | 82% |
| Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included | 24 | 23 | 5 | 82% |
| Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included | 26 | 26 | 1 | 96% |
| McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included | 21 | 22 | 2 | 91% |
| Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area | 245/272 | 247/272 | 247/272 | 90% |

(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.

Business Visitations for the Month of April 2023

| Month Visitation | Retail Services | Hospitality & Accommodation | Event notifications and contacts | Over all contacts for the month |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| February | 13 | 8 | 15 | 36 |
| March | 35 | 6 | 12 | 53 |
| April | 20 | 13 | 10 | 43 |
| Total | 68 | 27 | 37 | 132 |

SpendMapp

SpendMapp Report for April 2023 (**Appendix 9.10A**)

STATUTORY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning

| Council Priorities | Action | Goal Measured By | Progress |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1.3.5 & 1.3.6 (1 year) | Develop and implement the Horsham North Local Area Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Horsham North Local Area Plan adopted by Council | Horsham North Local Area Plan and the <i>Engagement Summary Report</i> have been finalised. |
| (4 years) | Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Cinema | Management plan endorsed by Council | A consultant has been appointed to prepare the Conservation Management Plan. First stage of work to occur mid- June |
| 2.10.2 (2 to 3 years) | Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy | Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment | Currently out for tender until mid-June. |
| 2.10.3 (2 years) | Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2) | Plan adopted by Council | Feedback from the PCG is being prepared for the consultant to finalise the Plan. |

Flood Amendment Consultation

The Strategic Planning team together with Wimmera CMA, Water Technology consultant and Council's Planning consultant met with submitters to the Flood Amendment over two days in March, to discuss a range of concerns raised in submissions lodged to the Amendment.

With an information session held on the evening of Tuesday, 21 March and individual meetings with submitters held on Wednesday, 22 March.

Following these meetings, some on-site inspections were undertaken with the Strategic Planning team, Wimmera CMA and Water Technology consultant and eight submitters, to enable modelling to be reviewed and alleviate some concerns.

Council's Strategic Planning team are currently working on providing written responses to submitters in an attempt to resolve submissions.

Any submissions that remain unresolved will be referred to Planning Panels Victoria. Where an independent panel will be appointed to consider and advise on all unresolved submissions to the Amendment.

Statutory Planning

Planning Applications Determined

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

| | APRIL 2023 | | APRIL 2022 | |
|------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| Type | No. | *Value \$ | No. | *Value \$ |
| Miscellaneous Domestic | 1 | 250,000 | 5 | 3,313,589 |
| Industrial/Commercial | 3 | 6,197,200 | 2 | 295,000 |
| Subdivisions | - | - | 6(28)) | |
| Other | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 4 | 6,447,200 | 13 | 3,608,589 |

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2022 to 30 April 2023 is 113 compared to 116 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 290 new lots from 1 July 2022 to 30 April 2023 compared to 135 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Building Services

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

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

| | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| Type | No. | Value \$ | No. | Value \$ |
| Dwellings | - | - | - | - |
| Alterations to Dwellings | - | - | - | - |
| Dwelling resitings | - | - | - | - |
| Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc) | 1 | 42,000 | - | - |
| Removal/Demolish | - | - | 1 | 21,307 |
| Industrial/Commercial | 1 | 55,698 | 1 | 90,860 |
| Signs | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 97,698 | 2 | 112,167 |

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

| | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Type | No. | Value \$ | No. | Value \$ |
| Dwellings | 7 (10)* | 4,400,834 | 6 | 2,749,105 |
| Alterations to Dwellings | 3 | 86,780 | 3 | 104,155 |
| Dwelling resitings | - | - | - | - |
| Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc) | 4 | 149,548 | 9 | 431,642 |
| Removal/Demolish | 1 | 7,000 | 2 | 151,700 |
| Industrial/Commercial | 1 | 113,520 | 2 | 708,337 |
| Signs | - | - | - | - |
| _Sub Total | 16 | 4,757,682 | 22 | 4,144,939 |

*7 permits issued for 10 dwellings'

A total of 34 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$2,826,688 from 1 July 2022 to 30 April 2023 compared to 68 Building Permits at a total value of \$5,148,722 in 2021-2022.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 197 Building Permits at a total value of \$44,663,536 from 1 July 2022 to 30 April 2023 compared to 252 at a total value of \$65,976,307 in 2021-2022.

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 Development Association, 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.

