

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue Horsham on 5 February, 2018 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT: Cr Pam Clarke, Mayor; Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr John Robinson, Cr David Grimble, Cr Mark Radford

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Graeme Harrison, Acting Chief Executive; Kerrie Bell, Acting Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Planning & Economic; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Services; John Martin, Director Technical Services (arrived at 5.33pm); Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant.

1. Reading of prayer and the acknowledgement of country statement

The Prayer and Acknowledge of Country Statement were read by the Chairman, Cr P Clarke.

2. Welcome to distinguished guests or persons in the public gallery

Chairman, Cr Clarke welcomed those in attendance to the Council Meeting.

The Mayor advised the gallery that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

David Bowe
Sue Alt

Robin Barber
Lauren Coman

Kath Dumesny
Heather Phillips

Cheryl Linke
Kevin Dellar

3. Apologies and request for Leave of Absence

NIL

4. Confirmation of minutes and signing thereof

Moved Cr Radford, seconded Cr Koenig that the Minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 18 December, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Sec 79, Local Government Act, 1989 (As Amended)

Cr Robinson declared a Conflict of Interest, under Section 79(2)(C) at Item No. 7.2.2 regarding the City Gardens pond. Cr Robinson's parents own a house in the City Gardens and signed the petition.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

NIL

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NIL

John Martin, Director Technical Services arrived at 5.33pm.

7.2 RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, JOINT LETTERS AND DEPUTATIONS

7.2.1 PETITION RECEIVED FROM HORSHAM RESIDENTS REQUESTING AN UPGRADE TO THE WALKING/BIKE TRACK FROM RIVERSIDE ROAD TO RIVER HEIGHTS ROAD.

File Ref: F01/A01/000001

A petition has been received from residents primarily from the River Heights / Dooen areas regarding the condition of the cycling track along Dooen Road and related issues.

Background

Details of their petition, including names and signatures of the said petition are attached to **Appendix "7.2A"**.

Refer to Director Technical Services Item No. 10.5.1 on page 30 for further report on this matter.

Chief Executive Officer's Comments

Clause F.2.1 of the Horsham Rural City Council's Local Law No.1 on Meeting Procedures reads:

A petition or joint letter presented to the Council will be tabled without discussion and received at the next appropriate Ordinary Council Meeting, unless the Council agrees by resolution to deal with it earlier.

Recommendation

That this petition be dealt with at this current Council meeting at Item No. 10.5.1 of the Director Technical Services.

Moved Cr Koenig, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Cr Robinson declared a Conflict of Interest, pursuant to Section 79 of the Local Government Act, 1989 in respect of item 7.2.2 and left the Council Chamber at 5.34pm.

7.2.2 PETITION RECEIVED FROM HORSHAM RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF THE CITY GARDENS POND.

File Ref: F01/A01/000001

A petition has been received residents of City Gardens Estate on the status of the wetland that adjoins their properties.

Background

Details of their petition, including names and signatures of the said petition are attached to **Appendix "7.2B"**.

Refer to Director Technical Services Item No. 10.5.1 on page 32 for further report on this matter.

Chief Executive Officer's Comments

Clause F.2.1 of the Horsham Rural City Council's Local Law No.1 on Meeting Procedures reads:

A petition or joint letter presented to the Council will be tabled without discussion and received at the next appropriate Ordinary Council Meeting, unless the Council agrees by resolution to deal with it earlier.

Recommendation

That this petition be dealt with at this current Council meeting at Item No. 10.5.2 of the Director Technical Services

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Cr Robinson then returned to the Council Chamber at 5.35pm after the vote was taken.

7.3 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

NIL

7.4 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

NIL

7.5 ORDERS OF THE DAY

NIL

8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Meeting of Councillors held on Monday 18 December, 2017 at 7.20pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham.

Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 29 January, 2018 at 5.30pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham.

Council Briefing Meeting held on Tuesday 30 January, 2018 at 5.30pm in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham.

Refer to **Appendix “8.1A”**.

Recommendation

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors’ – Record of Meetings.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

8.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

NIL

8.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

8.3.1 GRAEME EMONSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT VICTORIA

RE: *Bulletin 03/2018 – Local Government Bill Exposure Draft Update*

Thank you to those councils who have participated in briefings on the Local Government Bill Exposure Draft to date.

*To provide more time for submissions to the Exposure Draft Bill, the close date for submissions has now been extended to **Friday, 16 March 2018 at 5pm.***

This is an opportunity to shape the final drafting of the Bill that governs local government in Victoria. I encourage all councils, peak bodies and all other interested stakeholders to provide feedback on the Exposure Draft Bill.

There are three ways to make a submission:

1. *Online by uploading your submission to the www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au website*
2. *Emailing your submission to local.government@delwp.vic.gov.au*
3. *Posting your submission to:
Local Government Act Review Secretariat C/o Local Government Victoria, PO
Box 500, Melbourne VIC 3002*

Please note that submissions will be made available on the Your Council Your Community website following the close date.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that Item No. 8.3.1 be received.

CARRIED

8.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.4.1 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 2017 AT 10.30AM IN THE RECEPTION ROOM.

8.4.2 WESTERN HIGHWAY ACTION COMMITTEE (WHAC) HELD ON FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER, 2017 AT 10.30AM IN MEETING ROOM A, VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE, ARARAT.

8.4.3 HORSHAM TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER, 2017 AT 12.30PM IN THE MIDDLE MEETING ROOM, HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL OFFICES

8.4.4 HORSHAM REGIONAL ART GALLERY COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 2017 AT 5.15PM AT THE ART GALLERY

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Power that the Council Committee Minutes be received.

CARRIED

Refer to **Appendix "8.4A"**.

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Koenig

- Australia Day service. It was a beautiful summer morning. Congratulations to the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and OAM Award recipients.
- Wimmera Business Centre Committee of Management meeting.
- Cr Koenig attended a couple of Council Briefing meetings that all Councillors attended.
- Cr Koenig was an apology for Kanamaroo Committee meeting but mentioned that the committee needs more volunteers and committee members. A couple of members finished up this year and there is only so much volunteer hours we can do.

Cr Gulvin

- Cr Gulvin visited the Dadswells Bridge Giant Koala business. They are very happy with Council although the safety of the turning lane was raised which is a State Government issue.
- Art Gallery Committee Meeting. They have a lot of passionate people about art. They have exhibitions coming up and a position available for an educational role which would be a great role for a parent because the hours are between 9am and 3pm.
- 4 February – Went to Pet Stock and Horsham PAWS were there. Cr Gulvin adopted a cat. It was nice to see what happens when you adopt a pet. It is good to know that everything is thoroughly checked. PAWS is run by volunteers and it is a real credit for what they do.
- People are really excited about the green waste bins.
- Cr Gulvin went stand up paddle boarding on the Wimmera River. It would be great to have a café on the river.

Cr Robinson

- Cr Robinson attended a number of Council briefing meetings.
- Cr Robinson was pleased to attend the Brimpaen Australia Day ceremony with Cr Grimble. The CFA book by Dale Russell was launched at the ceremony. The publication supported by Council is 75 years of history in relation to CFA.
- Acknowledged Ivan Smith who received the Citizen of the Year award.
- Attended the Dadswells Bridge Australia Day ceremony.
- Recognised Ian Walter for lifetime of work with CFA and other organisations and societies he has been involved in, including being a great mentor.
- Acknowledge the Young Citizen of the Year, Dustin Cross and the Community event of the year, Tri State Games
- Well done to Sue Alt for receiving an OAM on Australia Day.

