

# AGENDA

MEETING OF THE  
**HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on  
**27 October 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 27 October 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 Brian Klowss formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Acting 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 22 September 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.

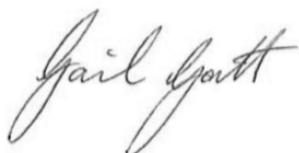
### Members of Staff

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.

**8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

<b>REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9. OFFICERS REPORTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
9.1    2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT .....	6
9.2    COMMUNITY VISION, COUNCIL PLAN, FINANCIAL PLAN, AND ASSET PLAN .....	9
9.3    ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW .....	15
9.4    GLASS RECYCLING KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTION REVIEW .....	19
9.5    SPORT AND RECREATION GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES .....	24
9.6    WARRACKNABEAL ENERGY PARK ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT SUBMISSION .....	30
9.7    3 BOWEN STREET HORSHAM: ROAD DISCONTINUANCE .....	34
<b>10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>11. URGENT BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>45</b>
13.1    INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS.....	45
13.2    COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES .....	45
<b>14. NOTICE OF MOTION.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS .....</b>	
15.1    AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES.....	
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) - Personal Information</i>	
15.2    REPLACEMENT LANDFILL COMPACTOR PURCHASE.....	
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(g) - Private Commercial Information</i>	
15.3    HORSHAM REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE – ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MEMBERS.....	
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) - Personal Information</i>	
15.4    CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2025 .....	
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) - Personal Information</i>	
<b>16. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS.....</b>	
16.1    INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS.....	
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) - Personal Information</i>	

**CLOSE**



GAIL GATT  
Chief Executive Officer

## **REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION**

### **9. OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **9.1 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

<b>Director:</b>	Kim Hargreaves
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>File Number:</b>	F06/A09/000001

#### **Officer Conflict of Interest**

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

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

#### **Status**

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

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

#### **Appendix**

2024-2025 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**)

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#### **Purpose**

To present the 2024-2025 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council for adoption by Council.

#### **Summary**

- The 2024-2025 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council reports on our performance for the financial year.
- The document contains specific reporting against the Council Plan 2021-2025 as the Council Plan in place for the reporting period.
- The Annual Report also contains Financial and Performance Statements approved in principle by this Council at its meeting on 22 September 2025.
- In preparing this report, the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Act (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* have been fully considered and achieved.

#### **Recommendation**

That Council adopt the attached 2024-2025 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**).

## REPORT

### Background

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

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

### Discussion

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

The performance statement is to present the audited results achieved against the prescribed performance indicators and measures while the financial statements present the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. Both the Financial and Performance Statements were approved in principle by Council at its September meeting as recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee who considered those statements on 18 September 2025.

The 2024-2025 Annual Report presented for adoption has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Better Practice Guide: Preparing Council's Annual Report - 2024-25 Edition*. It meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

### Options to Consider

Section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that the Mayor must report on the implementation of the Council Plan by presenting the annual report at a Council meeting open to the public (s100(1)). Further the Council meeting must be held within four months of the end of financial year in a year where general election is not held.

The Act makes no provision for an extension or alteration of this deadline with failure to comply being contrary to the provisions of the Act.

### Sustainability Implications

Nil

### Community Engagement

A notice advising the public that they may inspect the 2024-2025 Annual Report (including the Auditor's Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025) will be published on Council's website, and in a local newspaper as part of Council's next public notices submission.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Better Practice Guide: Preparing Council's Annual Report 2024-2025 Edition*. The requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Act (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* have also been fully considered and achieved.

### **Collaboration**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

Costs associated with production of the 2024-2025 Annual Report are included in the 2025-2026 Council Budget.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not Applicable

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

2021-2025 Council Plan:

Theme 5 – Leadership

#### Strategies

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

### **Risk Implications**

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

### **Conclusion**

The 2024-2025 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council is commended to Council for adoption.

## 9.2 COMMUNITY VISION, COUNCIL PLAN, FINANCIAL PLAN, AND ASSET PLAN

Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Directorate:	Corporate Services
File Number:	F06/A09/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Status

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

Yes  No

Reason: Nil

### Appendix

HRCC Community Vision 2041 – 2025 Update (**Appendix 9.2A**)

HRCC Council Plan 2025-2029 (**Appendix 9.2B**)

HRCC Financial Plan 2025-2035 (**Appendix 9.2C**)

HRCC Asset Plan 2025-2035 (**Appendix 9.2D**)

### Purpose

To adopt the Community Vision 2041, Council Plan (incorporating the municipal public health and wellbeing plan) 2025-2029, Financial Plan 2025-2035 and Asset Plan 2025-2035.

### Summary

- The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to adopt
  - a Community Vision for at least the next 10 financial years (s88)
  - a Council Plan for at least the next 4 financial years (s90)
  - a Financial Plan for at least the next 10 financial years (s91)
  - an Asset Plan for at least the next 10 financial years (s92)
  - Council must develop or review these documents in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt by 31 October in the year following a general election
- Councils are also required to prepare a municipal public health and wellbeing plan within the period of 12 months after each general election of the Council (*Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*). Council were granted an exemption to have the plan incorporated into their Council Plan.
- Extensive engagement occurred to inform the development of these documents.
- Once developed each of the 4 documents underwent a period of community consultation with the final versions now presented for adoption.

### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Community Vision 2041 (**Appendix 9.2A**)
2. Adopt the Council Plan 2025-2029 (incorporating the municipal public health and wellbeing plan) (**Appendix 9.2B**)
3. Adopt the Financial Plan 2025-2035 (**Appendix 9.2C**)
4. Adopt the Asset Plan 2025-2035 (**Appendix 9.2D**)

## REPORT

### Background

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to undertake a process of development or review of key strategic documents following a Council election. Specifically, Council is required to:

- Develop or review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Community Vision by 31 October in the year following a general election (s88(4)).  
The Community Vision must describe the municipal community's aspirations for the future of the municipality (s88(3)).
- Develop or review the Council Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Council Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election (s90 (3)).  
A Council Plan must include the following (s90 (2))
  - a) the strategic direction of the Council;
  - b) strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction;
  - c) strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next 4 financial years;
  - d) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
  - e) a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity;
  - f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations
- Develop or review the Financial Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Financial Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election (s91(4))  
A Financial Plan must include the following in the manner and form prescribed by the regulations (s91(3))
  - a) statements describing the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans of the Council;
  - b) information about the decisions and assumptions that underpin the forecasts in the statements specified in paragraph (a);
  - c) statements describing any other resource requirements that the Council considers appropriate to include in the Financial Plan;
  - d) any other matters prescribed by the regulations
- Develop or review the Asset Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Asset Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election (s92(4))  
An Asset Plan must include the following (s92(3))
  - a) information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council;
  - b) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

The nature of each document is outlined below:

- **Community Vision** – is a long-term, aspirational document that outlines the collective hopes and priorities of residents for the municipality. The vision is typically developed for a period of at least 10 years and serves as the overarching guide for all future council decisions and strategic planning.
- **Council Plan** - is a medium-term strategic document that outlines a council's objectives, priorities, and services for a four-year period. It is guided by the longer-term community vision and serves as a

roadmap for council decisions and operations. The Plan sits at the centre of Council's Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework.

