

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on
24 March 2025
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 24 March 2025
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 Ian Ross formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as practicable.

4. APOLOGIES

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 24 February 2025 be adopted.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Members of Staff

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers or people engaged under contract to the Council providing a report or advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests in the matter, including the type of interest.

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CLOSE


CRAIG NIEMANN
Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9.1 HORSHAM HOME OF HISTORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Author's Name:	Annie Mintern	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Investment & Business Development	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction & Growth	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

Horsham Home of History Group Terms of Reference (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To adopt the Terms of Reference for the Horsham Home of History Group.

Summary

Following the establishment of the Horsham Home of History Group, the group has developed a Terms of Reference for Council's consideration (**Appendix 9.1A**).

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Terms of Reference for the Horsham Home of History Group.

REPORT

Background

The Terms of Reference for the Horsham Home of History Group were developed with advice from a community group of interested members. An original Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study Stage 1 (the Study) was undertaken in 2018 and was funded by the Horsham Rural City Council.

In 2024 the group agreed to undertake a Stage 2 Feasibility Study as they continue to identify suitable collections to meet the Horsham Regional Museum profile.

Discussion

The Horsham Home of History Group (HHOHG) will work with Council to deliver the Horsham Home of History's three goals, and seven recommendation actions as listed in the Terms of Reference:

Goal One: Wimmera Region Museum Trail – (Short Term)

Goal Two: Review the Feasibility Study Stage Two – (Medium Term)

Goal Three: Horsham Regional Museum Operational – (Long Term)

Recommendation 1: That the HHOHG continue to identify suitable stories to meet the Horsham Regional Museum profile.

Recommendation 2: That the HHOHG continue to identify suitable collections to meet the Horsham Regional Museum profile.

Recommendation 3: The May and Millar collection to be catalogued in Stage 2 by a volunteer and appraised by a museum curator to identify authenticity and appropriateness.

Recommendation 4: The Study indicated that if Stage 2 progresses all locations identified in Stage 1 should be examined.

1. A greenfield site along the Western Highway
2. Leasing an area of farmland and creating a special use zone to enable additional activities such as signage and retail
3. Longerenong College

Recommendation 5: That the HHOHG support the development of a Museum Trail to promote visitation across the regions and shared marketing opportunities as articulated in the Study.

Recommendation 6: That the HHOHG support the development of the Arapiles Museum and existing precinct, as the first stage in development of a Horsham Regional Museum.

Recommendation 7: Develop an implementation plan to support the group to move forward and undertake the necessary steps for the project to progress to fruition.

Options to Consider

1. Council adopts the Terms of Reference, and the committee will be formed in line with Councils Committee Framework Policy.
2. Council does not adopt the Terms of Reference, and the group will continue to work independently.
3. Council does not adopt the Terms of Reference and the group to consider merging with the Arapiles Historical Society at Natimuk.

The preferred option is Option 1: Council adopts the Terms of Reference, and the committee will be formed in line with Council's Committee Framework Policy

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Community Engagement has not occurred.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Horsham region has an extensive range of historical collections which are housed at a variety of locations. The development of a museum to house these collections would be an innovative option for the Horsham municipality.

Collaboration

Collaboration has occurred between community members and several organisations including the Horsham Historical Society, Horsham RSL, Horsham Military Museum and the Arapiles Historical Society.

Financial Implications

There is no current budget allocation.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Nil

Risk Implications

There are risks associated with the establishment of the Horsham Home of History Group.

1. Current members of the group are elderly and attracting new interested community members to be part of the project and see the development of the museum may be challenging.
2. Organisations with existing collections may not want to collaborate with the Horsham Home of History Group.
3. There is currently no budget allocation for the project.

Conclusion

The Horsham Home of History Group recommend that the selection process for the committee is in line with Council's process for all Advisory Committees.

9.2 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: Q2 OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

Author's Name:	Sarah McIvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Acting Manager Governance & Community Relations	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Community Relations	File Number:	F18/A10/000001

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: Q2 October – December 2024 (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Purpose

To present Council with the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 2: 1 October to 30 December 2024.

Summary

- The Quarterly Performance Report is a key component of our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency and accountability to Council and the community.
- The format of the report has been expanded since the development of the Quarter 1 2024 Report and is part of Council's continuous improvement.
- The addition of reporting on Councillor expenses means that a separate report will no longer be required for that sole purpose whilst still meeting legislative and policy requirements.
- The financial figures include the adopted budget, anticipated forecast and year to date actuals for the first two quarters.
- Indicators and Initiatives have also been reported on a quarterly basis.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 2: 1 October to 31 December 2024 (**Appendix 9.2A**).

REPORT

Background

The Quarterly Performance Report encapsulates a quarterly budget report, progress against the 2021-2025 Council Plan, the tracking of any major initiatives, and key data relating to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

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.

Council has undertaken to review Performance Reporting (including financial performance) to the community with the intention of including information which exceeds minimum requirements, increases readability and piques community interest. Information is presented in a clear and transparent manner, with each quarterly report building on the previous quarter's information to provide a "story" of progress rather than a "snapshot" at a point in time.

Discussion

The quarterly report has been prepared with the following sections of information:

1. Chief Executive Officer's Overview
2. Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework
3. Initiatives
4. Performance Indicators
5. Financial Performance by Council Plan Theme
6. Reconciliation of Financial Performance by Council Plan Theme to Comprehensive Income Statement
7. Comprehensive Income Statement
8. Balance Sheet
9. Statement of Capital Works
10. Statement of Human Resources
11. Councillor Allowances and Expenses

The CEO's Overview is a high-level summary of activities since the last Quarterly report. The second report of the financial year must also include a statement by the CEO as to whether a revised budget is considered necessary. The CEO has reported that no revised budget is required.

The Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework section provides the reader with an explanation of the high-level requirements of the Act and Regulations for reporting to the community.

Section 4 and 5 detail the initiatives and indicators for the year – as adopted in the budget. These are reported in a cumulative way to provide the reader with a story of the progress so far rather than the traditional "snapshot" view of the status.

Section 5 demonstrates expenditure and revenue at the service provision level under each of the Council Plan themes. These figures include the adopted budget, the current forecast (projected year end figure) and year to date performance.

Section 6 provides an important translation between reporting to the community by the service groupings they are familiar with compared to how the information is presented in an accounting context.

Sections 7 to 10 are the financial statements (accounting presentation). Data includes the adopted budget, forecast (projected year end figure) and year to date by quarter. Detailed notes are also provided to add value for the reader of the report.

Section 11 satisfies legislative and policy requirements providing information on a quarterly basis around councillor allowances and expenses.

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. The framework is made up of measures from a range of service areas, including roads, planning, animal management and waste and is complemented by a Governance and Management checklist.

The *Local Government Act 2020* (s97) also requires that the Chief Executive Officer ensures that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public. This quarterly budget report must include a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; and an explanation of any material variations; and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Council can opt not to receive and note the quarterly report but should note the legislative and other requirements requiring the report to be presented.

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 executive management team's endorsement, it progresses to a Council Briefing before formal endorsement at a Council Meeting. The report is then available to the public via Council's website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

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

Collaboration

The Q2 Quarterly Report was considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at their meeting on 20 March 2025.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications of the report itself however the Quarter 2 Report provides detailed information on the financial position of Council and performance against budgets and various targets.

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 key measures. It also fulfils Council's legislative and other regulatory responsibilities.

9.3 S5 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION UPDATE, COUNCIL TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Author's Name:	Sarah McIvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	A/Manager Governance and Community Relations	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Community Relations	File Number:	F19/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

S5 Instrument of Delegation, Council to Chief Executive Officer (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

To provide Council with *S5 Instrument of Delegation* to delegate all of Council's powers, duties and functions which are capable of delegation, subject to specific exceptions and limitations, to the CEO for approval.

Summary

- The *S5 Instrument of Delegation, Council to Chief Executive Officer* enables Council to delegate powers to its CEO under section 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- This instrument of delegation incorporates legislative changes which were assented to or made between 21 July 2024 and 31 December 2024.
- These updates are provided approximately every six months from a subscribed service by Maddocks Lawyers.
- All delegations which have been made under section 11 and are still in force must be reviewed, within a period of 12 months after a general election, in accordance with s11(7) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- A proposed change to the CEO's financial delegation is the only amendment proposed to the instrument of delegation.

Recommendation

That Council, resolves:

1. That the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *S5 Instrument of Delegation* be delegated to the person holding, acting in or performing the duties of the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. That the instrument will be signed by the Mayor and Council's Chief Executive Officer and come into force immediately following this Council resolution being made thereby revoking the S5 delegations currently in place.
3. To increase the financial delegation of the CEO from \$250,000 (plus GST) to \$500,000 (plus GST).

REPORT

Background

A Council is a statutory entity and is therefore only able to do those things which it is authorised by statute to do.

The power of a Council to act by resolution is set out in section 59(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which states:

Where a Council is empowered to do any act, matter or thing, the decision to do the act, matter or thing is to be made by a resolution of the Council.

It is not feasible for Council to operate by means of passing a resolution every time that it wishes to act. Therefore, for day-to-day operations, Council needs others to make decisions and act on its behalf. Where this is to occur, it is recommended that the appointment be formalised through written "instruments of delegation" wherever practicable.