- Cr Robinson talked about safety upgrades for highway intersections. John Martin advised that comments about intersections have been expressed quite clearly with VicRoads.
- Hope that in the next 12 months with the appointment of a new CEO, that we look at some of the strategic issues. We need to think about the future and how to link across the river. In the past we've chased businesses away who have wanted to set up in Horsham. We have the Economic Development Plan and we need to work on this.

Cr Power

- Cr Power has been kayaking on the Wimmera River, morning and night. The river is a showpiece of Horsham but we still can't get many people to use it. The Natimuk Ski Club would like to use the river, and we have people not wanting them to use it but we don't see people using the river. There is plenty of river for people to use. We see the river being used on the Labour Day weekend for the fishing competition.
- Australia Day. It was a wonderful morning at Sawyer Park. The early morning start with the cockatoos. There were not many there in the age group between 18 and 40. How do we encourage this age group to attend? We need to do more work on this.
- Pool party at the Aquatic Centre on Australia Day. Cr Radford was part of the committee that put the event on. Approximately 200 people attended.
- Cr Power talks on 3HHH Monday mornings between 9am and 10am. Talk about domestic violence and play material about suicides. People from various organisations come and talk.

Cr Radford

- Cr Radford has been involved in the CEO recruitment process. It was encouraging to see such a wide field of applicants.
- Australia Day. The date is still a controversial issue and rightly so. It is a lovely day to get together.
- The triathlon is on this weekend and a lot of organising has been done. It will be held on the river and they will also be using the new pedestrian bridge. Cr Radford encouraged people to get involved.
- Cr Radford had a family wedding, their son got married. This was a joyous time and they are proud parents.

Cr Grimble

- Australia Day Awards. Congratulations to Sue Alt in receiving an OAM and to the citizen of the year, Ian Walter, young citizen of the year, Dustin Cross and the community event of the year the Tri State Games. Well done to everyone.
- 5 February - Met with a large group from the City Gardens area to talk about their petition.

- Received a phone call from a resident about the lack of bicycle paths on Osborne Road. This is an increasing residential area. People have to walk along the side of the road which is dangerous. We need to look at this matter and see if there are budget considerations. VicRoads may contribute to these works.
- A topical issue in the media relating to residents is the impact of Corella damage. Drones are being trialled at present. Residents are talking of the damage to rural properties by corellas. We should have a conversation with neighbouring councils and then take up the matter with DELWP. See if we can formulate something and also talk to Minister Jaala Pulford. Recreational facilities have also had significant damage done. We need to find a solution collectively.

Cr Clarke, Mayor

- 15 January – Announcement of upgrade of the Western Highway from Ararat to the South Australian border by Minister Donnellan in Stawell.
- 27 January – Sailplane Grand Prix. The Horsham Flying Club did an amazing job hosting a round of the 9th FAI Sailplane Grand Prix at the Horsham Aerodrome with 14 of Australia's top gliders taking part. It was a very successful outcome for everyone.
- Children's Hub induction day next Tuesday. There will be quite a few staff working at the hub.
- Met with Brian and Pam Hedt to discuss their concerns about the wetlands at the City Gardens.
- Cr Clarke attended the Australia Day ceremony in Horsham and Natimuk. These ceremonies are a real celebration of what makes us Australian. The Citizen of the Year, Ian Walter had an absolutely amazing CV. Cr Clarke feels very fortunate to have the job of contacting people to say they have won the Australia Day Award. Ian was quite shocked. Dustin Cross is going to be an interesting person to watch into the future. Hundreds of people supported the Tri State Games.
- Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting today. The group had a brief discussion about Australia Day. Their opinion of Australia Day is varied amongst the aboriginal community.
- Had a discussion with a young person today about what he thought should happen at the old skate park.
- Cr Clarke congratulated Sue Alt on receiving an OAM on Australia Day which she received for her work with the Country Fire Authority, helping to establish the WestVic Helicopter Rescue Service at Warrnambool and helping bring the Koori Court to Victoria. The Mayor presented Sue Alt with a bouquet of flowers.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Radford that the Councillors' Reports be received.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Grimble, seconded Cr Gulvin that the Acting CEO contact our neighbouring Councils to address the matter of corellas damage in the region.

CARRIED

10. OFFICERS REPORTS

10.1 ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

10.1.1 PLANNING AND BUDGETING FRAMEWORK

G Harrison

File Ref: F14/A03/000001

Purpose

To present to Council the Draft Planning & Budgeting Framework.

Background

Council has previously not had a formal framework for its strategic planning and budgeting processes. There have been some individual documents but none that have brought together the various tasks to document the integrated yearly planning and budgeting cycle.

The purpose of the framework is to provide a structured and consistent approach to Council's strategic planning and budgeting processes that produces meaningful documents that represent both the aspirations of the community and the intentions of Council, including:

- clear linkages between plans, strategies and other documents
- common language and definitions to be used
- defined annual cycle, in relation to the budget and planning processes.

Issues

The Planning and Budgeting Framework (**Attachment "10.1A"**) has been put together to present a complete framework that reflects the Councils Planning and Budgeting cycle in any given year.

The framework largely documents the processes that council undertakes but does include some changes:

- A longer term financial plan out to 10 years has been included. This is considered current best practise but also aligns with likely changes with the introduction of the new Local Government Act later in 2018.
- The Service Overview document is included as the link between business unit plans and councils other strategic planning documents.
- An annual review of all Council's strategies, risks and plans has been incorporated into the framework – this has previously only been done on an ad-hoc basis.
- Section 5.8 of the framework defines the budget development processes and replaces the former Budget Preparation Policy.

- Section 5.8.2.6 Prior Years Cash Surpluses proposes a change to our current practises of considering projects to be funded from the cash surplus once it has been finalised during a year. This section proposes that it be considered within the next year's budget cycle to provide a more structured approach to the allocation of funding to projects. Should the need arise for the funding of a significant project mid budget cycle then that would be undertaken as a separate report to open council.
- Section 5.8.4 Budget Variations has been included to document how decisions around budget variations are made with respect to operational and capital expenditure. This was a specific action arising from the internal audit of council's Capital Works Processes.

This framework has been written largely with reference to the existing Local Government Act and will need to be revised when a new Act is finalised.

Consultation/Communication

The framework has been developed with reference to the following documents:

- Department of Planning and Community Developments – Local Government Planning and reporting – better practice Guide – February 2013
- LGPro – Embedding Community Priorities into Council Planning – Guidelines for the Integration of Community and Council Planning – May 2008
- LGPro – Corporate Planners Special Interest Group – Council Plan Development Guidelines
- HRCC Community Engagement Framework & Policy
- Municipal Association of Victoria – Council Plan good practise guide – October 2016

The document has been revised with input from the Executive Management Group.