- **Municipal public health and wellbeing plan** (MPHWP) - is a four-year strategic document that outlines how council will protect, promote, and improve the health and wellbeing of its community. It is a mandatory requirement under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. Rather than develop a standalone MPHWP, Council has again sought and been provided an exemption from the Department of Health to incorporate the MPHWP into its Council Plan.
- **Financial Plan** – is a long-term strategic document that provides a roadmap for managing Council's finances over the next decade. It projects income and expenditure to ensure both financial sustainability and that funding is available for achieving the goals outlined in the Community Vision and Council Plan.
- **Asset Plan** - is a long-term strategic document that outlines how Council will manage its infrastructure assets for at least the next decade. It provides a long-term strategy for the responsible upkeep of public infrastructure like roads, buildings, drainage, parks, and footpaths.

## Discussion

To inform the development of the documents presented today, Council engaged a consultant to facilitate deliberative community engagement in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy (Stage 1 engagement).

### *Stage 1 engagement*

A total of 409 people participated in the Stage 1 engagement to inform the development of these draft documents through survey responses (n=283), workshop participation (n=102), stakeholder meetings (n=21) or individual submissions (n=2).

This engagement focused on specific community interest topics with the following topics discussed in detail:

- Economic development
- Cultural and creative
- Public space and recreation
- Community services
- Rural communities
- Infrastructure, environment and waste
- Roads
- Social issues

The Stage 1 engagement also collected information about the community's opinions on utilisation and satisfaction indicators for Council services; Council's level of service (more, less or same); condition of and investment in assets. Information was also collected to inform the Health and Wellbeing Plan as part of this process and was supplemented by further targeted engagement to inform the content of that plan in line with legislative requirements. This included key local stakeholders including Uniting Wimmera, West Wimmera Health Service, Grampians Public Health Unit, Headspace, Women's Health Grampians, Salvation Army Homelessness, YMCA, Wimmera Southern Mallee Development, Wimmera Homelessness Alliance, Horsham Neighbourhood House, Federation University, Centre for Participation, Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and Wimmera Emergency Management

### *Stage 2 engagement*

This stage involved Council presenting the draft versions of the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan to the broader community for feedback. Each document had a specific engagement approach with questions tailored to the specific document to test with the community how the draft aligned with local values and priorities.

Of a particular focus for the stage 2 engagement was to test the documents with those who provided input to inform their development. The engagement also attempted to encourage participation from members of the community not well represented in Stage 1 – specifically young people aged under 35 and males.

The feedback from Stage 2 was then used to inform any refinement of the respective document before they were finalised for adoption at this meeting. The approach taken for each document and responses received are outlined below:

Document	Engagement period	Feedback received	Changes made to document in response to feedback
Community Vision 2041 and Council Plan 2025-2028 (incorporating the MPHWP)*	3 weeks 5-29 Sept	16 responses received	<p>The nature of the survey was to identify if the Vision statement reflected the community aspirations and if the Council Plan themes would contribute to achieving the Vision.</p> <p>Where responses were provided, they related to operational matters or matters not related to either document. All comments have been provided to Councillors for their consideration.</p> <p>None of the submissions received have resulted in the need to make changes to the Community Vision, Council Plan or MPHWP.</p>
Financial Plan 2025-2035	2 weeks 17-30 Sept	2 responses received	<p>The nature of the survey was to identify if the document clearly outlined Council's financial focus over the long-term. Both submissions received indicated the document met its objective. Where specific comments made, they were operational in nature. All comments have been provided to Councillors for their consideration.</p> <p>None of the submissions received have resulted in the need to make changes to the Financial Plan.</p>
Asset Plan 2025-35	2 weeks 7-21 Oct	9 responses received	<p>The survey sought to identify if the Asset Plan met its objective of providing a long-term plan to manage Council's assets. Respondents provided information about some asset-based services that received a higher level of service than they thought was warranted, but the number of survey responses was low, and is therefore not representative of the broader community's views. All comments have been provided to Councillors for their consideration.</p> <p>None of the submissions received have resulted in the need to make changes to the Asset Plan.</p>

\* These documents were released for community engagement together noting the synergy between them.

The documents are now presented to Council for adoption.

### Options to Consider

1. That Council adopt the documents in accordance with the requirements of the respective legislation.
2. That Council does not adopt the documents noting this would be in breach of legislation.

Option 1 is recommended noting Council have a legislated requirement to adopt the respective documents by 31 October 2025.

### Sustainability Implications

Sustainability is a key theme in both the draft Community Vision and the Council Plan, addressing economic, social, environmental and climate change implications. Once adopted the Community Vision and its impact on the Council Plan will set the key direction for our community going forward noting climate change and how Council responds to climate challenges is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* and must also be addressed in the Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan.

The Financial and Asset Plans both take a long-term view to ensure Council's finances and assets are managed sustainably into the future.

### Community Engagement

A summary of the community engagement undertaken for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 has been outlined in this report. Feedback received from Stage 2 engagement has been considered prior to finalisation of the documents for adoption by the legislated timeframes. Councillors were provided with all submissions received as part of the feedback from the engagement processes.

### Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The consultant engaged for the Stage 1 engagement introduced some innovative approaches to engagement to get the municipality talking about the future of Horsham through community conversations and online engagement. This was supported by Council officers who led with the stakeholder meetings and direct engagement of key stakeholders to inform specific elements of the documents. Tailored questions to seek focused feedback on the draft documents was also undertaken as part of Stage 2 engagement noting this represented an opportunity to refine, revise and continuously improve processes to seek community input.

### Collaboration

The development of the draft documents has been a collaboration between all sectors of the Community, Councillors and Council Officers.

### Financial Implications

Council allocated funds to assist in the facilitation and development of the Community Vision, Council Plan, Health & Wellbeing Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan in the 2024-2025 operational budget.

### Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

These strategic documents have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* as well as the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027.

### Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The Community Vision is the most important strategic document that informs the direction of the Council Plan which in turn is key to the integrated planning framework for all that Council does. The process undertaken to date has been to develop or review these key strategic documents.

### **Risk Implications**

Risk has been mitigated regarding the requirement for the process of developing these documents to be undertaken in accordance with Council's deliberative engagement practices as outlined in Council's Community Engagement Policy. The process undertaken for Stage 1 community consultation has met these requirements.

The risk now arises noting Council is legislatively required to develop or review these key strategic documents before 31 October in the year following a general election. To mitigate this risk it is now for Council to consider these documents for adoption before the legislative deadline to avoid the risk of a legislative breach.

### **Conclusion**

The development of the draft documents was informed by consultation with the community. Although not required, Council also released the draft documents for periods of engagement to capture the community's feedback. The documents prepared following both stage 1 and 2 of the engagement process are now presented to Council for adoption.

Once adopted the Council Plan 2025-2029, Financial Plan 2025-2035 and Asset Plan 2025-2035 will inform the strategic direction of the Council under the overarching guide of the Community Vision 2041.

## 9.3 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Director:	John Martin
Directorate:	Infrastructure
File Number:	F02/A05/000005

### 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

### Appendices

Road Management Plan 2025 - Tracked Changes version (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Road Management Plan 2025 - version for endorsement (**Appendix 9.3B**)

Engagement Summary (**Appendix 9.3C**)

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### Purpose

To present the updated Road Management Plan for adoption by Council.

