

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 23 April 2019.**Order of Business****PRESENT**

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor, Cr David Grimble, Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Les Power, Cr John Robinson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Wellbeing; Sue Frankham, Governance Officer; Diana McDonald, Co-ordinator Governance.

1. PRAYER

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford recited the following pledge on behalf of all Councillors:

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

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford read the following Acknowledgement of Country Statement:

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

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford formally welcomed those in attendance to the Council meeting. The Mayor advised the public that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

Kerrie Bell
Jenny Grimble
Scott Johns
Allan Mills

Tom Blair
Robyn Gulline
Cheryl Linke
Fletcher Mills

David Bowe
David Jochinke
Richard May
Lance Netherway

4. APOLOGIES

Cr Pam Clarke, Cr Josh Koenig

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

That the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

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 25 March 2019 be adopted.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 25 March 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr John Robinson declared a conflict of interest for item 9.3 Community Grants and Donations 2019-20, Section 78B Indirect Interest of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The nature of the interest being that Cr Robinson's wife is Secretary of the Taylors Lake Community Hall. Cr Robinson left the meeting at 6.07pm and returned at 6.08pm. Cr Robinson was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr David Grimble declared a conflict of interest for item 9.3 Community Grants and Donations 2019-20, Section 77B Direct Interest of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The nature of the interest being that Cr Grimble provides financial support to the Natimuk and District Field and Game and Laharum Hall. Cr Grimble left the meeting at 6.03pm and returned at 6.07pm. Cr Grimble was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Mark Radford declared a conflict of interest for item 9.3 Community Grants and Donations 2019-20, Section 77B Direct Interest of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The nature of the interest being that Cr Radford is a Board Member of the Salvation Army and submitted a quotation for electrical works at the Natimuk Men's Shed. Cr Radford left the meeting at 6.08pm and returned at 6.09pm. Cr Radford was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Mark Radford declared a conflict of interest for item 9.12 Pick My Project Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River, Section 77B Direct Interest in the *Local Government Act 1989*. The nature of the interest being that Cr Radford was the original applicant for the project. Cr Radford left the meeting at 6.59pm and returned at 7.14pm. Cr Radford was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 RATING STRATEGY AND RATING POLICY

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	File No:	F27/A01/000001
Department:	Corporate Services		

Officer Declaration of Interest

Rates are a matter that impact all residents and ratepayers in common and as such do not present any conflicts of interest for officers.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Rating Policy (**Appendix "9.1A"**)

Rating Strategy 2019-23 (**Appendix "9.1B"**)

Summary of Rating Changes Post 25 March 2019 (**Appendix "9.1C"**)

Rating Strategy Submissions Received (**Appendix "9.1D"**)

Purpose

To adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Rating Strategy 2019-23 and Rating Policy.

Summary

- Council, at its ordinary meeting on 29 January 2019, resolved to make the draft Rating Policy and Draft Rating Strategy available for public comment and submission.
- Council received 35 submissions and heard presentations from seven of those submitters.
- Following consideration of these submission and discussion by Council at its meeting on 25 March 2019, it was resolved to adopt the Draft Rating Strategy and Rating Policy with the following amendments:
 - Acknowledge the impact of a broken rating system on farming properties
 - Reduce the Municipal Charge from \$287 to \$280 rather than \$200 as put out in the initial draft documents
 - Change the valuation variance trigger point for review of differentials from 5% to 3.5%.
- The amended Rating Policy and Rating Strategy 2019-23 have now been provided to the community for further comment.
- Eleven further submissions were received during this last consultation period.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Rating Policy and Rating Strategy as attached (**Appendix “9.1A” and “9.1B”**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council adopt the Rating Policy and Rating Strategy as attached (**Appendix “9.1A” and “9.1B”**) subject to the following replacement of paragraph 6, section 4.2, in accordance with the Council resolution carried at the meeting on 25 March 2019:

“Farms carry an excessive rate burden that is recommended to be reduced at every general revaluation to achieve a more fair and equitable distribution of the rate burden.”

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Draft Rating Policy and Draft Rating Strategy were developed following the completion of an independent review of Councils Rating Strategy by a Rates Advisory Committee established from members of the community and led by an independent chair and consultant. Following this, Council considered the committees report accepting many but not all of the recommendations, and at its ordinary meeting on 29 January resolved to place on exhibition the Draft Rating Policy and Draft Rating Strategy 2019-2023.

The draft documents were placed on exhibition and made available through Council's website, with community members being invited to make submissions. A total of 35 submissions were received and seven submitters elected to present to Council on their submissions.

The draft documents were then put to Council at its meeting on 25 March 2019 whereupon the following items were adopted unchanged:

1. The Farm Differential was reduced from 80% to 67%
2. A Commercial Differential was introduced of 95% of the general rate
3. An Industrial Differential was introduced of 95% of the general rate
4. A \$30 additional rebate per property will be paid to eligible pensioners
5. No differential was introduced for retirement villages
6. No new rate category was introduced for rural lifestyle farms

The following additional resolutions were also made that may/will impact on the distribution of rates:

1. That Council acknowledge and address the key findings out of the rate review process in its strategy document. The current rating system is broken. Farms carry an excessive rate burden that is recommended to be reduced at every general revaluation to achieve a more fair and equitable distribution of the rate burden.
2. That the Municipal Charge is reduced by the State Government Rate Cap set annually rounded to \$280, and that Council reduce its budget and administrative costs to match its reduced rate revenue in the 2020-2021 budget.
(In the Draft Rating Strategy the municipal charge was being reduced from \$287 to \$200. With this resolution the charge for 2019-20 will be \$280)

3. Adopt the Rating Policy including a trigger point for the purposes of deciding when a review of a differential will occur, as follows: The difference in the valuation change (increase or decrease) between the general differential rate category and another differential rate category exceeds 3.5% following a general revaluation of properties.
(This was 5% in the Draft policy)

Discussion

Following these additional resolutions and the impacts that this had on the overall distribution of Rates, the Draft Rating Strategy and Rating Policy were amended and again put to the community for comments and submissions by close of business on the 12 April 2019. A summary document of the impact of these changes was also produced and this is shown as **Appendix "9.1C"**.

The draft documents and summary report were placed on exhibition and made available through Council's website, with community members were invited to make submissions. An electronic form was also placed on Council's website so that submissions could be made more quickly and easier.

A total of 11 submissions were received, of which, six were completed on-line through the website and five were sent in as separate written submissions. Submitters were also invited to speak to Council on their submission and three submitters elected to do that, and were heard on Monday 15 April 2019.

All submissions received are shown in **Appendix "9.1D"**.

Financial Implications

No additional direct costs have been incurred as a result of the latest revision of the documents. Costs are limited to officer's time in managing the revision process.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Priority 4.1.01 – Review the rates strategy and implement.

Consultation/Communication

Eleven submissions were received during this two-week review period. This was in addition to the 35 submissions received during February and the five submissions made to the Rates Strategy Advisory Committee. There were also 289 surveys completed for the Rates Strategy Advisory Committee.

Risk Implications

Should Council decide to vary the Draft Rating Strategy or Draft Rating Policy significantly to what has been readvertised, then the revised Draft documents may need to be made available to the public again for comment before they are again finally resolved upon. Only limited time is now available within the budget cycle should that be needed.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The Rating Policy and Rating Strategy are provided for resolution of Council.

9.2 DRAFT BUDGET 2019-20

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	File No:	F18/A10/000001
Department:	Corporate Services		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** If no type Nil

Appendix

Draft Budget 2019-20 (**Appendix "9.2A"**)

Purpose

To adopt the 2019-20 Draft Budget, Strategic Resource Plan to 2022-23 and proposed Rates and charges for public exhibition in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* Section 129 (3)(b) and (c) for a period of 28 days.

Summary

- The draft budget has been prepared through a process of consultation and discussion with Council officers, Councillors and aligns with objectives as set out in the Council Plan.
- The draft budget is balanced on a cash basis.
- The draft budget is now available for community comment and feedback until 5pm on Monday 27 May 2019.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve the Draft Budget 2019-20 attached as **Appendix "9.2A"** and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on 27 May 2019.
2. Approve the Draft Strategic Resource Plan included within the budget documentation for the four years to 2022-23.
3. Propose the rate in the dollar and charges as set out in Section 4.1 of the draft budget document attached as **Appendix "9.2A"**.
4. Consider any submissions on the Draft Budget 2019-20 on Wednesday 5 June 2018 at 5.00pm.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Approve the Draft Budget 2019-20 attached as **Appendix "9.2A"** and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on 27 May 2019.
2. Approve the Draft Strategic Resource Plan included within the budget documentation for the four years to 2022-23.
3. Propose the rate in the dollar and charges as set out in Section 4.1 of the draft budget document attached as **Appendix "9.2A"**.
4. Consider any submissions on the Draft Budget 2019-20 on Wednesday 5 June 2018 at 5.00pm.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Bringing together a \$50 million plus budget within the diverse service delivery environment of Council is a challenging task and this year again it has been slightly more challenging with the third year of Rate Capping, but Council has still managed (but possibly for the last time) to tag \$240,000 additional funding (1% of rate revenue) to asset renewal. This will continue the work of replacing our ageing infrastructure, particularly our roads. Dedicated rate expenditure on renewal works is now at \$2.64 million with 41.2% of this being spent on Rural Roads (\$1.09 million) which equates to 18.8% of the total rates collected from the farm category.

Council has prepared a budget for the 2019-20 financial year that sets the rate increase at 2.25% which is 0.25% below the 2.50% State Government imposed rate cap. This has been achieved whilst maintaining service delivery and continuing with operational initiatives to become more efficient and effective, whilst still investing in new and renewal of ageing infrastructure. Council did not apply to the Essential Services Commission for a rate cap variation for 2019-20.

Council has a range of both internal and external cost pressures to contend with and still recognises the need to play an important role as the regional city for the western area of the State, with the provision of quality services to more than just our own residents.

Managers have continued to keep non-salary operational costs increases to the bare minimum of 1%, but also accepting that some things do change that are beyond Council's control, for example, energy and fuel. In real terms, this means a shrinking of non-salary operational budgets by around 0.8% (CPI 1.8% December 2018).

There has been growth and development within the community which, over time, puts pressure on services, such as the supply of parks and gardens, maintenance of roads and footpaths, etc. There has also been the introduction of new or expanded services in recent years with the Kalkee Road Children's and Community Hub and the Performing Arts Centre. At the same time, there is a need to balance these requirements with community demand for greater spending on some service areas such as road construction, road maintenance, footpaths and cycle-ways.

Council's Enterprise Agreement expires on 30 June 2019, and, at this stage, has not been finalised so 2.5% increase has been allowed for. Staff numbers increased by 5 FTE in 2018-19 as a result of the restructure. In 2018-19 these costs were factored in to the budget for 75% of the year with 2019-20 now showing the full year impact. The increased costs associated with these new FTE numbers have been met from growth in supplementary rates and an increase in the Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants.

A separate independent process has been run by Council to review the Rating Strategy and establish a separate Rating Policy. This has been considered independent of the budget process, and some of the significant changes that have been proposed are that the farm differential be reduced from 80% to 67% of the general rate, new differentials for commercial and industrial land of 95% of the general rate and the Municipal Charge decreased from \$287 to \$280.

Council has continued to fund \$0.56 million of new initiatives to drive further efficiencies and improve our operational effectiveness.

Council has published its budget using the Institute of Chartered Accountants Model Budget. This document seeks to give consideration to longer-term plans as well as the current year, develops the budget in the context of the Council Plan, provides consistency with our annual financial statements and meets all of the requirements of the *Planning and Reporting Regulations 2014*.

Council has continued to deliver a budget that is balanced on a cash basis.

Discussion

1. Draft Budget Document

The draft budget document is in an easy to read format made up of the following three sections.

(a) Mayors Introduction and Executive Summary (pages 3 to 13)

This provides a very high level “snapshot” view of the budget and is intended to be readable by members of the community that do not have any financial background. If only this section is read it will give the reader an understanding of the key elements and issues within the budget.

(b) Budget Reports (pages 14 to 63)

This section includes all statutory disclosures of information and detailed budget numbers. It includes:

- Explanation of the linkages with the Council Plan
- Service summaries and indicators for councils 40 service groups and 92 separate services including comparison's with last year's figures
- Service performance outcome indicators
- Financial statements, grants, borrowings, capital work and rates information.
- Financial performance indicators

(c) Appendices (pages 65 to 112)

This section provides additional supporting information on community grants, operational initiatives, fees and charges and a document highlighting key capital works.

2. Budget Highlights

(a) Operational Initiatives

This year a number of larger operational initiatives are being proposed rather than a large number of smaller projects:

- Records Management System - \$150,000
Replacement of the RecFind Records Management System with an improved system that operates as a complete Electronic Document Management System with modern and up to date functionality and integration with other systems.

- **Asset Management System - \$100,000**
Implementation of the Assetic asset management system and integration with GIS systems, asset maintenance system (Reflect), Finance and Records systems. Includes implementation of the asset valuation module and a viewing platform for GPS.
- **Future Operational Project Design and Development Costs - \$104,305**
Design and development costs for the project office re future year's operational projects. In future years, these costs will be included in overall project estimates. 2019-20 is essentially a transitional year until the Project Office processes are fully developed and implemented and projects are identified.
- **Asset Evidence Photography for Disaster Funding - \$88,000**
Video capture of critical road network infrastructure for the assessment of any future potential impact from a disaster event. Linking of this video record to Council's GIS System.
- **Rural Road Network Plan - \$50,000**
Consultancy to develop a network plan for Council's rural roads.
- **Community Visioning and Plan for Horsham Municipality - \$40,000**
Undertake a community visioning process (update the Horsham Community Plan) to develop a long-term vision for the future of the community.
- **Business Assistance Program - \$10,000**
Develop a pool of funds available on application as small business assistance program. Exact policy and guidelines are still to be developed.

(b) Capital Works Program

The capital works program for the 2019-20 year is expected to be \$20.36 million. There will also be carried forward works uncompleted from 2018-19 but as yet these are not finalised or factored in to the budget, this will be done soon after 30 June 2019.

The 2019-20 works are funded from, \$4.37 million external grants, R2R \$1.14 million, \$0.17 million from general contributions and donations, with the balance of \$15.82 million from Council cash (\$5.98 million from operations, \$0.45 million from asset sales, \$1.34 million from internal loans and \$6.90 million from reserves). There are no external borrowings planned for this year.

Renewal works total \$9.88 million or 48% of the overall program (last year was 55%), \$2.65 million of this is from the tagged rate rises since 2008-09. New works total \$8.85 million or 43% and upgrade works \$1.62 million or 9%. Infrastructure makes up the largest segment of works \$15.98 million or 78%.

Expenditure on rural roads will increase by \$1.22 million or 39.7% from the 2018-19 budget. \$0.22 million of this additional funding has come from council rates where the allocation has increased by 9.3% (well above the 2.25% overall rate increase) with the remaining increase from the Federal Roads to Recovery program and other specific government grants. An extra allocation of \$0.15 million has been allocated to address the backlog of works in the footpath program.

This year Council has again included the Capital Works 2019-20 as a layer on Council's Community Map which can be found at the bottom of Council's Website homepage. This provides more details of planned capital works based on location and includes additional information and photos where applicable.

Council has also again included an additional appendix to the budget document which provides more detailed information of highlights from the planned capital works for 2019-20.

The highlighted items included in that summary are as follows:

Council Plan Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

- \$70,000 – Town Hall – Heritage Floor Replacement & Acoustic Treatment Heritage Hall

Council Plan Goal 3 – Asset Management

- \$4.28 million – for Rural Roads
- \$1.78 million – for Urban Roads
- \$3.03 million – Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange – roofing of the selling area
- \$2.50 million – WIFT Precinct establishment works
- \$1.68 million – Wimmera River/CAD
- \$1.81 million – Plant and Equipment replacement program
- \$614,574 – Project design and management
- \$274,000 – Rural Bridges
- \$451,000 – Footpath, pedestrian crossings and cycleways upgrades (includes \$150,000 for addressing footpath backlog issues)
- \$150,000 – Replacement of the Horsham Aquatic Centre indoor pool concourse surface
- \$100,000 – Selected short-term works to improve operations at the Council depot
- \$80,000 – Haven Recreation Reserve carpark construction
- \$40,000 – May Park toilets screening and shelter
- \$50,000 – City entrances signage and branding implementation
- \$45,000 – Horsham Community Sports Pavilion improvements
- \$30,000 – Kayak access point on Wimmera River
- \$30,000 – Upgrade to the emergency generator at the Horsham aerodrome

Council Plan Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

- \$68,800 – ICT hardware and software upgrades
- \$170,000 – ICT server host replacements
- \$30,000 - ICT internal WIFI upgrades
- \$100,000 – Phone system upgrade
- \$25,000 – Addressing acoustic issues in Council Chamber and reception rooms

Council Plan Goal 5 – Natural and Built Environments

- \$1.36 million – Johns Cell 3 putrescible construction
- \$0.84 million – Ladlows Cell 2 stage 2B phase 1
- \$410,000 – Single pass waste truck
- \$100,000 – Solar panels at the Horsham Town Hall

Financial Implications

All matters under discussion impact on the 2019-20 Council Budget and four-year Strategic Resource Plan.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The budget has been prepared with reference to the Draft 2019-2023 Council Plan. Preparation of the budget is a statutory requirement.

Consultation/Communication

Under the *Local Government Act 1989 Section 129 (3)(b)* Council must place the budget to be available for inspection for a period of at least 28 days after the publication of the Public Notice announcing that a budget has been prepared. The closing date for submissions is 5pm on Monday 27 May 2019.

Submission should be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sunil Bhalla, PO Box 511 Horsham Vic 3402, or via email to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au. Community should indicate in their submissions if they or a representative of theirs, wish to be heard in person by Council on Wednesday 5 June 2019 at 5.00pm.

A community engagement plan has been developed and a number of planned engagement activities will occur during May 2019, including on-line information on Council's website, flyers at public counters at the Civic Centre Horsham and Natimuk Offices, static displays at the Civic Centre, Councillor listening posts, a social media question and answer session, promotion of the capital works highlights document and budget flyers through social media.

Risk Implications

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

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The Draft Budget 2019-20 is made available for community comments and feedback.

9.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2019-20

Author's Name:	Heather Proctor	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Manager Finance	File No:	F20/A01/000001
Department:	Finance		

Officer Declaration of Interest

At all levels of the assessment process, those on assessment panels and at briefings have been requested to declare any conflict of interest and to not discuss or vote on any particular applications where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest. **Appendix "9.3B"** provides the details of the Conflict of Interest declarations made by officers and others involved in the process.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Community Grants Assessment List 2019 (**Appendix "9.3A"**)
Conflict of Interest Declarations (**Appendix "9.3B"**)

Purpose

To allocate Community Grants for 2019-20 which are included in the Draft 2019-20 budget.

Summary

- Grant allocation to increase 2.25% from 2018-19 to \$373,940
- 100 applications received, 25% more than 2018-19
- \$ value requested was 6% less than in 2018-19
- \$167,650 allocated for Community Donations
- \$206,290 allocated for Community Grants.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Allocate funding of \$373,940 in the 2019-20 Budget for approved community grants and donations.
2. Approve the allocations to the various grant recipients as detailed in **Appendix "9.3A"** excluding the grants proposed for Taylors Lake Community Hall, Natimuk and District Field and Game, Brimpaen Reserve Committee of Management, Laharum Hall, Rotary Club of Horsham East, The Salvation Army and the Natimuk Men's Shed.
3. Approve the allocation for Taylors Lake Community Hall.
4. Approve the allocations for Natimuk and District Field and Game, Brimpaen Reserve Committee of Management and Laharum Hall.
5. Approve the allocation to Rotary Club of Horsham East.
6. Approve the allocation to the Salvation Army and Natimuk Men's Shed.
7. Advise all successful and unsuccessful grant applicants of the outcome of their applications during April, 2019.

Cr David Grimble left the meeting at 6.03pm.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council:

1. Allocate funding of \$373,940 in the 2019-20 Budget for approved community grants and donations.
2. Approve the allocations to the various grant recipients as detailed in **Appendix "9.3A"** excluding the grants proposed for Taylors Lake Community Hall, Natimuk and District Field and Game, Brimpaen Reserve Committee of Management, Laharum Hall, Rotary Club of Horsham East, The Salvation Army and the Natimuk Men's Shed.
5. Approve the allocations to the various grant recipients as detailed in **Appendix "9.3A"** excluding the grants proposed for Taylors Lake Community Hall, Natimuk and District Field and Game, Brimpaen Reserve Committee of Management, Laharum Hall, Rotary Club of Horsham East, The Salvation Army and the Natimuk Men's Shed.
7. Advise all successful and unsuccessful grant applicants of the outcome of their applications during April, 2019.

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr John Robinson**

That Council:

4. Approve the allocations for Natimuk and District Field and Game, Brimpaen Reserve Committee of Management and Laharum Hall.

CARRIED

*Cr David Grimble returned to the meeting at 6.07pm.**Cr John Robinson left the meeting at 6.07pm.***Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council:

3. Approve the allocation for Taylors Lake Community Hall.

CARRIED

*Cr John Robinson returned to the meeting at 6.08pm.**Cr Mark Radford stood down from the Chair and left the meeting at 6.08pm.**Cr David Grimble took the Chair at 6.08pm.***Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council:

6. Approve the allocation to the Salvation Army and Natimuk Men's Shed.

CARRIED

*Cr Mark Radford returned to the meeting at 6.09pm.**Cr David Grimble stepped down from the Chair at 6.09pm.**Cr Mark Radford assumed the Chair at 6.09pm.*

REPORT

Background

Council have annually allocated funding to support community and sporting groups in its municipality as part of its budget process. These funds cover both recurrent “Donations” for sporting groups, halls, kindergartens, groups and events to assist them with their operations as well as “Community Grants” for specific projects.

Applications for the 2019-20 Community Grants Program were invited in February, with a closing date of 28 February 2019.

Discussion

Following the closing date, applications have been considered by an interdepartmental working group of council officers, Council’s Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee, Executive Management Team and at a Council Briefing meeting.

This year Council received 100 community grant applications requesting total grants of \$318,575. This was a 25% increase in the number of applications received from the previous year, but a 6% decrease in total value of grants requested. In effect, there were more applications but the amounts requested were generally lower.

A ranking system used in previous years, has been used again in the assessment of the applications for 2019-20 and reflects the assessment criteria in the grant guidelines. The objective of the ranking system is to provide some general guidance for assessors and greater transparency in the assessment process.

A final list of proposed Community Grants and Donations has been developed for the consideration and approval of Council (**Appendix “9.3A”**).

Financial Implications

Proposed allocations are \$167,650 to community donations and \$206,290 to Community Grants. This represents 65% of grant funds requested. The proposed total allocation of \$373,940 represents a 2.25% increase on the previous year’s allocation which aligns with the proposed increase in rates within the draft budget. This allocation has been included in Council’s Draft 2019-20 Budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The HRCC Community Grants Program Guideline links to the key priorities of the 2017-2021 Health and Well-being Plan and the 2018-2022 Council Plan.

Consultation/Communication

In line with previous practice, upon adoption of the Community Grants for 2019-20, it is proposed that groups be advised as soon as practicable to assist them in preparing for the implementation of their projects and budgets for the 2019-20 financial year and for seeking any further funds from other bodies.

Risk Implications

There is a low level of risk in advising organisations that they are successful with a Community Grant before Council's Draft Budget is adopted

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Community grants provide a valuable source of revenue for community organisations with the municipality and enable them to prosper and grow their organisations.

9.4 WIMMERA MACHINERY FIELD DAYS (WMFD) 5-7 MARCH 2019

Author's Name:	Susan SurrIDGE	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	File No:	F06/A23/000001
Department:	Governance and Information		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To provide a report on Council's participation and support for the 2019 Wimmera Machinery Field Days (WMFD).

Summary

This report documents the resources required and the evaluated effectiveness of Council's formal attendance at the 2019 WMFD.

Recommendation

That Council note the WMFD report.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council note the WMFD report.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Following the positive WMFD engagement in 2018, Council took the opportunity to have a stand at the 2019 WMFD and to provide sponsorship for the Official President's Luncheon at the event. The Mayor was a guest speaker at this event.

Acting Manager Governance and Information, Susan Surridge, co-ordinated HRCC's presence at the event, and 14 staff covered shifts at the site over the three-day period. The Chief Executive Officer, Councillors and consultants working on the Horsham Urban Transport Plan were also in attendance.

Discussion

Council was provided with a complimentary double site, a page in the WMFD booklet to publish the Mayor's message, day passes to the event and the opportunity to sponsor the official luncheon. The focus of the 2019 event was to engage with the public on Transforming Horsham and the key projects of:

- Open Space Strategy
- Horsham Urban Transport Strategy
- City to River Visioning
- Rating Strategy Review
- Horsham South Structure Plan

There were two surveys (relating to the Horsham Urban Transport Strategy and the Open Space Strategy) open for the public to participate in.



There was a 43 inch monitor available to explain Transforming Horsham and also allow people to access Community Map, which included a new tool for recording historical information about local emergencies.

The display also included information about the draft Rating Strategy, with copies of the strategy and feedback forms available. A number of submissions were completed at the event.

One of the highlights of the event was a visit by Senator Brigit McKenzie to announce funding of \$1.49 million through the Building Better Regions Fund to roof the Livestock Exchange.

Feedback and Observations

- The WMFD site and setup was appropriate. A double site in the Moore Pavilion adjacent to the Wimmera Mail-Times was a great location and this was complimentary. Transforming Horsham posters provided a colourful site which attracted attention. The large monitor and laptop connections to Wi-Fi were excellent and the support of the ICT team is acknowledged.
- Transforming Horsham was well received and gave a strong focus for conversations with the public. People were particularly interested in ways to improve the movement of heavy vehicles through Horsham.

- The ability to show Community Map on the large screen and highlight aspects of the Horsham Urban Transport Study was particularly helpful.
- Having a designated staff member asking people to fill out surveys for the Horsham Urban Transport study, together with the consultant (Day 1) meant that more people completed the survey. Approximately 20 surveys were completed over the three days.
- A number of rates submissions were also completed on-line using the Council's information technology.

Additional to the Council site and associated staffing costs, the operations team also undertook some slashing/mowing activities prior to the day and a Council water truck was utilised for one day also. These activities were not billed back to the WMFD.

Financial Implications

Item	Cost of Luncheon Sponsorship	Costs of Site	Costs of Operational Items
Luncheon sponsorship	\$2,250		
WMFD planning		\$560	
Staff – site setup and packup		\$500	
Staff – site attendance		\$5,376	
Incidentals		\$100	
Staff and equipment hire – mowing /slashing			\$8,369
Staff and equipment hire – water truck			\$2,850
Totals	\$2,250	\$6,486	\$11,219

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Priority 1.3.07 – Form a stronger relationship with WMFD Committee and their major and significant event in the municipality.

Consultation/Communication

Over 75 community engagements were noted. The most popular topics included roads, Transforming Horsham and the Horsham Urban Transport Study. There were approximately three merit requests and five follow up emails from these interactions.

Roads	Rates	Transforming Horsham	Merit Requests	General Discussion	Total
12	5	30	3	25	75

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Council supports the WMFD through the provision of some outdoor services and a site at the event. The site provides an opportunity to actively seek and give information that was well received by the public and is an ideal platform for community engagement. Importantly, it gives Council a visible presence at the largest event of the year for our municipality and is an effective way of engaging and supporting our farming community.

9.5 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2019

Author's Name:	Zac Gorman	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Management Accountant	File No:	F18/A10/000001
Department:	Finance Department – Corporate Services		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Quarterly Financial Report March 2019 (**Appendix "9.5A"**)

Purpose

To provide the Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ended 31 March 2019.

Summary

The Quarterly Financial Report is provided in accordance with statutory requirements.

Recommendation

That Council note the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending 31 March 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council note the Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending 31 March 2019.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Under Section 138 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, a financial statement is to be provided to open Council comparing actual to budget for revenue and expenditure at least once every three months.

Discussion

The attached report (**Appendix "9.5A"**) has been prepared to provide Council with an overview of finances year-to-date and comparisons to budget in a simple, easy to read format, with commentary as required.

Financial Implications

Staff time to compile and prepare this report is included in the 2018-19 budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

This report together with more extensive analysis and detail is provided to Council each month as part of the Finance and Performance Committee agenda and to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

Risk Implications

The provision of relevant information on a regular basis is an important part of Council's internal controls and is necessary for Council to meet its obligations under Section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, which ultimately makes Council accountable for the good financial management of the municipality.

There is a risk that either too much or too little information is provided to council for it to carry out this responsibility. Council must therefore ensure that it has sufficient information to be satisfied that finances are in order and that budgetary and financial planning goals are being met.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The financial report provides a summary of Council's performance against budget for the period ended 31 March 2019.

9.6 COUNCIL PLAN HALF YEARLY REPORT – 1 JULY 2018 TO 31 DECEMBER 2018

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison and Sue Frankham	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services Governance Officer	File No:	F19/A11/000001
Department:	Governance and Information Management		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Council Plan Half Yearly Report – 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 (**Appendix “9.6A”**)

Purpose

To report on progress against the four-year priorities and strategic indicators in the Council Plan for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Summary

- The 2018-2020 Council Plan contains 19 Strategic Indicators and 121 Four-Year Priorities.
- Since the last report, a further seven Four-Year Priorities have been completed.
- Of the 121 Four-Year Priorities, 20 have been completed, 93 are in progress and eight have not commenced.
- Of the 19 Strategic Indicators, five have now been achieved.

Recommendation

That Council note the 2018-2022 Council Plan half yearly report for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council note the 2018-2022 Council Plan half yearly report for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires all Victorian Councils to produce a four-year Council Plan which must be reviewed annually. The 2018-2022 Council Plan was formally adopted on 25 June 2018. This document sets the strategic direction of Council over the next four years, linking the community's vision to long-term community goals, four-year outcomes and four-year priorities for Horsham Rural City Council. The Council Plan provides direction to management and includes the indicators that Council uses to deliver key outcomes.

The Council Plan contains five long-term goals:

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Develop Horsham and the municipality as a diverse inclusive and vibrant community

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Lead in sustainable growth and economic development

Goal 3 – Asset Management

Met community and service needs through provision and maintenance of infrastructure

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

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

Goal 5 – Natural and Built Environments

Lead in environmental best practice, create a municipality for the future and plan for the impacts of climate change

Encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities within Council and the community, whilst planning for a growing municipality and implement practices that minimise our environmental footprint and contribute to a sustainable future

Discussion

The 2018-2022 Council Plan lists 121 Four-Year priorities. Since the last report, the following seven Four-Year Priorities have been completed:

- Goal 1, 1.4.01 – Work with other Councils and relevant agencies to prepare rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Goal 2, 2.2.03 – Support a Western Highway bypass of Horsham
- Goal 2, 2.3.04 – Explore opportunities from the 2017-18 Australian and International Motocross Event
- Goal 3, 3.4.04 – Develop additional off-leash areas for dogs
- Goal 4, 4.2.02 – Implement a robust financial and performance management system
- Goal 4, 4.3.01 – Investigate opportunities for participating in employee exchange programs
- Goal 4, 4.4.01 – Widen the implementation of the merit Customer Service request tracking system across the organisation

Of the 121 Four-Year priorities, 20 have been completed, 93 are in progress and eight have not commenced. For a full report, refer to **Appendix "9.6A"**.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Consultation/Communication

The Council Plan was developed following an extensive consultative process.

Risk Implications

The likelihood of Council achieving success in fulfilling its mission and vision is greatly enhanced by the utilisation of effective planning. Ineffective planning is a significant risk to Council in terms of providing successful outcomes for the community.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

This half yearly report provides an update on the status of the four-year priorities listed in the 2018-2022 Council Plan.

9.7 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Governance	File No:	F18/A13/000001
Department:	Governance and Information		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes – 21 March 2019 (**Appendix “9.7A”**)

Purpose

To report on the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019.

Summary

- The Audit and Risk Committee Meeting was held 21 March 2019.
- Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019 are provided for the information of Council.

Recommendation

That Council receive the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Audit and Risk Committee is an advisory committee of Council, whose objective is to provide appropriate advice and recommendations to Council on matters as listed in its Charter, in order to facilitate decision making by Council in relation to the discharge of its accountability requirements.

Discussion

The Audit and Risk Committee meeting was held on 21 March 2019 and the minutes are provided as a record of that meeting. The main points of the meeting were:

- Finalised Audit and Risk Committee Charter and Annual Plan for 2019
- Report from Director Technical Services on the outstanding audit actions from the Depot Operations Internal Audit
- Internal Audit final reports:
 - Human Resource Management Practices
 - Corporate Governance
- Audit Strategy year ending 30 June 2019
- Budget update
- Quarterly financial report (quarter ending 31 December 2018)
- Risk management and insurance report
- Revision of policy framework
- Policies reviewed and adopted
- Audit Committee Self-Assessment Summary and Analysis
- Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) corruption, prevention and integrity insights forum.

Financial Implications

Operations of Council's Audit and Risk Committee is covered within the 2018-19 operational budget allocation.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Outcome 4.2 – Manage risk to the organisation

Four-Year Outcome 4.4 – Achieve high standards of organisational performance

Consultation/Communication

Council's Audit and Risk Committee is comprised of councillors and independent members. Consultation and communication is undertaken with Internal Auditors and external (Victorian Auditor-General's Office – VAGO) Auditors.

Risk Implications

The Audit and Risk Committee is an important committee of council required under the *Local Government Act 1989*. To not have a properly functioning or constituted committee would be in breach of the requirements of the Act. The committee has an important role in monitoring Council's financial governance and risks, to not have such a committee could increase Council's to potential for fraud and corruption to occur.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The Audit and Risk Committee is a legislated requirement under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the minutes are provided to Council for information.

9.8 APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION OF AUTHORISED OFFICER UNDER THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Governance	File No:	F19/A02/000001
Department:	Governance and Information		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** If no type Nil

Appendix

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation for Joel Hastings (**Appendix "9.8A"**)

Purpose

To appoint Joel Hastings as an authorised officer for the enforcement of various general provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and to authorise this officer to institute proceedings for any offences.

Summary

- Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) to be approved by Council for Joel Hastings.

Recommendation

That Council appoint Joel Hastings as an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, in accordance with the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation as attached (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council appoint Joel Hastings as an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, in accordance with the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation as attached (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Most Acts allow Council to delegate to a member of staff the responsibility for appointment of an authorised officer, however Section 188 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* specifically prohibits Council from delegating this power. This means that Council itself must directly appoint authorised officers under this Act.

Discussion

The instrument of appointment and authorisation for Mr Joel Hastings, Co-ordinator Statutory Planning and Building Services, is proposed for adoption by Council. The authorisation document is as per the template provided by Maddocks Lawyers (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

Appointment is by name rather than by position. Mr Hastings commenced with Council on Tuesday 9 April 2019.

Financial Implications

There are no financial impacts as a result of this authorisation.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

Mr Hastings and the staff who administer delegation arrangements have discussed the requirement for this authorisation.

Risk Implications

If Council does not have officers appropriately authorised to carry out their assigned tasks, there is a considerable risk to the organisation with non-compliance with relevant legislative requirements.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Under Section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, that Council appoints Mr Joel Hastings to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act.

9.9 RURAL COUNCILS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	File No:	F20/A02/000002
Department:	Not applicable		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** The appendices only are confidential – Section 89(2)(a) personnel matters.

Appendix

RCTP Business Case - Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration – refer to Confidential Matters
(**Appendix “15.1A”**)

RCTP Business Case – Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration (Addendum) – refer to Confidential Matters
(**Appendix “15.1B”**)

Purpose

To approve the submission of the business case for funding under the Victorian Government Rural Councils Transformation Program.

Summary

- On 14 August 2018, the Minister for Local Government launched the Victorian Government’s \$20 million Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP). The program encourages the sharing of knowledge, costs and resources at a regional scale so that local governments can deliver more efficient, effective and sustainable services for their communities.
- Horsham Rural City Council is a participant and lead Council in a group of councils that has now submitted the Business Case for funding for Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration project (RCCC).
- The RCCC is seeking seed funding of \$5.63m under the RCTP program to establish an IT platform and common finance and payroll functions in phase 1 of the project to enable the sharing of corporate services across the Councils.
- A business case has been prepared in support of the funding application and is now presented to Council for approval.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note that Horsham Rural City Council is a participant and lead Council in a grouping of councils that have made an application for funding under the Victorian Government Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP) for the following initiative:
 - (a) Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration project, in conjunction with Hindmarsh Shire, West Wimmera Shire, Yarriambiack Shire, Buloke Shire, Loddon Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Pyrenees Shire Councils.
2. Note that for an RCTP application to be eligible for consideration, the following criteria must be met:
 - (a) Submission of a joint business case by 31 March 2019.
 - (b) Each Council must pass an accompanying resolution committing to implement the business case, if approved for funding. The resolution must be lodged with Local Government Victoria by 30th April 2019.
3. Approve the submission of the business case (**Appendix "15.1A"**) by Horsham Rural City Council on behalf of nine Councils.
4. Approve the submission of the Addendum (Six-Council Scenario) (**Appendix "15.1B"**) to the business case.
5. Approve implementation of the projects within the submitted business case by Horsham Rural City Council, subject to the application being approved for RCTP funding.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson**

That Council:

1. Note that Horsham Rural City Council is a participant and lead Council in a grouping of councils that have made an application for funding under the Victorian Government Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP) for the following initiative:
 - (a) Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration project, in conjunction with Hindmarsh Shire, West Wimmera Shire, Yarriambiack Shire, Buloke Shire, Loddon Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Pyrenees Shire Councils.
2. Note that for an RCTP application to be eligible for consideration, the following criteria must be met:
 - (a) Submission of a joint business case by 31 March 2019.
 - (b) Each Council must pass an accompanying resolution committing to implement the business case, if approved for funding. The resolution must be lodged with Local Government Victoria by 30th April 2019.
3. Approve the submission of the business case (**Appendix "15.1A"**) by Horsham Rural City Council on behalf of nine Councils.
4. Approve the submission of the Addendum (Six-Council Scenario) (**Appendix "15.1B"**) to the business case.
5. Approve implementation of the projects within the submitted business case by Horsham Rural City Council, subject to the application being approved for RCTP funding.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

On 14 August 2018, the Minister for Local Government launched the Victorian Government's \$20 million Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP). This first-of-its kind initiative in Victoria, encourages the sharing of knowledge, costs and resources at a regional scale so that local governments can deliver more efficient, effective and sustainable services for their communities. It will also improve their financial sustainability.

Groups of three or more Councils can apply for seed funding of between \$2 million to \$5 million to support the implementation of large-scale, transformative projects on a regional level, such as joined up service delivery or corporate services.

The program aims to:

- Improve the financial sustainability of rural and regional councils by achieving economies of scale, including through regional service delivery or collaborative procurement.
- Promote more efficient and improved service delivery through collaboration and innovation.
- Facilitate benefits for rural and regional communities, with priority given to those for rural communities.
- Demonstrate potential efficiencies to be gained through regional service delivery.

Following a successful Expression of Interest, Horsham Rural City Council is a participant and lead Council in a group of Councils that has now submitted the business case for funding for Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration project (RCCC). The business case has been developed in conjunction with Hindmarsh Shire, West Wimmera Shire, Yarriambiack Shire, Buloke Shire, Loddon Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Pyrenees Shire Councils.

Discussion

The RCCC is seeking seed funding of \$5.63m under the RCTP program to establish an IT platform to enable the sharing of corporate services across the Councils. The IT platform would consist of a cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planner (ERP) with corporate function modules being transitioned across over the entirety of the transformation program. The funding being sought under the RCTP would cover the necessary capital funding for implementing the finance and payroll modules, transitioning each of the nine councils finance and payroll functions across (i.e. harmonised chart of accounts and processes) and the necessary Transformation Management Office (TMO) to successfully support the RCCC transformation.

Fundamental to the transformation is the establishment of shared corporate services across the nine councils. Shared corporate services, combined with the introduction of common finance and payroll modules, enables simplified business processes that will be the same across all nine councils. A common chart of accounts and mapping into each Council's corporate functions, will establish a collective way of working across the finance and payroll functions in each of the councils. In the first instance this will enable the ability to share people resources as they all complete their work with the same instruction.

The CEOs of the nine participating Councils have agreed on a framework to assist with the decision making throughout the transformation process. There is a commitment from the CEOs that:

- Any savings, financial and non-financial, would be redirected to improving service delivery.
- There are to be no forced redundancies as a consequence of this project.

A requirement of the program is to obtain Council resolution in support of the business case and its implementation if successful in achieving the funding. The business case was submitted by the due date of 31 March 2019 and is now enclosed as a confidential attachment (**Appendix "15.1A"**) for Council approval.

Three Councils in the group are participating in another project with the Central Highlands group of Councils. In the event the Central Highlands project is successful for funding, the three Councils may withdraw from the RCCC project. A scenario based on the six Councils in the RCCC project has been prepared as an addendum to the business case (**Appendix "15.1B"**) and also lodged as part of the submission.

Financial Implications

Funding for the implementation of the entire project, which includes system costs, procurement, governance structure and change management will be provided by the state government. There will be some in-kind contribution for some senior officer involvement in providing an oversight to the project.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Priority 4.4.10 – Work with surrounding shires to identify opportunities for shared services.

Consultation/Communication

CEOs from the nine participating Councils have worked collaboratively over the last few months to prepare the EOI and business case submissions.

Staff likely to be impacted by the introduction of the new systems have been verbally informed of the project. Further consultation will occur after the outcome of the submission is known. A comprehensive change management program will underpin the implementation process.

Risk Implications

The business case includes an assessment of the potential risks and mitigation strategies. The risk assessment will be further developed as part of the project implementation plan.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

A business case for funding has been submitted on behalf of nine Councils for Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration project. The objective of the project is to establish an IT platform and common finance and payroll systems to enable the sharing of corporate services across the participating Councils.

9.10 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT LOT 1 ON TITLE PLAN 382138W, DIMBOOLA ROAD, HORSHAM

Author's Name:	Nicholas Carey	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Senior Statutory Planner	File No:	99/01/01365
Department:	Development Services		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Delegate Report (**Appendix "9.10A"**)

Objector's letter (**Appendix "9.10B"**)

Purpose

To determine Planning Permit application PA1900012 for the use and development of a telecommunications facility at Lot 1 on Title Plan 382138W, Dimboola Road, Horsham.

Summary

- The proposal forms part of a network of telecommunication facilities aimed at providing a broadband service.
- Following notification of the proposal, an objection was received relating to its potential impact on the operation of the aerodrome.
- Amended plans have been provided reducing the height of the tower to 15 metres.

Recommendation

That Council, being the Responsible Authority under the Horsham Planning Scheme and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and having considered the application, and referral responses, and the relevant provisions of the Horsham Planning Scheme, issue a Notice of Decision to grant a Planning Permit for the use and development of a telecommunications facility at Lot 1 on Title Plan 382138W, Dimboola Road, Horsham subject to the conditions contained in the Delegate Report.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr David Grimble**

That this Council not agree to the siting of the Council telecommunications tower as proposed at Lot 1 on Title Plan 382138W, Dimboola Road, Horsham.

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That this matter is brought up at the next briefing meeting with information from the Country Fire Authority.

CARRIED

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Mark Radford**

That Standing Orders be suspended at 6.49pm.

CARRIED

RESUME STANDING ORDERS**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

That Standing Orders resume at 6.53pm.

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

That the reason the application in relation to the airport is being refused is because the siting is inappropriate for a number of reasons.

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin**

That the applicant be invited back to have a discussion with Council to find a suitable site for the telecommunications infrastructure.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) has awarded a grant for a Pilot of new and upgraded infrastructure that enables the provision of a commercial business-grade broadband service.

Originally, the proposal was to construct a 20-metre high monopole at Lot 1 on Title Plan 382138W – Dimboola Road, Horsham, Victoria 3400. Following receipt of an amended plan reducing the height of the tower to 15 metres it was forwarded to the Horsham Aerodrome Users Group for comment. The response from the Horsham Aerodrome Users Group maintains that the proponent should consider an alternative site. If the option is to lower the height they suggest that should this be adopted then in the event that it constitutes an intrusion into an otherwise unobstructed airspace above the OLS for an existing or proposed 2000 metre runway length, the facility will be re-located to an alternative site that does not constitute an infringement of the OLS.

The overall height of the proposed telecommunication facility including tower and antenna will be approximately 16 metres.

The proposal will be sited within a cleared area on the north-western boundary of the property to minimise the impact on the surrounding land uses and day-to-day agricultural activities of the property. The facility will be contained within a secure fenced compound.

The site will be accessed via a new entrance to the property from Riley Road.

The proposed installation will involve the following components:

- Installation of twelve (12) panel antennas to be mounted to the monopole on a hexagonal headframe
- Installation of two (2) parabolic antenna
- Installation of one (1) equipment cabinet
- Installation of ancillary equipment associated with the operation of the facility such as cable tray and cables
- Underground power route from equipment cabinet to a Power Authority pit on the external edge of the compound (exact position to be confirmed by the power authority).

The new facility will be wholly contained within a compound (6m x 6m) enclosed by a 2.4m tall chain link fence.

Discussion

A detailed assessment of the proposal against the Horsham Planning Scheme provisions is contained in the attached Delegate Report.

There is strong policy support in the Horsham Planning Scheme for telecommunications facilities. This is demonstrated at Clause 19.03-4S where one of the strategies is to ensure that the use of land for a telecommunications facility is not prohibited in any zone.

In deciding on an application for a planning permit it is necessary to balance a range of considerations including the landscape and visual amenity impacts, the demonstrated need for the facility and compliance with the policy requirements of the Horsham Planning Scheme including Clauses 19.03-4-S (Telecommunications), Clause 52.19 (Telecommunications Facilities) and Clause 21.10-2 (Telecommunications).

It is an objective of the Planning Policy Framework for Telecommunications, expressed at Clause 19.03-4S, to encourage the continued deployment of broadband telecommunications services that are easily accessible by:

- *Increasing and improving access for all sectors of the community to the broadband telecommunications trunk network.*
- *Supporting access to transport and other public corridors for the deployment of broadband networks in order to encourage infrastructure investment and reduce investor risk.*

Planning decisions should reflect a reasonable balance between the provision of important telecommunications facilities and the need to protect the environment from adverse effects arising from telecommunications infrastructure. It is considered that the balance has been met with the proposed development and that the facility will provide a net community benefit and meets the objectives of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and in particular Sec 4 (1) (e) which states:

- *to protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community;*

Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 3 applies to the subject land. As the proposal will result in a structure less than 30 metres in height, no planning permit is required under the Overlay. Notwithstanding this, the Horsham Aerodrome Users Group have raised concerns regarding the impact of the proposed development on the flight path of aircraft using runway 17/35. The information provided by the Users Group indicates that based on a 2% glideslope for the existing runway, a tower 20.5 metres in height allows for a 20.2-metre clearance. Information provided by the Airport Manager indicates that the proposed tower will not infringe the obstacle limitation surface (OLS) of the existing runway.

Concern has been raised by the Horsham Aerodrome Users Group regarding the impact the proposed tower will have on the 2% glideslope should the runway be extended to 2,000 metres in length. The extension of the 17/35 runway to 2000 metres is based on the Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan (adopted by Council 3 May 2010) which under “Proposed Actions and Priorities” aims to *build into its next Horsham Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement review the need to ultimately establish 2000m long runways at the Horsham Aerodrome.*

The adopted Business Plan is neither incorporated into the Horsham Planning Scheme or forms a reference document. Notwithstanding this, Sec 60 (1A) (g) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states:

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority, if the circumstances appear to so require, may consider—

(g) any other strategic plan, policy statement, code or guideline which has been adopted by a Minister, government department, public authority or municipal Council.

The adopted Business Plan therefore is a document that can be considered. The weight afforded to such a document and in particular, the runway extension will in part be dependent upon such matters such as the commitment to such an action.

The amended plan reduces the height of the proposed tower by approximately 5 metres. Based on the information provided by the Horsham Aerodrome Users Group and the Airport Manager the amended proposal will not infringe the OLS or 2% glideslope.

Financial Implications

Defending the responsible authority's decision in VCAT.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Priority 2.1 – Cultivate opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development.

Consultation/Communication

As required under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, notice of the application was given to adjoining owners/occupiers. In addition, public notice was placed in the Wimmera Mail-Times.

One objection was received from the Horsham Aerodrome Users Group relating to the proposed siting of the facility and potential impact on the use of the aerodrome.

Risk Implications

Challenge of decision in VCAT.

Loss of opportunity for access to broadband network.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

As with all planning decisions, they must be balanced against the policy provisions of the Planning Scheme that supports the provision of this form of infrastructure, while taking into account other relevant matters such as adopted policy documents. Based on a reduced height the effect on both the existing runway and a 2000-metre runway would indicate that neither the OLS nor 2% glideslope would be infringed by the tower at 15 metres in height. By allowing the use and development to proceed there will be a wider community benefit to be derived from the development of a comprehensive broadband network.

9.11 MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) STATE COUNCIL MEETING – 17 MAY 2019

Author's Name:	Angela Murphy	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Director Development Services	File No:	F19/A13/000001
Department:	Development Services		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To seek endorsement of Notice of Motion to be considered on the agenda of the MAV State Council Meeting to be held on 17 May 2019.

Summary

The MAV is calling for Notices of Motions for the MAV State Council Meeting on 17 May 2019. Motions are due to be submitted by 23 April 2019 (the day of Council's Ordinary meeting).

Council's proposed motion is primarily targeted at State Government developing policy and prioritising investment in regional infrastructure as a key to supporting the 'liveability' of regional cities to attracting business investment and to providing high quality health, education, recreation and cultural services.

Council's representative on the MAV is Cr Mark Radford and Cr Josh Koenig is the substitute representative. They are both unable to attend the MAV State Council Meeting on 17 May 2019. It is therefore requested that Cr Pam Clarke be appointed as the substitute representative for the MAV State Council Meeting to be held on 17 May 2019.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the Notice of Motion to the MAV State Council meeting seeking support for the State Government to develop a long term plan for investment in regional cities as a key to maintaining the liveability of the regions they support, attract business investment and to provide high quality health, education, recreation and cultural facilities.
2. Appoint Cr Pam Clarke as the substitute representative to the MAV for the State Council Annual Meeting to be held on Friday 17 May 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Endorse the Notice of Motion to the MAV State Council meeting seeking support for the State Government to develop a long term plan for investment in regional cities as a key to maintaining the liveability of the regions they support, attract business investment and to provide high quality health, education, recreation and cultural facilities.
2. Appoint Cr Pam Clarke as the substitute representative to the MAV for the State Council Annual Meeting to be held on Friday 17 May 2019.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Investment in regional infrastructure is a key to supporting the 'liveability' of regional cities to attracting business investment and to providing high quality health, education, recreation and cultural services. Budget restraints and future rates capping, combined with a growing need for infrastructure renewal is placing considerable strain on regional cities.

Discussion

Horsham Rural City Council supports policies which enable regional centres to grow and develop by attracting further investment and encouraging the presence of a skilled workforce.

As regional hubs, regional cities support surrounding towns and districts through the provision of education, health, financial, transport and social services, as well as retail, sport and recreation, cultural and tourism amenities and activities. Most regional cities have the capacity to accommodate more people and attract new businesses.

Government investment needs to be focused on creating jobs, increasing business investment, increasing exports from our region and increasing opportunities through innovation and diversification. Additionally, this focus needs to encourage private sector investment and collaboration.

Key focus areas for investment are:

- Jobs and Business Growth to incentivise business growth and employment opportunities
- Population Growth and Liveability to facilitate population growth and enhance liveability
- Transport and Connectivity to improve road and rail infrastructure to enable better connectivity.

Rail, air and road freight and passenger networks between regional cities and state capitals are vital and government investment should look to improve these over the next 10 years.

Enhancement of education opportunities in regional cities is the key to having a well trained professional workforce. Government investment in maintaining and developing regional TAFE's and Universities is essential.

To promote the retention of young people and professionals, enhance the "liveability" of our regional cities and assist them to build on their individual "points of attraction".

Infrastructure requirements have typically been well researched and justified. In Western Victoria the priorities are:

- Western Highway duplication and upgrades
- Improvement in mobile phone coverage
- Standardisation of rail freight to increase freight efficiency, reduce travel time and rail costs and reduce the number of large trucks on the Western Highway

- The further return of regional passenger rail services
- New interconnector in the grid between Victoria and South Australia to build capacity for renewable energy.

A long-term investment plan for regional cities, aligned to unique infrastructure needs of each region will enable better planning and leveraging of the local and federal government contributions.

Financial Implications

Nil

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Lead in sustainable growth and economic development

Consultation/Communication

Council Plan includes advocacy on behalf of our community.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The MAV State Council meeting offers the opportunity for Council to advocate on issues of relevance to the sector. The proposed motion seeks to highlight the role Regional Cities play in supporting broader regions and the importance of planned investment in infrastructure to support that role.

9.12 PICK MY PROJECT PEDAL BOATS ON THE WIMMERA RIVER

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	File No:	F20/A01/000010
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Draft Operational Budget – Trial Three-Year Period (**Appendix “9.12A”**)

Draft Operator Guidelines (**Appendix “9.12B”**)

Draft User Agreement (**Appendix “9.12C”**)

Purpose

To provide information in relation to the Pick My Project Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River project and seek endorsement of the proposed operating model.

Summary

- This report provides background information on the State Government Pick My Project funding program which has resulted in Council auspicing the Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River project.
- The report discusses the operational model, three-year financial model, and associated risks.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Support a three-year trial of the Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River and invite expressions of interest from local not-for-profit groups to operate the program.
2. Subject to receipt of satisfactory expressions of interest, endorse the signing of the Pedal Boat Funding Agreement with the Victorian State Government.
3. Endorse the Draft Operational Budget, Operator Guidelines and User Agreement.

Cr Mark Radford stood down from the chair and left the meeting at 6.59pm.

Cr David Grimble took the chair at 6.59pm.

Council Motion

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr David Grimble

That Council does not endorse the Pick My Project Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River project.

MOTION LOST

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council:

1. Support a three-year trial of the Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River and invite expressions of interest from local not-for-profit groups to operate the program.
2. Subject to receipt of satisfactory expressions of interest, endorse the signing of the Pedal Boat Funding Agreement with the Victorian State Government.
3. Endorse the Draft Operational Budget, Operator Guidelines and User Agreement.

CARRIED

Cr Mark Radford returned to the meeting at 7.14pm.

Cr David Grimble stepped down from the Chair at 7.14pm.

Cr Mark Radford assumed the Chair at 7.14pm.

REPORT**Background**

From May to September 2018, the Victorian State Government launched the Pick My Project funding program. This program encouraged all Victorian residents aged 16 years and over to submit an application for a project idea that would make their community a better place to live. Projects could include programs to improve community and bring people together or small infrastructure projects. Grants could be requested between \$20,000 and \$200,000.

Key eligibility criteria for the applications:

- Only individual people aged 16+ could apply
- The project could not make a profit
- Applications had to be auspiced by a not-for-profit community group or local Council
- The auspice organisation is responsible for delivering the project
- Projects on Council Land or Crown Land Managed by Council had to be approved by Council at the application stage.

Victorians were then given the opportunity to vote on their favourite projects and those projects with the most votes were funded.

The Horsham municipality had 34 project applications requesting grant funding of \$3.74 million. Council was asked to approve 11 projects totalling \$1.28 million and also be the project auspice for four of these.

The successful projects for our municipality (with the most votes) were:

- Pedal Boats for Horsham \$60,000
- Community Connection Café \$186,600
- Mount Arapiles – Upper Central Gully Walking Track Repair Project \$36,000.

Discussion

The Pedal Boat Project has been successful in gaining funding through the Pick My Project program. Council is the auspice partner for this project. Since the announcement of funding, a project team has been working on an operational model to enable the boats to operate on the Wimmera River.

Key factors for consideration:

- There will be 10 boats purchased, with eight operational at any point in time
- Boats will be owned by and be an asset of HRCC
- HRCC are responsible for delivering the program under the terms of the Funding Agreement
- Boat operation cannot be leased to a private (for profit) operator
- The boats must operate as a cost neutral enterprise for Council, with Council setting hire fees to cover all operating costs including depreciation of the assets.

The proposed Operational Model:

- Council allow local Horsham non-for-profit groups, that is, service clubs and sporting clubs to operate the Paddle Boats, governed by Operator Guidelines and a User Agreement with Council.
- In return for operating the boats, the not-for-profit groups will receive an agreed hourly rate. This will allocate much needed funds for local groups, comply with the “no operating profit” requirement of the funding agreement, and provide a low-risk operating model for Council
- A trial period of three years be set. Refer to Draft Operational Budget (**Appendix “9.12A”**).

The Draft Operator Guidelines (**Appendix “9.12B”**) and the Draft User Agreement (**Appendix “9.12C”**) set out the details of the Operational Model.

Financial Implications

The Pedal Boats Operational Model sets out a budget for the three-year trial that is based on conservative estimates of key variables, for example, operation from October to April each year; three-hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons; 50% utilisation; payment of \$60 per hour to not-for-profit group to run the sessions; depreciation and maintenance, and training.

This project will involve Council officer in-kind support and time in establishing and monitoring the project. The value of this in-kind support is unknown at this stage.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Priority 1.2.09 – Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation)

Consultation/Communication

- Information sessions and expression of interest process to be undertaken in April 2019 to implement the operational model.
- Media plan to be developed prior to pedal boat launch in October 2019.

Risk Implications

The Pick My Project grants program has provided new opportunities for exciting projects across the State, but also challenges for Local Government and other auspice bodies to implement projects outside their normal operations. The Pedal Boat project will be fully funded, with the conservative financial modelling predicting a small surplus over the first three years of operation. There is minimal financial risk to Council, with the project to be reviewed and monitored regularly. Importantly, the Funding Agreement will not prescribe the operating model for the Pedal Boats. This means that Council can change operating arrangements at any time should key variables indicate that the pedal boats are running at a loss.

The Operator Guidelines and User Agreement detail the responsibilities of the operator, including insurance, training, licencing and pedal boat operations. Council's insurer has advised that this activity falls within the current scope of public liability insurance.

Environmental Implications

Officers have carried out on-site investigations along the river to determine the most appropriate location to launch the activity. The pontoons by the Rowing Club provide a safe entrance point for the pedal boats with minimal impact on the river foreshore or river.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The Pedal Boats on the Wimmera River was the second most popular Pick My Project application in the Horsham Region, indicating strong local support for the project. It provides the funding to initiate an exciting and fun activity on the Wimmera River for families to enjoy with minimal risk to Council.

9.13 HORSHAM PERFORMING ARTS FUTURE SERVICES DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Author's Name:	Kevin O'Brien	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Director Community Wellbeing	File No:	99/01/04341A
Department:	Community Wellbeing		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Appendices "15.5A", "15.5B", "15.5C", "15.5D" and "15.5E" are confidential – Section 89(2)(h) any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

Appendices

Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment (James Buick, Artefact Consulting Services) **(Appendix "9.13A")**

Wesley PACC Committee Statement of Intent (letter dated 14 January 2019) **(Appendix "9.13B")**

Wesley PACC Fire Safety Audit Report – Refer to Confidential Matters **(Appendix "15.5A")** Wesley PACC Fire Engineering Report – Refer to Confidential Matters **(Appendix "15.5B")**

Wesley PACC Costings – Refer to Confidential Matters **(Appendix "15.5C")**

Wesley PACC Committee Letter – Refer Confidential Matters **(Appendix "15.5D")**

Wesley PACC Condition Audit – Refer to Confidential Matters **(Appendix "15.5E")**

Purpose

To present findings of the Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment and make recommendations to Council in relation to the future ownership and management of the Wesley Performing Arts and Culture Centre (PACC).

Summary

- The Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment study has been completed. This included a strong response from the community when surveyed with over 280 responses.
- The primary outcome of this assessment has identified that there is a role for Wesley PACC in that it fills a gap in the existing provision of cultural facilities by providing a small intimate space that is very highly regarded by the community.
- It also provides the opportunity for broadening the arts and cultural program.
- There are however, financial implications regarding the preferred option put forward by the consultant James Buick and therefore it is proposed that an *alternative option* to option 3 in relation to Wesley PACC's future development is supported by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the findings and recommendations of the Horsham Performing Arts Service Demand Assessment Report.
2. Note the Wesley PACC committees' commitment to the *Alternative Option* outlined in the report i.e. to undertake required structural and compliance works to enable the facility to be reopened, funded from proceeds of the sale of the Music Academy in McLachlan Street.
3. Provide the necessary project management support/expertise to the Wesley PACC committee to undertake required structural and compliance works to enable the facility to be reopened, noting that the estimated cost for project management support/expertise is \$60,000.00.
4. Note that the Wesley PACC committee's preference is to cease ownership and management of the facility, and transfer these responsibilities to Council.
5. Take on the ownership and management of Wesley PACC once the structural and compliance works are completed and all regulatory requirements are met, including issuing of necessary permits.
6. After transfer of ownership, manage the building for the use of performing arts and community based events and activities.
7. Note that any remaining proceeds from the sale of the Music Academy, after works are completed will be provided to Council and placed into a reserve for future expenditure on the Wesley PACC.
8. Note that the net annual operating cost of the Wesley PACC under Council management and ownership, once these works are completed and the facility is reopened is estimated to be \$35,300.00.
9. Support the above recommendations on the basis that the Wesley PACC has sufficient funds to complete the required works.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr John Robinson**

That agenda item 9.13 Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment be deferred to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In December 2017, the Council Building Surveyor undertook a Fire Safety and Essential Safety Measure audit of Wesley PACC and found that the building was not compliant with the *Building Regulations (1994)* and *Building Code of Australia (1996)* and was also not being maintained as required by Part 12 of the *Building (Interim) Regulations 2017* which outlines required Essential Safety Measures (**Appendix "15.5A"**). In agreement with the Wesley PACC committee, the venue was closed for these safety reasons while further inspections and actions to rectify were undertaken (**Appendix "15.5B"**).

In June 2018, the lease to manage the facility held by Council expired and was not renewed.

In July 2018, it was decided that a service demand assessment was required to assist Council in identifying its future role regarding the venue and also to inform any future strategic decisions for Wesley PACC.

The purpose of the Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment study (**Appendix "9.13A"**) was to undertake an assessment of the performing arts demand in the Horsham region to inform the viability of Wesley PACC.

The scope of the project included:

- Review of relevant Council reports and available data
- A targeted key stakeholder's consultation and engagement process
- Relevant arts industry research
- Analysis of key findings from the consultation and research processes
- Development of a Future Service Demand Report with recommendations.

Discussion

The commissioning of the Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment study was in response to the closing of the Wesley PACC due to the identification of significant safety non-compliance. The report includes detailed community feedback through survey, consultation with key stakeholders and also an assessment of the current provision of performing arts facilities in the Horsham region. In addition, a review of current best practice in the provision of performing arts is also included. The primary scope was to provide Council with an assessment in order to identify the best possible options for the future direction of Wesley PACC.

The undertaking of the Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment has provided a significant amount of detailed feedback from the community for consideration of the wider arts and events programs in Horsham. The primary outcome of this assessment has identified that there is a role for Wesley PACC in that it fills a gap in the existing provision of cultural facilities by providing a small intimate space that is very highly regarded by the community. It also provides the opportunity for broadening the arts and cultural program. This has the potential to build upon Horsham's support of the creative industries and growing reputation as a cultural destination.

The offer provided by the Wesley PACC committee to transfer ownership of Wesley PACC and also to pay for the costs for the required works, by passing on the proceeds of the sale of their Music Academy property in McLachlan Street is a unique opportunity for Council (**Appendix "9.13B"**).

If, however, Council agrees to take ownership and management of the facility and develop a full program of activation as per Option 3 in the report, it will require significant capital investment in addition to any proceeds from the Wesley Committee as well as a significantly increased on-going operational subsidy from Council which is significantly more than what Council contributed when it leased the facility.

The return on investment of the Wesley PACC cannot be solely assessed by a financial return. Economic impact assessments undertaken for other regional cultural facilities and activities have found that there is significant return generated for the regional economy. Similar to the investment that was made in the redevelopment of the Horsham Town Hall, the return also contributes to the overall community wellbeing, social cohesion and cultural life of the Horsham region as well as making an economic impact.

Operational Considerations:

If Council were to take over ownership and/or continue to manage and program the facility a number of operational issues would need to be considered/addressed that would require a change process for hirers.

A number of the comments in the survey were reflective of the previous hiring arrangements. There was significant flexibility of access, the staffing required and relatively low costs of hiring the venue.

A review of management principles and hiring would be required if the venue is to operate as a full performance venue. Changes will be required to be more in keeping with best practice (as is the case at Horsham Town Hall) and tighter risk management principles and work place safety arrangements would need to be introduced and this may initially effect the satisfaction levels.

It was identified in the survey results that the seating was identified as the major area needing improvement. The air conditioning was also identified as requiring improvement. The dressing rooms and backstage area were identified by a number of respondents as needing improvement.

There were a range of programming opportunities identified as follows:

- Music/chamber performances
- Comedy/stand up
- Open mic night
- Workshop program
- School holiday program
- Emerging Artist Program
- Creative Development Program
- Artist in residence program
- Short term residency by professional performance company
- Spoken word presentations
- Hiring program by schools and community groups
- Music classes/studio

- Weddings and Funerals
- Social and corporate events
- Training and skills development
- Programs to complement and assist in audience development for the Horsham Town Hall.

There were three options put forward by the consultant James Buick (Artefact Consulting) for Council to consider.

Option 1 – This option would see the Wesley PACC committee retaining full responsibility for the future of Wesley PACC. In the likely event that the committee would not continue to operate the venue, the identified demand for a smaller performance space in Horsham would not be met. Although Council does not own the building, the results from the community survey indicated that there is strong support for Council to take responsibility for the future of Wesley. This option may attract significant community criticism and impact Council's reputation. There are no financial implications in relation to this option.

Option 2 – This would entail works to address the key fire safety and ESM issues to make the venue operational. Current seating would be removed and loose portable seating and tables made available. However, this would not improve the overall accessibility or the expected comfort and services of a performing arts venue.

The venue would become a hall for hire without any support services. Although the community may still hire the venue without supervision, most of the performance equipment would need to be removed. The Wesley PACC committee does not support this option.

Option 3 – This option would provide Council with a smaller performance space to complement the programming of the Town Hall. This is also the option that best responds to the findings of the community consultation. The key success factor of this option is that the venue would need to be activated as well as attracting hirers. This would require a significant increase in operational subsidy for the Town Hall to manage and deliver programs at Wesley PACC. The previous operational principles and hire costs would need to be reviewed as the rates have not increased since 2011 and due to the requirement for a safe working environment, supervising staff would need to be part of the hiring costs.

Financial considerations – address safety issues, rectification of building, new seating, refurbished support spaces, \$1.5m expenditure (estimate only) Proceeds from Wesley's properties \$600,000 income (estimate only) Net funds required \$900,000 (estimate), Operational and programming annual subsidy from Council: \$97,648.

The Service Demand Assessment Study report recommends that Option 3 be adopted subject to the necessary funds being allocated and that formal discussions commence with the Wesley PAC Committee to transfer ownership of the Wesley PACC to Council on the condition that all proceeds from the sale of the Music Academy properties are provided to Council to assist with the refurbishment costs.

Analysis of options:

Although Option 3 is recommended by the consultant, there are significant financial and operating risks for Council. Council would need to contribute significant funds even if this is being offset by Wesley PACC committee, grants and philanthropic donations. This option significantly increases Council's annual operational subsidy for Wesley. This option also proposes to increase hiring charges at Wesley, which may not be affordable particularly for community groups who may go elsewhere.

Alternative Option (preferred):

It is proposed that an alternative option is supported namely that Council works with the Wesley PACC Committee to address the fire safety and Essential Safety Measures and carry out other improvements within the funds that will become available through the sale of the Music Academy in McLachlan Street. It is recommended that Council take on the ownership and management of Wesley PACC once these works are complete and the building is deemed satisfactory for use with the relevant building and occupancy permits issued.

The next step would then be to further consider Option 3 pending a more detailed assessment of this option, including the impact of the increase of fees on user groups and exploring future grant opportunities to minimise any future capital contribution by Council if deemed after further assessment that Option 3 is viable from a business perspective. This alternative option is supported by the Wesley PACC committee (refer to Appendix 2).

Financial Implications

The estimated cost of addressing the key fire safety and Essential Safety Measures (ESM) issues to make the venue operational and carry out other required improvements is approximately \$560,000 (**Appendix "15.5C"**). It is to be noted that this estimated costs are a preliminary estimate and there may be other alternatives which would reduce the overall cost and potentially provide funds to be placed into a reserve for future expenditure on the building as part of ownership transfer negotiations. The Wesley PACC committee will fund these works from the sale of the Horsham Music Academy. They will also seek out further grants/fundraising if required (**Appendix "15.5D"**).

The Wesley PACC building has been assessed as a condition 6 (scale 1-10). \$226,000 is needed to bring the building back to a good condition. There will be improvements made to the building condition as part of the proposed works of approximately \$100,000, this will reduce the asset renewal amount required for the building by Council in the short/medium term (**Appendix "15.5E"**).

The annual operational cost to Council for the alternative option proposed in the report would be approximately \$35,300.00.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018 – 2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Priority 1.3.02 – Work with the Wesley Committee of Management to review arrangements associated with the Wesley PAC

Consultation/Communication

The two primary consultation processes for this project included interviews with key stakeholders and a community survey. The key stakeholders interviewed included Councillor Representatives, Council officers, school representative and current and past members of the Wesley Committee of Management. A community survey was predominately on-line but was also available in hard copy. The survey was open from 4th September and closed 30th September. In total, there were 289 responses received. In addition to the data, there were over 1,700 individual comments across all the questions.

The primary outcome from the consultation interviews was that interviewees identified that they felt that Wesley PACC is a unique venue that offers a point of difference. Wesley has a role to play, however there was concern as to on-going costs and affordability. Since the opening of the redeveloped Town Hall, there is a reported increase in the overall profile of performing arts in Horsham, in particular from the schools, increased drama and performance programs. That there was also identified a need for a smaller space, in particular for primary school usage and providing suitable facilities for smaller music performances.

It was noted by interviewees that many members of the community feel that Wesley PACC was a foundation for the performing arts in Horsham and that the usage and programming of Wesley was a major contributor to the initiative to redevelop the Town Hall.

The Wesley PACC committee have been extensively engaged throughout the various processes that have been undertaken.

Risk Implications

The Wesley PACC proposes to gift the building and the land to Council. Council's risk relates to the operation of the facility (financial) and also maintaining the asset into the future. There needs to be an allowance made in Councils' long term financial plan for maintaining the asset.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The primary outcome of the Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment has identified that there is a role for Wesley PACC in that it fills a gap in the existing provision of cultural facilities by providing a small intimate space that is very highly regarded by the community. If further developed it also provides the opportunity for broadening the arts and cultural program. This has the potential to build upon Horsham's support of the creative industries and growing reputation as a cultural destination.

9.14 WATER SKIING ON THE WIMMERA RIVER

Author's Name:	Mandy Kirsopp	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Recreation Planning Officer	File No:	F17/A01/000001
Department:	Recreation and Open Space Planning		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To provide an update on the status of water skiing on the Wimmera River in the Weir Pool area.

Summary

In 2015, Council received an application for the extended and exclusive use of the weir pond section of the Wimmera River for water skiing. In 2016, after community consultation, Council resolved to investigate the matter, including the possibility of extending the duration of water skiing on the weir pond.

Throughout 2016 to 2017, Council officers continued to consult with representatives from the Natimuk Lake Ski Club, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and the Maritime Safety division of Transport Victoria to investigate requirements and options for a permanent rule change to enable the exclusive use of the river for water skiing.

In 2017, a report to Council confirmed that because of safety concerns and the requirement of exclusive use of the river, a permanent rule change would not be approved by Transport Victoria.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note that a permanent change to the waterway rules for the exclusive use of the weir pond section of the Wimmera River for water skiing will not be approved by Transport Victoria.
2. Note the ongoing work of Council staff to develop a calendar of on-water events for the shared and co-ordinated use of the weir pond section of the Wimmera River.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council:

1. Note that a permanent change to the waterway rules for the exclusive use of the weir pond section of the Wimmera River for water skiing will not be approved by Transport Victoria.
2. Note the ongoing work of Council staff to develop a calendar of on-water events for the shared and co-ordinated use of the weir pond section of the Wimmera River.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In 2015, the Natimuk Lake Ski Club submitted a proposal requesting extended use of the Wimmera River for water skiing. The proposal requested several months of exclusive use of the river in the area between the Wimmera Bridge and the Rowing Clubrooms.

In November 2015, Council sought community feedback regarding the proposal. Feedback was sought regarding the following:

- Timing of the skiing during the year
- Boat noise
- Wake issues created by skiers and boats
- Professionalism of the ski club involved
- Benefits to the community
- Benefits to business
- Impacts on other users of the river

Fifty-one responses were received. Responses suggested a level of support for the expansion of skiing on the river, but a number of concerns were also identified, including:

- Boat noise
- Impact on the integrity of the river banks (erosion)
- Exclusive use of the river by one club or sporting activity.

Concerns regarding boat noise and erosion had been separately addressed by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, with levels being within acceptable thresholds and river bank erosion being managed by the annual raising and lowering of water heights in the weir pool.

It was believed that concerns regarding the exclusive use of the river could be addressed through the development of a series of user agreements and membership arrangements.

In 2016 Council resolved:

That Council endorse in principle, the expansion of water skiing on the Wimmera River subject to:

1. *The development of water sharing arrangements and formal rules for the effective management of this skiing in a manner that is compatible with other uses and users of the river (and)*
2. *Presentation of a further report to Council on these arrangements and rules, including the consultation undertaken in relation to the establishment of these.*

Exclusive use of a section of the river requires a permanent change to the waterway rules. This involves the development of systems and processes to ensure the safety of users, management of non-intended users; and the identification of an organisation or club responsible for overseeing operations and the development of user agreements. During 2016-2017 Council Officers worked with Marine Safety Victoria, a division of Transport Safety Victoria, to explore options for permanent changes to the waterway rules.

Discussion

Water skiing is an exciting addition to activities on the river but represents only a single use of the river. Council is the designated waterway manager for the Wimmera River and several lakes within our municipality and is responsible for the coordination of activities for shared and safe access to the waterways.

Some key elements that must be considered when evaluating possible changes to waterway rules include:

- The right to access the river. Diverse and multiple groups within our community (swimmers, people in both motorised and non-motorised craft: canoeists, paddle boats, fishing boats) are increasingly choosing to use the river as a place for active recreation.
- Water safety and risk management. The river is not wide enough to create corridors of activity and when skiing is occurring, no other vessel or person is permitted in or on the water within the designated exclusion zone.
- The exclusion zone must be continually monitored and access controlled throughout the exclusion period. This is managed through the use of printed and social media, temporary signage installed along both sides of the river within the exclusion zone and at landing points both upstream and downstream of the exclusion area. During events, members of the ski club are required to patrol waterway edges of the exclusion zone and be in constant communication with each other throughout the duration of each day of the event.

Based on the above, water skiing is not compatible with the shared use of the river. During skiing events all other activities are prohibited in the designated exclusion zone. This is acceptable when skiing is programmed as an activity on the river (as a component of a calendar of events) but extended and exclusive use by a Club is not supported and will not be approved by Marine Safety Victoria.

In November 2017 a report to Council summarised the consultation that had occurred and noted:

Marine Safety Victoria has indicated it will not approve the extended exclusion periods as proposed. The river is a community asset and extended exclusive usage is not compatible with principles of access and the effective management of a community resource.

In 2018, further discussions occurred with Marine Safety Victoria and separately with representatives from the Natimuk Lake Ski Club. The Club was advised of concerns regarding exclusive use of the river and it was agreed that the Club would develop an annual calendar of events so water skiing could be programmed in a way that would share the river with other users. However, a skiing calendar has not yet been developed by the Club.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Activating the Wimmera River through a variety of projects and community events has the potential to generate tourism and visitation revenue.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2013-2018 Sport and Recreation Strategy

2017-2021 Health and Wellbeing Plan

Consultation/Communication

The following have been consulted: Director Infrastructure, Director Community Wellbeing, Manager Arts, Culture and Recreation, and Co-ordinator, Recreation and Open Space Planning.

The Senior Project Officer, Navigational Safety, Transport Safety Victoria has provided extensive input and advice regarding permanent changes to waterway rules and the Authority's position regarding exclusive versus shared usage of the water.

The Chief Executive Officer, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, provided advice regarding noise levels and the impact of skiing and wave behaviour on river banks.

The process of consultation has involved a number of stages of the IAP2 model of engagement.

- Consultation occurred during 2015 with the community and key stakeholders.
- Involvement and Collaboration occurred throughout 2016-2017 when the Natimuk Lake Ski Club was involved in discussions regarding challenges and the identification of possible alternatives.
- The community will be informed through the tabling of this report.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Water skiing is an exciting activity and the weir pond section of the Wimmera River is convenient for skiers and provides excellent viewing options for spectators.

Because the activity involves a high degree of risk, skiing in the weir pond can only occur during designated periods (days and hours) in designated exclusion areas. This is acceptable and manageable when skiing activities are part of a calendar of events of on-water activity, but is not acceptable for extended periods of time (weeks and months).

Horsham Rural City Council, as the designated waterway manager of the Wimmera River and several lakes within the municipality, has a responsibility to guide and manage activities on water to minimise risk and to ensure the asset is shared with the broader community. In terms of water skiing activity, the extended and exclusive use of the river is not supported and will not be approved by Marine Safety Victoria.

9.15 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Author's Name:	Kevin O'Brien	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Director Community Wellbeing	File No:	F10/A02/000001
Department:	Community Wellbeing		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Horsham Rural City Council Reconciliation Action Plan (**Appendix "9.15A"**)

Reconciliation Action Plan Internal Working Group Terms of Reference (**Appendix "9.15B"**)

Purpose

To provide an update on the status of Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Summary

- Status of the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).
- Comment on progress in relation to the actions contained within the Innovate RAP.
- Establishment of RAP Internal Working Group.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note conditional endorsement of the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan by Reconciliation Australia.
2. Note that an Internal Work Group has been established and that actions contained in the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate RAP are being implemented.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council:

1. Note conditional endorsement of the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan by Reconciliation Australia.
2. Note that an Internal Work Group has been established and that actions contained in the Horsham Rural City Council Innovate RAP are being implemented.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In July 2016, Council resolved to establish the Horsham Rural City Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) and adopted a Terms of Reference for this committee.

One of the objectives of the AAC is as follows:

- Provide input into the development, implementation and review of the first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The RAP program is a framework for organisations to realise their vision for reconciliation. Through the program, organisations develop a RAP—a business plan that documents what an organisation commits to do to contribute to reconciliation in Australia. A RAP will enable organisations to commit to implementing and measuring practical actions that build respectful relationships and create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

There are four different RAPs within the program:

- Reflect
- Innovate
- Stretch
- Elevate.

Joining the RAP program offers Council:

- Access to a tried and tested program based on evidence
- A framework for action, developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations as well as government and corporate Australia
- Membership to a dynamic, supportive and fast growing community of RAP organisations who are paving the way.

Benefits of developing a RAP:

A RAP gives an organisation the best chance of achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement objectives, and delivering broader outcomes including:

- The opportunity to become an employer of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- A more dynamic, innovative and diverse workforce
- A more culturally safe and tolerant workplace
- Access to new markets and better penetration of existing markets
- Better service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities
- The opportunity to contribute to new projects, industries, services, products and ways of doing business.

Working with Reconciliation Australia:

Reconciliation Australia is an independent, national not-for-profit organisation promoting reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Their vision is for a reconciled, just and equitable Australia. Through their programs and initiatives, they work to connect people and organisations; provide frameworks for action, resources; and policy advice and promote success and engagement activities.

They support hundreds of organisations across Australia to participate in the RAP program. They provide advice, templates and resources as well as provide feedback on the draft RAP.

\$50,000 has been committed by Horsham Rural City Council to AAC activities including resources to develop a HRCC RAP and to deliver on actions.

In March 2017, Karen Milward (Consultant) was appointed to develop the HRCC RAP. The project brief was as follows:

Development of RAP –

- Workshop facilitation with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.
- Plan the write up and committee/Council endorsement (including community engagement).
- Liaison with Reconciliation Australia.

Prepare the Reconciliation Action Plan –

- Collate the information presented at the workshop into a RAP.
- Work with the Horsham Rural City Council staff and Aboriginal Advisory Committee to develop the Reflect RAP that aims to build the foundations for relationships, respect and opportunities and strategic directions and objectives tailored to the organisation to support reconciliation.

Project Outcomes –

- Build greater awareness in staff across the organisation regarding the importance of, and priorities for reconciliation.
- Assist to develop a solid RAP governance model.
- Build the business case for future commitments to cultural learning, and practising cultural protocols considering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment.
- Raise Aboriginal organisation and community stakeholders' awareness on the importance of, and achievements in reconciliation whilst identifying localised priorities
- Develop a document that can assist Horsham Rural City Council in providing strong leadership, advocacy and expand its work around reconciliation

The Horsham Rural City Council Reflect RAP was submitted to Reconciliation Australia in November 2017. Reconciliation Australia recommended that HRCC develop an Innovate RAP due to the work that has already occurred with the local indigenous community stating that the Reflect RAP requirements were being met. This was a positive reflection on Council's engagement with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, however, it did require further work to develop an Innovate RAP for Reconciliation Australia's consideration. The Innovate RAP has since been developed and in January 2019 received conditional endorsement by Reconciliation Australia.

Discussion

As outlined in the Horsham Rural City Council RAP (**Appendix “9.15A”**) there are key focus areas which have associated actions. The focus areas are as follows:

- **Relationships:** We will develop and strengthen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, organisations and networks through existing partnerships and by proactively engaging in and promoting of significant cultural events.
- **Respect:** We will show respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, histories and stories and will be responsive to their needs and will encourage the community to value the unique contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to society.
- **Opportunities:** We will contribute to ‘Closing the Gap’ of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by providing opportunities which support cultural, social and economic development, including employment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and supporting education opportunities.

A RAP Internal Working Group has been established to actively monitor RAP development, including implementation of actions, tracking progress and reporting. The RAP Internal Working Group is accountable to the Director Community Wellbeing. Regular reports will be provided to the Executive Management Team, Council, Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Reconciliation Australia in relation to progress made on the plan.

Once local Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander art work is incorporated into the plan, an update version of the plan will be submitted to Reconciliation Australia for final endorsement. It is expected that the plan will be formally launched in National Reconciliation Week to be held from 27 May – 3 June 2019.

A number of actions in the plan have commenced as follows: Events conducted in National Reconciliation Week, Aboriginal and Torres Star Islander Trainees, participation in and support of NAIDOC Week events, Cultural Awareness Training for staff, support of Wimmera River Challenge, Welcome to Country for major community events and Acknowledgement of Country for significant staff meetings.

Financial Implications

Council has committed \$50,000 in the 2018-19 budget for initiatives coming out of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, these funds will support actions identified in the RAP.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Priority 1.1.07 – Develop and implement an Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan

Consultation/Communication

The Horsham Rural City Council RAP was developed by the RAP Working Group (Aboriginal Advisory Committee) through a workshop and input from across all Council business areas who have provided ideas for inclusion in our RAP and who are all committed to working towards positive reconciliation outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, young people, organisations and businesses.

In August/September 2017 the draft HRCC Reconciliation Action Plan was provided to the community for comment. Two information sessions were held in September 2017. Thirteen community members attended the sessions held.

Feedback from these two session was incorporated into an updated plan.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Horsham Rural City Council's Innovate RAP has been conditionally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. Final endorsement will occur after local aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art work is incorporated into the plan. Actions in the plan are currently being implemented.

9.16 HORSHAM URBAN TRANSPORT PLAN – BACKGROUND REPORT

Author's Name:	Michael McCarthy	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Consultant Project Manager	File No:	F17/A01/000001
Department:	Infrastructure		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Background Report: Horsham Urban Transport Plan (**Appendix "9.16A"**)

Purpose

To note the Background Report of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan.

Summary

- The Background Report aims to consolidate all the issues and recommendations gleaned from the previous studies adopted by and/or prepared for Council, and initial stakeholder feedback.
- This information provides the necessary background detail to prepare the transport plan by providing a holistic picture of the issues, analysis of the issues and recommendations, identify the synergies and inconsistencies and test the assumptions with community consultation.
- The Background Report does not pre-empt the contents of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan.
- The detail provided will inform community discussion and provide a Framework through the identification of issues to be addressed in the development of that Plan.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the Background Report as providing the base of existing information for the development of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan
2. Note the Consultation Plan as included as an appendix in the Background Report.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council:

1. Note the Background Report as providing the base of existing information for the development of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan
2. Note the Consultation Plan as included as an appendix in the Background Report.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Consultant's Tonkin and Intermethod have been engaged to prepare the Horsham Urban Transport Plan. This is a key commitment from Council's 2018-22 Council Plan, and follows preliminary work on the Horsham Integrated Transport Strategy in 2016.

Discussion

The Urban Transport Plan aims to:

- Consider people movement needs alongside place-based activities
- Review and revise road hierarchy
- Identify key road network issues
- Establish key priorities and issues to be addressed
- Establish principles for street design.

The objectives for the Plan as adopted by Council are as follows:

- A more active and vibrant CBD and river precinct
- Trucks which don't originate or terminate in the CBD to be removed from the CBD and river precinct
- More active transport
- More river crossings
- Linking highways to economic activities
- Preference for the use of existing road reserves for future development of the local and arterial roads.

The working draft of the Background Report:

- Outlines the project timetable
- Summarises details of the various transport related strategies undertaken and existing data
- Describes the principles of Movement and Place, which will be important concepts in developing transport strategies
- Categorises the status of street networks within the CBD against these movement and place principles
- Identifies key issues that need to be addressed
- Provides the consultation plan for the project
- A community survey has been on line since the Wimmera Field days and will remain open until the end of April. The initial responses from the survey are discussed briefly in this Background Report.

Further background information will be obtained through strategic workshops to be held on 29 April 2019 and full analysis of the survey results.

The document has been reviewed by the Project Control Group with constructive additions and modifications made.

An Origin and Destination Survey data has been undertaken in the first week of April. It will provide up to date information about traffic flow (quantity and vehicle types) through and within Horsham's urban areas to be used in developing the Horsham Urban Transport Plan.

Financial Implications

The consultancy for Tonkin and Intermethod has a cost of \$81,840 and is being funded from the 2018-19 budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Preparation of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan directly addresses Stage 2 of the following four-year priority from the 2018-22 Council Plan:

2.2.07 Horsham Integrated Transport Strategy completed, including:

- Stage 1 – Strategic road network, including regional highways, railway and Horsham Bypass
- Stage 2 – Horsham urban area
- Stage 3 – Rural areas of municipality

It also supports the following four-year priorities:

1.2.10 Plan and progressively construct shared cycling and walking track paths along the Wimmera River – from Riverside Bridge to Horsham Weir - both sides, including improvements to lighting and other facilities

2.2.08 Develop a plan for a further vehicle bridge across the Wimmera River (including location) and determine the timing when this should be constructed

2.2.10 Provide input to VicRoads on the redevelopment of the Western Highway/Hamilton Road/Golf Course Road intersection

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

Consultation/Communication

A consultation plan has been developed and is operating. It is included as an Appendix to the draft Background Report. The community strategic workshops and the on line survey are key elements to the engagement strategy followed by the release of a draft document for community input.

Risk Implications

A key risk for this project is effective community/stakeholder engagement. This is being facilitated with the support of a community-based Project Control Group. This PCG is assisting in the identification of relevant stakeholders who should be engaged in the project. The Background Report also includes an intended Consultation Plan.

Environmental Implications

This initial study is likely to have limited environmental implications. Recommendations from the study may have potential impacts on the environment which would need to be investigated as part of subsequent detailed, project specific investigations.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The draft Background Report presents the background issues necessary to frame the deliberations for the development of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan and describes the work program and consultation plan.

9.17 CONTRACT 19/026 - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SYNTHETIC BOWLING GREENS, SUNNYSIDE HORSHAM BOWLING CLUB

Author's Name:	Dianna Blake	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Project Manager	File No:	19/026
Department:	Infrastructure		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Appendix “15.4A” is confidential – Section 89(2)(d) contractual matters.

Appendix

Sunnyside Park Master Plan (**Appendix “9.17A”**)

19/026 Tender Evaluation Report – Design and Construction of Two Synthetic Bowling Greens, Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club – Refer to Confidential Matters (**Appendix “15.3A”**)

Purpose

To award the tender for the design and construction of two synthetic bowling greens at Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club.

Summary

- This is a collaborative project between Council and the Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club to enhance the sustainability of one of Horsham’s largest Bowling Clubs, and to increase accessibility and participation in the sport of lawn bowls.
- This project builds on work commenced with the Sunnyside Park Master Plan.
- Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club is providing a large cash commitment (39% of the total project cost) to support the project, and will benefit from increased participation and programming, as well as enhanced financial sustainability.
- A funding application for an additional 59% of the total project cost through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund has been successful
- Council’s financial contribution is \$10,000 funded through the Community Grants program, along with significant in-kind support in terms of project management, procurement management, technical support and grants reporting.
- Council supports the sustainability of one of Horsham’s key lawn bowling assets and also supports the environmental benefits of the project in terms of reduced water consumption and zero ongoing chemical usage.

Recommendation

That Council accept the tender submitted by Berry Bowling Systems Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$340,212 ex GST for contract 19/026 Design and Construction of Two Synthetic Bowling Greens, Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council accept the tender submitted by Berry Bowling Systems Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$340,212 ex GST for contract 19/026 Design and Construction of Two Synthetic Bowling Greens, Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The installation of two new synthetic greens is the keystone of the Sunnyside Park Master Plan (**Appendix "9.17A"**) and essential to achieving development of the precinct over the next 10 years. This development will benefit the bowling club as well as other sporting clubs, schools and the general community that use the facility.

The Sunnyside Bowling Club Strategic Plan (2017) has a key objective to *"encourage development of multi-use, shared and co-located facilities"*. This objective is part of a larger vision of making the bowls pavilion a shared community facility – a neighbourhood hub. To achieve this the current four lawn greens will be upgraded to two new synthetic greens, to address the following issues:

- Grass greens do not allow continuous year round use. Synthetic greens will increase programming opportunities and encourage the broadest possible participation opportunities all year round. The club currently maintains 3 grass greens used on rotation with only two used at any point in time. A fourth green has been put into permanent recess.
- In winter the grass greens become very 'heavy' and more difficult for older bowlers or bowlers with less strength.
- The average age of club members is over 65. The Club needs to reduce the maintenance burden on volunteers.
- High water usage is required for grass greens, in an area of low rainfall. Current water consumption for three rotated lawn greens is over 6 megalitres per year. By comparison, two synthetic greens will use approximately 10,000 litres per green, per year.
- Grass greens are expensive to maintain. The 2017 cost of greens maintenance for the three rotating greens was almost \$55,000. With synthetic greens this will be reduced to the capital replacement cost over a 10-year period of approximately \$37,000 per year.
- Attracting and retaining suitably qualified greenkeepers is an issue in regional Victoria.
- Synthetic greens will address the slight decline in membership over the past 5 years. Analysis indicates that this decline is due to:
 - Other local clubs offering synthetic greens that can be played on all year round
 - Demand on volunteers to assist in grass green preparation
 - Most Wimmera competition is played on synthetic greens, which means that people prefer to practice on synthetic greens.
- Synthetic greens provide 24/7, year-round use without preparation that supports the growing trend of 'walk-in and play' social bowls.
- Synthetic greens are more suitable for participants in wheelchairs.
- Maintaining greens that provide maximum capacity for 96 players at any time is crucial for competition and tournaments. Synthetic greens have the capacity to host more player hours than grass greens. Two synthetic greens will provide equivalent playing time to at least three grass greens, thereby providing for future participation growth, more diversified use of the facility and the sharing of public land for community benefit.

Discussion

A detailed tender evaluation report is provided in the Confidential Matters section of this agenda. Key aspects of the report include:

- Only one tender was received for this contract works.
- The evaluation of the tender was based on the criteria as presented in the tender documents.
- The submitted tender was conforming according to the specifications.

Financial Implications

Council received a grant of \$250,000 through Sports and Recreation Victoria (SRV) for the design and construction of two synthetic bowling greens. The Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club have committed a cash contribution of \$162,864. Council budgeted for a \$10,000 cash contribution to the project through its Community Grants program, together with significant in-kind support in terms of project management, procurement management, technical support and grants reporting.

- Grant from SRV: \$250,000
- Club Cash Contribution: \$162,864
- HRCC Cash Contribution: \$ 10,000

The total funding for the project is therefore \$422,864.

The available funding was expected to be allocated in the following manner:

- Synthetic surface x 2 greens 78% \$329,700 (the subject of this tender)
- Concrete banks & landscaping surrounding greens 22% \$93,164

Although the received tender from Berry Bowling Systems is higher than the anticipated price, savings are expected in the landscaping which will offset the higher price for the synthetic surfacing for the two greens.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The project is strategically supported by key Council planning documents, particularly in relation to supporting a healthy and active community:

Council Plan 2018-2022

- Goal 1.2 – Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation
- Page 19 – *“Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will support sporting and community organisations to develop and upgrade community sport and recreation facilities through relevant funding programs in accordance with the Sport and Recreation Plan and other Council Plans”*
- Four-Year Priority 5.1 – Promote sustainability by encouraging sound environmental practice

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013-2018

Consultation/Communication

This project has been developed in consultation and collaboration with all the user groups and key stakeholders, including many at regional and State level:

- Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club
- Bowls Victoria
- Wimmera Bowls Division
- Wimmera Sports Assembly
- Wimmera Development Association
- State Member for Lowan
- Horsham Primary School
- Holy Trinity Lutheran College
- Community Axis
- Sport and Recreation Victoria

All stakeholders were in favour of the proposal to replace two grass bowling greens with a synthetic surface, and documented the opportunities that this would bring to their respective organisations and participants.

Risk Implications

Standard construction risks apply. Supervision of works will be conducted by Council officers to manage these risks.

Environmental Implications

Standard construction management practices will minimise environmental risks.

The chemicals currently used in the green keeping process for the existing turf greens will no longer be required in maintenance of the synthetic greens, resulting in 100% elimination of this chemical usage.

Water usage required will drop by around 6,000,000 litres per year. As the water for the existing turf greens is pumped from the Wimmera River, this water will then be available for other projects in the municipality.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The tender process has yielded a suitable tender for the Design and Construction of Two Synthetic Greens at Sunnyside Horsham Bowling Club, which is deliverable within the current budget.

9.18 CONTRACT 19/005 – CONSTRUCTION OF FEMALE FRIENDLY CHANGE ROOM FACILITY AT DUDLEY CORNELL PARK, HORSHAM

Author's Name:	Madelein van Heerden	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Project Manager	File No:	19/005
Department:	Infrastructure		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Appendix "15.4A" is confidential – Section 89(2)(d) contractual matters.

Appendix

19/005 Tender Evaluation Report – Construction of female friendly change room facility at Dudley Cornell Park – Refer to Confidential Matters (**Appendix "15.4A"**)

Purpose

To recommend to Council award of the tender for the construction of a female friendly change facility to the preferred tenderer, Locks Constructions, and to increase the project budget to cover the cost of the cheapest viable tender.

Summary

- The Dudley Cornell precinct is located in the most disadvantaged area of Horsham.
- The precinct provides the only community recreation facilities in the Horsham North area.
- Co-located with the new Kalkee Road Children's Hub, the new female change rooms will play a role in helping to revitalise the Horsham North community and increase female sport participation.
- At present the precinct facilities are quite old and outdated and do not provide female change rooms. The current clubrooms have no space available to be allocated to female change facilities.
- The new facility will also provide a universal access toilet and shower and four unisex public toilets. At present there is no public universal access toilet within the precinct and the public toilets are past their useful life.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Accept the tender submitted by Locks Constructions for the lump sum of \$303,201 ex GST for contract 19/005 Dudley Cornell Female Friendly Change Facility.
2. Allocate additional funding of \$43,201 to cover the cost of the project.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council:

1. Accept the tender submitted by Locks Constructions for the lump sum of \$303,201 ex GST for contract 19/005 Dudley Cornell Female Friendly Change Facility.
2. Allocate additional funding of \$43,201 to cover the cost of the project.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

At present the precinct facilities are quite old and do not provide female change rooms. This is recognised by Council as a significant service gap that is restricting programming of the facility for female sport. The current clubrooms are outdated and do not include any space that can be allocated to female change facilities. The works proposed in the contract address this gap.

The new facility will also provide a universal access toilet and shower and for unisex public toilets, which were budgeted for in the 2016-17 capex budget but held over when it became apparent that a grant for the female change rooms may be available. At present, there is no public universal access toilet within the precinct and the public toilets are past their useful life.

Discussion

A detailed tender evaluation report is provided in the confidential appendix. Key aspects of the report include:

- Two tenders were received for this contract.
- The evaluation of the tenders was based on the criteria as presented in the tender documents.
- One of the tenders submitted was non-conforming and thus excluded from the evaluation process.
- The remaining tender is conforming according to the specifications but its price exceeds the set budget.
- Some cost savings were identified in the submitted tender, however the adjusted tender sum still exceeds the available budget.

Financial Implications

Council received a grant of \$100,000 through Sports and Recreation Victoria for construction of the female friendly change facility. Council budgeted \$160,000 for the remainder of the works, ie, the construction of the public toilets and universal access toilet. In summary the funds available are:

- Council \$160,000
- Grant from SRV: \$100,000

The total funding available for the project is therefore \$260,000.

After the savings, the Locks Constructions tender is \$303,201 ex GST being some \$43,201 over the available budget. A decision to accept the increased contract sum would require a budget increase.

It is proposed that this budget increase could be sourced from unspent Infrastructure Gap funding for a project that will not be proceeding this year. This project, Horsham Town Hall re-stumping, could not proceed as a grant hoped for to replace the Town Hall floor did not eventuate. Further investigation is also now planned to fully scope the Town Hall floor replacement in the 2019-20 draft capex program. Funds of \$69,700 are available from the Town Hall floor project, which is proposed to be partly allocated to the Dudley Cornell project.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2018-2022 Council Plan

Four-Year Outcome 1.1 – Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community

Four-Year Priority 1.1.09 – Develop a Master plan for Dudley Cornell following the construction of the new Children’s Hub

A number of other key strategies and actions in the Council Plan, Sport and Recreation Strategy, Gender Equity programs and Health and Wellbeing Plan support this project.

Consultation/Communication

This project has been developed in consultation and collaboration with all the user groups and key stakeholders:

- Horsham Little Athletics Club
- Colts Cricket Club
- Black Ranges Division of Primary Schools – Athletics and Outdoor sports
- Horsham Soccer Club
- AFL Wimmera Mallee (Dudley Cornell is the base for Rebels training and AFL school clinics)

All stakeholders were in favour of the need to improve female facilities to encourage female participation.

The construction will take place on the western side of the main oval and vehicle movement would be restricted to the north of the grounds. The advisory committee has been informed of this restriction and will communicate further with their respective groups.

Risk Implications

Standard construction risks apply. Supervision of works will be conducted by Council officers to manage these risks.

Environmental Implications

Standard construction management practices will minimise environmental risks. All trees within the construction area will be marked and protected for the duration of the construction.

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. The works advance gender equity opportunities in the municipality.

Conclusion

The tender process has yielded a suitable tender for the Female Friendly Change Facility, which exceeds the current budget, however it is the best viable option to improve female participation at one of Horsham’s most active sporting precincts.

9.19 RATE CONCESSIONS FOR CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS - POLICY REVIEW

Author's Name:	Teagan Barents	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Revenue	File No:	F27/A08/000001
Department:	Finance		

Officer Declaration of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No **Reason:** Nil

Appendix

Council Policy – Rate Concessions for Cultural, Recreational and Charitable Organisations
(Appendix “9.19A”)

Purpose

To adopt a revised policy for Rate Concessions for Cultural, Recreational and Charitable Organisations.

Summary

The following changes have been made to the Council Policy – Rate Concessions for Cultural, Recreational and Charitable Organisations:

- The previous policy only dealt with Culture and Recreational organisations and has now been amended to include exemptions given to all charitable organisations also.
- The ‘rateability’ flowchart for Cultural and Recreational Organisations has been amended to more clearly show the difference between the exemption of rates under Section 154(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and exemption of rates under Section 4(1) of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Council Policy – Rate Concessions for Cultural, Recreational and Charitable Organisations.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council adopt the revised Council Policy – Rate Concessions for Cultural, Recreational and Charitable Organisations.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

This policy previously identified the applicable rules to determine the eligibility of an organisation to a rate concession on the basis of being a cultural and recreational organisation in accordance with Section 4(1) of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963* and Section 154(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Exemptions for other organisations and charities were managed under the definitions contained in Section 154 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

This policy attempts to help clarify the legislative requirements of the Acts which are somewhat vague and lacking in detail. Decisions around eligibility have become somewhat more complex with the introduction of a competitive funding process for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the need for Council to be mindful of National Competition Policy.

The changes proposed seek to provide consistency and fairness in the way in which Council approaches these matters.

Discussion

A. Cultural and Recreation Lands

Cultural and Recreational Organisations are assessed under the *Culture and Recreational Lands Act 1963* for outdoor activities and for indoor activities under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Section 154, as being an organisation for other purposes beneficial to the community.

The current policy addresses the area of Cultural and Recreational Lands quite clearly and adequately with the only proposed amendment to improve the process flow diagram for further clarity around the decision making process.

B. Charitable Organisations

Charitable Organisations are assessed solely under Section 154 of the *Local Government Act 1989* as long as they fit in to one of the four heads of charity:

1. The relief of poverty
2. The advancement of education
3. The advancement of religion
4. Other purposes beneficial to the community.

For Section 154 to be applicable, an organisation must meet the following criteria:

- The land must be used “exclusively” for charitable purposes
- It does not apply to houses, flats or residences
- It does not apply to businesses undertaken for profit unless that use is “necessary for” or “incidental to” a charitable purpose
- It does not apply to premises used for retail sale of goods.

There are two main areas of subjectivity on this matter within the legislation are around the issues of:

1. S.154 (2) (c): Exclusive for Charitable purposes – being a not-for-profit does not always imply an organisation is a charity but they can be without necessarily being registered as a charity. Many charities are involved in commercial operations and charitable operations and everything in between.
2. S.154 (4) (d): If not used exclusively for a charitable purpose whether that business for profit is incidental to the charitable purpose. That is, what is the predominant use of the property.

Balanced against the issues of “Exclusive use” and “business for profit that is incidental to” is the issue of National Competition policy. This requires there to be a “level playing field” when it comes to organisations that receive government funding through a competitive process and this is what the NDIS is now implementing for disability services. Council currently provides rate exemptions to some NDIS providers and not others.

Council receives applications for such rate exemptions on a reasonably frequent basis and every exemption granted means more rates are picked up by other sectors of the community.

It would seem inequitable to provide rate exemptions to some NDIS providers and not others. This matter could be simplified if an organisation were able to segregate their NDIS activities from other activities and then Council could rate these separately, however that is often not possible.

Another argument often used is that as an organisation is a “Not-for Profit” then that should mean that they should be seen as a charity and not have to pay rates. There are however many “Not for Profit” companies competing and operating in commercial areas environments.

The revision to the policy has been undertaken with these issues in mind.

C. Review of Exempt Properties

Additional to the review of the policy, Council has also undertaken a review of properties that currently receive an exemption and has not currently identified any changes.

Financial Implications

Exempt properties at the commencement of the year are excluded from the calculation of the rate in the dollar for all sectors and hence do not impact on Council's budget. Rate exemptions given throughout the year represent impact the budget as lost rate revenue and are amended through the supplementary rates processes.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Section 4.5 Horsham Rural City Council Draft Rating Policy

Consultation/Communication

The revision of the Rate Concessions for Cultural, Recreational and Charitable Organisations Policy is undertaken on a regular annual basis as a part of Council's budget processes. This year an independent Rates Strategy Advisory Committee was appointed to review Council's rates strategy. This policy was considered within that review and no changes were identified by the committee.

Officers have been in contact with other Councils through the Rate Collectors forums and the issue of competitive NDIS funding has been identified state wide as a difficult matter to address in a fair and equitable manner.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The changes proposed to the policy seek to deliver a fairer policy for all cultural, recreational and charitable groups within the community. The changes seek to more clearly define the rules around exemptions for consistency and equity purposes.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor

- 24 March 2019 - Country Music Festival
- 25 March 2019 - Train Timetable project
- 25 March 2019 - Council Ordinary Meeting
- 26 March 2019 - Country Music Discussion
- 26 March 2019 - Small Business Victoria presentation
- 26 March 2019 - Wimmera River/CAD Vision Project
- 27 March 2019 - Wimmera Mail Times interview
- 27 March 2019 - Country Music Festival
- 27 March 2019 - Boomerang Bag Ladies meeting
- 27 March 2019 - Wimmera River Improvement Committee
- 28 March 2019 - Opening of the Racecourse Lighting Project
- 28 March 2019 - Country Music Festival
- 29 March 2019 - Letter to "By a Thread" (Onefellswoop Productions)
- 29 March 2019 - Letter of congratulations to Brian and Leonie Bird (Horsham Lawnmower Centre)
- 31 March 2019 - Horsham Pacing Cup
- 1 April 2019 - Meeting with Marion Matthews (Art Is)
- 1 April 2019 - Aboriginal Advisory Meeting
- 1 April 2019 - Councillor Briefing
- 3 April 2019 - Herald Sun Interview (Nathan Mawby)
- 5 April 2019 - Seasonal Conditions Meeting
- 5 April 2019 - Letter to Mr and Mrs Tregenza (River Improvements)
- 5 April 2019 - Horsham College Debutant Ball
- 7 April 2019 - Opening of the Apex Adventure Island Pump Track
- 8 April 2019 - Candidate visit: Cecilia Moar
- 8 April 2019 - Naming of a ship "HMAS Horsham" correspondence
- 8 April 2019 - Candidate visit: Jason Modica
- 8 April 2019 - Councillor Briefing
- 9 April 2019 - Tourism Advisory Meeting
- 9 April 2019 - Candidate visit: Ray Kingston
- 10 April 2019 - Meeting with Stuart Grimley State Member Western Victoria
- 11 April 2019 - Regional Cities Victoria Meeting
- 12 April 2019 - Country Music Festival
- 13 April 2019 - Sing Australia Day gathering
- 13 April 2019 - Victorian Volleyball League competition
- 14 April 2019 - Youth Festival Sawyer Park
- 15 April 2019 - Visitors from Horsham England

- 15 April 2019 - Councillor Briefing
- 16 April 2019 - Country Music Festival Meeting
- 16 April 2019 - Aerodrome Consultation

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Standing Orders be suspended for Verbal Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements.

CARRIED

The time being 7.43pm the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 7.51pm, the Council meeting resumed.

Recommendation

That Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

(Refer to Council Resolution on page 92)

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Briefing held on Tuesday 26 March 2019 at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre Reception Room, Horsham Rural City Council

Council Briefing held on Monday 1 April 2019 at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre Reception Room, Horsham Rural City Council

Council Briefing held on Monday 8 April 2019 at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre Reception Room, Horsham Rural City Council

Council Briefing held on Monday 15 April 2019 at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre Reception Room, Horsham Rural City Council

Council Briefing held on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre Council Chamber, Horsham Rural City Council

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

- Lease – 54 McPherson Street, Horsham – Victorian State Emergency Service.

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 and 13.4.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council receive and note agenda items 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 and 13.4.

CARRIED

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That the Council meeting close to the public to consider Confidential Matters.

CARRIED

The time being 7.51pm, the Council meeting closed to the public.

The time being 8.13pm, the Council meeting opened to the public.

Council Resolution (refer to recommendation on page 90)

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.



The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford
Chairperson