Financial

The Council Plan is the cornerstone of the planning cycle and budget processes. The Planning and Budgeting Framework has been put together in-house with existing resources and within existing budgets.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Risk Management

The lack of a formal Planning and Budgeting Framework is a risk to council that it will not undertake its planning and budgeting processes in a robust manner which in turn could lead to poor and ad-hoc decision making.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Draft Planning and Budgeting Framework as attached.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Radford that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

10.2.1 PROPOSAL TO NAME UN-NAMED ROADS IN PIMPINIO

T Barents

File Ref: F27/A15/000001

Purpose

A request has been received from a member of the Pimpinio community to name two roads in Pimpinio that are currently unnamed. The first road runs west from the Western Highway to Buloke Lane. Refer **Appendix "10.2A"**. The second road is north of the Pimpinio Uniting Church and GWM Water tower, between Church Street and Pimpinio School Road. Refer **Appendix "10.2B"**.

Background

Pimpinio community members have suggested Western Highway to Buloke Lane be named McManus Road. The suggested name for the road north of the Pimpinio Uniting Church is Thamm Lane.

Both names honour the McManus and Thamm family members who were early settlers in the Pimpinio district.

McManus: Bernard McManus emigrated from County Fermanagh, Ireland in 1857 to work in Mt Barker and then Penola before settling in Pimpinio in 1871. In 1872 he purchased 490 acres of land in Pimpinio which was still held in the McManus name by his grandson Terry up until 2013.

Bernard's son, Patrick served overseas in WW1 and his grandson, Keith served overseas in WW2.

Thamm: Wilhelm Adolph Thamm born 1871, deceased 1949, came from South Australia to Pimpinio as a young boy and worked as a blacksmith. He raised his family of six children in Pimpinio. A son, Stanley William (Bill) born 1911, was a seasonal worker and was able put his talent to many varied works. He learnt to shear sheep with a blade and progressed to the more modern techniques. At the age of 80 years, he was still able to shear sheep. He lived all his working life at Pimpinio and died in 1995.

The proposed names are both on Council's approved street name list.

Issues

An unnamed road can cause confusion for transport, communication, emergency and mail services.

Consultation/Communication

Council will advertise the proposed names in the local newspaper, on the Council Facebook page and on the Council website.

Financial

Costs include those associated with the erection of the street signs.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Council's Street / Road / Places Naming Policy.

Recommendation

To name the un-named section of road between Western Highway and Buloke Lane, McManus Road and to name the un-named section of road between Pimpinio School Road and Church Street (north of the Pimpinio Uniting Church), Thamm Lane in accordance with the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016*.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2.2 2018 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

K Bell

File Ref: F14/A05/000001

Purpose

To inform Council that the 2018 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey will be conducted by JWS Research for Local Government Victoria on behalf of Council, commencing in Horsham on approximately 19 February for a period of two to three weeks.

Background

The Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) has been undertaken by Local Government Victoria on behalf of Council for many years.

Council is required to participate in the survey in order to comply with the three mandatory satisfaction measures for the legislated Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Issues

The survey is undertaken by telephone and in the order of 400 interviews will be conducted by JWS Research from a representative random sample survey of residents aged 18 years or over.

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

Consultation/Communication

The survey provides an ideal opportunity for members of the community to confidentially provide feedback on a wide range of services and issues. The information collected is then de-personalised by JWS Research, which is independent of Council, and results will be reported later in the year.

The survey will be promoted by Council on its Facebook page and in its Public Notices page of *The Wimmera Mail-Times* on Friday 9th and 16th February 2018.

Financial

The survey is conducted at Council's expense. The core component of the survey is priced at \$8,250 including GST. The survey is funded in the 2017-2018 Council Budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Core Values:

We are accountable to our community for our decisions and actions.

We will work with our community, government and agencies to deliver quality outcomes.

We will be transparent in our work.

Governance and Business Excellence (Goal 4):

Excel in communication, consultation, governance, leadership and responsible use of resources.

Increase overall score in the Community Satisfaction Survey.

Provided for information of Council.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Radford that the report be received.

CARRIED

10.2.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH ESCO

S Surridge

File Ref: F20/A01/000008

Purpose

To propose a new funding partnership to enhance Council's annual Community Development Grants Program.

Background

Esco Pacific Pty Ltd is a leading Australian developer of utility scale ground mounted solar farms, developing projects from early stage feasibility through to project commissioning. Founded in 2015, the company completed its first Solar Farm project – the 148MW Ross River Solar Farm in April 2017. Esco are currently planning the development of a solar farm at Riverside East.

As part of this project, Esco will apply to support achievement of the Victorian Renewable Energy Targets (VRET), which includes a community benefit component. This application is due by mid-February 2018 and must include details of how Esco plan to deliver community benefits for the Riverside Solar Farm. Esco approached Council to discuss partnership options for distributing future funding for the benefit of the Horsham community.

Council currently deliver the annual Community Development grants program, which in 2017/2018 distributed \$357,991 in grants and donations to the Horsham and district community. The Grants Program helps not-for-profit groups in the community to improve community facilities and work together for more engaged and healthy communities. Applications must align with a broad range of goals and priorities outlined in the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Each year the funding program is oversubscribed, with grants requests usually double the funding available.

Esco have indicated that they would like to become a regular corporate contributor to the Council's Community Development Grants Program, with the contribution of funding to commence upon commissioning of the new Solar Farm (potentially 2019/2020). The total annual contribution will depend on the size of the completed solar farm and on Esco being successful in their application under the Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme (VREAS). Esco have indicated that the contribution is expected to be between \$20,000 and \$40,000 per annum.

Issues

A partnership with Esco presents the first opportunity for Council to work with the corporate sector to enhance Council's Community Grants Program.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted that sets out the framework for ESCO benefit sharing to the Horsham and district community through an annual contribution to Council's Community Development Grants Program (**Appendix "10.2C"**).

The MOU details the annual grants process; the responsibilities of Council in incorporating an annual contribution from Esco into the program; and the responsibilities required of Esco to participate in the program, including annual time-lines.

Key Issues for Council to note regarding the proposed partnership:

- Potential to increase funding available for discretionary projects by 15-25%
- One application process for community groups to apply for both Council and Esco funds.
- Grants program will remain the same:
 - same objectives and links to the Council Plan and the Health & Well-being Plan
 - same assessment criteria and assessment process
 - same timelines
- Esco Pacific have requested the following to sponsor the program:
 - Use of logo on the Grants Program documentation
 - Inclusion of acknowledgement and description of Esco's contribution in the Guidelines
 - Final endorsement of the projects selected for Esco funding
 - Inclusion of logo and identification and acknowledgement of projects funded by Esco in media relating to the Community Grants Program
- The first contribution will be made only once the solar farm is fully operational
- The MOU will continue for ten years from the date of execution, unless extended or terminated by either party, upon providing the other party with not less than 12 months' notice to ensure an annual funding cycle can be completed

Corporate sponsorship is a strategy currently used in local government, particularly in larger metropolitan Councils eg Manningham and Hume. Sponsorship is a way of leveraging Council funds with corporate support to provide greater benefits for our community.

The proposed partnership with Esco represents the first opportunity for Council to partner with private industry to increase funding of community projects. The growth in the renewable energy sector in particular (i.e. wind farms/solar farms) is currently impacting our region and may provide opportunities for additional partnerships in the future.

As there is scope to develop the partnership program further in the future, it is recommended that Council develop a Sponsorship Policy to assist with the management of the partnership process.