### Summary

- The Road Management Plan documents Council's approach to maintenance of roads, footpaths and related roadside areas to facilitate their safe and serviceable use for vehicles and pedestrians.
- The Plan is established under the provisions of the Road Management Act 2004 for a range of reasons, including to limit Council's liability to road related claims in certain circumstances, providing that Council is operating in accordance with the Plan.
- Council is required to review the plan each four years, in the year following a Council election, by 31 October of that year.
- Consultation on the Plan has occurred in accordance with and exceeding the requirements of the relevant regulations.
- The community consultation included a series of drop-in feedback sessions across rural parts of the municipality, and one in Horsham, in September 2025. This was supported by a well-advertised web-based process in August and September.
- An appendix to the report summarises the community feedback and how that has been taken into account in the updated version of the Plan.
- It is proposed that the updated Plan be adopted.

### Recommendation

That Council adopt the updated Road Management Plan included as **Appendix 9.3B**.

## REPORT

### Background

The Road Management Plan is a document which describes the maintenance systems in place for Council's road and footpath network to facilitate their safe and serviceable use for vehicles and pedestrians. When a Council has a Road Management Plan and complies with the inspection and maintenance regime established in the plan, Council's liability to claims for damages arising from road-related incidents (e.g. damage to tyres, or trips along footpaths) is limited.

Council has periodically reviewed and updated its Road Management Plan, as required under the provisions of the Road Management Act 2004 and related regulations. The Plan was reviewed as required by legislation in 2021 following the previous Council election. There have also been two minor reviews since, as follows:

- An improved process for addressing footpath defects and a changed classification for some minor tracks (June 2023)
- A clarification in the terminology for urgent defects in contrast to emergency events (August 2024).

The purpose of the review is to ensure that the standards and priorities for the inspection, maintenance and repair of roads remain appropriate.

The process for review of the Road Management Plan is prescribed in regulations. The key steps in the process are:

- Conduct of a review of the existing RMP document to determine if an update is required.
- Formal notification that the review process is underway, including a Government Gazette notice.
- Conduct of a community engagement process on the plan.

There are two key aspects of the RMP review, these relate to:

- The service standards described in the plan, e.g. the frequency of inspections and response times when defects are identified (either as a result of inspections, or through public requests)
- The road hierarchy classification, which sets the standard of service for different roads.

### Discussion

The draft Road Management Plan 2025 document is attached as **Appendices 9.3A** and **9.3B** to this report. The **Appendix 9.3A** shows all the proposed changes as "tracked changes". **Appendix 9.3B** is a clean version proposed for adoption.

The main initial changes to the Plan, prior to engagement, related to consideration of the Rural Road Network Plan, and its introduction of three separate overlays to the hierarchy outlined in the Road Management Plan, as follows:

- Freight Routes
- Farm Machinery Routes
- Tourism Routes.

Subsequently, relatively minor changes have been made to the 2024 document based on feedback from the community.

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All changes to the document are included as tracked changes in the attached draft plan.

### **Options to Consider**

Council is required to maintain its Road Management Plan to maintain the limitations to liability provided for through the Road Management Act 2004. If the Plan is not approved, Council will not be able to gain the liability protection afforded under that Act.

### **Sustainability Implications**

Nil directly

### **Community Engagement**

An extensive engagement process was undertaken, which exceeded the requirements set in the regulations. This process is documented in section 3.2 of the Plan, and summarised as follows:

- Notification in the Government Gazette (7 August 2025)
- Repeated publication in Council's public notices from 31 July 2025 for several weeks
- Inclusion in Council's email weekly newsletter for several weeks
- Publishing on Council's Have Your Say engagement platform
- Notification to Emergency Services and Utility organisations
- Drop-in open sessions at four rural locations and the Horsham Civic Centre
- A presentation to and discussion with Council's Disability Advisory Committee.

Submissions were invited over an extended period from the end of July to 17 September 2025. Overall, ten written submissions received, and verbal submissions recorded at the drop-in sessions and Advisory Committee meeting.

**Appendix 9.3.C** is the summary report on this engagement, indicating how the feedback has been considered in updating the Plan. Verbal submissions from the drop-in sessions and the Disability Advisory Committee meeting all related to specific service requests and did not relate to the maintenance framework documented in the Plan.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Nil

### **Collaboration**

Nil

### **Financial Implications**

The key financial implications for the Road Management Plan are:

- Ensuring there are sufficient resources to maintain compliance with the Plan.
- The limit to liability the Road Management Act provides.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The Road Management Plan is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Road Management Act 2004 and its regulations.

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

The Road Management Plan is a key Council plan.

### **Risk Implications**

Risk management is at the heart of the Road Management Plan. The Road Management Plan is based on the hierarchical structure of Council's road and footpath networks, with different response times and hazard levels identified for different defect types based on the importance of the road/footpath according to its hierarchy level.

A critical aspect of this is that the RMP needs to establish service standards that are considered appropriate from a safety perspective, but which we can guarantee that we can resource. An over-commitment of service standards in the RMP could lead to non-compliance with the plan, which could lead to loss of Council's liability limit. Hence, the RMP is referred to as our minimum service standard, and we aim to achieve better than that.

Currently, public claims for road related damage, e.g. a tyre blowout due to a pothole, have a threshold of \$1681 before Council is considered potentially liable.

**Conclusion**

The Road Management Plan has been through an extensive review process and is proposed for adoption by Council.

## 9.4 GLASS RECYCLING KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTION REVIEW

Director:	John Martin
Directorate:	Infrastructure
File Number:	F29/A11/000003

### 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

Kerbside Glass Collection Summary (Appendix 9.4A)

### Purpose

To report on the current glass collection service and provide justification for a proposal to change the kerbside glass collection frequency.

### Summary

- The current glass kerbside collection frequency is once every four weeks.
- The kerbside glass collection service is only utilised by approximately 18% of serviced households on average each collection cycle.
- In the 2024-25 financial year the average weight of glass bins collected was 11.87 kg of the 50 kg a 120 L glass bin can potentially hold.
- The amount of glass collected has reduced by 22% from 2023-24 financial year to 2024-25 financial year. This is largely attributed to the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in November 2023.
- It is proposed that the glass collection frequency be reduced to once every eight weeks, with the option of an additional 120 L glass bin for heavy users, provided at no extra charge.

### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Conduct community engagement for a four-week period to ascertain the community's views on the following change to the kerbside collection service:
  - Reduce the kerbside glass collection frequency to once every eight weeks.
  - Provide the option of an additional 120 L glass bin to households, upon request, and provided at no extra charge.
2. Receive a further report on the outcomes of the engagement before making a decision on this proposed change of service frequency.

## REPORT

### Background

Council introduced the 4-bin waste service in April 2023 ahead of State Government Circular Economy legislation requiring all Councils to introduce a food and garden organic (FOGO) collection and glass collection service.

Since its introduction, Council has been collecting glass bins once every 4 weeks for up to 8017 urban households.

The glass collection service has never been fully utilised by residential households with an average presentation rate of 24% in the 2023-24 financial year. The introduction of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has caused a decline in the use of the residential glass collection service with the average presentation rate of 18% in the 2024-25 financial year.