The formal delegation of legislated powers, duties and functions via instruments of delegation, supported by consistent policies allow Council staff to perform day to day duties and make decisions that may otherwise need to be decided upon by Council. An instrument of delegation is a written document that specifies what powers and functions are delegations and to what positions within Council. Delegations empower employees with the authority to make binding decisions on behalf of Council.

The delegation of powers comes from two key sections of the *Local Government Act 2020* – sections 11 and 47. Section 11 allows Council to delegate their powers (except certain exclusions) to the CEO, who may then sub-delegate under section 47. A further report will be provided to Council in relation to delegation under section 47. In relation the Council to CEO delegation, section 11(8) of the Act requires that Councils must keep a register of delegations made to members of a delegated committee or the CEO. This register must be made available for public inspection and is accessible via Council's website for that purpose.

Discussion

The current S5 Instrument was adopted by Council on 27 March 2023. The review of the instrument is triggered when there are legislative or other changes that may impact the delegations. Like many other Councils, HRCC subscribes to a service by Maddocks Lawyers that provides such updates approximately every six months thereby triggering an update to the instrument of delegation. It is also considered best practice to review and update the S5 Instrument document regularly as this ensures alignment with the powers in effect at the time of approval.

Further this current review is intended to meet obligations under section 11(7) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to review delegations within 12 months of a general election.

The S5 Instrument of Delegation provided for adoption makes no recommended changes to the delegations other than a proposed increase to the CEO's financial delegation. The proposal is not informed by the Maddocks legislative review but rather a review of current financial delegations at other Councils.

The following table provides an overview of Councils comparable with HRCC determined by Local Government Victoria, geography or population size:

	ABS population 2021	Council's overall budget 2024-25 (Million)	CEO Financial Delegation
Councils comparable with HRCC – Local Government Victoria			
Horsham	20,429	64.946	\$275,000
Benalla	14,528	38.956	\$330,000
Ballarat Council	113,763	302.877	\$500,000
Bendigo	121,470	248.582	\$1,650,000
Shepparton	68,409	186.784	\$1,100,000
Latrobe City Council	77,318	187.3	\$999,999
Mildura	56,972	145.676	\$999,999
Wangaratta	29,808	96.267	\$549,999
Warrnambool	35,406	98.167	\$440,000
Wodonga	43,253	86.196	\$550,000
Councils geographically close to HRCC			
Yarriambiack	6,556	28.605	\$275,000
Hindmarsh	5,698	21.707	\$275,000
Northern Grampians	11,948	48.554	\$165,000
Loddon	7,759	50.288	\$825,000
West Wimmera	4,006	27.275	\$200,000
Ararat Rural City	11,880	36.186	\$330,000
Councils with similar population to HRCC			
Golden Plains	24,985	57.293	\$495,000
Glenelg	20,152	57.169	\$500,000
Swan Hill	21,403	66.096	\$1,100,000
Shire of Mount Alexander	20,253	48.225	\$1,100,000

Based on the comparisons above, it is recommended that the CEO's financial delegation be increased from \$250,000 plus GST (i.e. \$275,000) to \$500,000 plus GST (i.e. \$550,000) noting the current financial delegation is far lower than all Councils with either similar populations or budgets.

Options to Consider

1. Council adopt the instrument of delegation and retain the financial delegation of the CEO at the current amount of \$250,000 plus GST (\$275,000).
2. Council adopt the recommendation and increase the financial delegation of the CEO from \$250,000 plus GST (\$275,000) to \$500,000 plus GST (\$550,000).
3. Council opt to change some of the proposed powers, duties, and functions delegated to the CEO noting this would be contrary to legal advice provided by Maddocks and would result in an increase in the number of decisions related to the provisions requiring a formal Council resolution.

Option 2 is recommended for the reasons outlined in this report.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The attached delegations have been updated using the Maddocks Lawyers delegation service and in consultation with relevant Council Officers. Benchmarking against the financial delegations of other CEOs has been undertaken.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, Council utilises the subscribed service from Maddocks Lawyers to ensure our delegations remain aligned with legislative and regulatory changes.

Collaboration

Maddocks Lawyers engages with Councils in the delivery of their service to assist Councils in effective governance.

Financial Implications

The financial impact of the review of delegations is limited to staff time, the cost of Maddocks Lawyers delegation service which includes access to all materials relating to delegations and authorisations and bi-annual updates and Council's subscription to the RelianSys Delegations+ system, which has been included in the 2024-2025 budget. No additional resourcing is required to give effect to these functions.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 – Community and Theme 5 – Leadership

Delegations and Authorisations to Members of Council Staff Guidelines

- These guidelines were last updated and adopted by EMT 9 August 2022

Risk Implications

It is essential that the instruments of delegation are kept up to date to ensure that the members of staff are appropriately empowered to undertake their roles. The updates to Instruments of Delegation ensures ongoing legislative compliance for Horsham Rural City Council.

Conclusion

For the Council to operate effectively, decision-making power must be appropriately allocated through formal delegations. Retaining all decision-making at the Council level would be impractical and counterproductive. By adopting and maintaining a structured delegation system, the Council can focus on high-level governance and strategic matters while ensuring that operational matters are managed efficiently and in the best interests of the community. The updated document is now presented for Council approval and signing by the Mayor and CEO.

9.4 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C85 (HORSHAM HERITAGE STUDY 2014)

Author's Name:	Kirsten Miller	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Acting Team Leader Statutory Planning	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F06/A13/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reason: The officer owns a property within the Bowden and Searle Streets Residential Precinct but has no conflict with other precincts.

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2 (2014) (Volume 1: Introduction and Recommendations (Grieve Gillett Anderson) **Appendix 9.4A**

Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2 (2014) Volume 2: Heritage Overlay (HO) Places and Precincts (Grieve Gillett Anderson) **Appendix 9.4B**

Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2 (2014) Volume 3: Thematic Environmental History (Grieve Gillett Anderson) **Appendix 9.4C**

Heritage Study Review (2022) (Landmark Heritage Pty Ltd) **Appendix 9.4D**

Revised Heritage Citations **Appendix 9.4E**

Purpose

To provide Council with information in relation to the Horsham Heritage Study 2014, the Heritage Study Review 2022, to enable progress of Horsham Planning Scheme Amendment C85 (Horsham Heritage Study 2014).

Summary

- Council formally adopted the findings of both the 2014 and 2022 studies and authorisation and exhibition of Amendment C85 in February 2023.
- A Planning Scheme Amendment is required to give effect to the Heritage Study and provide important heritage protection in the Horsham Planning Scheme through the application of a Heritage Overlay.
- The *Horsham Heritage Study 2014* is made up of a series of reports which outline the history of the municipality and a Places and Precincts assessment that identifies the most significant sites and best examples of the agricultural, architectural, cultural and infrastructure buildings and structures.
- The report was undertaken by heritage architects Grieve Gillett Andersen and supported by historians Dr Helen Doyle, Kelly Wynne and Cultural Heritage consultant Abby Cooper. These reports were completed in 2014 but not progressed at that time due to other higher priorities.
- In 2022, Landmark Heritage was engaged to review the Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2 due to the significant time elapsed since its completion. This review, finalised in 2023, ensured compliance with current legislative standards and thresholds.

- The citations were sent to affected landowners in 2023 to inform them of the heritage values and to seek feedback on the citations prepared. This included a number of site visits and meetings to discuss the Heritage Study.
- The Amendment has been submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for authorisation by the Minister with a range of minor changes to precincts and citations requested.
- The next step in the process is public exhibition. This will give formal notice to owners and occupiers of land affected by the Amendment and enable them to make submissions to the Panel. It is anticipated the Amendment will be formally Exhibited from the end of April 2025 for a six week period.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Exhibition of C85 Horsham Heritage Planning Scheme Amendment pending the Minister's decision for authorisation.

REPORT

Background

In 2011, Council was successful in obtaining a grant from DTP (at the time Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) to conduct a heritage study. The funding was used to prepare a thematic environmental history and to establish a list of places of potential heritage significance within the municipality, which is the *Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2 (2014)*, including Volumes 1, 2 and 3. Heritage controls were not applied immediately following the completion of the studies and the Planning Scheme Amendment process did not commence.

The outcome of Stage 1 was the identification of 167 individual places and 4 precincts for further assessment. This then led to Stage 2 of the heritage study being undertaken, which resulted in the preparation of:

- Volume 1: Introduction and Recommendations (**Appendix 9.4A**)
- Volume 2: Heritage Overlay (HO) Places and Precincts (**Appendix 9.4B**)
- Volume 3: Thematic Environmental History (**Appendix 9.4C**)

In 2022, the *Heritage Study Review 2022* (the review, **Appendix 9.4D**) was undertaken to ensure that the heritage citations and recommendations prepared in the *Horsham Heritage Study 2014 Horsham Heritage Study Stage 2 (2014)* had been prepared in accordance with the appropriate methodologies and that they were still accurate and consistent with current guidelines and practices.

In February 2024, Council resolved to adopt the studies and seek Ministerial approval to exhibit a Planning Scheme Amendment. Following this, an initial review by the DTP in early 2024 identified the need for further citation refinements, which were completed in January 2025 by Landmark Heritage. The revised heritage citations are attached as **Appendix 9.4E**.

Once the Minister for Planning authorises the Amendment for exhibition, the formal Planning Scheme Amendment process can begin, allowing the Amendment to be formally prepared and publicly exhibited to implement the findings and recommendations of the studies.