9.11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for June 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

Joint State-Local Government CEO Forum: CEOs, Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Victoria attended the forum held on 7 June 2023. Discussions were held on emergency animal disease preparedness priorities and a LGV update.

Quarterly Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The CEOs from Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Buloke and Northern Grampians met on Thursday 8 June 2023. Key topics of the discussion included an operational plan for Wimmera Southern Mallee Development, Recognition and Settlement Agreement and Filipino Forum.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Development: The CEO attended a Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Strategic Plan launch on 30 May 2023.

Jacinta Ermacora, State Member for Western Victoria: The Mayor and CEO met with Jacinta Ermacora on 6 June 2023. Key items of discussion included Council's infrastructure priorities, progress on the Gender Equality Action Plan and Traditional Owner relationships.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA): The CEO attended a HRCC and EPA meeting on 19 June 2023. Discussions included seasonal issues (stubble burns, wood fired smoke), agricultural plastics, major projects and matters of common interest.

Funding Opportunities:

Nil

B. Community Engagement

Rotary Club of Horsham East: The CEO attended the meeting of Rotary Club of Horsham East on 31 May 2023 and provided an update on Council's vision, key projects and initiatives.

C. Projects and Events

Citizenship Ceremony: Council welcomed 10 new citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 31 May 2023. Countries of origin included India, Philippines, Pakistan and United Kingdom.

Quantong Recreation Reserve: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors Power and Haenel, Directors and the CEO attended the official opening of the Quantong Recreation Reserve Irrigation Project on Tuesday 6 June by Jacinta Ermacora, State Member for Western Victoria.

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Commonwealth Games Legacy Document: The CEO attended the launch of the RCV Commonwealth Games legacy Document at Dudley Cornell Oval on 7 June 2023.

National General Assembly (NGA): The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Power and the CEO attended the NGA conference in Canberra from 13 to 15 June 2023.

Hamilton Street Bridge: The Hamilton Street pedestrian bridge connecting the east and west banks of the Wimmera River has been completed and was open for public use on Friday 16 June. The bridge joins the walking track connecting the Waterlink Estate on the eastern side of the river and Hamilton Street on the western side. An additional connecting ramp is still to be constructed along Menadue Street.

Mainstreet Australia Awards: HRCC and WestVic Business submitted three applications to the Mainstreet Australia Awards for the following:

1. Best Main Street Place Activation Event or Initiatives - working with Traders Associations, Traders and Community Groups – based on the Christmas Extravaganza Events and Roaming Advent Calendar under 100K
2. Best Main Street Place Activation Event or Initiatives - working with Traders Associations, Traders and Community Groups – based on the Spring into Horsham Festival over 100K
3. Best Traditional/Digital Marketing – Non Government Organisation.

Mainstreet Australia in recognition of our submissions included HRCC in the Best Regional Main Street Town Centre for our recent 'Events' in our CBD and 'HRCC and WestVic Business partnership'. The awards were announced Friday 19 May and even though Horsham didn't win, it was great recognition for Horsham to be a finalist and a privilege for HRCC to attend the awards.

Young Mayors: The CEO attended the election and formal announcement of the seven elected youth Councillors on Thursday 22 June.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 - Leadership

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

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

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

| Committee Representation | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 30/05/23 | Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Board Meeting |
| 08/06/23 | Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) meeting (virtual) |
| 08/06/23 | Audit and Risk Committee meeting |
| 13/06/23 | Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Regional Forum in Canberra |
| 14-15/06/23 | Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra |
| 16/06/23 | Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) in Canberra |
| Other Council Activities | |
| 25/05/23 | Cancer Biggest Morning Tea at Horsham Neighbourhood House |
| 26/05/23 | National Reconciliation Week launch and Morning Tea at Horsham Town Hall |
| 27/05/23 | Wimmera Filipino Australian Club AGM and Concert |
| 29/05/23 | RSL Cent Auction |
| 30/05/23 | Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Strategy Launch |
| 30/05/23 | 3 Art is... exhibition openings |
| 31/05/23 | With CEO met with Grampians Health CEO and Chair |
| 31/05/23 | Welcomed 11 new Australians at Citizenship Ceremony |
| 04/06/23 | Art is... Concert |
| 06/06/23 | Official Opening of Quantong Reserve upgrades by Jacinta Ermacora MLA |
| 06/06/23 | With CEO met with Jacinta Ermacora MLA to discuss HRCC priorities |
| 07/06/23 | Launch of RCV Commonwealth Games Legacy Document "The Winning Formula for Regional Victoria" |
| 07/06/23 | ABC Drive Time radio interview |
| 13/06/23 | Dinner with Dr Anne Webster MP at Parliament House |
| 15/06/23 | Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) Gala Dinner at Parliament House |