### Discussion

Council has made a commitment to the community to collect glass bins every four weeks.

In order to meet this commitment Council's waste collection team are required to drive past every property that requires collection, however not every resident places their bin out for collection, with only 18% of properties on average having their bins presented. In some instances only one bin has been presented in smaller townships such as Jung.

The total potential collections based on the number of services is 96,204 per year. If each bin was full every month, then our trucks have the capacity to collect around 4800 tonnes per year, yet in 2024-25 only some 215 tonnes of material was collected, being around 4% of the capacity. The average weight per bin collected was 11.87 kg.

The reduced use of the glass service could be for a number of reasons including:

- Diverting recoverable glass waste to CDS
- Very little glass waste is being generated
- Glass waste is being disposed of in commingled recycling or general waste

It is anticipated that in the near future the CDS will include wine bottles in the list of eligible glass waste that can be disposed of through that scheme, which is anticipated to further reduce the amount of glass waste being disposed of through residential glass collection.

As a result of the low volumes of waste and presentation rates, it has been determined that a glass collection every eight weeks would be able to accommodate the amount of glass being presented for collection.

An 8-weekly collection for the 8017 urban households with a glass collection service would result in a total number of potential lifts of 48,102 per year and total waste collection potential of 2,405 tonnes, easily meeting the need of the 215 tonnes actually collected in 2024-25 financial year.

This would halve the cost of glass collection to an estimated \$32,529 per year and would potentially raise the presentation rate to up to 37% while still ensuring that all households are able to access a regular collection for their glass waste.

It is understood that not all households are the same and there may be those who are considered heavy users, filling their 120 L bin each month. For those households, the option of an additional 120 L purple lid bin could be provided, on application, at no extra charge.

Council also continues to provide glass drop off points across the municipality in the following locations:

- Brimpaen
- Clear Lake
- Dadswells Bridge
- Laharum
- Natimuk
- Pimpinio

Glass can also be taken to any of Council's transfer stations for recycling.

Changes to the glass collection frequency is one part of an overall review of Council's Waste services which also includes:

- Developing a master plan for the Dooen Landfill
- Investigating the reopening the Hard Waste Cell at Dooen Landfill – Ladlow's Site
- Redesign of the Horsham Transfer Station
- Operation of rural transfer stations
- Waste collection routes aiming to reduce the number of trucks required to perform this task
- Council's waste education program

Reports on these areas will be brought to Council over the next 12-18 months.

It is anticipated that changes to the glass collection frequency will primarily ease operational burden on the waste collection team and will also have an impact on the current waste collection routes, which will also be reviewed as part of the broader waste review.

### **Options to Consider**

Options Available to Council include:

1. Adopt a glass waste collection frequency every eight weeks and provide the option of an additional 120 L purple lid glass bin, at no extra charge, to those who request it.
2. Continue to maintain a glass waste collection frequency every four weeks with only one 120 L purple lid glass bin per urban property.

### **Sustainability Implications**

Halving the frequency of glass collection would reduce the amount of diesel fuel used by the waste collection trucks, noting that each litre of diesel used releases approximately 2.7 kg of carbon dioxide. As a result, this would reduce approximately 8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year and reduce the fuel costs.

Additionally, reducing the frequency of glass collection creates an opportunity for the waste collection team to further analyse all garbage collection routes and identify other areas of efficiency, and potentially the need for relying on other operations staff to assist in the delivery of these services.

### **Community Engagement**

It is proposed to conduct a survey of all residents receiving an urban glass collection service to ascertain community sentiment on the proposed change in frequency. The survey will also seek to explore if there are any differences in use of the glass service between urban Horsham compared to the rural townships.

Feedback and suggestions will be considered prior to presenting the final report to Council.

It is anticipated that this survey will be conducted over a 4 week period in November 2025.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Changes to the frequency of glass collection, based on collection data, will allow Council to continue to deliver this service to the community but in a more efficient manner with savings in the cost, time and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The option for heavy use households to request an additional bin will ensure that the service is balanced for the needs of all households.

### **Collaboration**

Not applicable.

### **Financial Implications**

The direct cost for Council to provide this collection service which includes staff time, plant costs and fuel is approximately \$65,059 per year. The proposed change will approximately halve that cost.

Resourcing the waste collection function requires consideration of periods of staff leave, illness or other operational demands and at times requires the use of staff from other Operations areas to ensure that waste collection routes are completed. This proposed change in collection frequency will assist in avoiding the need to add resources to the Waste Team to meet operational requirements. This will also be reliant on the outcomes of some of the other review areas proposed above.

Council currently has an ample supply of purple lid glass bins that can be used for additional bins when requested by residents.

If adopted, Council's formal fees and charges will be revised in relation to the charge for an extra glass bin.

### **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Household waste and recycling services are regulated by Recycling Victoria, through regulations under the [Circular Economy \(Waste Reduction and Recycling\) Act 2021](#) (the CE Act).

The CE Act requires Councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria to provide the 4-stream waste services to households, while the [Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Policy](#) is a 10-year policy and action plan to improve waste and recycling in Victoria.

As part of this policy, all Victorian households must transition to a four-waste stream system to support the circular economy by 2027, which consists of general rubbish, mixed recycling, food and garden organics and glass recycling.

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

Council's Kerbside Waste Collection Policy outlines what Council aims to achieve with the kerbside collection of waste. Council's Solid Waste Code defines how Council will provide kerbside collection services for waste and recycling, to meet the principles of Council's Kerbside Waste Collection Policy.

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A change in collection frequency will require the update of Councils Solid Waste Code to reflect the change in service provision and to provide for the option of additional glass bins when requested.

**Risk Implications**

The community consultation process is intended to identify issues that the community may have in relation to this proposed change.

**Conclusion**

Glass collection data indicates that the glass collection service is being underutilised by urban households and that the current frequency exceeds the requirements to collect this glass resource.

Collection of glass bins every eight weeks will provide a cost saving to Council's waste collection unit while still meeting the needs of the community.

## 9.5 SPORT AND RECREATION GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Acting Director:</b>	Mandi Stewart
<b>Directorate:</b>	Communities and Place
<b>File Number:</b>	F20/A01/000002

### Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes  No

### Reason:

### Status

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

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

## Appendix

- Summary of LSIF & CFNP Guidelines and Funding Streams ([Appendix 9.5A](#))
- 2025-26 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Guidelines ([Appendix 9.5B](#))
- 2026-27 Country Football and Netball Program ([Appendix 9.5C](#))

## Purpose

To provide information on two key Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) funding programs, (for 25-26 FY) that support the development of community sporting facilities and to provide recommendations for development of funding applications for the current rounds.

## Summary

SRV have two annual funding rounds only available to Local Government for upgrades of community sports facilities. The following two programs are currently available for application:

### 1. Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2025-2026 (LSIF).

Applications close on **2 December 2025**

LSIF is a competitive state-wide Victorian Government investment program that funds the planning and development of high-quality, accessible community sport and active recreation infrastructure. The LSIF Guidelines ([Appendix 9.5B](#)) outline eligibility requirements, funding ratios, assessment criteria and application requirements.