Discussion

The identification and protection of heritage places are crucial for preserving Horsham's unique character and history. The Horsham Planning Scheme currently protects 27 individual sites, seven of which are on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The seven properties included on the Victorian Heritage Register are as follows:

- HO21 Mount Talbot Homestead, 1 Mt Talbot Road, Toolondo
- HO22 Fulham, 29 Walcott Road, Kanagulk
- HO25 Former Wimmera Stock Bazaar, 71-81 Hamilton Street, Horsham
- HO26 Pavilion Classroom, 38 Old Noradjuha Road, Natimuk
- HO27 Horsham Theatre, 37-41 Pynsent Street, Horsham
- HO28 Horsham Town Hall, 78 Wilson Street, Horsham
- HO29 St Michael and St John's Church, 9 McLachlan Street, Horsham

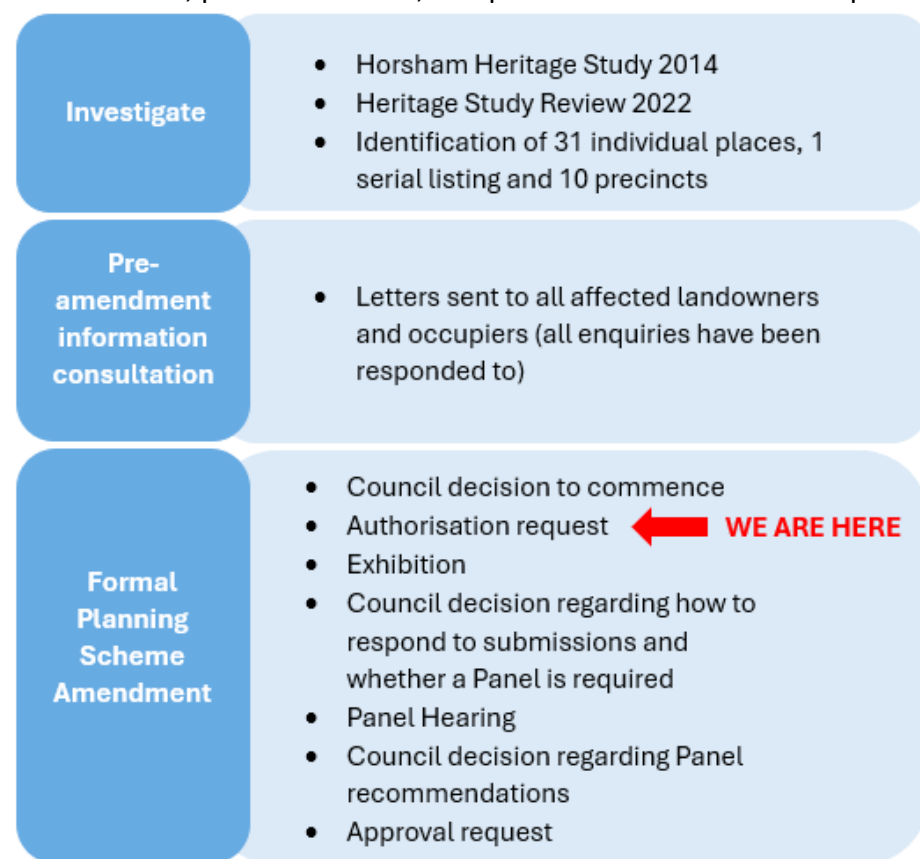
The implementation of the Heritage Overlay through Amendment C85 will:

- Increase the number of protected individual sites to 58
- Introduce a serial listing for six silos
- Add ten new heritage precincts, filling a critical gap in precinct protections

The review also identified thematic gaps in the existing heritage framework and identified areas requiring further attention to ensure a comprehensive and representative heritage strategy.

Planning Scheme Amendment Process

The process for finalising Planning Scheme Amendment C85 involves multiple stages, including authorisation, public exhibition, and potential referral to an independent planning panel.



Approximate Timeframes for the Planning Scheme Amendment process

Date	Planning Scheme Amendment Step	Outcome
February 2024	Council decision	Council resolved to adopt the Heritage studies and commence the Planning Scheme Amendment
March 2024	Council submission in the Amendment Tracking System for authorisation	Authorisation to commence Planning Scheme Amendment
April 2024	Further information request received from DTP	Council review of information request and make recommended changes to Amendment documentation
July 2024	Funding application lodged with Regional Planning Partnerships to support Council with additional consultant work	Heritage consultant appointed to complete additional work for heritage citations
January 2025	Amendment documentation and Precinct citations are finalised. Amendment submitted for authorisation.	Amendment documentation and citations finalised and submitted for authorisation.
February 2025	Council briefing	Planning officers and heritage consultant provide an update to Council around heritage and the Amendment process.
March 2025	Council decision	Approval to exhibit subject to Ministerial approval
April 2025	Minister decision	Public Exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment (6 weeks)
June 2025	Council decision	Consideration of submissions and refer to Independent Planning Panel (if required)
August 2025	Planning Panels Victoria	Directions Hearing
September 2025	Planning Panels Victoria	Panel Hearing
November 2025	Council decision	Council resolves to adopt or abandon the Planning Scheme Amendment
January 2026	Minister decision	Consider/approve the Planning Scheme Amendment

In addition to the above steps, an important part of the process will be to discuss any submissions with submitters and seek to clarify or resolve as many issues as possible prior to the Panel Hearing.

Next Steps

1. Upon receiving approval of Ministerial authorisation, exhibit the Amendment for public consultation
2. Following public exhibition, Council will be presented with the submissions to review and recommendations on how to proceed.

Sustainability Implications

Progressing the Amendment will result in a positive sustainable outcome by ensuring Horsham's historical past is protected and conserved for future generations and reuse and adaption of existing buildings is encouraged.

Community Engagement

In 2012 a survey was released to the public as an opportunity for community members to nominate and discuss places they consider having heritage value. Five public workshops were conducted targeting landowners in Horsham and Natimuk and business owners within the Horsham town centre. Workshops focused on providing residents the opportunity to nominate and discuss places they felt best represented the historical identity of their town and settlement.

From September to November 2023, Council undertook further targeted consultation with landowners and occupiers affected by the revised heritage citations. For each individually significant place, serial listing, and precinct, a letter was sent to all affected owners and occupiers which included a copy of the heritage citation for their property.

Additional consultation will occur as part of the public exhibition for the amendment, which is required under *the Planning and Environment Act 1987 will be undertaken*. In addition to the statutory notice, it is proposed that a facts sheet will be provided and information sessions held with landholders.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Protecting heritage through the planning scheme is considered best practice to ensure heritage sites will be conserved, and the community's history protected.

Collaboration

Collaboration was undertaken with heritage experts, external agencies and the community in the preparation of citations and the local planning policies and provisions to be implemented into the Horsham Planning Scheme have been prepared in collaboration with the DTP.

Financial Implications

Council received a grant from DELWP (now Department of Transport and Planning) for \$80,000 to complete the Horsham Heritage Study 2014.

In addition to this, Council was successful with a funding application from Regional Planning Partnerships for \$10,000 to assist with the additional work required for the finalisation of the Precinct Citations.

An allocation within the 2022-23 Council budget has been used to commence preparation of and for Exhibition of a Planning Scheme Amendment and the 2024-25 budget allocation will contribute to the Independent Planning Panel (if required) as well as the costs associated with the preparation of expert witness statements.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local governments have a statutory obligation to ensure that their planning schemes “conserve and enhance those buildings, areas of other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical, or otherwise of special cultural value” (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*).

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

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

Council Plan 2021-2025

- *Theme 1 Community*

2. *A community that encourages and celebrates all cultures, heritage and diversity.* By identifying the sites in the Horsham Planning Scheme and applying the appropriate development controls, the amendment will protect cultural heritage values.

Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan (2022)

- *Theme 4 Tourism*

1.6.4 Implementation of the Horsham Heritage Study to protect buildings and places of historic cultural heritage to reinforce a sense of place and celebrate Horsham’s character and distinctiveness.

1.6.6 Prepare heritage controls and complete Amendment to the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Risk Implications

Financial risk

Council has a responsibility to protect heritage places and in doing so reduce the risk and cost of legal representation and Council resources.

Reputational risk

Communities expect Council to protect significant heritage places and assets and make good decisions about changes to heritage places. Council could experience criticism in the press and negative social media attention if a heritage place is demolished, inappropriately developed or if Council heritage assets are not maintained.

Risk to property owners

Some landowners may consider that placing the heritage controls on their property creates a burden for them in terms of ongoing maintenance and potential sale of their property.

Conclusion

Councils in Victoria have a responsibility to preserve places of cultural heritage significance by conducting heritage studies and applying appropriate planning controls to protect identified sites. Preserving heritage not only identifies the value of a community's tangible and intangible history but also builds a sense of place, shared identity, and community pride, connecting current and future generations to their rich cultural heritage.

The adoption of the Heritage Study Stage 2 (2014) and the Heritage Study Review 2022 provides a strong strategic basis for Amendment C85, and Council has commenced the planning process to protect these important places and propose to exhibit the Amendment in the coming months, when the Minister’s approval is obtained.

9.5 SAFE LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION

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Department:	Infrastructure	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

Outline plans of each project (7 TAC Projects) (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Report of community feedback received (**Appendix 9.5B**)

Purpose

To seek Council approval to apply for \$2M of funding for a series of road and pedestrian safety works across the municipality.