Cr David Bowe

| Committee Representation | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Date | Description |
| 07/06/2023 | CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting- via Microsoft Teams |
| 16/06/2023 | Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting – Horsham Library |
| Other Council Activities | |
| 24/05/2023 | Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Members Briefing - 2023 Federal and State Budgets– via Zoom |
| 26/05/2023 | National Reconciliation Week Morning Tea- Horsham Town Hall |
| 30/05/2023 | Horsham Rural City Band's last rehearsal at the HRC Band Hall, O'Callaghan Parade |
| 31/05/2023 | Citizenship Ceremony- Council Reception |
| 08/06/2023 | Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Councillor seminar - Managing Freight and heavy vehicle access– via Zoom |
| 13/06/2023 | Horsham Rural City Band Street March to their new home at Jubilee Hall, Roberts Avenue |
| 19/06/2023 | Council Briefing Meeting– via Zoom |
| 22/06/2023 | Refugee Week - Horsham Neighbourhood House |
| 22/06/2023 | Young Mayors Horsham – Election Announcement- Horsham Angling Club, Dixon Drive Horsham |

Cr Penny Flynn – June 2023

| Committee Representation | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Date | Description |
| 26/05/23 | Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group - Online |
| | |
| Other Council Activities | |
| Date | Description |
| 26/05/23 | National Reconciliation Week – Horsham Town Hall |
| 27/05/23 | The Seussical Community Exhibition Opening – Horsham Regional Art Gallery |
| 30/05/23 | Art is...Festival – Art is on Fire on Firebrace – Numbers 81, 67 & 8 Firebrace St |
| 31/05/23 | Citizenship Ceremony – Council Chamber |
| 04/06/23 | Art Is... Festival – Art is Classical – Horsham Town Hall |
| 04/06/23 | Art Is... Festival – Opening Community Gallery Exhibition – Horsham Town Hall |
| 06/06/23 | Official Opening of Quantong Oval Upgrade Project – Quantong Rec Reserve |
| 13/06/23 | Australian Local Government Association – Regional Forum – Canberra |
| 13/06/23 | Dinner with Dr Anne Webster Member for Mallee - Member's Dining Room Parliament House Canberra |
| 14 – 15/6/23 | Australian Local Government Association 2023 National General Assembly – Canberra |
| 15/06/23 | Australian Council of Local Government – Gala Dinner – Parliament House Canberra |
| 16/06/23 | 2023 Australian Council of Local Government - Canberra |
| 20/06/23 | Western Victorian Careers Expo - Wimmera Events Centre Longerenong |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 22/06/23 | Refugee Week Lunch – Horsham Neighbourhood House |
| 22/06/23 | Young Mayors - Horsham Youth Council Community Announcement – Angling Club |
| 23/06/23 | MAV Meeting Procedures Workshop – Melbourne |

Cr Claudia Haenel

| Committee Representation | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Date | Description |
| 07/06/23 | CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting |
| Other Council Activities | |
| 17 – 21/05/23 | <p>ALGWA Vic National Conference – Cape Schanck, Mornington Peninsula Many inspiring speakers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tasneem Chopra OAM - The Honourable Kirsty McBain MP Minister for Regional Development Local Government and Territories - Cr.Kylie Spears President ALGWA Vic & ALGWA Australia - Simon Kuestenmacher The Demographics Group - Catherine Fox AM - Cr.Michelle Kleinert ALGWA Vic Executive Officer - Melanie Jones OAM - Katie Rowe Associate Professor Sport Management Deakin University and Board Director Basketball Victoria - Rosie King OAM Advisor Geelong Cates - Linda Scott ALGA President - Michael Stefanovic AM Chief Municipal Inspector - Ulrike Friedrich Senior Investigator Local Government Inspectorate - Robert Musgrove Gen Manager Corporate and Public Affairs Bendigo Bank - Liana Thompson President Local Government Professionals - The Honourable Melissa Horne Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Roads and Road Safety, Ports and Freight & Local Government - Stacey Daniel Founder Board Presence - Margot Foster AM Founder and Director The Boardroom School - Meena Singh Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People - Katherine Koschel Motivational speaker Founder of the Kindness Factory - The Hon Julie Bishop ANU Chancellor, Chair of Prince’s Trust Australia and 38th Foreign Minister of Australia - Randal Mathieson and Dawn Loh on Mornington Shire’s Citizen Panel - Cr. Liz Pattison Mayor of Surf Coast Shire - Rebecca McKenzie CEO Glen Eira City Council - Cr. Ashleigh Vandenburg City Of Melton - Licia Heath Women for Election Australia <p>Along with many networking opportunities and delicious food and produce from the local area, the main focus was to inspire women in local government to be inspired to connect and thrive. The messages delivered included drawing inspiration from the sports sector, women on boards,</p> |