### 2. Country Football and Netball Program 2026-27 (CFNP).

Applications close **26 February 2026**

CFNP is a competitive program for rural and regional Victoria for the improvement of facilities for football and netball clubs and umpiring organisations. The CFNP Guidelines ([Appendix 9.5C](#)) outline eligibility requirements, funding ratios, assessment criteria and application requirements.

Both funding rounds are highly competitive, with extensive supporting documentation required for a successful application. Council officers have reviewed projects listed in the Project Pipeline, Council's Long Term Financial Plan and the Funding Guidelines to provide recommendations for application.

Successful projects under both programs will commence construction from 1 July 2026 and Council's co-funding contribution will be required in the 2026/2027 capital works budget. Co-funding must be confirmed by Council resolution at the time of lodging the grant application.

**Recommendation**

That Council approve:

- A. The funding application for the Haven Tennis Courts Lighting project under the Local Sport Infrastructure Fund LED Lighting Stream and allocate the required co-funding of approximately \$200,000 in the 2026/2027 budget.
- B. The funding application for the Horsham Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Planning Stream and allocate the required co-funding of \$40,000 in the 2026/2027 budget.
- C. The funding application for the Camerons Oval Lighting Project under the Sport and Recreation Victoria Country Football Netball Program and allocate co-funding of \$200,000, in the 2026/2027 budget.
- D. Outside of the Sport and Recreation Victoria funding rounds, a project charter will be developed through Council's 2026/2027 budget cycle to seek internal funding to complete a facility plan for the community facility at Cameron Oval, Laharum.

## REPORT

### Background

The LSIF and CFNP programs are the key Victorian Government funding programs available to rural and regional councils to leverage investment in facility development. Only local government can apply for grants. Local community groups can identify and work with Council to develop projects, but they must be auspiced by Council in any application process. The development of each application involves a number of Council officers, together with input from local sporting clubs. Each application involves at least 50- 60 hours of officer time in terms of resourcing.

Refer to **Appendix 9.5A- Summary of LSIF & CFNP Guidelines and Funding Streams**

### Discussion

There are three key factors essential for a successful application under both LSIF and CFNP:

1. The project is “shovel ready” and can commence on confirmation of funding
2. All mandatory documentation required to support the application is available prior to lodgement of the application
3. A Council resolution committing future capital works co-funding in the 2026/2027 to undertake the project if the grant application is successful.

These three factors have informed the following proposed projects for Council support and resolution

### **RECOMMENDED PROJECTS for LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (LSIF)**

#### *Community Sports Lighting Steam*

##### A. Haven Tennis Courts Lighting project

The lighting of 12 courts at Haven has been planned and costed as part of the recent Multi Sport precinct planning process and is an essential part of the plan for a Regional Tennis Facility at Haven. All mandatory documentation can be provided to support this application. Whilst Horsham has a high provision of tennis courts there are currently only 2 public access lit tennis courts (Central Park). This project would allow for time-shifting of competition (avoiding the hottest parts of the day), increased casual use, particularly across the winter months, and allow for extended and new tennis competitions on a year-round basis.

A project to provide lighting (LED) to training standards on all 12 courts at Haven is not fully scoped and would require investment of officer resources and budget in 2025/2026 to develop mandatory project documentation including a site-specific lighting plan and detailed cost estimate. This documentation would need to be prepared prior to lodgement in December 2025. These immediate funds would be approximately \$12K.

The maximum grant available is \$250,000. The total project cost is estimated to be around \$450,000. A council co-contribution of approximately \$200,000 would be required. This co-contribution will be confirmed when the site-specific lighting plan and detailed cost estimate are available. The co-contribution to be included in the 2026/2027 Capital Works budget.

#### *Planning Steam*

Council can only receive a maximum grant of \$40,000 for this funding stream, so can only apply for one planning project.

##### B. Feasibility of the current Horsham Aquatic Centre Masterplan

The current masterplan was developed in 2017 and included staged redevelopment of key facilities. Several upgrades, including access to the outdoor 50-meter pool, outdoor function area, parent change rooms and improved accessibility have been completed. The high participation rates at this regional level

facility highlight its importance to our community and wider region. The current plan is out of date and requires additional feasibility against the proposed future developments. This also relates to the introduction of new technologies and costings.

An updated feasibility study of this regional asset is required to ensure any further investment in the Aquatic Centre are staged, prioritised and planned to 'shovel ready' stage in line with community need, maximum participation and benefit.

The maximum grant available is \$40,000. Total project budget \$80,000

A council co-contribution of approximately \$40,000 will be required. This co-contribution will be included in the 2026/2027 budget

*Further note:*

*It is recognised that an updated Facility Plan for Camerons Oval Laharum is required and was last completed in 2009. This included plans for new change rooms (completed) and a new pavilion. The Laharum community have prioritised a lighting upgrade at the oval (refer below) and an improved community facility. An updated Facility Plan with prioritised, well-scope projects approved by Council is required before future investment in a community facility at Camerons Oval. It is recommended that outside of the SRV funding rounds, a project charter be developed through Council's 2026/2027 budget cycle to seek internal funding to complete a facility plan for the community facility at Cameron Oval, Laharum. This is included as recommendation D.*

### **RECOMMENDED PROJECT for COUNTRY FOOTBALL AND NETBALL PROGRAM (CFNP)**

There are currently no shovel ready projects for this funding round which closes in February 2026.

Given the fact that the application is not due until Feb 2026, an opportunity exists to develop plans for a competitive application.

**C. Laharum Oval Lighting Upgrade**

A project to increase lighting (LED) to training standards is not currently scoped and will require investment of officer resources and budget in 2025/2026 to develop mandatory project documentation including a site-specific lighting plan and detailed cost estimate. This documentation will need to be prepared prior to lodgement in February 2026. These immediate funds required will be approximately \$10K.

Laharum Sports Inc. have indicated that this is their highest priority project.

The maximum grant available is \$250,000. The estimated total cost is \$450,000

A council co-contribution of approximately \$200,000 will be required. This co-contribution will be included in the 2026/2027 Capital budget. This co-contribution will be confirmed when the site-specific lighting plan and detailed cost estimate are available.

### **Options to Consider**

Council can choose to proceed with applications to the LSIF and CFNP funding programs as recommended in this report and allocate future budget provision in 2026/2027 to allow this to happen. Details of approximate co-funding requirements are summarised in Financial Implications below, noting that final budgets are still to be prepared for all projects.

Council can choose to proceed with specific nominated project applications or alternatively choose not to proceed with any, noting however, that this is an annual funding opportunity from the State Government to improve sporting facilities across the municipality.

There will be no other state government programs for sporting facilities available for 12 months.

### **Sustainability Implications**

All infrastructure projects have sustainability aspects as this is a planning consideration for all Council projects. The LED lighting projects has strong sustainability and efficiency benefits.

### **Community Engagement**

The Haven lighting project has had extensive community engagement as part of the recently completed planning project for Haven Recreation Reserve. No further engagement is required for this project

The Feasibility Study for the Horsham Aquatic Centre will require additional community engagement as part of the development of the Feasibility Study of the existing Plan for the Aquatic Centre.

Council officers have had ongoing meetings with Laharum Sports Inc that have included discussions around priority projects and in particular the lighting at the oval. These meetings will be formalised moving forward through the development of the funding application.