Summary

- The Victorian Government through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) has made available \$2M to each Victorian Council to fund road, cycling and pedestrian safety program initiatives.
- This program is known as the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program (SLRSP)
- A report to the previous Council at its briefing on 5 August 2024 led to the shortlisting of projects which have become the focus of the intended grant application.
- Planning and design has continued since then, to develop detailed project scopes that align with the objectives of the Program, and which are likely to be supported by the TAC.
- Extensive community engagement was carried out from 3 to 28 February 2025.
- Community feedback on the proposals is presented in this report. A detailed assessment of the feedback is provided as an appendix.
- After considering the feedback, it is now proposed to formally apply for funding for these projects.

Recommendation

That Council approve the submission of grant applications to the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program fund for the following projects:

1. O'Callaghans Parade Double Roundabout and Shared Use Path
2. Albert St, Bowden St and Railway Ave Speed Treatments
3. Noradjuha – Tooan East Rd Culvert Protection
4. Three Bridges Rd Curve Treatment
5. Natimuk Creek Pedestrian Bridge
6. Bennett Rd Bicycle Lane
7. Natimuk Rd Bicycle Lane

REPORT

Background

At the 9 December 2024 briefing, Councillors were provided with background information on State Government funding under the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program (SLRSP) and Federal Government funding through the Active Transport Fund (ATF). Under the SLRSP, seven projects have been proposed totalling \$2 million, while under the ATF, an application was made for \$900,000 in safety upgrades for the combined Urquhart St and O'Callaghans Road upgrades.

At the 21 January 2025 briefing, further details were provided on the seven projects proposed under the SLRSP. The scope of each of the seven TAC projects are included as **Appendix 9.5A**.

Subsequently, advice has been received that the ATF funding application has now approved the requested \$900,000 for upgrade works at O'Callaghans Parade and Urquhart Street. Council's approval to submit that application was conditional on its subsequent review and approval of the scope of that project. A separate report is presented to the 24 March 2025 meeting on the Urquhart St segment of that project.

Following discussion at the Council briefing on 21 January 2025, an extensive community engagement program was carried out from 3 to 28 February 2025. During this engagement information was made available to community via various channels like Council's web page (Have Your Say page), drop-in sessions at the Horsham Town Hall and Natimuk, letter drop for Golf Course Road business and media releases.

The table below lists the proposed projects for this funding, on which feedback was sought:

Table 1

Sl. No.	Location	Type	Total (\$)	Council Contribution
1	O'Callaghans Parade/Urquhart Street/Bolton Street: Double Roundabout & (south side) Shared Use Path	Double Intersection & SUP	\$848,000	
2	Albert Street, Bowden Street & Railway Ave, Horsham: Speed Treatments	Wombat & Speed Humps	\$116,100	
3	Noradjuha-Tooan East Road, Noradjuha: Speed Reduction, Curve Treatments, Culvert Protection, Intersection Realignment	Guard Rail treatment	\$152,438	\$76,219
4	Three Bridges Road, Horsham: Speed Reduction, Curve Treatments	Guard Rail treatment	\$450,400	
5	Elmes Street, Natimuk: Pedestrian Bridge over Creek	Pedestrian Bridge	\$136,137	
6	Bennett Road, Horsham – Shared Use Path on east side	Bike Path Design and construction	\$194,359	\$9,000
7	Wimmera Highway / Natimuk Road – On-road Bicycle Lane	Bike Path Design and construction	\$144,887	\$17,450
Total =			\$2,042,321	\$102,669

Separate Council funding of \$500,000 is proposed for upgrade to the balance of the O'Callaghans Parade project, as discussed further in the separate report on the Active Transport Fund project to this meeting.

Appendix 9.5B to this report provides details about the feedback received on each project including the assessment of the feedback.

Discussion

The discussion below outlines the risks identified at each project site, leading to the solution proposed for each.

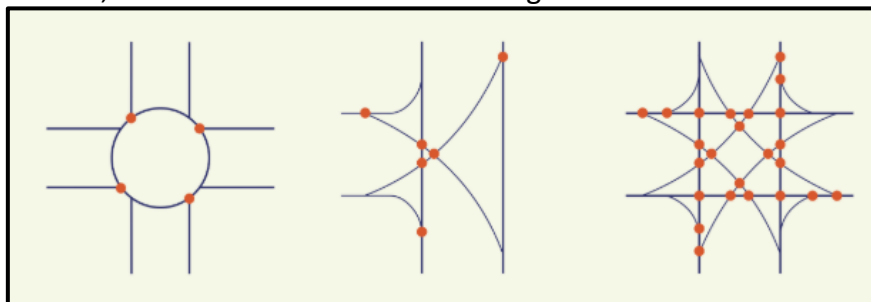
1. O'Callaghans Parade Double Roundabout and Shared Use Path

O'Callaghans Parade is one of the busiest entrances to Horsham's CBD area and provides a connection from the south of Horsham to Horsham's west. A high traffic volume creates the potential for safety risks, in particular at the acute intersections (45-degree angle) at Urquhart St and Baker St where visibility is poor, and for cyclists.

The need for this project has been identified through Council's Horsham CBD Streetscape Plan and Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan. This project is part of a broader project to upgrade the full length of O'Callaghans Parade, part of the adjoining section of Firebrace St and Urquhart St for general safety and amenity benefits.

Risks:

1) An analysis of conflict points by an accredited Road Safety Auditor identifies that a standard T-intersection usually has 6 conflict points each whereas a roundabout reduces the conflict points to 4 in case of four ways and 3 if replacing a T-intersection. The red dots in the diagram below indicates where conflict points are located, based on different intersection geometries.







With three streets merging at different locations with O'Callaghans Parade, there are 19 conflict points altogether, as shown in the diagram below.



Converting the intersections of Urquhart St and Baker St to roundabouts reduces the number of potential conflict points for collisions.

2) The diagram below shows the survivable impact speed for various intersections. With the speed limit of O'Callaghans Pde changing from 50 to 60 kph in the vicinity of these intersections, it is above the survivable speed for side impacts. Hence treatment is warranted.

Crash Type		Survivable Impact speed
	head on	70 km/h
	side-impact	50 km/h
	side impact with tree	30 km/h
	pedestrian	30 km/h

3) The acute angles of the intersections (45 degrees) increases the risk of collisions due to poor visibility of approaching traffic.

Roundabouts will not only help in reducing the speed of traffic but also reduce the impact angles to minimise the chances of fatalities or severity of injuries.

2. Albert St, Bowden St and Railway Ave Speed Treatments

Albert Street Wombat Crossing – There is an existing informal / recommended crossing at this location which is proposed to be upgraded to a wombat crossing.

Risk: Unsupervised crossing is a potential risk for young children, in particular. A wombat crossing will reduce the risk and require vehicles to give priority to pedestrians.

Bowden St and Railway Av speed humps -

Risk: Speeding vehicles are a risk for local residents. Speed humps are proposed to calm the moving traffic based on requests from the community.

3. Noradjuha – Tooan East Rd Culvert Protection

Risk: With the existing speed limit of 100 kph, the culvert location poses a risk associated with vehicle run-off. Run-off-road crashes are common, especially in high-speed areas. To avoid severity of crashes at culverts, guard rails are proposed as a solution without altering the speed limit of the road.

4. Three Bridges Rd Curve Treatment

Risk: Current speed limit of 100 kph and poor delineation of curves there are higher risks of vehicle run-off. Two crashes in the past 10 years also shows the requirement of safety treatments at Three Bridges Rd. The treatments provided include a speed limit reduction to 80 kph, improved line marking, signage and guardrails to improve safety.

5. Natimuk Creek Pedestrian Bridge

Historically a fallen log provided limited access over Natimuk Creek in the Elmes St area. The traces of the path can be seen from the aerial image below: -



Risk: During wet weather this crossing may pose a risk for the pedestrians and bike users to cross. There is a bike trail near Elmes street which connects to the Grampians. This crossing provides safe access to the residents on the other side of the creek, alternative to the Lake Ave bridge, enabling separation of pedestrians from vehicle traffic. When this bridge is installed there are possibilities for the construction of a shared path/footpath on Lake Ave in the future.

6. Bennett Rd Bicycle Lane

Risks:

- 1) Poor condition of the bike path towards the north end of Bennett Road.
- 2) Bike path merging with existing parking lot. Risk of collision with reversing vehicles.
- 3) No connectivity towards south of Bennett Rd.

The proposed works are improvements to the existing path, with significant work required in the front of the West Side Tabaret building where there is currently no separate path.

7. Natimuk Rd Bicycle Lane

Risks:

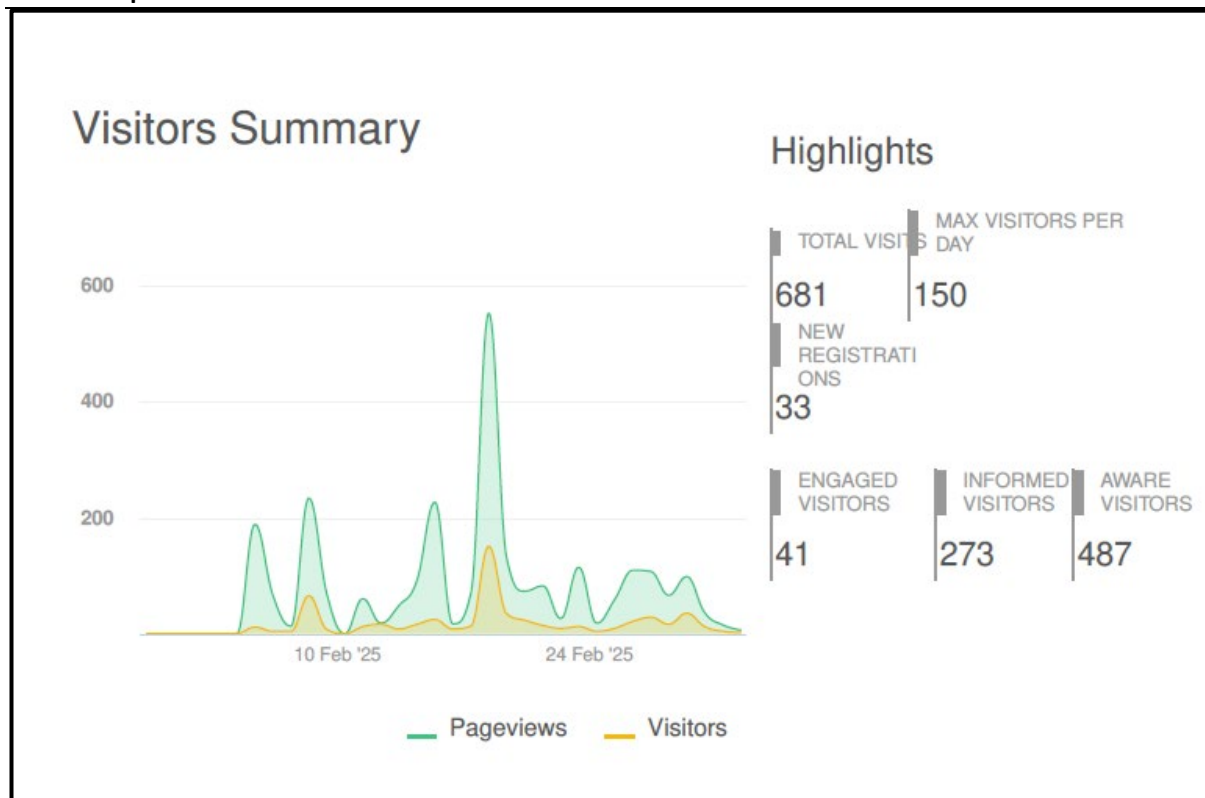
- 1) Poor condition of the bike path between Curran Rd and Hillary St.
- 2) Missing bike path between Hillary St and Bennett Rd leads bike users to either merge with Wimmera Highway or ride on the footpath on Natimuk Rd service road.

To address these issues the bike path is proposed to be upgraded and the speed limit of Natimuk Rd service road to be reduced to 40 kph between Hillary St and Bennett Rd.

Community Engagement Responses

The projects have been identified in Council strategies that have undergone detailed engagement processes, or in response to specific community requests, hence they represent identified community needs.

Extensive community engagement was carried out from 3-28 February 2025. The snapshot below provides an overview of access to the website during the engagement process: -



Total visits on our webpage were 681 out of which 41 have registered their comments on the proposed projects. Also, the data suggests that 273 are informed visitors who have reviewed the proposed projects, 487 are aware visitors who have visited the page and took no action.

Below is the project wise break-up of informed visitors: -

273 INFORMED PARTICIPANTS			(%)
		Participants	
<div>ENGAGED</div> <div>INFORMED</div> <div>AWARE</div>	Viewed a video	0	Improving Safety on O'Calla... 181 (82.3%)
	Viewed a photo	68	Improving Safety on Natimu... 56 (75.7%)
	Downloaded a document	177	Improving Safety on Bennet... 43 (75.4%)
	Visited the Key Dates page	12	Improving Safety on Three L... 41 (80.4%)
	Visited an FAQ list Page	0	Improving Safety on Albert L... 35 (61.4%)
	Visited Instagram Page	0	Improving Safety on Elmes ... 22 (73.3%)
	Visited Multiple Project Pages	167	Improving Safety on Noradj... 12 (60.0%)
	Contributed to a tool (engaged)	41	Safer Local Roads and Stre... 7 (1.9%)
* A single informed participant can perform multiple actions			* Calculated as a percentage of total visits to the Project

The table above shows the number of visitors (and percentage) for each project site who took the time to view further information on the projects. This shows that there was good penetration of the community with the information relating to the projects. The low percentage of respondents who then provided feedback, 41 out of 681, suggests that there is a relatively low level of concern about these projects in the community.

The summary of the engagement is provided in the table below: -

	Project	No. of Feedback Received	Positive	Negative	Mixed
1.	O'Callaghans Parade Double Roundabout and Shared Use Path	31 (Council Website) + 5 (emails to Council Support)	7	19	10
2.	Albert St, Bowden St and Railway Ave Speed Treatments	2 (Council Website) + 2 (emails to Council Support)	2	0	2
3.	Noradjuha – Tooan East Rd Culvert Protection	2	1	0	1
4.	Three Bridges Rd Curve Treatment	9	5	3	1
5.	Natimuk Creek Pedestrian Bridge	2 (Council Website) + 2 (emails to Council Support)	0	2	2
6.	Bennett Rd Bicycle Lanes	4	1	1	2
7.	Natimuk Rd Bicycle Lane	4	0	0	4

From the data shown in the above table it could be said that the community is broadly in favour of the majority of the proposed projects except for O'Callaghans Parade upgrade works. In the feedback received on O'Callaghans Parade, the major issue raised was the traffic congestion it may cause on the road, however that is attributed to the river crossing / Williams Rd intersection impacts. Also, there were multiple responses suggesting that Council implement safety measures at other locations.

Options to Consider

The projects selected for the TAC SLRSP funding have been identified through consideration of a large number of potential projects recommended in a range of strategies, including:

- Horsham CBD Streetscape Plan
- Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan
- Horsham Urban Transport Plan
- Rural Road Network Plan

It is important to understand that the proposed projects under SLRSP funding are to upgrade the safety standards as per the guidelines of funding. These projects are not for upgrading the quality or improving the condition of existing infrastructure.

The following list outlines projects that are not eligible for the SLRSP funding:

Examples of eligible and non-eligible treatments are given in Section 5. However, in general, the following treatments will not be eligible for funding in this Program:

- Works on arterial roads
- Works primarily aimed at improving traffic operations/capacity
- Non-infrastructure projects such as community education campaigns (these may be done as part of a larger project)
- Mass-action footpath building (gap filling as part of a larger project is permitted)
- Mass-action shoulder sealing/widening
- Maintenance work
- Red light and speed cameras
- Interim works

Some of the community feedback suggested that alternative works should be undertaken, for example on arterial road intersections, such as Bennett Rd / Natimuk Rd, which is outside the scope of the funding.

Also, it is important to note that the approval of O'Callaghans Parade project is related to the proposed Urquhart Street upgrade works through Active Transport Fund, which is the subject of a separate report to this meeting.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Historically, road safety treatments were often proposed in response to crash or incident statistics. The current approach, based on the Safe System principles, is aimed at proactively identifying risks and applying proven techniques to situations where there is a likelihood of incidents, aiming to avoid incidents or reduce their impact.

Collaboration

Council has been working with a consultant funded by TAC to develop designs for the nominated sites. These are being progressively reviewed by TAC and DTP officers to ensure they are aligned with modern design standards.

Financial Implications

The projects identified in this report are proposed to be fully funded either through the TAC SLRSP funding or for one project partially with HVSPF funding. There are some minor exceptions where a co-contribution is required. The details of the co-contribution are provided in Table 1 in this report.

To secure the funding, an application is required to be made to TAC. Sufficient design work and costing has been completed to inform this grant application.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Funding for these will come from the Safer Local Roads and Streets Program.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Most of the projects identified have been sourced from the existing Council strategies as identified within the report.

Risk Implications

Key risks with these works include:

- The decision on the proposed project under SLRSP funding may impact the decision on ATF grant.
- Construction risks. These are generally able to be managed. Interruptions to business or traffic will need to be considered for some sites.

Conclusion

Community engagement has been undertaken into the seven proposed TAC funded projects. The feedback shows that there are some concerns about some of the works, but that people who have read details about the proposals, and are considered "informed" are generally supportive of most of the projects, or there is a low level of concern in the community about the works. A grant application is now proposed to be submitted to secure funding for these projects.

9.6 URQUHART STREET FUNDING AGREEMENT

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Department:	Infrastructure	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

Urquhart St upgrade plans (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Community engagement responses (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Purpose

To propose acceptance of the funding agreement from the Australian Government for the successful Active Transport Fund grant for the combined Urquhart St / O'Callaghans Parade upgrade project.

Summary

- An application was made to the Australian Government's Active Transport Fund (ATF) for a grant to upgrade Urquhart St and O'Callaghans Parade in January 2025, in line with a resolution at Council's December 2024 meeting.
- Council's decision at that time was conditional on further information being provided on the project, as the time frame available for making the funding application was limited.
- This report presents further background on the project, including the detailed plans for the works, the outcomes of consultation and the funding sources for the project.
- The engagement results indicate a high level of support for the works with only one less supportive respondent.

Recommendation

That Council approve execution of the funding agreement for the Urquhart St / O'Callaghans Parade upgrade project to enable implementation of the project.

REPORT

Background

Background information on the Urquhart St / O'Callaghans Parade upgrade project was presented at Council's 16 December 2025 meeting. At that meeting Council resolved as follows:

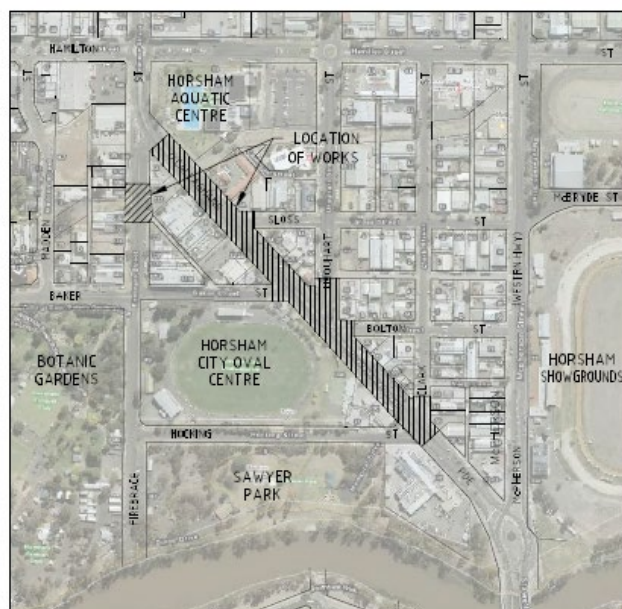
That Council approve the submission of the application for funding to upgrade Urquhart Street and O'Callaghans Pde for an estimated value of \$2,200,000 to the Federal Government's Active Transport Fund subject to the following conditions:

- 1. A report is to be presented to Council on both the Urquhart Street and O'Callaghans Parade projects at the next available opportunity.*
- 2. The application is to be withdrawn or declined if Council subsequently decides not to support either of these projects at a subsequent Council meeting.*

This report presents information to address the conditions of that resolution.

Further background on the O'Callaghans Parade upgrade project has been presented at several briefings, including the 11 March and 18 March 2025 briefings which provided an overview of the engagement feedback for that project and the other projects proposed to be the subject of the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) grant funding.

Note that the O'Callaghans Parade upgrade project includes works on a short section of Firebrace St as per the hatched section in the diagram below, but the project is referred to as just O'Callaghans Parade for simplicity.



The detailed plans for the Urquhart St section of works are included as **Appendix 9.6A** to this report. They show the extent of the work from O'Callaghans Parade to Baillie St, with the works comprising primarily:

- A generally consistent median, retaining the existing trees and providing for additional canopy trees in the median and tree planting along the footpaths.
- A reduced speed limit to provide bicycle safety without compromising parking availability.
- Importantly, unchanged geometry of intersections.

The table below outlines the proposed funding mix for the various elements of works:

Segment of works	Cost	Fund source
O'Callaghans Pde roundabouts and bike path	\$848,000	TAC
Balance of O'Callaghans Pde works	\$500,000	Council
Urquhart St full scope	\$900,000	ATF
Total	\$2,248,000	

Council received notification on 18 February 2025 of the success of its ATF funding application, however, this is still pending a decision to proceed with the TAC segment of the works and confirm the budgeted Council contribution. A separate report to the 24 March 2025 meeting will address the O'Callaghans Parade proposal for TAC funding.

Discussion

Upgrading Urquhart St was identified as a priority in both the Horsham CBD Revitalisation Streetscape Plan and the Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024 – 2034, with Urquhart St being a planned priority route for cyclists to avoid the central CBD area.

The cyclist safety aspect of the project made the project suitable for the Active Transport Fund, which includes amongst its eligibility criteria “projects which aim to improve road safety and reduce road trauma for cyclists and pedestrians.”

The Urquhart St project had not been identified in Council's 4-year capital program, and hence there is not yet a funding allocation for this project. The grant opportunity presents a means of gaining funding for this project, but requires a matching contribution from Council, or from other sources.

The proposal developed, as outlined in the table above is as follows:

- The adopted 2024-25 Budget four-year capital works program includes a provision of \$1,300,000 for the O'Callaghans Parade works.
- It is noted that \$848,000 of this is to be grant funded from a planned Transport Accident Commission grant. This was initially anticipated to be \$800,000.
- The proposed Council contribution remains at \$500,000 for a sub-total of \$1,348,000 for that segment of works.
- The TAC has agreed in-principle that its funds could be used for this co-contribution, noting that they have not yet formally approved the grant – nor has Council.
- These funds were identified as the co-contribution for the Federal grant application.
- The project proposed to the Federal Government would be for a combined O'Callaghans Parade and Urquhart St scope.

The funding agreement is required to be executed by 25 March 2025, hence a decision to proceed is sought from Council.

Options to Consider

Both the O'Callaghans Parade and Urquhart St sections of works have been in design development for a considerable period. Council now has the following options to proceed:

- Approve all segments of the work
- Approve the O'Callaghans Parade segments of work.

In order to proceed with the Urquhart St segment of works, both segments of O'Callaghans Parade works would need to be approved, as the funds allocated to these projects are required as a co-contribution to the Urquhart St ATF grant funding.

Sustainability Implications

Both segments aim to protect existing trees and increase tree canopy with additional plantings as per Council's Greening Greater Horsham Tree Strategy 2021-2031.

Community Engagement

Engagement concerning the O'Callaghans Parade segment has separately been reported.

The Urquhart St project was identified in the CBD Revitalisation Streetscape Plan and part of that consultation program. Consultation on the development of the CBD Revitalisation projects has been channelled through the CBD Reference Group in the first instance. In the case of the O'Callaghans Parade project, all properties/businesses have been engaged in the project to review the scope, leading to adjustments to address specific issues.

Thirty-one businesses and residents in Urquhart St were directly contacted to seek comments on the plans. The individual comments of 18 respondents are included in **Appendix 9.6B** (with personal details redacted). The comments received varied, with a general level of support for the proposals. Some of the comments led to minor design changes. One business had a range of issues leading to its non-support for the project, including:

- They are against trees in the road
- They identify the need for a stop sign on the Aquatic Centre car park exit
- They are concerned about the adjoining bus stop
- And some other lesser issues.

It is assessed that all of these concerns can be addressed in the final design.

No other feedback was received specifically about Urquhart St. However, further information is proposed to be provided in relation to the works, allowing for minor design changes should the need arise. As there are no changes proposed for the intersections in Urquhart St, the works are considered less complex than, say, the O'Callaghans Parade upgrade components.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

As outlined above, three sources of funding are identified for the full scope of the combined Urquhart St / O'Callaghans Parade works as follows:

Segment of works	Cost	Fund source
O'Callaghans Pde roundabouts and bike path	\$848,000	TAC
Balance of O'Callaghans Pde works	\$500,000	Council
Urquhart St full scope	\$900,000	ATF
Total	\$2,248,000	

- The TAC funding has been approved-in-principle.
- The ATF funding has been approved.
- The Council funding is identified in the adopted 2024-2028 Council Budget 4-year capital works program.

Importantly, the ATF funding requires the works to be completed over a three-year period. This provides the option of Council's funding being spread over that period, with the ATF funding also being used for the O'Callaghans parade of works nominally identified as being Council funded. As the TAC funding is required to be spent in a shorter time frame, those works would proceed first.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The proposed works seek to take advantage of National and State funding programs.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The proposed works have emanated from the Horsham CBD Revitalisation Streetscape Plan and the Horsham Bicycle and Shared Paths Infrastructure Plan 2024 – 2034.

Risk Implications

The following key risks have been identified:

1. Council may subsequently decide not to support one or both of these project segments.
2. The TAC may not support the subsequent formal grant application.

Conclusion

The report presents background information and the outcomes of community engagement in relation to the Urquhart St segment of the combined Urquhart St and O'Callaghans Parade upgrade project.

9.7 PROPOSED REVISION TO DELIVERY TIMEFRAMES – KEY ORGANISATIONAL DOCUMENTS

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Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Corporate Services	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

Nil

Purpose

To provide Council with a proposal to revise previously agreed timelines associated with the preparation and adoption of key documents required to be prepared following a general election from the dates agreed at the 16 September 2024 Council meeting to those dates as outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Summary

- On 16 September 2024 Council endorsed “in principle” bringing forward the preparation and adoption of key legislative documents, required to be prepared following a general election, outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- The date identified for delivery of the documents was brought forward with all documents due for adoption by 30 June 2025.
- Since that decision, Council has engaged a consultant to undertake the deliberative engagement and consultation to inform the development of those documents and has a project plan which includes a six-week engagement campaign to occur between 24 March and 2 May 2025.
- Noting the period of consultation is it necessary to revert the dates of adoption for these key strategic documents to align with the dates prescribed by legislation.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the revision of the timelines associated with the preparation and adoption of key legislative documents, required to be prepared following a general election, to the due date prescribed by the respective legislation.

REPORT

Background

Following a general election, Council is required to review and renew several key plans and documents in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The key documents requiring mandatory review and the associated due date prescribed by legislation are outlined below:

Document and Act reference	Due date prescribed by the respective Act
Revenue and Rating Plan (s93 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	30 June 2025
Council budget – 4-year (s94 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	30 June 2025
Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (s26 <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i>)	26 October 2025
Community Vision (s88 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	31 October 2025
Council Plan (s90 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	31 October 2025
Financial Plan (s91 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	31 October 2025
Asset Plan (s92 <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)	31 October 2025

Discussion

At the time of the 16 September 2024 report the timeframes for the deliberative engagement to support the review of the Community Vision and the development of the Council Plan were unknown. Since that Council resolution a consultant has been engaged to undertake the deliberative engagement and consultation to inform the development of those documents. The project plan for the work to be undertaken by the consultant includes a six-week engagement campaign to occur between 24 March and 2 May 2025.

Noting the timeframes for the engagement period it is necessary to revise the timeframes agreed in principle previously to capture the information gathered during those sessions to inform the development of these key strategic documents. The timeframes agreed in principle at the 16 September 2024 meeting were that all the documents outlined above would be adopted by 30 June 2025. It is recommended that the documents now be adopted in line with the dates prescribed by legislation rather than the earlier date.

Options to Consider

Council could opt to retain the date agreed in principle by the previous Council however it is noted that doing so would restrict the ability for the findings from the community consultation process to truly inform these key strategic documents. It is therefore recommended that Council endorse the recommendation for the documents to be adopted in line with the dates prescribed by legislation.

Sustainability Implications

The development of the key legislative documents in accordance with legislative requirements and the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework provides the future direction of all Council activity. The key deliverables (along with several other key documents) address the economic, social and environmental framework in which the Horsham Rural City Council will base its decisions into the long, medium and short terms.

Community Engagement

Council will engage with the community through several processes including a six-week engagement campaign to occur between 24 March and 2 May 2025.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council is seeking to consistently improve the presentation, linkage and understanding of the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework through increased opportunities for community engagement across the development of the key documents.

Collaboration

Whilst specific collaboration with other councils or levels of government is not part of the development of these key strategic documents, staff across the organisation consistently collaborate with peers in the sector to investigate ways to improve underlying systems and processes with underpin this work. Model guidance provided by Local Government Victoria (including the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework) is also a collaboration of work between Local Government Victoria, peak sector bodies and staff from councils to provide best practice solutions, consistent information to the public, reduce work effort whilst still providing individuality of presentation and informs Council's work.

Financial Implications

This work will shape the future financial sustainability of Horsham Rural City Council in the short-, medium- and long-term environments. Budget has been provided in the 2024-25 to assist with work surrounding the specific methods of community engagement and facilitation to assist in achieving the desired increase in public participation.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local Government Act 2020 associated regulations and model documents provided by Local Government Victoria.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The work identified is to provide guidance and direction to the formulation of the next iteration of the Council Plan and other key legislative documents. These documents assist in providing overall guidance to other Plans, Strategies and Policies prepared by Council.

Risk Implications

Council has multiple options for the preparation of these key documents, all with various levels of risk. The following risks have been identified with mitigation strategies identified:

Identified Risk	Mitigation Activity
Failure to engage with the Community to provide direction for document preparation	Engagement opportunities have been structured as themed sessions to encourage in depth discussion of specific topics
Loss of community confidence in engagement processes and outcomes of activities	Early work by staff to ensure material used in engagement activities provides information relating to existing and planned work to avoid need for re-capture of known information and provide community assurance around existing priorities.

Officers Reports

Failure to complete work within the required timeframes	Align adoption timeframes with legislative requirements to enable the consultation to conclude and inform document development
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Conclusion

Council has an agreed approach to undertake consultation with the community on the development of key strategic documents. For this consultation to truly inform these key strategic documents it is proposed that the timeframe for adoption of these documents be reverted to those dates prescribed by legislation.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.8 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

Quarterly Spendmapp Report (data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry)
(Appendix 9.8A)

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Quarterly Report for the period: November 2024 - January 2025.

Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Department Quarterly 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 Quarterly Report for the period November 2024 - January 2025.

REPORT

Background

An Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report is tabled Quarterly at an 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 months of November 2024, December 2024 and January 2025 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+
Ongoing – life of plan

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

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.10 (Ongoing)	Undertake regular meetings between Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities	10 forums held per year	Meeting held in November 10 meetings held in 2024
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	Council will be briefed on the Horsham Airport Master Plan in February 2025
5+years	Investigate opportunities for industries at the WAL Hub	One Industrial lot sold annually	Target reached in 2024
3.6 (ongoing)	Widely promote the advantages of establishing solar and wind farms in the Horsham region	Website updated and investment prospectus developed	Wimmera Plains Energy Facility visiting Horsham in February 2025

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
2.8.1 (ongoing)	Support the delivery of tourism opportunities on the Wimmera River, Mt Arapiles and lakes in our region	Tourism opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	The Summer Series of events commenced in December 2024 with the Christmas Extravaganza at the riverfront. Two more events were held in January 2025.
3.1.3 (2 years)	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan and Dadswell's Bridge Community Action Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	The Natimuk Project Advisory Committee ran an event on Australia Day at the lake foreshore which included live music, food trucks and activities throughout the day. Approximately 250 people were in attendance, and it was a very successful event.
(ongoing)	Ensure constant communication through e-mails and business newsletters with tourism operators and local businesses regarding what is happening in the region	A minimum of 10 business newsletters distributed annually 4 business forums are held annually	Two newsletters were sent last quarter. They were sent to 1032 recipients and had a total of 1620 opens and 294 clicks.
3.4.2 (ongoing)	Work with local business to activate the Horsham city centre (CAD)	Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Two business initiatives took place in December 2024 to coincide with the Christmas shopping period. The Roaming Advent calendar was in its third year and again generated positive feedback from our business owners. Business Bingo was a new initiative which was also well subscribed by businesses interested in participating and deemed a successful initiative.
(ongoing)	Encourage homebased and start-up businesses to expand through the Wimmera Business Centre	Having two start-up businesses per year gain support through the WBC.	Three startup businesses asked for assistance in the month of January with one looking to rent space at the Wimmera Business Centre.
(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 below table, note total building numbers reduced by 1 due to the demolition of Farmhouse

SPENDMAPP

Quarterly Economic Snapshot Oct-Dec provided as per **Appendix 9.8A**.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM NEWS

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	November 2024 Businesses Occupied	January 2025 Businesses Occupied	January 2025 Businesses Vacant	January 2025 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	43	42	1	97%
Firebrace St - 97	90	88	9	90%
Hamilton St - 17	17	17	0	100%
Wilson St – 34	29	28	6	82%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	27	27	1	96%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	25	26	1	96%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	23	22	2	92%
Total 270 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	254/272	250/270	20	93%

(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.

Horsham Summer Series



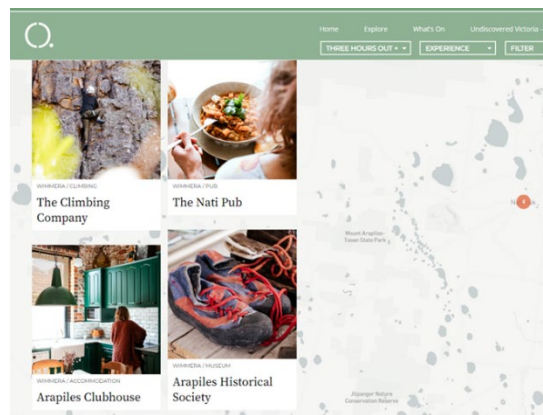
Horsham Rural City Council's Summer Series events are about to commence with several events scheduled throughout the summer period launching on the 14 December through to April 2025. The series will provide locals and visitors the chance to enjoy the ambience of the beautiful Wimmera Riverfront while relaxing with food and drinks to the sounds of local musicians.

One Hour Out Campaign featuring Natimuk

The Tourism and Business Development Team during the month of November, engaged media company "One Hour Out" to undertake a social media marketing campaign featuring Natimuk and Mt Arapiles. One Hour Out is a creative social media channel bringing regional Victoria to life and builds awareness around what is great about our regional It is all about targeting metropolitan enthusiasts on places to explore and discovered hidden gems.

Natimuk businesses involved in the campaign were, The Natimuk Pub a place to eat, Arapiles Club House a place to stay, The Climbing Company provides the visitor an opportunity to experience the great outdoors and Arapiles Historical Society offers an insight of the region's past.

View following One Hour Out (OHO) link and go to the section of "Three Hours Out": [One Hour Out | All the best stuff happening outside of Melbourne](#)



STATUTORY PLANNING

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of November 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	NOVEMBER 2024		NOVEMBER 2023	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	-		3	589,000
Industrial/Commercial	1	-	5	2,641,000
Subdivisions	1 (4 lots)	-	1 (2 lots)	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	9	3,230,000

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2024 to 30 November 2024 is 31 compared to 34 in the same period in 2023-2024.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 26 new lots from 1 July 2024 to 30 November 2024 compared to 48 in the same period in 2023-2024.

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of December 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	DECEMBER 2024		DECEMBER 2023	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	4	3,816,231	1	980,000
Industrial/Commercial	4	5,448,556	3	2,940,000
Subdivisions	3 (6 Lots)	400,000	1 (2 Lots)	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	11	9,664,787	4	3,920,000

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 is 42 compared to 39 in the same period in 2023-2024.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 32 new lots from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 compared to 50 in the same period in 2023-2024.