| | |
|----------|---|
| | cross-cultural diversity, global trends shaping Australia, gender equity in government, mentoring and leadership, protecting vulnerable communities, thriving in the sector, community engagement, overcoming adversity, an update from the Local Government Inspectorate and the Minister for local government, thanks to sponsors Bendigo Bank and the Mornington Peninsula Shire for hosting us. We had women attend from every state. Also, thanks to the many men from the government sector who joined us in conversation over the 3 days. We look forward to being hosted by the municipality of Baw Baw in 2024. |
| 31/05/23 | Citizenship Ceremony Council Chambers |
| 01/06/23 | Chat with Cr. Claudia Horsham RSL & pick up briefing papers |
| 05/06/23 | <p>DCA Event - National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality - Hon Katy Gallagher MP via zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 2023 Diversity Council Australia's submission on the national strategy to achieve gender equality with recommendations on 7 focus areas - The role of government, business and the community in achieving workplace gender equality - How we deal with attitudes to women - How we make sure it is relevant to women and reach all the demographics - Biggest barriers and challenges for gender equity in Australia; end prevalence of violence toward women. - Underlying challenges in valuing paid/unpaid care. - Address how they are treated and the opportunities for the life they deserve. - Economic equality: how to get the same opportunities and be treated equally to men. |
| 06/06/23 | <p>Current & future challenges & opportunities in Local Government free webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amalgamations; do they deliver cost-efficiencies? - Housing and cost of living crisis |
| 06/06/23 | Official Opening of Quantong Oval Upgrade Project |
| 07/06/23 | View new Water Nature Playpark |
| 07/06/23 | Coffee with Cr. Claudia |
| 07/06/23 | <p>National Fuel Efficiency Standard for Australia - Free Webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How National Fuel Efficiency Standards work - The impact of different scenarios for using Fuel Efficiency standard to achieve a net zero emissions light passenger vehicle transport fleet by 2060. - The impact of different fleet compositions on emissions - How a fast and slow transition impacts overall emissions - Consideration of other policies required to lower transport emissions |
| 08/06/23 | <p>MAV Councillor free seminar - Managing Freight and heavy vehicle access DOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing freight and heavy vehicles is an important responsibility for local government - An efficient supply chain is vital for local business and primary producers |

| | |
|----------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councils must ensure that roads, bridges and other infrastructure assets are fit to safely carry the loads of heavy vehicles without causing undue damage - Noise, vibration and air pollution can be important factors for communities, particularly in sensitive settings, times or locations - All of us rely on efficient freight for our daily goods and services - Rate caps are putting an enormous strain on council's ability to serve their communities - This year the rate cap is one-quarter the inflation rate - In road and other construction and maintenance works, we know that costs are going up at the same time as contractors may become harder to engage - Councils manage 87% of the road network and spend around 10% of budget on road maintenance - Freight volumes are increasing and many communities are still dealing with flood recovery - Advocacy on these topics is one of our top priorities |
| 08/06/23 | Chat with Cr. Claudia & Workshop with Cr. Claudia Horsham RSL |
| 15/06/23 | Chat with Cr. Claudia Horsham RSL |
| 19/06/23 | Council Briefing Meeting |
| 20/06/23 | Salvos Horsham – helping at 3one6 Community lunch |
| 21/06/23 | Coffee with Cr. Claudia |
| 21/06/23 | Cultivate a High-Performing Team free webinar - Cynthia Mahoney |
| 22/06/23 | Mosaic Lab Lunch and Learn free webinar: Changing minds |
| 22/06/23 | Refugee Week Lunch - Horsham Neighbourhood House |
| 22/06/23 | Young Mayors Horsham Election Announcement |
| 22/06/23 | Chat with Cr. Claudia Horsham RSL |
| 26/06/23 | Council Meeting |

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing Meetings held on 5 and 19 June 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