Council officers have also discussion projects and options with SRV, to ensure alignment to funding guidelines.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

N/A

### **Collaboration**

The development of this report and recommendations for Council have involved a cross-functional collaboration of Council Officer from the Recreation and Open Space team, the Facilities Management team, the Project Office and the Grants Officer.

### **Financial Implications**

The submission of applications to the LSIF and CFNP requires an upfront financial commitment to the projects at application stage. A Council resolution confirming future Council funding is a mandatory document required for each application.

Each of the potential projects detailed above will require a co-contribution from Council to be included in the 2026/2027 budget. The table below provides a summary of these commitments, noting that these are conservative estimates at this stage, and the final budget requirement may vary slightly.

Project	Funding Stream	Grant	Council	Total Project Cost
A. Haven Tennis Courts Lighting	LSIF Lighting	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$450,000
B. Horsham Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study	LSIF Planning	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000
C. Camerons Oval Lighting Upgrade	CFNP	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$450,000
D. Cameron Oval Facility Plan	HRCC funded	N/A	\$80,000	\$80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$540,000</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>	<b>\$1,060,000</b>

If all recommended projects are applied for, the total application co-funding commitment for Projects A, B and C, at the time of making the applications will be approximately \$440,000.

These commitments will need to be provided for in the 2026-27 budget, which is currently under development.

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Active Victoria 2022-2026

Fair Access Policy Roadmap

Get Active Victoria - Lighting Facilities for Active Recreation

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

Council Plan 2021-2025

Strategy – Quality opportunities and facilities that meet the health and wellbeing needs and interests of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

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

**Risk Implications**

Council approval of applications requires a financial commitment and there is significant reputational risk of withdrawing financial commitment once a project has been assessed and approved for government funding.

Funding rounds through SRV are updated annually, are highly competitive are the only state-based funding for recreational asset improvements.

Failing to make submissions places a greater burden on Council 's limited rates base to fund and pay for future improvements.

**Conclusion**

Sport and Recreation Victoria provide two annual funding rounds for local government across the state. The Local Sports Infrastructure Fund will close on 2 December 2025.

The Country Football Netball Program will close on 26 February 2026.

This report recommends projects for application for Council approval with the aim of improving community sports facilities in response to needs and leveraging Council investment to maximise benefits.

## 9.6 WARRACKNABEAL ENERGY PARK ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT SUBMISSION

Director:	Mandi Stewart
Directorate:	Communities and Place
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

Warracknabeal Energy Park EES Submission (**Appendix 9.6A**)

### Purpose

To endorse the submission made to the Warracknabeal Energy Park Environment Effect Statement (EES) Inquiry.

### Summary

The Minister for Planning has appointed an Inquiry to advise on the environmental effects of the proposed Warracknabeal Energy Park Project.

Warracknabeal Energy Park Pty Ltd is proposing the development of a wind energy generation facility (219 Wind Turbines) approximately fifty-eight kilometres north of Horsham and five kilometres west of Warracknabeal, Victoria.

This proposed project will be the largest Wind Facility in Australia and together with other renewable energy, mining and major projects in the region will have significant impacts on the municipality including:

- Worker Accommodation
- Employment
- Roads

A submission has been made to the EES Inquiry and the issues raised will be considered by a four-person panel appointed by the Minister.

<https://www.planningpanels.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/projects/warracknabeal-energy-park-inquiry>

### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the submission made to the Warracknabeal Energy Park EES Inquiry (**Appendix 9.6A**) in accordance with the Environment Effects Act 1978.

## **REPORT**

### **Background**

Warracknabeal Energy Park Pty Ltd is proposing the development of a wind energy generation facility (219 Wind Turbines) approximately fifty-eight kilometres north of Horsham and five kilometres west of Warracknabeal.

The Victorian Transmission Plan (August 2025) has identified the Western Renewable Zone over substantial portions of the Yarriambiack Shire within which the Warracknabeal Energy Park is proposed. In addition, Horsham has a number of developed and planned renewable energy facilities including the:

Murra Warra Wind Farm and Battery Storage.  
SEC Renewable Energy Park  
Wimmera Plains Energy Facility

Several other Renewable Energy facilities are also proposed in the region including Campbells Bridge Wind Farm, Watta Wella Windfarm, Wilkur Wind Farm and Curyo Wind Farm.

In addition to these energy projects, the Victorian Critical Minerals Roadmap (published in December 2024) identifies Horsham Rural City as an area of interest for mineral sands mining with three mineral sand mines in the region under development, with the Donald Mineral Sands Project workplan approved, and construction commencing on the project.

Horsham's location in the heart of the Wimmera and its role as a regional city plays a key role in servicing and accommodating major projects in the region and the cumulative impact of these projects will present challenges for the municipality.

### **Discussion**

The proposed Warracknabeal Energy Park will be the largest Wind Facility in Australia and together with other renewable energy, mining and major projects will have significant impacts on the region and municipality including:

- Worker Accommodation
- Employment
- Roads

#### **Worker Accommodation**

HRCC's Draft Housing Strategy has identified the existing challenges within the municipality relating to social and affordable housing, housing diversity and Worker Accommodation and the impacts of short to medium term of large-scale construction projects will have a detrimental impact on housing availability.

#### **Employment**

The region's tight labour market has created substantial workforce shortages and a small pool of available workers. There is substantial risk that the growth potential across all industries in the region will fail to be realised if significant workforce shortages are not addressed and demand for new housing cannot be met.

#### **Roads**

The proposed over-dimensional transport route (excluding wind blades) from the port of Portland to the construction site passes through the length of HRCC and proposes to use some Council roads (rather than arterial roads) to transport certain items.

These key issues should be addressed as part of the EES Inquiry and are included in the Warracknabeal Energy Park EES submission.

**Options to Consider**

1. Endorse the submission.
2. Do not endorse the submission and request it be withdrawn from the EES Inquiry

Option 1 is recommended as it provides advocacy for Horsham Rural City Council on the potential impacts of the Warracknabeal Energy Park.

**Sustainability Implications**

The submission advocates for social and economic sustainability associated with impacts of major projects.

**Community Engagement**

The EES Inquiry is a public process and Horsham Rural City is making a submission as part of this engagement. The public have been able to make individual submissions directly to the EES process and over ninety submissions have been received.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

N/A

**Collaboration**

The preparation of the submission has been undertaken internally with Council Staff, Councillors, and neighbouring councils.

**Financial Implications**

The financial implications have been confined to engagement of consultants to prepare the submission and officers time to present to the EES Inquiry.

**Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The Warracknabeal Energy Park is primarily being processed under the Environmental Effects Act 1978 and an extensive range of polices and legislation will be considered.

**Council Plans, Strategies and Policies****2021-2025 Council Plan**

Theme 1 – Sustainability - A sustainable community is driven by strong economic growth in a healthy and safe, natural environment.

Theme 5 – Leadership - Horsham Rural City Council, will build trust and connections with the community through good governance, community consultation, accountability, transparent decision making and financial stability.

**Risk Implications**

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Council bears a reputational risk on all advocacy matters from the community, ratepayers, investors, developers, state, and federal government, etc and submission will be independently considered and the EES Inquiry panel members.

