

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on
21 October 2024
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 21 October 2024
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm**

Order of Business

PRESENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

1. PRAYER

Almighty God, we pledge ourselves to work in harmony for, the social, cultural and economic well-being of our Rural City. Help us to be wise in our deliberations and fair in our actions, so that prosperity and happiness shall be the lot of our people. AMEN

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline to formally welcome those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor to advise that the meeting will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as practicable.

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline read the following statement:

My role as Mayor is to ensure the Council meeting is conducted in accordance with the Council's Governance Rules (sub rule 69.2). Members of the public do not have a right to address Council and may only do so with the consent of the Chair or by prior arrangement (sub rule 69.1). It is important for a successful Council meeting that the members of the gallery respect the setting and do not disrupt the meeting, particularly during the debate and discussion on Council items (sub rule 69.3). If required, as Chair, I may order the removal of any person (other than a Councillor) who disrupts the meeting or fails to comply with sub rule 69.2 (rule 70).

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 30 September 2024 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

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

CLOSE



CRAIG NIEMANN

Interim Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION**9. OFFICERS REPORTS****9.1 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

Author's Name:	Sarah McIvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Coordinator Governance	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Community Relations	File Number:	F06/A09/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

2023-2024 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To present the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council for adoption by Council.

Summary

- The 2023-2024 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council reports on our performance for the financial year, with specific reporting against the Council Plan 2021-2025.
- The Annual Report also contains Financial and Performance Statements approved in principle by this Council at its meeting on 30 September 2024.

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

Recommendation

That Council adopt the 2023-2024 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report as attached to **Appendix 9.1A**.

REPORT

Background

A Council's annual report is a key document that demonstrates the ongoing financial and governance performance of the council and must be prepared each year as per section 98(1) of the Local Government Act 2020. Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that 'a Council must prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year'. The report must contain:

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

Discussion

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

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

The 2023-2024 Annual Report presented for adoption has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Better Practice Guide: Preparing Council's Annual Report - 2023-24 Edition*. It meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Options to Consider

Noting this is an election year, section 100(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* applies and requires that the Mayor present this annual report at a Council meeting open to the public no later than the day before the election day (election day being 26 October 2024).

The caretaker period prior to the election does not affect the obligations of councils to complete and present their annual report in the specified timeframes and there is no provision for an extension or alteration of this deadline. Failure to comply with this deadline may result in a breach of the Act.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

A notice advising the public that they may inspect the 2023-2024 Annual Report (including the Auditor's Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024) will be published on Council's website, and in a local newspaper as part of Council's next public notices submission.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Better Practice Guide: Preparing Council's Annual Report 2023-2024 Edition*.

Collaboration

Not applicable.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with production of the 2023-2024 Annual Report are included in the 2024-2025 Council Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 – Leadership

Strategies

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

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The 2023-2024 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council is commended to Council for adoption.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)

Committee Representation	
15/10/24	Wimmera Southern Mallee GNR Committee Meeting (virtual)
Other Council Activities	
30/09/24	Attended the Veterans Harvest Grain Assist Dinner
01/10/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
05/10/24	Volunteered at Arapiles Cycling Event – registration desk, address and flag off 3 races
06/10/24	Attended the Orchid Show
11/10/24	Attended the Opening of the U3A West Wing
11/10/24	Attended Horsham Arts Council Pirates of Penzance
12/10/24	Attended the Rotary Club of Horsham East Art Fair
12/10/24	Attended the Horsham Spring Garden Show
13/10/24	Attended the Horsham Spring Garden Show
15/10/24	Chaired Wesley Fundraising Committee meeting
15/10/24	Attended the Horsham Neighbourhood House AGM
17/10/24	Attended the Seniors Concert at Church of Christ

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
04/10/24	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group- Council Reception
Other Council Activities	
14/10/24	Council Briefing meeting- Council Chambers

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
18/10/24	Rail Freight Alliance zoom meeting
Other Council Activities	
14/10/24	Council briefing
21/10/24	Council meeting

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing meeting held on Monday 14 October 2024 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