Risk Considerations

The following are considered low-level risks of forming a funding partnership with Esco Pacific:

- Financial or operational failure of the Riverside solar farm, with associated damage to Esco's reputation
- Esco failing to pay the pledged contribution to Council by 31 March each year
- Reputational damage to Council through lack of clarity in the community as to where funds are coming from to fund the community grants program

Consultation/Communication

Council has discussed the partnership options and process with representatives of Esco, and Esco have reviewed and approved the draft MOU for signing.

As a significant development in the Community Grants Program, the proposed partnership requires consultation with and approval by Council.

Financial

There are no budget implications for Council. Partnership funding will add to the current annual Council allocation for the Community Grants Program, and is not expected to add significantly to any staff workloads or timeframes.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Community Development Grants Program is a major mechanism by which Council supports not-for-profit community groups in the development of community facilities and activities. Projects funded by the Grants Program must align with the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan as part of the assessment criteria.

The addition of Esco as a new funding partner will increase the number of projects to be funded in the future.

Recommendation

1. That Council allow Esco Pacific to provide partner funding for the annual Community Development Grants Program;
2. That Council adopt the draft MOU as the framework for the delivery of the new partnership; and
3. That Council develop a Sponsorship Policy to facilitate future corporate sponsorship and co-funding of the Community Development Grants Program and other possible Council/Community projects.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Grimble that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.3 DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC

10.3.1 NATIMUK COMMUNITY ENERGY

A Murphy File Ref: F20/A01/000007

Purpose

To consider a request from the Natimuk Community Energy group to seek in kind support or loan to be repaid in the future for the planning permit application fee of \$3277.70 for the Natimuk Community Owned Renewable Energy Project.

Background

In 2015, Natimuk created a group called Natimuk Community Energy, where the members are committed to helping Natimuk realise its vision to be a leader of community-generated energy in Western Victoria. Establishing this group was an action from the initial Natimuk Community Plan.

Natimuk Community Energy with the support of Horsham Rural City Council, Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has completed the technical feasibility and business case for the Natimuk Community Owned renewable Energy Project. The business case will provide the evidence required to prepare an application for funding under the Victorian New Energy Jobs Fund. A preferred site has been identified for the proposed Photo Voltaic (PV) Plant and an essential requirement of the project is that the PV Plant generate sufficient electricity to effectively offset Natimuk's net import of electricity.

Issues

Natimuk Community Energy is planning to lodge a submission with DELWP to fund much of the implementation phase of their project through the 3rd and final round of the New Energy Jobs Fund Grant. In order to strengthen the case for success with this grant opportunity (worth up to \$1million), the group has secured the option to buy/lease the necessary land, and it would also be advantageous for the group to have planning approval in place when applying for the grant.

The group currently has no revenue stream and is seeking in kind support or loan (to be repaid in the future) from Council to assist with the cost of the planning permit application fee of \$3277.70.

The fee for this proposed planning application is not eligible to be waived under Clause 20 of the Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016.

Financial

The cost of the planning permit fee is \$3277.70. If Council resolves to provide in kind support, the cost would be required to be funded from Council's contingency.

Links to Council Plans

Council's Plan Goal 5 Natural and Built Environments

- 5.1 Promote sustainability by encouraging sound environmental practice
 - 5.1.04 Support the Natimuk Community Energy Project

Supporting investigation of localised renewable energy generation facilities.

Recommendation

That Council provide an interest free loan to the Natimuk Community Energy of \$3277.70 for the purpose of planning permit application fee for their Photo Voltaic Plant Project, and that the funds be repaid within 3 years or within 6 months of successful funding application whichever occurs first.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Koenig that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.4 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.4.1 KALKEE ROAD CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY HUB

K O'Brien

File Ref: F08/A09/000002

Purpose

To provide an update on the Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub Development.

Background

The Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub is a children's facility including kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health, supported playgroup, early intervention services and visiting specialist consulting rooms.

The new 1,130 square metre facility is being constructed on a green field site providing a central community hub that combines a range of education, health, care, support and community services.

In September 2016, Council awarded a contract to Locks Constructions to construct the facility. Construction commenced in November 2016. A Project Control Group has been established to oversee project delivery.

Issues

Construction is 99% complete with only minor outstanding items. Certificate of Occupancy is expected to be issued by the middle of February.

- Kalkee Road access improvement works are near completion.
- The route for the footpath through Dudley Cornell Reserve to Albert Street has been planned with construction to take place in March.
- Public Art works will be installed in late February/early March with final designs completed.
- Signage for the building has been finalised.
- Liaison continues with Department of Education and Training in regards to the licensing of the Kindergarten area including finalising documentation required.
- Negotiations are still occurring with prospective tenants with interest from several agencies.
- Correspondence has occurred with funding bodies in regards to proposed official opening dates.

It is expected that Council's Maternal and Child Health Service and Supported Playgroup program will operate from the new facility from the middle of February. Kindergarten programs will operate from second school term 2018.

Consultation/Communication

- Updates are provided to Council from the Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub Project Control Group, which meets monthly. Mayor Cr Pam Clarke and Cr Les Power are members of the Project Control Group.
- An Internal Working Group meets monthly. Staff with responsibilities in relation to the Children's Hub (construction and operations) attend these meetings.
- Liaison is occurring with a number of key stakeholders in relation to construction and operations.
- A Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub parents reference group has been established.
- A regular newsletter has been produced and distributed.
- Tours of the Children's Hub were conducted as part of Northfest on Saturday 11 November 2017. There were approximately 60 community members shown through the facility.
- A number of agencies interested in running programs at the Kalkee Road Children's and Community hub have been shown through the facility.

Financial

The overall cost of the project is estimated to be \$4.395 million. \$3.5 million has been secured through grants from State and Federal government.

The construction contingency amount for the project is \$311,805. The remaining contingency as at 25 January 2018 is \$85,108. Variations in December/January were: Additional tiles, replacement of globe types, rerouting of data points, door handle adjustment, root barriers for car park area, additional power points, bollards and remote indicators panel. There was a saving made on the irrigation system.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Municipal Early Years Plan (2014-2017)

One of the key outcomes of the Municipal Early Years Plan is the progressive development of three early years' centres throughout Horsham over the next 10 to 15 years.

Council Plan (2017-2021)

1.1.05 Complete construction of the Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub and commence operations.

Provided for information of Council.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Koenig that the report be received.

CARRIED

10.4.2 KALKEE ROAD CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY HUB

K O'Brien

File Ref: F08/A09/000002

Recommendation

That Council refer this item to the confidential briefing part of the meeting to consider the report from the Director Community Services in accordance with Section 89(2) (d) contractual matters of the Local Government Act, 1989.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that this item be considered in Closed Council ("Committee").

CARRIED

10.4.3 PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS TO HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE

K O'Brien

File Ref: F08/A09/000002

Purpose

To communicate to Council for consideration a recommendation made by the Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee to Council regarding the Horsham Bus Service Review.

Background

At the December Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee an update was provided by Director Community Services in relation to the Horsham Bus Services Review, which is currently being undertaken by *Transport for Victoria*. The lack of access to the Aquatic Centre particularly for residents in Horsham North has been on the Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee agenda for some time. The current review of the town bus routes is a key opportunity to address issues of concern by the advisory committee in regards to public transport access to the facility.

Issues

Even though the review has commenced with a forum held by *Transport for Victoria* with key Council staff and local agencies in September 2017, it has advanced slowly. This has mainly been due to a request to consider commencing the bus service before 9am. *Transport for Victoria* are currently negotiating with Department of Education and Training to utilise school buses before 9am.

It was moved by community representative Faye Smith, seconded by community representative Dick Gill and carried by the Committee, that Council write to the Public Transport Minister outlining concerns regarding the time it has taken to complete the review of the Horsham Town Bus Routes and the ongoing impact of having limited public transport access to the Horsham Aquatic Centre particularly for Horsham North residents.

It was also noted that after the review is completed it takes 22 weeks to make the necessary changes to bus route infrastructure and timetables.

Even though the review is advancing and Council staff are in regular contact with *Transport for Victoria* staff it is important that the State Government remains focussed on completing the review. It is also not clear as to the timeframes for completion of the review. Meanwhile this is affecting some members of the community accessing a range of services including the Aquatic Centre.

Consultation/Communication

A forum was held in September 2017. The YMCA was in attendance to advocate better access to the Horsham Aquatic Centre. Council staff and local agencies were invited to attend.

Financial

Any changes to the bus routes are finalised by *Transport for Victoria*, Council usually maintains bus infrastructure once erected by *Transport for Victoria*.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Council Plan 2017-21:

- External Factors - To attract and retain people in our municipality, quality services and cultural activities are needed including: Efficient and effective public transport within Horsham and connecting to larger centres
- 3.4.01 Develop infrastructure that encourages greater participation and use of alternate transport options to the city (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport)

Recommendation

That Council write to Minister for Public Transport The Hon Jacinta Allan MP outlining the concerns of the committee in relation to the time it has taken for the review to be completed and the impact that the current bus route service is having on community members accessing the Horsham Aquatic Centre, some who may have limited ability access to alternative transport.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.4.4 YOUTH STRATEGY BRIEF

A Donovan

File Ref: F08/A09/000002

Purpose

To confirm the Councillor representative on the Youth Strategy Project Control Group.

Background

Council is developing a Youth Strategy that will set the strategic direction and guide future service delivery for the municipality. This Strategy will represent and reflect the aspirations of Horsham's young people.

The Project will deliver:

- Project Plan
- Report that provides a service delivery map and identifies best practice for future youth service delivery models
- Contemporary and meaningful community engagement
- Visual Engagement Summary
- Presentation to Council
- Recommendations for future delivery of youth services
- Youth Strategy

Governance Structure:

Project Sponsor	Director Community Services, Kevin O'Brien
Project Manager	Community Development Manager, Anne Donovan
Project Control Group	Director Community Services, Kevin O'Brien Community Development Manager, Anne Donovan (Project Manager) Recreation and Sustainability Manager, Rhonda McNeil Community Facilitator, Martin Bride Human Services Manager, Mandi Stewart Councillor – to be confirmed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Manager Wimmera, Simone Dalton Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Executive Officer, Tim Shaw 2x community representatives (young people)

Project Control Group:

Meetings every second Thursday (as required) from **Thursday 15 March 2018** and ending **Thursday 24 May 2018**.

Key Project Dates:

19 January 2018	Request for Quotes (RFQ) released
9 February 2018	RFQ closes
16 February 2018	RFQ Evaluation
2 March 2018	Project commences
5 March 2018	Project Inception Meeting
30 March 2018	Desk Top Report
2 April-5 May 2018	Engagement
12 May 2018	Draft Youth Strategy
14 May 2018	Draft Youth Strategy to Council
23 May 2018	Final Youth Strategy

Issues

There is no current Youth Strategy and Council has outsourced the delivery of youth services to Grampians Community Health for the last ten years.

The Youth Strategy is an opportunity to review the current provision of youth services in Horsham and provide advice to Council on contemporary models of service delivery.

Consultation/Communication

Engagement activities will comply with Council Engagement Policy and will consist of:

External	<p><i>Youth Strategy Development- Consultant to undertake</i></p> <p>Targeted engagement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Young people. This will include different methods for different cohorts, ages, gender and diversity ● Key stakeholders. This may be a workshop, survey or other engagement activities <p>General community engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media Release ● Social Media updates ● Project updates <p><i>Final Youth Strategy – this stage to be undertaken by Council Officers:</i></p> <p>Exhibition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council Report to Ordinary Council Meeting 28 May 2018 ● Media release, Social Media Update ● Exhibition time – to be confirmed ● Council adopts Strategy 18 June 2018
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Financial

There is an allocated budget of \$40,000 for this Project. There are no budget implications.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Development of a Youth Strategy aligns with:

- Council Plan
 - 1.2 Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation:
 - 1.2.08 Review of Youth services in consultation with other agencies and develop a strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Plan
 - 3 Improving Mental Health:
 - Develop a Youth Strategy

Recommendation

That Cr Koenig is the Councillor representative the Youth Strategy Project Control Group. That Cr Gulvin deputise for Cr Koenig in his absence.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Robinson that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.5 DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

10.5.1 DOOEN ROAD CYCLING TRACK PETITION

J Martin

File Ref: F02/A01

Purpose

To present a petition by residents primarily from the River Heights / Dooen areas regarding the condition of the cycling track along Dooen Road and related issues.

Background

The petition presented as **Appendix "10.5A"**, signed by more than 60 residents, was received in late December 2017, seeking action in relation to maintenance of the Dooen Rd cycling track and several related issues.

This report relates to the petition tabled at Item No 7.2 at this meeting.

Issues

The following issues are cited in the petition:

- The lack of maintenance of the existing cycling track along Dooen Road.
- The lack of a connection of this track south of Riverside Road.
- Seeking an extension of the track to Longerenong Agricultural College.

Discussion

The condition of this track had previously been identified by Council staff as being in poor condition, and it was identified as a priority for sealing in this current year's (2017-18) budget.

Sealing this track will address the key issue raised in the petition. Some associated aspects, e.g. replacement of bollards, will be undertaken at the time of the track sealing.

The further points raised in the petition, the linkage south of Riverside Road, and to Longerenong Agricultural College are proposed to be referred to the Bicycle Advisory Committee for consideration.

This Committee has already identified the lack of a link between Horsham and the Dooen Road track south of Riverside Road as a problem. Options to solve this are being considered, but are not yet ready for implementation.

The extension to Longerenong is a bit more ambitious, though also worthwhile. This proposal would need to be considered alongside other major developments, including connections to Green Lake and Natimuk.

Council is unable to fund all the additional works at one time – the current bike plan lists in excess of \$20 million of desired works on bicycle paths. A key role of the Bicycle Advisory Committee is to advise Council on the priorities of various proposals and to help develop a program of works. A report on this program will be presented to a subsequent Council meeting, potentially in several months' time.

Consultation/Communication

The letter included as **Appendix "10.5B"** is a preliminary response that has been sent to the petitioners.

It is proposed that representatives of the petitioners be invited to a meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Committee to present their position directly to that Committee.

Financial

An allocation of \$50,000 has been made in the 2017-18 budget for the planned sealing works along Dooen Road.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Council Plan expresses Council's ongoing commitment to:

Promote and encourage safe bicycle use as a sustainable alternate mode of transport, including provision of bicycle parking facilities.

And specifically the following action:

3.4.01 *Develop infrastructure that encourages greater participation and use of alternate transport options to the city (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport)*

Recommendation

That representatives of the petitioners be invited to present their position directly to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Cr Robinson declared a Conflict of Interest, pursuant to Section 79 of the Local Government Act, 1989 in respect of item 10.5.2 and left the Council Chamber at 7.01pm.

10.5.2 CITY GARDENS PETITION

J Martin File Ref: F01/A01

Purpose

To present a petition by residents of City Gardens Estate on the status of the wetland that adjoins their properties.

Background

20 copies of the letter included as **Appendix "10.5C"** were received in early January, as a petition, calling for action in relation to the water level, weeds and odours in the City Gardens wetland.

This report relates to the petition tabled at Item No 7.2 at this meeting.

Issues

The following issues are cited in the petition:

- The need for slushing and cleaning
- The leak in the wall (weir) that holds water from entering the drain that leads to Wotonga Basin
- Proliferation of a weed and algae
- Presence of an odour

Discussion

The primary issue of the petition relates to the low water level in the wetland. As indicated in the letter, two attempts had been made to repair a leak in the weir, but the extent of the leak proved larger than anticipated, and has required a partial reconstruction of the weir. These further works were largely completed in the week of 15-19 January.

Historically, the wetland was maintained in a close to full condition. In 2013, it was found that the wetland was being topped up using the town drinking water supply, at considerable cost. A meeting was held at that time advising that this was not appropriate. Subsequently a connection has been made to use Council's water allocation accessed from the Wimmera River / Wotonga Basin. The primary source of water for the wetland is stormwater runoff from the properties that adjoin the estate.

The secondary issues all appear to have been raised due to the water level being low. In relation to these further issues:

- It is assessed that there is not a short-term need for desilting of the wetland, although this will be monitored in the years ahead.
- The “weed” in the wetland is a desirable native species, known as ribbon weed. The weed when combined with the algae that adhere to the plant help to keep the water in the wetland relatively clear.
- The odour is most likely associated with die-off of some of the exposed ribbon weed.

It is not proposed to fully top-up the wetland as the wetland should have variable levels throughout the year, and will again be replenished with autumn-winter rains.

Consultation/Communication

The letter included as **Appendix “10.5D”** is a preliminary response that has been sent to all residents who adjoin City Gardens Estate, including those who did not send a copy of the petition letter.

Since circulating the letter, two responses have been received:

- One from a resident who did not agree with the petition’s intent and hence did not sign it, and also expressing concern about the manner in which the petition was coordinated.
- One petitioner who expressed concern about the preliminary response provided by this Director, and did not consider that the issues had been adequately addressed.

It is proposed to meet with the City Gardens Estate residents in late February to review the status of the weir repairs and the wetland. A separate meeting is also proposed with the resident who expressed subsequent concerns about the preliminary response.

Financial

The cost of repair of the weir will be funded from existing maintenance budget provisions.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Council’s mission, from the Council Plan, includes the following relevant points:

Horsham Rural City Council, working with the community, will develop the municipality through ... responsive services and quality infrastructure, whilst enhancing ... our liveability and natural environment.

Maintenance and ongoing operation of the wetland is consistent with these aspects of Council's mission.

Recommendation

1. That the Mayor, supported by the Director Technical Services, convene a meeting with City Gardens Estate residents in late February to:
 - review the outcomes of the maintenance works on the weir
 - listen to the residents about their views in response to the actions taken.
2. That further actions be considered based on an assessment of the outcomes of the meeting.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Radford that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Cr Robinson then returned to the Council Chamber at 7.09pm after the vote was taken.

10.5.3 HORSHAM BYPASS UPDATE

J Martin File Ref: F24/A05/000004

Purpose

To update Councillors on the latest actions relating to the Horsham Bypass.

Background

Councillors were previously forwarded the letter from Planning Minister Richard Wynne, dated 21 December 2017 attached as **Appendix "10.5E"**. In summary, the key elements of that letter are:

- Planning Scheme Amendment C72 is now intended to be abandoned.
- A new Amendment will be sought.
- An Advisory Committee will be established under the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act.
- The Terms of Reference and membership of the Advisory Committee will be determined by the Minister.
- Minister Wynne has indicated that the Advisory Committee will "ensure the current views of the community and stakeholders are considered".

At the time of that letter, information had not yet been provided to indicate when this process would formally commence.

Meeting with VicRoads and DEWLP Staff

A meeting with VicRoads and DELWP representatives has since been held, on Monday 22 January, to obtain further information about the process.

The following points arose at that meeting:

- VicRoads has not yet formally applied for the new amendment to be considered.
- VicRoads still needs to compile some further information to meet the requirements for an updated amendment, including consideration of changes of legislation since the previous amendment was lodged. It seems that there is still several weeks' work in this step.
- The current amendment is expected to be formally abandoned at the same time as the new amendment is lodged. The stated reason for this abandonment is that:
 - VicRoads was confident it had followed the proper administrative process in relation to landholder notification, but could not provide enough evidence to support this, and therefore had to abandon the process.
- When VicRoads applies to the Minister for Planning for the new amendment, the Minister will become the Planning Authority, not VicRoads.
- The Minister will set the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee and its composition.
 - The Terms of Reference is expected to set the level of community engagement sought by the Minister.
 - Timing of release of the Terms of Reference is not known, but it will be after the application is made by VicRoads.
 - Members of the Advisory Committee are anticipated to be drawn from the pool of members of Planning Panels Victoria.
- It is understood that the alignment proposed by VicRoads in the new amendment will be the Option D alignment as presented in amendment C72. This has been confirmed in an interview of the VicRoads Regional Director on ABC Radio.

Next Steps

VicRoads has been invited to present to a Council briefing in late February, as it is anticipated that details of the intended process may be clearer by then.

Provided for information of Council.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Radford that the report be received.

CARRIED

10.5.4 CONTRACT 18/016 – ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AT HORSHAM REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

R Moir File Ref: F13/A02

Purpose

- To advise Council of the tender process for the implementation of an Electronic Identification system for sheep at the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange (HRLE).
- To recommend that a contract be awarded to Aleis Pty Ltd for the hardware installation component of the project.

Background

In the second half of 2017, Council undertook a comprehensive review to inform a process for compliance with the State Government's new requirement for electronic identification (EID) of sheep and goats, linked to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

The result of the work, which was funded by the Victorian Government's Transition Package Phase 1, was a Planning Report developed by consultant Tom Newsome from Outcross Agri-Services. This report was used to inform the successful application for the Phase 2 funding.

This funding will enable HRLE to implement the system developed in the Phase 1 work, to becoming compliant with the new requirements; these come into effect on 28 March 2018.

Included in the funding agreement was an allocation of funds to secure:

- Equipment supply and installation – primarily scanners at key locations across the HRLE site.
- Hardware, software, software installation and training in the system.
- Project management.
- Project site structural modifications.

Upon receipt of our funding agreement a tender brief was prepared aiming to secure a single provider that could deliver the full project.

Tender Process

Tenders were invited via advertisements in the Wimmera Mail-Times newspaper, Weekly Times and Council's website e-tender portal.

Three tenders were received, a single tender arrived on time via the tender portal, two others arrived late and from outside the required portal process. The late tenders were deleted and the tenderers advised of this.

The tender evaluation panel consisted of John Martin (Director Technical Services), Rob Moir (Operations Manager).

A single compliant tender was received from the company Aleis, which was the brand nominally identified in the funding agreement. The tender allowed for equivalent products to be offered.

The tender is only for the hardware supply and installation components, and does not include the other components.

It is a compliant tender supplying the specific equipment sought and is within the allocated budget amount for those components.

The remaining project components will be sourced through subsequent quotation processes, as the estimated costs of these components are below the public tender limit threshold. These components include software supply and installation, an auto-drafter and some structural modifications to drafting gates at the HRLE.

Issues

Further negotiations are required with the supplier and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) regarding the timing of implementation of these works. There are significant time pressures on the supplier given that all other Victorian saleyards are currently required to implement similar works to meet the Government's requirements for commencement of operation of the EID process.

Financial

A grant allocation has been received from the Victorian Government for \$379,883 to fund the costs required to implement the EID system.

The funding was broken into four components. The amount of \$292,667 was allocated to hardware and hardware installation. The Aleis tender is for \$266,395.25.

Recommendation

That Council award Contract 18/016 for the Electronic Identification (EID) hardware and hardware Installation to Aleis Pty Ltd for the sum of \$266,395.25 (ex GST).

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Robinson that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

**10.5.5 CONTRACT 18/013 – RESTORATION OF FLOOD DAMAGED ASSETS –
PACKAGE 2 OF 3**

R Upadhyaya

File Ref: F13/A02

Purpose

To advise Council of the tender process to award a contract for restoration of assets damaged by flooding during September 2016. It recommends awarding the contract to Glover Earthmoving Pty Ltd for the amount of \$638,243.24 (excluding GST).

Background

The September 2016 storm event was estimated as a 1-in-20 year event and caused a moderate level of damage in parts of Council's road network. Driscoll Engineering Services was employed to assess the extent of damage so that a tender specification could be prepared for restoration works. The majority of damage was found in the unsealed road network. Typical damage caused by this storm event included:

- Gravel washed away in unsealed road pavement;
- Shoulder material washed away;
- Table drains silted and clogged;
- Culverts washed away, silted or clogged;
- Culvert end walls washed away;
- Scouring at the culverts or beaching washed away.

The restoration works were divided into three different packages based on geographic areas:

- Package 1: Between Henty Highway (towards Hamilton) and Western Highway (toward Melbourne)
- Package 2: Between Western Highway (toward Melbourne) and Wimmera Highway (towards Edenhope)
- Package 3: Between Wimmera Highway (towards Edenhope) and Henty Highway (towards Hamilton)

This contract is for the restoration of assets in Package 2.

A separate contract on the Package 1 works was awarded at the 4 December 2017 Council meeting.

The location of the works is shown in **Appendix "10.5F"**

Typical restoration works include:

- gravel resheets;
- shoulder resheets;
- formation grading and reshaping;
- reshaping table drains;

- installation of culverts;
- installation of end walls;
- installation of rock beaching;
- installation of edge beams on some floodway to reduce the likelihood of future damage.

Tender Process

Tenders were invited via advertisements in the Wimmera Mail-Times and Council's website e-tender portal. Tender invitations were advertised from 4 December 2017 and closed on 22 December, 2017.

At the close of tenders two offers were received as follows. Details of tenders are included in the ***Confidential Briefing Paper***.

1. Glover Earthmoving Pty Ltd, Longerenong
2. Millers Civil Contractors Pty Ltd, Horsham

The tender evaluation panel consisted of Ram Upadhyaya (Asset Engineer), Jared Hammond (Senior Project Engineer) and Lyndon White (Senior Design Engineer).

The panel determined that both tenders were conforming. The panel then evaluated them in line with the tender invitation documents, against the nominated criteria, being:

- Appreciation of the work, methodology and challenges– 15%
- Commercial and financial– 15%
- Project experience and delivery capability – 10%
- Project team and experience – 10%
- Safety, quality and environmental – 15%
- Local content – 5%
- Price – 30%

The panel concluded:

- That both contractors would be able to complete the works to the required standards.
- The highest scoring tender of Glover Earthmoving Pty Ltd would provide the best value for money.

This tender is also the lower priced tender.

Financial

The works are entirely funded under Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (NDFA) in accordance with Commonwealth – State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The NDRRA process is run through the state Department of Treasury and Finance, which uses VicRoads as its regional agent. The local VicRoads assessor has been continuously informed and consulted during data collection and specification development.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Council Plan 2014-18 includes under Goal 3 – Asset Management the following aim:

3.4 Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety

Recommendation

1. That Council award Contract No: 18/013 Restoration of Flood Damaged Assets – Package 2 to Glover Earthmoving Pty Ltd, of Longerenong for the tendered price of \$638,243.24 (excluding GST).
2. That Council refer the related report containing details of tenders to the confidential briefing part of the meeting to consider in accordance with Section 89(2) (d) contractual matters of the Local Government Act, 1989.

Moved Cr Koenig, Seconded Cr Robinson that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Kerrie Bell, Acting Director Corporate Services left the Council Chamber at 7.39pm and then returned at 7.40pm.

10.5.6 CONTRACT VP93632 - SUPPLY OF A HEAVY TRUCK AND TRAILER COMBINATION, AND A FURTHER TRAILER

W Kennedy

File Ref: F13/A02

Purpose

To present the findings and recommendations of the tender evaluation for the purchase of:

- A replacement heavy truck and trailer combination, and
- A replacement trailer, to suit an existing heavy truck.

Background

The 2017-18 plant replacement program includes renewal of the following items:

- Item 1313, a Mack heavy truck purchased in November 2007, which has travelled more than 590,000 km.
- Item 1726, a tri-axle trailer to suit item 1313, purchased in August 1999.
- Item 1727, a tri-axle trailer, also purchased in August 1999.

Initially, it was proposed to replace these items on a like-for-like basis. However, subsequent consideration was given to whether there would be efficiency gains in upgrading to quad-dog (i.e. four-axle) trailers.

While slightly more costly, there are efficiency gains available in utilising larger trailers through the ability to haul a greater volume of material.

The truck and trailers are used primarily to support Council's road construction program, involving carting of a range of materials from various quarries across the region.

Discussions were held with the Transport and Supply team to discuss the potential issues with use of these trucks. Aspects considered included:

- The increased efficiency of the larger trailers.
- Potential issues with the higher height when the longer trailer is tipped up for emptying.
- Potential issues with turning the longer trailers, particular where shoulders are limited in area.

The discussions determined that the quad-dog trailers would be appropriate to use in Council's circumstances, provided that only the shorter version of quad-dog trailers was considered.

The table below provides a comparison of the tri-axle and shorter or longer quad-dog trailers that was compiled prior to going to tender.

	Existing Tri-axle Trailers	Shorter Quad-Dog	Longer Quad-Dog
Trailer Body Length	5.3 m	7.5 m	8.3 m
Combination Length (Truck & Trailer)	16.6-17 m	19.0 m	20.0 m
Costs (base) (all ex GST)	\$57,000	\$85,000	\$87,000
Tare Weight (Empty) All Hardened Steel	5.8-6.0 t approx	8.2 t approx	8.6 t approx
Gross Trailer Weights	22.5 t	33.5 t	35 t
Payload	16.6 t	25.3 t	26.4 t
Cost / Payload	\$3434 / t	\$3360 / t	\$3295 / t

On a cost per weight basis, the larger the trailer, the more cost effective it is to purchase. Further benefits derive during operations, with the greater payload assisting to improve flexibility of timing for deliveries, which is important during peak construction periods, and which can offset overtime payments.

Given the status of the Plant Reserve (with a year-end balance of \$3.2 M projected, including this years \$1.3 M replacement program), it was assessed that the benefits of the larger trailers justified the purchase, and the purchase would be affordable.

Discussion

A significant response was received for the request for tenders, which was facilitated through the MAV purchasing system, with:

- 10 suppliers offering 10 different trucks and four different body builders,
- This led to 21 combinations of truck / trailer proposals being submitted.

The tenders were assessed by Warren Kennedy (Fleet Manager) and John Martin (Director Technical Services).

Key selection criteria for the replacement were:

- Quality of product offered
- Conformity with specifications and ability to perform roles outlined
- Details of product offered and supporting information
- Warranty and after sales service
- Compliance with OH&S standards
- Australian Design Rules (ADR) compliant.

The cheapest tender which met the requirements of the criteria above was that submitted by Johnsons Truck and Coach of Mildura. Key features of this tender are:

- Johnsons has offered the Mack Trident. Other cheaper truck brands and the alternative Mack Granite model are not preferred for our use, due to continuing issues Council has experienced with these previously.
- The body and trailers offered are to be built by CBB Sunshine. Council owns several truck bodies and trailers built by CBB, and they are proving to be very suitable.
- Council has had good service from Johnsons.

Details of the tenders, including key comments relating to the suitability of each tender, and why some cheaper tenders were not considered suitable, are included in the table in ***Confidential Briefing Report*** on this subject.

Financial

Budget allocations had been made of:

- \$245,000 for the truck and trailer replacement (item 1313 and 1726), and
- \$48,000 for the trailer replacement (item 1727).
- Total of \$293,000.

The preferred tender, for a truck and two trailers, is for a sum of \$339,651.

While above budget, the additional expenditure is considered justified, and would be sourced from the Plant Replacement Reserve as outlined above.

Recommendation

1. That Council award contract VP93632 for supply and delivery of one new Mack Trident with CBB Tipper Body, and two CBB quad-dog trailers, to Johnsons Truck and Coach Mildura for the amount of \$339,651 ex GST.
2. That Council refer the related report containing details of tenders to the confidential briefing part of the meeting to consider in accordance with Section 89(2) (d) contractual matters of the Local Government Act, 1989.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Radford that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.5.7 CONTRACT 14/028 – PROVISION OF BITUMINOUS AND SURFACING WORKS – HORSHAM – ANNUAL PRICE VARIATION

M Duke File Ref: F13/A02

Purpose

This report advises of the review of the existing contract for road sealing works as carried out by Inroads of Horsham.

It recommends that the second of two one-year time extensions be taken up.

Background

In August 2014 Council awarded its annual road sealing contract to Inroads. This was after a collaborative tendering process with four neighbouring municipalities to award to one contractor.

In March 2017, Council accepted a one-year extension of this (initially 3-year) contract. It is now time to consider the last of the one-year extensions available under the contract.

The sealing works in this contract are on the local road network, and include the initial sealing of new roads constructed or reconstructed by Council staff, and the annual resealing of those roads which have a deteriorated seal condition.

Resealing of existing spray sealed roads is similar to the re-painting of a weatherboard house. It is carried out to keep the moisture out, and renew the sun degraded bitumen on the road, and in this region needs to be undertaken every 10-15 years on average.

Issues

As part of the negotiation of the first extension, there was an increased focus on communications between the Contractor and Council staff to manage delivery of the works. This achieved the desired improvement in the services in this extension period, and has been well documented, so that this service standard continues into the proposed second contract extension.

Financial

The contract expenditure is approximately \$1 million each year, and funded through allocations to the road construction program.

Recent expenditure has been:

2014-15	\$1,433,204.71
2015-16	\$1,304,943.71
2016-17	\$1,362,326.21
2017-18 to date	\$850,930.20

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Council Plan 2017 - 2021 includes under Goal 3 – Asset Management the following aim:

3.4 Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety

Recommendation

That Council take up its option of the second one-year extension on Contract 14/028 Sealing Works with Inroads.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Robinson that the Urgent Business be received and considered by Council.

CARRIED

11.1.1 RECYCLING CONTRACT AND INDUSTRY ISSUES

Martin Duke/John Martin

File Ref: F29/A01/000001

Purpose

To provide Council a further update on the status of the recyclable materials processing issue, and the implications for our recycling collection contract.

Background

Council's recycling roadside collection contractor, Wheelie Waste has advised that the down-the-line processing contractor Visy, in Melbourne, has alerted them that they will not be able to receive bulk deliveries of unprocessed recycling material as of 10 February.

This has come about Visy's main demand, being China, is limiting and controlling the import of recyclable materials under its "National Sword" policy. The policy is motivated at least partly on the grounds of quality control and pollution reduction. The policy most directly impacts kerbside recycling services, as recyclables from households are partly on-sold in commingled form.

Discussions are continuing with our contractor and the Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group (GCWRRG) to identify options to manage the recycled material.

Issues

Visy's imminent non-receival of recyclable materials is impacting on a number of recycling collection contractors. These contractors have formed an association and met with Minister D'Ambrosio and key agency CEOs late last week. The Minister has also met with representatives of the three main recycling processors, Visy, Polytrade and SKM.

The key outcomes sought by Council, and all stakeholders, are to ensure all kerbside bins continue to be collected and that no recyclables go to landfill. For the time being, the message to residents is to continue to use their recycling bins un-changed.

Several options are being investigated to resolve this situation, including:

- Exploring the available capacity of different processors to sort commingled kerbside recyclables.
- Investigating the potential for additional recycling processing capacity.
- Working with other end-users of recyclable product streams to enhance demand.

This latter point is a key area. A renewed focus is needed on identifying the opportunities to better understand and develop the markets for recycled material. This Director spoke with a recycled plastic product manufacturer in the past week, highlighting the importance of this point.

Similarly, renewed consideration should be given to the introduction of a container deposit scheme in Victoria.

The prospect of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) located in or near Horsham, has been floated, but like most industries, volumes, transport, logistics and capacity are critical. Ultimately we want to make sure that any MRF set up in our region will be able to service the region effectively.

Consultation/Communication

Regular communications have been occurring with the following stakeholders:

- Council's recycling contractor, Wheelie Waste.
- The GCWWRRG.
- Neighbouring Councils.

This Director will be meeting with Wheelie Waste and other Councils this afternoon (5 February, in Ararat) to ascertain the latest information from that contractor. A verbal update will be provided to Council at its meeting.

Financial

There will most probably be an increase in the cost of the recycling collection service. The extent of this is not yet known, but information will continue to be reported to Council as these details become available.

Some related commercial matters are presented in the ***Confidential Briefing Report*** on this subject.

Provided for information of the Council.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Radford that the report be received.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Koenig, Seconded Cr Robinson that the Council Meeting close to consider item number 10.4.2 of the Director Community Services Report, item number 10.5.5 & 10.5.6 of the Director Technical Services and item number 11.1.1 of Urgent Business deemed to be of a Confidential nature in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act, 1989.

CARRIED

The time being 7.53pm the Council meeting closed.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the Council meeting open.

CARRIED

The Council Chamber doors were opened at 8.17pm.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendations in the closed Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

The Mayor, Cr P Clarke
Chairperson