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of January 2025 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	JANUARY 2025		JANUARY 2024	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	-	-	1	719,500
Industrial/Commercial	1	2,500,000	1	12,000
Subdivisions	-	-	4 (9 lots)	420,550
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	1	2,500,000	6	1,260,050

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025 is 43 compared to 45 in the same period in 2023-2024.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 32 new lots from 1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025 compared to 59 in the same period in 2023-2024.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of November 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	370000	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	4	129,615	-	-
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	5	499,615	0	0

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

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	3	2,342,069	1	320,498
Alterations to Dwellings	2	71,138	4	355,967
Dwelling resittings			-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	29900	8	1,140,386
Removal/Demolish	1	9,998	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	8	8,282,388	3	6,430,457
Signs				
_Sub Total	16	10,735,493	16	8,247,308

A total of **18** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$849,845** from **1 July 2024 to 30 November 2024** compared to **15** Building Permits at a total value of **\$2,948,653** for the same period in 2023-2024.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **94** Building Permits at a total value of **\$29,201,971** from **1 July 2024 to 30 November 2024** compared to 87 at a total value of **\$37,224,743** for the same period in 2023-2024.

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of December 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	878,060	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings			-	-
Dwelling resittings			-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)			1	30,021
Removal/Demolish			-	-
Industrial/Commercial			1	64,000
Signs			-	-
Total	1	878,060	2	94,021

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

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	4	2,707,869	3	1,565,453
Alterations to Dwellings	2	317,704		
Dwelling resittings	-	-		
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	5	328,912	9	394,816
Removal/Demolish	-	-	1	14,000
Industrial/Commercial	3	164,000	5	11,932,964
Signs	-	-		
_Sub Total	14	3,518,485	18	13,907,233

A total of **19** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$1,727,905** from **1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024** compared to **15** Building Permits at a total value of **\$2,948,653** for the same period in 2023-2024.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **108** Building Permits at a total value of **\$32,720,456** from **1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024** compared to **105** at a total value of **\$51,131,976** For the same period in 2023-2024.

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of January 2025 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2025		2024	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-		1	719,500
Alterations to Dwellings	-		-	-
Dwelling resittings	-		-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	17,500	-	-
Removal/Demolish	-		1	11,000
Industrial/Commercial	-		-	-
Signs	-		-	-
Total	2	17,500	2	730,500

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

Type	2025		2024	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-		2	1,369,226
Alterations to Dwellings	1	65,000	2	85,085
Dwelling resittings	-		-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	5	369,781	3	32,120
Removal/Demolish	1	23,550	1	7,000
Industrial/Commercial	-		2	241,613
Signs	-		-	-
_Sub Total	7	458,331	10	1,735,044

A total of **21** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$1,745,405** from **1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025** compared to 17 Building Permits at a total value of **\$3,679,153** in 2023-2024.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **115** Building Permits at a total value of **\$33,178,787** from **1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025** compared to **115** at a total value of **\$52,867,020** in 2023-2024.

Horsham Renewable Energy Facility

PA1700117 for a Renewable Energy Facility (solar farm and battery storage), was issued by Horsham Rural City in January 2018. Officers have worked with the current applicant OX2 (working on behalf of the SEC) and relevant authorities on the approval of a range of secondary consents required under the conditions of the permit including:

- Site Plans and Elevations
- Traffic Management Plan
- Stormwater Management and Flood Impact Assessment
- Environmental Management Plan
- Emergency Management Plan.



These plans will ensure the construction and operation of the facility meets the relevant legislative requirements to protect the existing and future of Horsham. It is anticipated t construction will commence in early 2025.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.6.4 (2 years)	Implement the Horsham Heritage Study to protect buildings and places of historic cultural heritage to reinforce a 'sense of place' and celebrate Horsham's character and distinctiveness	Horsham Planning Scheme amended	Citations were finalised in December 2024.
(4 years)	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Cinema	Management plan endorsed by Council	Consultants have commenced the abridged plan.
2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy and complete an amendment to the planning scheme	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	During the last quarter the consultant have been seeking input from the community to finalise a draft Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy which will be presented to Council in April 2025.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Following community consultation in the last quarter an Engagement Summary Report is being developed and will be presented to Council in April 2025.
3.1.1 (2 to 4 years)	Prepare and implement a Commercial & Industrial Land and include in the Planning Scheme	Plan developed & Strategy adopted by Council	Consultants following workshops with key stakeholders will finalise a draft strategy in March 2025 for council and community feedback.
(2 years)	Complete a Planning Scheme Review as a vehicle for specifying desired outcomes across the municipality	Planning Scheme Review Completed and suggested changes implemented	The Regional Hubs and Department of Transport and Planning have been assisting Council to finalise the review in preparation for Exhibition later this year.

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

The report has been prepared in consultation with a range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSM), West Vic Business, and Grampians Wimmera Mallee 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

Council Plan - Theme 3 - 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.

Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards

Risk Implications

Not applicable – no decision required

Conclusion

The Quarterly 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.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Ian Ross, Mayor

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
17/02/25	Council Briefing Meeting
19/02/25	Darwin Defenders- Laying of Wreath
21/02/25	Grampians 2025 and Beyond: A State of the Region Forum
23/02/25	Community Q&A Session with Anne Webster
24/02/25	Council Meeting
27/02/25	RCV General Meeting #1
28/02/25	CEO Interviews
03/03/25	Council Briefing Meeting
05/03/25	DEECA Meeting
05/03/25	WIM Resource 'Sundowner' Event
06/03/25	Anne Webster- Wesley Announcement
06/03/25	Meeting with YMCA CEO
07/03/25	VLGCC- Statewide Session 1
07/03/25	Art Gallery Opening of 'View from Here- Highlights from the national Gallery collection'
11/03/25	Council Briefing Meeting
17/03/25	Council Briefing- Budget

Cr Cam McDonald

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
14/02/25	Wimmera Southern Mallee Dev Assoc Meeting in person at Fed Uni
Other Council Activities	
03/02/25	Council Briefing
04/02/25	Planning Induction Session Council Chambers
10/02/25	Council Briefing
11/02/25	Attended Mine Free Wimmera Farms Meeting with other councillors
12/02/25	Community Engagement Training
17/02/25	Council Briefing Budget
18/02/25	Met Nathan McTaggart and Thomas Morgan re Silo Art. CEO Run- through
23/02/25	Attended renewables conference with Anne Webster at Minyip.
24/02/25	Council Meeting. Moved Motion to remove Wombat crossings, carried.
26/02/25	City Oval Meeting with Cr Klowss and Mayor
28/02/25	CEO Interview all day

Cr Dean O'Loughlin

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
13/3/2025	National Reconciliation Week Planning committee
Other Council Activities	
05/03/2025	Meeting with DEECA Secretary & representatives
03/3/2025	Recruitment of CEO
03/03/2025	Council Briefing
11/03/2025	Council Briefing
17/03/2025	Council Briefing
18/03/2025	Council Briefing

Cr Rebecca Sluggett

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
28/02/25	CEO Recruitment Meetings -Full Day
05/03/25	Meeting with DEECA
06/03/25	Wimmera Mallee Machinery Field Days – Roving and at HRCC stall
07/03/25	CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee Meeting
11/03/25	Briefing Meeting
18/03/25	CEO Recruitment Meeting
21- 23/03/25	MAV Victorian Convention of Councillors -Report to be presented at next Council Meeting.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Meeting with John Bradley, DEECA held on 5 March 2025 at 2:00pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on 3, 11, 17 & 18 March 2025 at 5:30pm

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024
- Natimuk Economic & Social Plan Project Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2025

Refer to **Appendix 13.4A**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 202

Given by Cr Cam McDonald

TAKE NOTICE that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham on Monday 24 March 2025.

“That a Mining, Renewables & Energy Committee be formed with a minimum of two Councillors, the CEO, and not more than two dedicated staff involved in the process of Mining, Renewables & Energy, to ultimately present recommendations to Council.”

The reasons for this motion are:

1. To bring to the Council the process which involves the risk and engagement process.
2. To consider the conditions and negotiations involved in regard to Mining and Renewable Energy.
3. That this committee reports to Council for approval in its requirement to advocate for the safety and concerns of the community in relation to these development proposals.
4. That the Instrument of Delegation to staff for decisions on Mining and Renewable Energy be limited and restricted for approval by a full Council meeting only.

Background:

Supporting Documents:

Local Government Act 2020
Communications Policy
Community Engagement Procedure
Engagement Resources
Policy Framework Policy
Public Transparency Policy
Procurement Policy
Instrument of Delegation and Authorisation Document

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

Cr Cam McDonald

CIVIC CENTRE
HORSHAM 3400
19 March 2025

14.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 203

Given by Cr Cam McDonald

TAKE NOTICE that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham on Monday 24 March 2025.

“That Council formally suspend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WIM Resource and Horsham Rural City Council, further to a full review.”

The reasons for this motion are:

1. To bring a process of review before the Council (and/or The Mining, Renewables and Energy Committee) to present to Council for final approval.
2. For Council to consider community engagement, showing impartiality in this process to not be partnering with any one party.
3. It was a requirement for the Council to review this MOU every two years, and as this has not happened to date, and due to increased tensions in the community, a formal suspension should occur until proper community engagement has occurred.

Background:

Supporting Documents:

Local Government Act 2020
Communications Policy
Community Engagement Procedure
Engagement Resources

Refer to **Appendix 14.2A** for copy of Notice of Motion.

Refer to **Appendix 14.2B** for copy of MOU between WIM Recourse and HRCC

Cr Cam McDonald

CIVIC CENTRE
HORSHAM 3400
19 March 2025