**Conclusion**

This proposed project will be the largest Wind Facility in Australia and together with other renewable energy, mining and major projects in the region will have significant impacts on the municipality.

A submission has been made to the EES Inquiry, raising the key issues of Worker Accommodation, Employment and Roads. Councils' endorsement of the submission will allow for the Warracknabeal EES Inquiry to appropriately consider these issues.

## 9.7 3 BOWEN STREET HORSHAM: ROAD DISCONTINUANCE

Director:	John Martin
Directorate:	Infrastructure
File Number:	F02/A01/000001

### Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

### Status

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

Yes  No

**Reason:** Nil

### Appendix

21H0282\_Gazettal plan: Site Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**)

### Purpose

To seek Council approval to commence the statutory consultation process for the proposed discontinuance of a road reserve, in accordance with Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004.

### Summary

- An adjoining landowner has requested discontinuance of a short road reserve which presently functions as a private driveway.
- Discontinuance would allow the land to be repurposed to service potential future development to the rear of the site.
- Before a decision can be made, consultation is required in accordance with Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004, including public notice and notification to relevant infrastructure managers.
- This report seeks Council's authorisation to commence that process.

### Recommendation

That Council approve the commencement of the statutory process to consider the discontinuance of the subject road reserve at 3 Bowen St Horsham in accordance with Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004, including:

- a. Giving public notice of its intention to discontinue the road and inviting written submissions within 28 days, with submitters to be offered the opportunity to be heard by Council in support of their submissions.
- b. Notifying relevant infrastructure managers, including GWMWater, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), and other affected utility providers, of the proposed discontinuance.

## REPORT

### Background

The diagram below shows, both on a plan of property and boundaries, and then with an aerial image, the section of road reserve, highlighted in red.



The subject parcel is recorded as a road reserve on Council's records but currently operates as a private driveway. It does not appear on Council's Road Register. The reserve only provides access to the property at 3 Bowen St, and, on inspection, is indistinguishable from a private driveway. There is no current or practical access to other properties via this section of reserve.

The adjoining landowner has requested discontinuance to enable potential future development at the rear of the site. Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004 prescribes the process by which a coordinating road authority may discontinue a road.

### Discussion

The section of road reserve has not been identified for any other use, and given the layout of other titles in the area, it is not readily conceivable that the reserve could be required in the future for any public use. For these reasons, it is considered appropriate to support the discontinuance of this segment of road reserve.

Prior to any decision to discontinue, Council must conduct consultation in accordance with the process outlined in the Act. This includes publishing a public notice, inviting submissions for not less than 28 days, and notifying known infrastructure managers where assets exist in, on, under or over the road.

Council officers are aware that a sewer main traverses part of the reserve, therefore GWMWater must be notified. DEECA should also be notified, along with other relevant utilities (electricity, gas, telecommunications) and any adjoining and potentially affected landowners.

Following the submission period, Council must consider all submissions and, for those requesting to be heard, fix a time and place for a meeting for this purpose.

A subsequent report will be provided to Council summarising feedback and presenting options to proceed or not proceed with discontinuance.

### Options to Consider

1. Proceed with statutory consultation for the proposed road discontinuance (recommended).

- 
2. Do not proceed with consultation, maintaining the current road reserve status. This is not recommended as no future use of this road reserve for public use is anticipated.

### **Sustainability Implications**

No native vegetation removal is proposed as part of this process. Any future changes to land use following a decision on discontinuance would be assessed separately under relevant planning and environmental frameworks.

### **Community Engagement**

Public consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004. Council will publish a notice and invite written submissions for a period of 28 days. Submitters may request to be heard in support of their submission.

### **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not applicable.

### **Collaboration**

Council officers will liaise with GWMWater, DEECA, and other relevant utility providers and stakeholders during the consultation process.

### **Financial Implications**

Any external costs, i.e. other than the limited staff time associated with this request are proposed to be borne by the requesting landowner.

### **Regional, State, and National Plans and Policies**

Not applicable to the decision to commence consultation. Any subsequent land actions will be addressed against relevant policies as required.

### **Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**

The proposed approach aligns with good governance by following the statutory process set out in the Road Management Act 2004.

### **Risk Implications**

Commencing consultation presents low risk, provided statutory requirements are met. Adherence to the process under Section 12 will mitigate legal and procedural risks.

### **Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council commence the statutory consultation process to consider discontinuance of the subject road reserve in accordance with Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004.

## 10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Cr Ian Ross, Mayor

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
10/10/2025	Godspell musical
10/10/2025	Christian Emergency Food Centre AGM
13/10/2025	Meeting with CEO

### Cr Brian Klowss, Acting Mayor

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
13/10/2025	Aboriginal Community Round Table
Other Council Activities	
22/9/2025	Meeting with CEO
23/9/2025	Defying the Drift Dinner – Longerenong College
6/10/2025	Meeting with CEO
7 - 9/10/2025	Regions Rising National Summit, Canberra
10/10/2025	Victoria Police Awards Presentation Ceremony
10/10/2025	WHAC Advocacy meeting
13/10/2025	Meeting with CEO
14/10/2025	Dr Anne Webster, MP, Member for Mallee
16/10/2025	RCV General Meeting #5
20/10/2025	Meeting with CEO
20/10/2025	Working Group Meeting: Dyurrite – Agriculture Victoria
23/10/2025	Rural Councils Victoria AGM
24/10/2025	BGLC/Local Government Forum 2

### Cr Dean O'Loughlin

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
24/9/2025	Wimmera Whippets Presentation night – opening acknowledgment
29/9/2025	Council Briefing Meeting
4/10/2025	Arapiles Cycling Event – opening ceremony
6/10/2025	Council Briefing Meeting

10/10/2025	Godspell musical
13/10/2025	Council Briefing Meeting
20/10/2025	Council Briefing Meeting
27/10/2025	Council Meeting

**Cr Cam McDonald**

<b>Committee Representation</b>	
Date	Description
	Nil
<b>Other Council Activities</b>	
1/9/2025	Mining Renewables and Energy working group meeting with SEC Council Briefing
2/9/2025	Iluka Mine tour with Ian Ross @ Balmoral/Kanagulk Meeting with Resources Victoria CEO Matt Vincent at Balmoral Cafe
3/9/2025	Council Meeting
8/9/2025	Council Briefing
9/9/2025	NT Indigenous Training @ Chambers
12/9/2025	Council urban tour 8.30am -4.30pm
15/9/2025	Council Briefing
16/9/2025	CEO ERC meeting, Chambers
18/9/2025	Councillor Training Chambers
20/9/2025	Councillor Training all day with Darren Ray, Chambers
22/9/2025	Rupanyup Renewables conference with Anne Webster and Senator Susan McDonald Council Meeting
29/9/2025	Council Briefing

**Cr Angie Munn**

<b>Committee Representation</b>	
Date	Description
18/9/2025	Audit and Risk Committee Meetings
1/10/2025	Natimuk Committee Meeting
<b>Other Council Activities</b>	
29/8/2025	Bush summit, Ballarat
1/9/2025	Council Briefing
2/9/2025	Environmental Tour – Ian Ross
2/9/2025	HRCC & Resources Victoria. Meeting @ Balmoral
3/9/2025	Horsham District Hospital Ladies Auxiliary Centenary Celebration
4/9/2025	Unscheduled Council Meeting
4/9/2025	Council Briefing Meeting
8/9/2025	Council Briefing

9/9/2025	Meeting/Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster
9/9/2025	Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage Training
12/9/2025	EMT and Councillor Urban Tour
15/9/2025	Councillor Briefing
16/9/2025	CEO ERC meeting
17/9/2025	Citizenship Ceremony
20/9/2025	Councillor Training Workshop
22/9/2025	Council meeting
29/9/2025	National Police Remembrance Day Service 2025
29/9/2025	Council Briefing
5/10/2025	Management Planning Session Dadswells Bridge
6/10/2025	Council Briefing
10/10/2025	Victoria Police Awards Presentation Ceremony 2025
10/10/2025	WHAC Advocacy Meeting
13/10/2025	Council Briefing
20/10/2025	Breast Cancer – Mini Field of Women
20/10/2025	Council Briefing

**Cr Bec Sluggett**

<b>Committee Representation</b>	
Date	Description
10/10/2025	<p>MAV State Council</p> <p>Horsham's motion regarding the Western Highway duplication was supported and carried without objection.</p> <p>Other motions or activity of note.</p> <p>I spoke for Motion 17. Reintroduction of Independent Assessment for Renewable Energy Projects. – This motion asking for better consultation, more careful planning and looking at what was the best strategic land use was carried.</p> <p>I Moved Consolidated Motion 7, Consolidated State Council Motion on the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund calling on State Government to review and reform the ESVF.</p> <p>I successfully asked for an amendment to Motion 44: Wildlife Road Strike, to remove point 4 that would have called on the Victorian Government to Legislate clear accountability for land and road managers to prevent and manage incidents of wildlife road strike. Based on the expense for councils as the local road managers and the lack of controls available to both landowners and council as a road manager that is cost effective.</p>

	<p>I argued against Motion 11.3 -Supporting Councillors exposed to bullying and harassment as it was a motion that was amended in a way that would use a lot of MAV resources, potentially at the expense of the rate-payer for the benefit of Councillors. I also felt uncomfortable on councillors receiving financial support in legal matters without well developed parameters.</p> <p>All delegates supported motions calling on the Victorian Government to increase resourcing to support health and social support agencies, investment in preventive and public health and improving mental health response programs.</p> <p>Motion 38: Enabling Equitable Access to Disability Services Through “Getting Started Disability Australia” was supported unanimously.</p> <p>Motion 51 called upon the Victorian Government to review and reduce Workcover premiums which have significantly increased across Victorian was carried.</p> <p>Consolidated Motions 10 and 55 – Drought Support and Realities and Farmer Sovereignty Over Their Land were both very well supported which was excellent to see seeing as many of the delegates are metro based.</p>
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**Other Council Activities**

18/9/2025	Councillor Mandated Training with Georgie Ward from Macquarie Local Government Lawyers. Addressing issues such as conflict of interest and good Governance from a legal perspective.
20/9/2025 Full Day	Councillor Training Workshop with Darrin Ray.  Building further on the workshop we did with Darrin at the start of our term Councillors reviewed the start of our term and discussed how we felt we were tracking as a team. We reflected on our ways of working charter, what we thought had worked well, and what we thought could be improved to ensure that we are becoming a stronger team moving forward.
22/9/2025	Council Meeting
29/9/2025	Council Briefing
6/10/2025	Council Briefing
9/10/2025	MAV Annual Conference: The Future is Local Park (Park Hyatt Melbourne)  The conference started with Andrew Colvin AO APM – CEO of Australian Red Cross who spoke of his career as a police officer and his time as the CEO of the Australian Red Cross. He reflected that things work well in a crisis because no one cares who gets the credit, we all just want to help and get things done. That he sometimes wishes we were always in crisis because things just work out better when it works like that. He observed that crisis exposes the communities that mask fragility. That the stronger and more connected communities are, the better they will recover from disasters. Connected and stronger communities are more resilient. He also noted that in his experience areas with community halls were always more connected and resilient and therefore are to recover better from a crisis.

	<p>He encouraged those present to remember: Rank is not important, influence is. Authenticity is paramount. People need to be at the centre of decision making and rules aren't everything.</p> <p>His parting words were to "Make a difference, don't just do the job".</p> <p>Conference Attendees then broke into different workshops and information sessions throughout the day. For the first session Ms Gatt attended the Housing Innovation Summit, Spotlight on how Councils are stepping up to support the development of new well-located homes. In this session they presented case studies that were a range of different housing projects where Council's had tried different approaches to develop land for community benefit. Murrindindi had sold Council land to fund key worker accommodation projects, Moyne own a number of caravan parks and ran a project to build a number of cabins that could be used for rental accommodation for workers from windfarm projects and then later for tourists and Surf Coast Shire are leasing land to Housing Choices Australia, on a peppercorn lease - for an affordable housing project and have similar projects on the go in Anglesea and Lorne. Affordable housing is crucial for communities to thrive and survive and these projects are a good reminder that Council's have to think differently about how they might be able to help in a housing crisis.</p> <p>I attended the session on Treaty and Local Government: Building Understanding and Readiness. Facilitated by Uncle Charels Pakana, Jidah Clark and Aunty Tracey Evens this session gave a brief overview of the Traditional Owner and Statewide treaty for all First Peoples on statewide matters that was to be debated on parliament the following week. Giving an overview of the background work that has been done by so many people for treaty to happen and who was involved, the session reiterated that any new Treaty laws will not impinge on current traditional owner treaties. Local Government groups were encouraged to reach out and ask the Treaty Authority to ensure they are equipped and informed.</p> <p>For the next few sessions, I joined Ms Gatt in the Housing Innovation Summit. Highlights included an address from Minister Shing who outlined the State Governments direction and policies on housing.</p> <p>Ms Gatt and I were able to speak briefly to the Ministers advisors about the housing challenges that Horsham and surrounds will be facing in the coming years and expressed our desire to meet with relevant persons to explore opportunities for the Wimmera for housing developments in the near future.</p> <p>Another session explored case studies of Best Practice Housing Project. Showing some developments with extremely high energy efficiencies and thermal performance, and clever use of rooftop space in greenspace provision.</p> <p>This session also showed us the Adaptive Reuse City Housing Initiative undertaken by the City of Adelaide which aims to create new homes in underused buildings in the City of Adelaide. Some examples shown included over shop flats, adapting unused commercial buildings into housing and adapting heritage listed buildings to residential.</p> <p>The final session went into this space more with three architects using a public building in three separate LGA's to design a brief of what they could do with those spaces.</p>
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	Overall, I think the day was well worth it, packed with a lot of information, ideas and resources to bring back to Horsham to consider what is relevant to us.
13/10/2025	Council Briefing
20/10/2025	Council Briefing

**11. URGENT BUSINESS**

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## 12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

## 13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

### 13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing Meeting held on 29 September and 6, 13 and 20 October 2025.

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

### 13.2 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Disability Advisory Committee meetings held on 12 June and 3 July 2025.

Refer to **Appendix 13.2A**

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings of Councillors – Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Council Committee Minutes.

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION**