

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 28 January 2020.

Order of Business

PRESENT

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor, Cr Pam Clarke, Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

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

David Bowe	Kath Dumesny	Alan Williams	Cheryl Linke
Robyn Gulline	Gareth Hiscock	Wendy Butler	Peter Butler
Alex Darling	Sean Wales	Mandy Kirsopp	Jade Bate
Juanita Greville			

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

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Cr David Grimble and Cr John Robinson.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, 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 Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 16 December 2019 be adopted.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke**

That the minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 16 December 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Alethea Gulvin declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) Direct Interest of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.1 City to River Final Masterplan. Conflict of Interest Declaration Form provided.

Cr Pam Clarke declared a conflict of interest, Section 77(b) Direct Interest of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 9.1 City to River Final Masterplan. The nature of the interest being that Cr Clarke's family is involved in the ownership of Horsham Squash Courts.

Cr Josh Koenig declared a conflict of interest, Section 78(b) Indirect Interest because of a Conflicting Duty of the *Local Government Act 1989* for agenda item 15.1 Council's Role in the Future Delivery of Aged and Disability Services. The nature of the interest being that Cr Koenig is employed as Executive Officer of Uniting Wimmera, a local community service organisation. Cr Koenig left the meeting at 6.20pm and returned at 6.38pm. Cr Koenig was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 CITY TO RIVER FINAL MASTERPLAN

Cr Alethea Gulvin and Cr Pam Clarke declared a conflict of interest for agenda item 9.1 City to River Final Masterplan. As it was not possible to achieve a quorum at the meeting, this report was deferred to the next Ordinary Council meeting.

Author's Name:	Angela Murphy	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Director Development Services	Directorate:	Director Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/067/000017

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Horsham: City to River Vision and Masterplan – January 2020 (**Appendix “9.1A”**)

List of Amendments to City to River Masterplan (**Appendix “9.1B”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the final City to River Masterplan, January 2020.

Summary

- In response to feedback received during an eight-week public engagement process (4 July to 30 August 2019), Council resolved to make a number of amendments to the City to River Masterplan and background documents, and take a number of actions.
- Amendments have since been made to the Masterplan in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting. The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan, allowing for the commencement of the Action and Implementation Plan.
- The City to River Masterplan Action and Implementation Plan will identify potential projects, their associated scope and estimated costs.
- The projects will be subject to prioritisation and consideration by Council as part of its annual and long-term capital works planning and budget allocation.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the final City to River Masterplan, January 2020, amended in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

REPORT

Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 November 2019, Council resolved to make a number of amendments to the City to River Masterplan and background documents and take a number of actions following an eight-week public engagement process from 4 July to 30 August 2019. Council received 740 written submissions during that time.

Discussion

Amendments have been made to the City to River Masterplan in accordance with the changes resolved by Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting (**Appendix "9.1A"**). The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan, allowing for the commencement of the Action and Implementation Plan. Individual projects within each sub precinct are subject to detailed concept and schematic design, stakeholder and community consultation, and Council endorsement. The Masterplan will be progressively updated as the detailed concept and schematic design work is completed.

Financial Implications

The City to River Masterplan Action and Implementation Plan will identify potential projects, their associated scope and estimated costs. The projects will be subject to prioritisation and consideration by Council as part of its annual and long-term capital works planning and budget allocation.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development: Develop Horsham and the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community
- 1.2 Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation
- 1.3 Contribute to cultural activities that enhance our community
- 1.4 Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities

We'll track progress in terms of:

- Securing funding for CBD Revitalisation Project Stage 1 - improved urban design
- Develop plans for a Town Square by December 2018

Four-Year Priorities:

- 1.2.09 Activate the Wimmera River Precinct for the community and visitors (including lights and greater presentation)
- 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
- 1.2.12 Encourage the development of a riverside café
- 1.2.13 Support planning for review of use of the Riverside Recreation Hub precinct as part of the Wimmera River strategy

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy: Lead in sustainable growth and economic development

Four-Year Outcomes:

- 2.2 Cultivate opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development
- 2.3 Support initiatives for improved transport services in and around the municipality
- 2.4 Increase visitors to the municipality
- 2.5 Promote Horsham as a regional city

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

- Encourage linkages with local business and tourism associations to assist growth and prosperity of the retail, commercial and tourism sectors
- Facilitate the attraction of major sporting events
- Promote and encourage safe bicycle use as a sustainable alternate mode of transport, including provision of bicycle parking facilities

Goal 3 – Asset Management: Meet community and service needs through provision and maintenance of infrastructure

Four-Year Priorities:

- 3.1.09 Identify and develop new off street parking areas on CBD fringe
- 3.1.10 Develop a master plan of streetscape themes and service levels for existing streets and new developments
- 3.2.02 Confirm and undertake design and planning for the relocation of the municipal depot including potential co-location of Tech Services planning and delivery staff
- 3.4.05 Develop improved entrances to all towns (street signage and landscapes)

Horsham Rural City Council on an ongoing basis will:

- Continue the Horsham central business district upgrade of streetscaping

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence: Excel in communication, consultation, governance, leadership and responsible use of resources

Four-Year Outcome:

- 4.1 Continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective consultation

The City to River Project links to the following Council Plans and Strategies:

- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017–2021
- Horsham Municipal Strategic Statement
- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013–2018
- Horsham CAD Revitalisation Strategy 2017
- Horsham CAD Strategy 2013
- Imagine Horsham, Community and Stakeholder Engagement – Key Findings Summary 2016
- Tourism Master Plan 2016 – 2020, 2018 review
- Horsham Economic Development Strategy 2017–2021
- Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012–2016
- Horsham Municipal Parking Strategy 2017
- Horsham CBD Urban Design Framework
- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design 2017
- Horsham Growth Management Framework 2012

Consultation/Communication

Council made a strong commitment as part of preparing the Draft City to River Masterplan to deliver a genuine and thorough engagement process. This included using the results of earlier engagement activities undertaken in the study area and incorporating ideas already identified by the community.

Risk Implications

Risks associated with the implementation of the City to River Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Environmental Implications

Environmental implications associated with the implementation of the City to River Masterplan will be considered at an individual project level.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The amendments and actions made to the Draft City to River Masterplan directly respond to key concerns on fundamental ideas and design detail considerations raised through the 2019 community engagement process. The amended City to River Masterplan, January 2020 constitutes the endorsed Masterplan.

9.2 HORSHAM URBAN TRANSPORT PLAN

Author's Name:	Michael McCarthy	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Project Manager	Directorate:	Infrastructure Services
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F02/A05/000004

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendices

Horsham Urban Transport Plan – Community Feedback Executive Summary (**Appendix “9.2A”**)

Horsham Urban Transport Plan – Extract of Draft Plan Showing Proposed Changes to Actions (**Appendix “9.2B”**)

Horsham Urban Transport Plan – Final Plan for Endorsement (**Appendix “9.2C”**)

Purpose

To consider the changes to the draft Horsham Urban Transport Plan as recommended by the Project Control Group in response to the community submissions, and adopt the Horsham Urban Transport Plan.

Summary

This report:

- Provides background to the project to develop the Horsham Urban Transport Plan
- Outlines the engagement undertaken during the development of the Plan
- Discusses the community responses that resulted from the 10-week exhibition period of the draft Plan
- Provides recommendations for modification to the draft that have resulted from the consideration of the community responses
- Recommends adoption of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan with those changes.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the exhibited Horsham Urban Transport Plan as presented as **Appendix “9.2C”** to this report, with the following changes from the draft Plan, based on community feedback:
 - (a) Add a priority action within Section 1.8 “reduce speed limits at the Kalkee Road Children’s Hub” noting that this has community support Increase the priority of action 2.2.3, regarding installation of traffic signals at the McPherson Street / Hamilton Street intersection.
 - (b) Modify action 2.5.1 to read as follows “Consider alternative allocation of road, parking, cycling and footpath widths when roads are upgraded or renewed, based on the following typical examples. Any changes to parking to be done on a removable, pilot basis, to demonstrate effectiveness and to test community acceptance of these changes before locking-in these changes.” Add similar comments re pilots to actions 1.2.6 and 1.2.9.

- (c) Add the following actions within *Theme 3 Public Transport*:
- (i) Monitor the effectiveness of the changes made to the town's local bus timetable and routes in early 2020.
 - (ii) Continue to inform PTV of residential developments and new subdivisions so that bus services can be modified to suit these.
- (d) Modify action 4.4.1 as follows "that there will be no conversion of angle to parallel without community consultation and support and an overall no net loss of car parking spaces".
- (e) Modify action 4.6.1 to state "Work with the medical providers to identify opportunities to increase on-site parking for visitors" and 4.6.2 as follows "Investigate funding opportunities to provide additional off street parking in the vicinity of the hospital".
- (f) Reprioritise the following actions within *Theme 5, Cycling* from "ongoing program " to "priority actions": 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.2.6, 5.4.5 and 5.5.1.
- (g) In action 5.3 add "Consider separation of bikes from cars along priority cycling routes".
- (h) In action 5.4.4, add "... with priority along cycling priority routes".
- (i) In action 5.4.9, add "... with a pilot service node at Apex Island to test cyclist support".
- (j) Add a new action 5.6.4 "Work with the State Government to implement the Grampians Region Cycling Plan".
- (k) Modify action 6.1.1 as follows, as an **urgent** priority "Advocate to and collaborate with relevant State Government agencies and other stakeholders, including Barengi Gadjin Land Council, to determine the most appropriate route for removal from Horsham's CBD of through truck traffic from the Western, Wimmera and Henty Highways, including consideration of a possible south west link through Horsham's industrial area".
- (l) Modify the wording of 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 to highlight that Golf Course Road/Three Bridges Road is an existing B-double route and the importance of maintaining and enhancing the safety of this route while longer-term solutions are identified.
- (m) Clarify the scope of action 6.1.5 regarding upgrading the Geodetic Road intersection, so that this addresses short-stacking of long trucks at the railway crossing, and incorporates movements to/from the Western Highway, O'Brees and Curran Roads.
- (n) Refer to all forms of public transport (not just passenger rail) in action 6.3.2.
- (o) Add an action in section 6.6 to advocate for the improvement of intra-regional links to towns like Warracknabeal, Natimuk and Hamilton.
- (p) Include an action to investigate and develop a location for a B-double uncoupling area, rather than the existing use at the east end of Hamilton Street.
2. Acknowledge the extensive consultation throughout the process and thank the community for its participation in this process.
 3. Communicate to the State Government as soon as is practicable the adoption of this Plan and in particular the key recommendations pertaining to arterial road and intersection upgrades identified within the Plan with a view to:
 - (i) Identify the most appropriate alternative truck route through south west Horsham, noting the sensitivity of the culturally-significant land (Wopet Bungundilar) and the importance of respectful engagement with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC).
 - (ii) Proceeding immediately with collaborative design and funding of the three highest priority intersections, being:
 - Natimuk Road/Bennett Road
 - Wilson Street/Darlot Street
 - McPherson Street/Hamilton Street.
 4. Communicate to the State Government the high level of importance shown by the community towards the return of passenger rail to Horsham.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council:

1. Adopt the exhibited Horsham Urban Transport Plan as presented as **Appendix "9.2C"** to this report, with the following changes from the draft Plan, based on community feedback:
 - (a) Add a priority action within Section 1.8 "reduce speed limits at the Kalkee Road Children's Hub" noting that this has community support Increase the priority of action 2.2.3, regarding installation of traffic signals at the McPherson Street / Hamilton Street intersection.
 - (b) Modify action 2.5.1 to read as follows "Consider alternative allocation of road, parking, cycling and footpath widths when roads are upgraded or renewed, based on the following typical examples. Any changes to parking to be done on a removable, pilot basis, to demonstrate effectiveness and to test community acceptance of these changes before locking-in these changes." Add similar comments re pilots to actions 1.2.6 and 1.2.9.
 - (c) Add the following actions within *Theme 3 Public Transport*:
 - (i) Monitor the effectiveness of the changes made to the town's local bus timetable and routes in early 2020.
 - (ii) Continue to inform PTV of residential developments and new subdivisions so that bus services can be modified to suit these.
 - (d) Modify action 4.4.1 as follows "that there will be no conversion of angle to parallel without community consultation and support and an overall no net loss of car parking spaces".
 - (e) Modify action 4.6.1 to state "Work with the medical providers to identify opportunities to increase on-site parking for visitors" and 4.6.2 as follows "Investigate funding opportunities to provide additional off street parking in the vicinity of the hospital".
 - (f) Reprioritise the following actions within *Theme 5, Cycling* from "ongoing program" to "priority actions": 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.2.6, 5.4.5 and 5.5.1.
 - (g) In action 5.3 add "Consider separation of bikes from cars along priority cycling routes".
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 - (j) Add a new action 5.6.4 "Work with the State Government to implement the Grampians Region Cycling Plan".
 - (k) Modify action 6.1.1 as follows, as an **urgent** priority "Advocate to and collaborate with relevant State Government agencies and other stakeholders, including Barengi Gadjin Land Council, to determine the most appropriate route for removal from Horsham's CBD of through truck traffic from the Western, Wimmera and Henty Highways, including consideration of a possible south west link through Horsham's industrial area".
 - (l) Modify the wording of 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 to highlight that Golf Course Road/Three Bridges Road is an existing B-double route and the importance of maintaining and enhancing the safety of this route while longer-term solutions are identified.
 - (m) Clarify the scope of action 6.1.5 regarding upgrading the Geodetic Road intersection, so that this addresses short-stacking of long trucks at the railway crossing, and incorporates movements to/from the Western Highway, O'Brees and Curran Roads.
 - (n) Refer to all forms of public transport (not just passenger rail) in action 6.3.2.
 - (o) Add an action in section 6.6 to advocate for the improvement of intra-regional links to towns like Warracknabeal, Natimuk and Hamilton.
 - (p) Include an action to investigate and develop a location for a B-double uncoupling area, rather than the existing use at the east end of Hamilton Street.
2. Acknowledge the extensive consultation throughout the process and thank the community for its participation in this process.

3. Communicate to the State Government as soon as is practicable the adoption of this Plan and in particular the key recommendations pertaining to arterial road and intersection upgrades identified within the Plan with a view to:
 - (i) Identify the most appropriate alternative truck route through south west Horsham, noting the sensitivity of the culturally-significant land (Wopet Bungundilar) and the importance of respectful engagement with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC).
 - (ii) Proceeding immediately with collaborative design and funding of the three highest priority intersections, being:
 - Natimuk Road/Bennett Road
 - Wilson Street/Darlot Street
 - McPherson Street/Hamilton Street.
4. Communicate to the State Government the high level of importance shown by the community towards the return of passenger rail to Horsham.
5. Communicate the Horsham Urban Transport Plan to the key stakeholders and the broader community via Council's website and make it available in hard copy format.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Horsham Urban Transport Plan has been developed under the banner of Transforming Horsham, which is Council's overarching vision for growing the city's economy, vibrancy and liveability.

There are four inter-related strategic projects, each with a common vision – to help guide the transformation of Horsham. These projects are:

- Horsham Urban Transport Plan
- Open Space Strategy
- Horsham South Structure Plan
- City to River (Wimmera River and Central Activity District Vision and Masterplan).

The development of the Horsham Urban Transport Plan aimed to:

- Consider people's movement needs alongside place-based activities
- Review and revise Horsham's internal road hierarchy
- Identify key road network issues in the urban areas of Horsham
- Establish key priorities and issues to be addressed
- Establish principles for street design
- Address the following six transport specific objectives identified by Council:
 - 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.

Consultants Tonkin and Intermethod were engaged for this project.

The consultation as outlined below has been comprehensive throughout the project and was followed by a 10-week exhibition period of the draft Plan.

Discussion

Key aspects of the community feedback and the responses to this feedback are summarised below under the sub headings of each of the six transport themes in the Plan. This summary is drawn from the Engagement Executive Summary report (**Appendix "9.2A"**).

The recommendations for changes to the draft Plan have been reviewed by and endorsed by the Project Control Group for the project. These changes are shown in a "tracked changes" version of the report (**Appendix "9.2B"**).

The updated version of the Plan which incorporates these changes (**Appendix "9.2C"**) is proposed for adoption by Council.

Theme 1 – Streets for People

The assessment of Horsham's transport network against Movement and Place principles found a number of issues impacting adversely on safety and amenity in Horsham's streets, including:

- Wide crossing distances across side streets and roundabouts
- Lack of a continuous tree canopy
- Lack of dedicated cycling infrastructure and poor street design even in locations where the road widths could easily accommodate cyclists
- Lack of on-street seats as resting opportunities
- There is little on-street vibrancy: pedestrian flows are low, on-street staying/dwelling opportunities are rare and mostly not in a great environment.

The strategies and actions outlined in the Plan have been designed to address these issues.

There is strong support for the need to upgrade several key intersections. Mostly these are on arterial roads, which will require discussion with Regional Roads Victoria.

There were disparate views expressed in this section about the benefits of some of the recommendations. Some disagreed with the notion of giving pedestrians precedence and were concerned about the safety implications of trees in roadways and on-street dining. Others commended the safety improvements recommended for pedestrians and cyclists and advocated for shade trees and increased on-street activity.

The concerns about trees are valid, but there are design options that can protect infrastructure. Several people commented that changes should not be made so that Horsham continues to act as the regional centre servicing the broad Wimmera catchment as a shopping destination – the strategies outlined do not inhibit but rather enhance this role for Horsham. It is considered that making streets more active will encourage longer stays and greater pedestrian flow and therefore support retail.

It is, however, acknowledged that the recommendations for reprioritising use of the road space can be controversial and it is proposed that any changes, say to parking space, would be investigated through pilot projects before committing to long-term change.

A key change proposed to the actions in Theme 1 "Streets for People" is to include a recommendation for lower speeds around the Kalkee Road Children's Hub.

Theme 2 – Local Access Movement

Survey responses ranked the need for traffic signalling at the Natimuk/Bennett Road intersection (65%) as the highest priority. Wilson/Darlot Streets (42%) and McPherson/Hamilton Streets (40%) are clear second and third in priority with Dooen Road/Baillie Street the next highest priority (27%).

As all of these are on arterial roads, upgrades of these intersections will require support from Regional Roads Victoria. It is important to note that the Department of Transport has acknowledged these recommendations and has advised in its submission on the draft plan that *"DoT is open to further planning and assessment to consider the feasibility of traffic signals at intersections with arterial roads."*

The street design guidelines based on the Movement and Place principles as outlined in the Plan are best practice design to improve safety and amenity and traffic flow for all forms of transport and it is recommended that pilot projects be undertaken to demonstrate their effectiveness and to gauge community support for these changes.

It is important to note that the emphasis of this Plan is to provide the full range of choices of transport including pedestrian and cycling and that this needs to be emphasised in any communications.

Theme 3 – Public Transport

It is noted that PTV has increased the level of bus services in Horsham due to commence in January 2020. The community has not been able to comment on the new service levels yet. These new service levels need to be monitored and it is recommended that this become an action within the Plan.

It was also considered important that the new timetables and bus routes be widely communicated to encourage increased patronage.

Theme 4 – Parking

There was significant media, especially social media, coverage of the issue of car parking with views that the Transport Plan would lead to widespread replacement of angle parking with parallel parking in the CBD. As a response feedback on this part of the plan was dominated by this issue detracting from the integrated nature of the strategies proposed.

If car parking was to be reduced in an area, the strategy clearly states that *“any loss of parking is appropriately managed with availability elsewhere in the network”*. Any pilot will need to accommodate this. It is also proposed that wording in the Plan be reviewed to ensure clarity around this.

The discussion about changes to parking was in association with application of the “movement and place” principles in the CBD which are aimed at improving the comfort and amenity of people, to increase their willingness to congregate and stay longer in this area. At the same time the movement and place principles support an efficient and fluent flow of all forms of traffic, having due regard to cars, pedestrians and cyclists.

The need to consider all forms of transport does not appear to have been acknowledged by all respondents in relation to some of their comments regarding parking.

The Plan also considers a number of strategies that would help to alleviate some parking pressure, e.g. by encouraging cycling.

Theme 5 – Cycling

The Plan identified that inadequate provision of infrastructure impacts on cyclist safety and could discourage people choosing this mode of transport. Much of the community feedback recognised the benefits of cycling to both the health and well-being of the community and traffic flow and there were some constructive comments provided to improve the provision of cycling infrastructure.

Some of the community feedback was critical of the emphasis on Cycling in this Plan. The main basis of this criticism seems to be because of the current perceived low numbers of people who participate in cycling.

The Plan aims to ensure that all modes of transport are catered for, i.e. that people are given a choice. The responses show that the community does not believe that cycling has been adequately catered for despite the policy support for this mode of transport.

The safety improvements recommending support for commuting to work and schools and the enhancements to encourage recreational cycling are designed to make Horsham more attractive for both work and play. Horsham is a growing city and its future economic and social well-being will in part be dependent on its ability to attract a range of people to relocate to Horsham which has the natural assets but not all of the infrastructure to support wholesale increases in cycling numbers.

Whilst the comments about Horsham's ageing population are acknowledged, the cycling strategies in the Plan are designed to make Horsham more attractive to people of all ages.

Improvements in cycling infrastructure will reduce the dependence on cars, therefore reducing congestion. It will support increased fitness levels and therefore personal health. The infrastructure enhancements are designed to improve safety for all.

The survey results show that the 74% respondents believe that the strategies in the draft plan will encourage active commuting and recreational cycling.

A series of modifications to the actions within the cycling theme section of the Plan have been proposed based on the community feedback.

Theme 6 – Regional Links

There is strong agreement amongst respondents that the strategies in the draft plan will improve safety and freight efficiency. The return of passenger rail and managing the heavy vehicle network were clearly the most important issues identified within the Plan.

There is a mixed response to the draft Plan's suggestions for alleviating trucks from the CBD, and in particular the suggestion that an alternative route through south west Horsham be further investigated in partnership with State Government agencies taking into consideration costs, culturally sensitive land and other factors. There are conflicting views on this issue, which cannot be solved within this Plan, it requires a major study that will take much time and resources, collaboration and specific engagement.

There is strong community opposition expressed to using Golf Course Road and Curran Road as freight routes. There are others who support a southern bypass route – but this is at odds with others in the community.

The Plan recommends the use of Golf Course Road as a short-term strategy as a means to manage the existing heavy vehicle route network until an alternative truck route is provided. This may be more acceptable to the community if there are some complementary measures to enhance the safety of this use, as a possible example, lower speed limits.

There was strong support expressed for extra river crossings in Horsham for all modes of transport, but concerns were expressed and issues raised about the crossings proposed for consideration at Bennett Road, Drummond Street and Curran Road.

A proposal to upgrade the Geodetic Rd intersection with the Western Highway upgrade could help divert some Wimmera Highway traffic from Wilson Street and the CBD. Whilst significant design issues will need to be addressed it is considered that this may help in partially achieving the stated objective of removing truck traffic from the CBD.

There is clearly strong support for the reintroduction of passenger rail within the community and this needs to be communicated to the State Government.

Financial Implications

Proposals from the Plan will be developed for input into budget planning on a prioritised basis. Some of the recommendations will feed into the City to River planning and further consultation, which is about to commence.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Four-Year Priority 2.2.07 – Horsham Integrated Transport Strategy completed, including:
Stage 2 – Horsham urban area

Consultation/Communication

Promotion of this project began at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days in March 2019. Subsequent to its launch there has been extensive promotion and engagement with the community.

Initial engagement included an on-line and paper-based survey plus two workshops which attracted a broad range of community interest. The workshops were promoted heavily through Facebook, newspaper ads and press releases, and via directly contacting people who had completed surveys and left their names and contact details. Each workshop was held both during the day and in the evening to maximise the opportunity for people to attend.

The first workshop was to identify the issues and opportunities. Twenty-nine people attended. The second was to discuss the findings from the engagement undertaken and to present some ideas for consideration. Twenty-four people attended.

Both were attended by a broad cross-section of the community including people working in freight, the aged, cyclists and retailers. Their contribution is outlined in the *Engagement Outcomes Report* that was previously endorsed by Council and made available to the community during the draft exhibition period.

More than 200 direct contributions were received from the public during the development of the draft plan.

A Project Control Group was appointed to support Council consider the issues during the development of the Plan. This advisory group comprised representatives from each of the agriculture and freight sectors, Business Horsham (x2) and the broader community. The two key State Government departments (DoT and Regional Roads Victoria) each had a representative and there were two Council staff plus the project manager.

The draft Plan was exhibited for an extended 10-week period through late-September to early-December. This exhibition period was promoted repeatedly through Facebook posts, press releases, advertisements in local newspapers and on the radio through interviews.

Twelve written submissions and 74 survey responses were received. These submissions were varied in the level of detail and issues raised. The survey questions were designed to assist the public respond to the specifics within the Plan and included open ended questions that enabled the public to express their views. The survey also provided the opportunity for statistical data to be collected and therefore analysed. The opportunity provided for written submissions gave the public the opportunity to respond more generally and comment as they saw fit.

A suite of modifications to the Plan and further actions have been recommended in consideration of the community submissions and survey responses.

Risk Implications

Effective consultation has mitigated against risk involved in developing this Plan and recommendations within have identified potential risks and developed strategies to mitigate against them.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage of the plan's development. Some projects identified in the plan will need detailed investigations of a range of matters, including environmental aspects.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The Horsham Urban Transport Plan has been developed following extensive consultation and utilising best practice Movement and Place street design principles. Noting that community feedback was varied with opposing views expressed on some points, community input has been fully and fairly considered in the presentation of the final changes proposed in this report. It is considered that the Plan with the changes recommended is ready for adoption by Council and provides a sound basis to guide budget deliberations and transport planning into the future.

9.3 PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN BRIEF

Author's Name:	Lauren Coman	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Manager Regulatory Services	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Regulatory Services	File Number:	F25/A02/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Parking Management Plan Consultants Brief (**Appendix "9.3A"**)

Purpose

To endorse the project brief to develop a Parking Management Plan for the Central Activity District (CAD) of Horsham.

Summary

- Council's current parking meter infrastructure is obsolete and challenging to maintain and Council does not currently have a plan for renewal.
- The project seeks to develop a Parking Management Plan for Horsham CAD that is tailored to Horsham's needs and flexible enough to manage the current complexities relating to access, turn-over of parking and the issues arising from aging parking related infrastructure.
- The project is to prepare a review of Council's current parking arrangements, infrastructure and operating financial model, with a view to developing a plan detailing options as to how parking can be best managed in Horsham.
- Preparation of the plan will include targeted and general community engagement. Engagement with affected communities and businesses is considered key to:
 - Development of the Parking Management Plan
 - Exploring the likely consequences of any proposed changes to be implemented.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the project brief to develop a Parking Management Plan for the Central Activity District (CAD) of Horsham.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council endorse the project brief to develop a Parking Management Plan for the Central Activity District (CAD) of Horsham.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Council reviewed its Parking Strategy in 2016, which reaffirmed that peak period parking occupancy is low at 62%, compared with the best practice benchmark of 75% for regional centres.

Current parking meter infrastructure is obsolete and challenging to maintain, and Council does not have a plan for renewal.

The engagement outcomes report from the Horsham Urban Transport Plan identifies themes around parking that can be addressed through some further work on this project.

Discussion

The brief to the consultant seeks to develop a Parking Management Plan for Horsham CAD that is tailored to Horsham's needs and is flexible enough to manage the current complexities relating to access, turn-over of parking and issues arising from aging parking related infrastructure.

The project is to prepare a review of Council's current parking arrangements, infrastructure and operating financial model to provide a plan detailing options relating to parking restrictions, infrastructure, capital and recurrent costs as to how parking can be best managed in Horsham.

Financial Implications

Council has an overall budget of \$35,000 plus GST to complete the Parking Management Plan. Costs of implementation of the plan will be determined on finalisation of the plan.

Consultation/Communication

The proposed Parking Management Plan brief was presented to the Council Briefing on 20 January 2020.

Preparation of the Parking Management Plan will include targeted and general community engagement. Engagement with affected communities and businesses is considered key to informing the development of the plan and likely consequences of any proposed changes to be implemented.

The project's engagement should be in accordance with Council's Engagement Policy and must be reviewed by Council's Community Relations and Engagement Team prior to the commencement of the project.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The project seeks to develop a Parking Management Plan for Horsham CAD that is tailored to Horsham's needs and is flexible enough to manage the current complexities relating to access, turn-over of parking and issues arising from aging parking related infrastructure.

9.4 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NEW)

Author's Name:	Chris McClure	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Business Development & Tourism	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A01/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Business Assistance Program Policy (**Appendix “9.4A”**)

Business Assistance Program Guidelines (**Appendix “9.4B”**)

Purpose

To endorse the Business Assistance Program policy.

Summary

- Businesses, both large and small, play a critical role in creating employment opportunities, stimulating investment and generating economic competitiveness within the local economy.
- The Business Development Team supports local businesses to grow and thrive through a collaborative and inclusive approach with the business community.
- With a strong desire for business engagement, implementation of the Business Assistance Program will be a tool that connects the business community and Council.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Business Assistance Program policy.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council endorse the Business Assistance Program policy.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

- Horsham Rural City Council has commissioned the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021.
- Council has a greater emphasis on business engagement and support.
- Research undertaken which includes conversations with Business Horsham indicate there is a business need for mentoring and training to enhance skills and sustainability across the business sectors.

Discussion

There are to be two streams to the Business Assistance Program.

The first stream is a small business mentoring program, where applicants contribute financially to enter the program and Council subsidised return and future sessions to a capped amount.

The second stream is a professional development component where in-kind and financial support is offered to deliver training and skills enhancement programs.

Financial Implications

There is an allocation of \$10,000 for the provision of business assistance in the 2019/20 budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Four-Year Priority 2.1.03 – Develop an Economic Development Strategy

Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021

Goal 5 Vision – Horsham Rural City will actively engage and support its existing business base and continue to improve the wealth and wellbeing of its residents

Consultation/Communication

Business Horsham Executive and a number of their membership have been consulted around the value of introducing a business mentoring service.

The number of businesses who have engaged with Council with the delivery of the Australia Small Business Advisory Service digital training one-on-one mentoring services demonstrates the need for training as well as mentoring.

Risk Implications

Reputational risk can be reduced by having a simplified assessment and delivery process.

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

There has been a demonstrated need for business assistance, specifically for mentoring and training. Delivery of the Business Assistance Program will lead to a more resilient and sustainable business sector.

9.5 HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY INCLUSION PLAN 2019-2022

Author's Name:	Mandi Stewart	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Community Services and Emergency	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Community Services and Emergency	File Number:	F06/A10/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Horsham Rural City Council Community Inclusion Plan 2019-2022 (**Appendix "9.5A"**)

Community Inclusion Plan – Public Comment Feedback Summary (**Appendix "9.5B"**)

Community Inclusion Plan – Submissions Received From Public Comment Period (**Appendix "9.5C"**)

Purpose

To adopt the Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Community Inclusion Plan (CIP) 2019-2022.

Summary

The purpose of the CIP 2019-2022 is to enable Council to meet its obligations under Federal and State anti-discrimination legislation, promoting the rights of people with disabilities or access issues. It replaces the previous 2013-2016 Disability Access and Action Plan (DAP).

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Community Inclusion Plan 2019-2022.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council adopt the Horsham Rural City Council Community Inclusion Plan 2019-2022.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The previous DAP was adopted on 15 July 2013 and guided improved access and inclusion across the Horsham municipality. Some key outcomes and achievements of the DAP were:

- Social connection
- Council's Community Grant Guidelines were updated to include improving access as a key outcome
- Council's public meetings are now held wherever possible in accessible venues
- Desktop hearing shuttles are located at customer service centres, Horsham Town Hall and Visitor Information Centre, making it easier for those that are hard of hearing to communicate
- Information on services
- Council publications are available in alternative formats
- Acknowledgement and celebration of Seniors Week, International Day for People with a Disability and Mental Health Week
- My Community Directory has comprehensive information on disability services and accessible facilities
- Education and awareness
- Community education sessions are held on the use of companion cards
- Disability awareness training is conducted for staff, volunteers and Councillors
- Built environment
- Installation of Changing Places toilet facility in May Park, allowing people with specific requirements to have access to a toilet and appropriate change facilities to enable greater participation in community life.

Discussion

The preparation of a new DAP or CIP is a requirement of the *Victorian Disability Act 2006*. The CIP therefore assists Council to meet its legislative requirements, promoting the rights of people with disabilities and access issues.

Estimates are that approximately 4,000 people living with a disability reside in Horsham, of whom, 1,333 are thought to have a severe or profound disability. As a primary provider of services at a local level, Council plays a key role in building a more accessible community and reducing barriers to inclusion experienced by people with a disability.

As the population increases and the proportion of older people in the population increases, the level of disability in the community is likely to increase significantly, making it vitally important that the access and inclusion of people with a disability into the wider Horsham community is properly considered and planned for.

Data analysis and stakeholder and community engagement were used in forming the key themes and actions, in collaboration with information provided from community engagement undertaken in other plans. The key themes are: Participation, Equity, Adaption, Inclusion, Advocacy and Celebrate.

The draft CIP went out for public consultation in November 2019. Nine responses were received. There were general themes around readability and clear communications, transport and parking. The issues raised are covered in the action plan and no alterations have been made to the draft. However, we will undertake to produce a Plain English version of the plan to support easy comprehension across a broad range of abilities.

Financial Implications

An increase in project budgets may be required to apply Universal Design principals to projects to ensure we are meeting the Universal Access Design guidelines to ensure refitting won't be required in the future. A small number of actions will require a budget.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2022 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Arts and Cultural Plan 2014-2018

Goal 1 – Cultural Awareness

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

Goal 1 – Increasing Healthy Eating and Active Living

Goal 3 – Improving Mental Health: Support and promote activities and event that build community resilience and social network for all groups

Consultation/Communication

The draft CIP was considered at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 October 2019, where it was resolved to make it available to the community for comment for a period of four weeks. The plan was also discussed at Council Briefing Meetings on 7 October 2019 and 20 January 2020.

Internal Stakeholders: Deaf Access Worker, Community Wellbeing Directorate, Executive Management Team, Councillors.

External Stakeholders: Uniting Wimmera (UW), National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) providers, Latrobe Community Health Service, National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Woodbine, Wimmera Health Care Group (WHCG) Wimmera Primary Care Partnership (Wimmera PCP), Grampians Community Health (GCH), Rights Information Advocacy Centre (RIAC).

Four-week public consultation on Draft CIP: November and December 2019.

Risk Implications

There is a risk of non-compliance with legislation if a new CIP is not adopted. There is a similar risk of possible adverse community feedback.

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 report is presented to Councillors for adoption.

9.6 ALLOCATION OF COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES

Author's Name:	Sue Frankham	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F019/A15/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Committees with Councillor Involvement List – 2020 (**Appendix “9.6A”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the 2020 Committees with Councillor Involvement list and nominate representatives to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association.

Summary

- There are various committees that involve Mayor and/or Councillor representation.
- The Committees with Councillor Involvement list is reviewed annually by the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer. This occurs following the Statutory Meeting each year.
- There will be a new Council elected in October 2020.
- Representation of Councillors on the committees for 2020 remains unchanged from 2019.
- The Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association require formal advice following resolution of the Councillors appointed to represent Horsham Rural City Council on those bodies.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Committees with Councillor Involvement list for 2020, noting that there will be a new Council elected in October 2020.
2. Nominate Cr Mark Radford as Council's representative for 2020 to the Municipal Association of Victoria and Cr Josh Koenig as substitute representative.
3. Nominate Cr Mark Radford as Council's representative for 2020 to the Victorian Local Governance Association and Cr Josh Koenig as substitute representative.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Committees with Councillor Involvement list for 2020, noting that there will be a new Council elected in October 2020.
2. Nominate Cr Mark Radford as Council's representative for 2020 to the Municipal Association of Victoria and Cr Josh Koenig as substitute representative.
3. Nominate Cr Mark Radford as Council's representative for 2020 to the Victorian Local Governance Association and Cr Josh Koenig as substitute representative.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

There are various committees that involve Mayor and/or Councillor representation.

The Committees with Councillor Involvement list is reviewed annually by the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer. This occurs following the Statutory Meeting each year. There will be a new Council elected in October 2020.

Discussion

Representation of Councillors on the committees for 2020 remains unchanged from 2019.

The Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association require formal advice following resolution of the Councillors appointed to represent Horsham Rural City Council on those bodies.

Financial Implications

Provision for involvement of the Mayor and Councillors on committees has been made within the existing Council budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

Once the recommendation is endorsed, formal advice will be provided to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association in relation to the nominated Council representatives on those bodies.

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 2020 Committees with Councillor Involvement list, together with nominations to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association are submitted to Council for endorsement.

9.7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

Author's Name:	Stephen Pykett	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Manager Economic Development	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* –
Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Economic Development Report for November 2019.

Summary

The Economic Development Report provides a summary of economic development activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for November 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for November 2019.

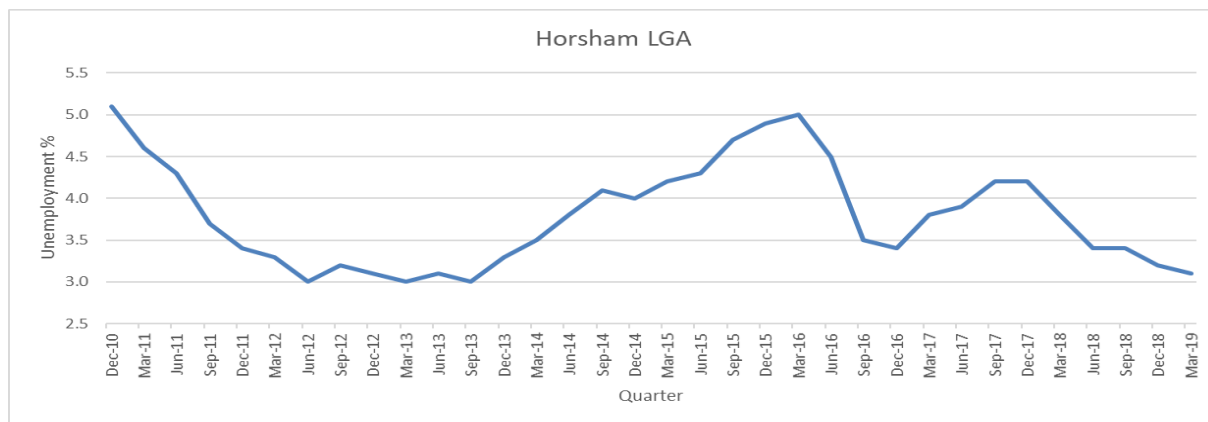
CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 August 2019, it was resolved that a regular Economic Development Report be tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are provided below.

Economic Benchmarks and Data**Unemployment**

Region	Unemployment
Australia	5.2%
Victoria	4.8%
Horsham (LGA)	3.1%

Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Businesses; Small Area Labour Markets – March quarter 2019

Planning Applications Determined

	Number	Cost	YTD	YTD cost of development
November 2019	9	\$3,326,000	66	\$11,168,958
November 2018	8	\$474,200	44	\$8,689,037
Change	+1	+\$2,851,800	+22	+2,479,921

Building Permits Issued

	Number	Total cost of development	YTD	YTD cost of development
Council	5	\$449,462	43	\$3,173,063
Private surveyors	17	\$3,247,028	85	\$24,610,670
Total	22	\$3,696,490	128	\$27,783,733

Summary of building permits issued YTD

	Number	Total Value	Commercial		Domestic	
			No	Value	No	Value
Council	43	\$3,173,063	10	\$1,600,725	33	\$1,572,338
Private Surveyor	85	\$24,610,670	22	\$9,493,493	63	\$15,117,177
Total	128	\$27,783,733	32	\$11,094,218	96	\$16,689,515

Business Engagement**Direct business engagement**

	Number	YTD
General business	19	99
New or expanding business	8	26
Event organisers	13	40
Total	40	165

Networking and business event breakdown

	Number	YTD
Networking & business events	6	21

Networking attended	Attendees	Details
Reimaging retail strips – vacant shops forum	50	Small Business Victoria and Victorian Small Business Commissioner facilitated workshops developing a state wide response to changing retail space and utilisation
Vital and Viable places Masterclass	50	Masterclass workshop reviewing place making in retail environments
Victorian Tourism Awards	300	Presentation event for the 2019 Victorian Tourism Awards
Total	400	

Facilitated business events	Attendees	Details
Social Media training	44	ASBAS facilitated training
Total	44	

Tourism and Events

	Number	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event applications	10	53
Visitor information Centre visits	1,284	6,289
Visithorsham.com web visits	3,677	16,962

Strategic Planning

Horsham South Structure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is needed in order to ensure that South Horsham develops in a coordinated way, ensuring infrastructure needs such as traffic and transport connectivity, sewer, water and drainage to be developed in a sequenced way, avoiding land use conflicts and development limitations in the future. Horsham South Key Strategic Directions Report is currently under review by the PCG, in preparation for targeted landholder engagement.
Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has appointed a consultant to begin development of the Horsham Aerodrome Masterplan. An assessment of both the previous Aerodrome Business Plan and Aerodrome Masterplan has been undertaken along with stakeholder engagement. On 20 June 2019 further engagement took place with the Aerodrome user group to discuss the draft findings.
City to River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider community engagement process commenced 4 July 2019 and closed 30 August 2019. All submissions were summarised further targeted engagement is planned.

Infrastructure Development

Enhanced Broadband Project (Connecting Regional Communities Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of \$1.7 million has been announced to install high speed broadband at one gigabit per second in both directions in the Horsham Rural City Council area. This proposed fixed wireless service will be available to businesses in Horsham, Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct, Aerodrome and Horsham Enterprise Park. Spirit Telecom has been awarded the tender to deliver this "state of the art" internet access through fixed wireless. Construction has begun and services are expected to be available for businesses in the second half of 2019. Spirit Telecom has begun advertising services to businesses. Ministerial launch took place Thursday 21 November 2019.
Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange roofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has successfully received funding under the Building Better Regions Fund to roof the Livestock Exchange for \$1.49 million towards a total project of \$3.03 million to improve animal and human welfare, value of sheep from improved shelter conditions, water savings and efficiencies in cleaning the facility. A tender process has been completed and construction planning is underway.

Projects and Programs

Environmental Upgrade agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has agreed to offer Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's) that assist businesses and commercial property owners in Horsham by providing access to Environmental Upgrade Finance. This scheme gives access to finance for energy and environmental efficiency upgrades to buildings with repayments made through Council's rates system. • Initial interest has been positive with applications progressing through the system. • Community interest remains positive and further agreements are expected.
Wimmera Business Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the centre and its operations is being undertaken to look at the current offerings from the Business Centre, review practices in other centres and to identify start up trends. • Engagement through this process has quantified a level of interest in a co-working space in Horsham. • Further workshops with small and home based businesses are being arranged.
Horsham Visitor Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VIC review is continuing in association with Grampians Tourism who are undertaking a Grampians wide Visitor Servicing review. • The final report has now been received and is being evaluated.

Business Development, Tourism and Events

Major Sporting Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham will be hosting a double header series of National motocross championships over one weekend in May 2020. This events is estimated to be worth close to \$500,000 in income to Horsham and the region.
Localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Localised project aims to raise awareness of local businesses, prevent spending leakage from the region and facilitate business to business communication. This has been a major business engagement tool with currently 82 profiles across the Wimmera.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Victoria tourism review is looking at revising the number of regional tourism boards across Victoria.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

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 Economic Development Report for November 2019 is provided for the information of Councillors.

9.8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2019

Author's Name:	Stephen Pykett	Director:	Angela Murphy
Author's Title:	Manager Economic Development	Directorate:	Development Services
Department:	Economic Development	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Economic Development Report for December 2019.

Summary

The Economic Development Report provides a summary of economic development activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for December 2019.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

That Council receive and note the Economic Development Report for December 2019.

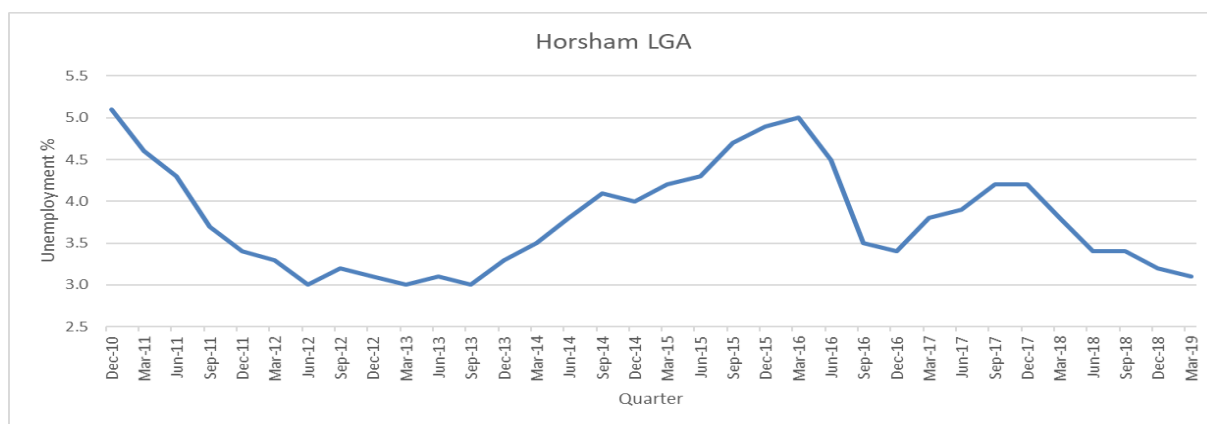
CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 August 2019, it was resolved that a regular Economic Development Report be tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are provided below.

Economic Benchmarks and Data**Unemployment**

Region	Unemployment
Australia	5.2%
Victoria	4.8%
Horsham (LGA)	3.1%

Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Businesses; Small Area Labour Markets – March quarter 2019

Planning Applications Determined

	Number	Cost	YTD	YTD cost of development
December 2019	-	\$-	66	\$11,168,958
December 2018	6	\$4,675,000	50	\$13,364,037
Change	-6	+\$2,851,800	+16	-\$2,195,079

Building Permits Issued

	Number	Total cost of development	YTD	YTD cost of development
Council	8	\$410,646	51	\$3,583,709
Private surveyors	11	\$2,354,688	96	\$26,965,358
Total	20	\$2,765,334	148	\$30,549,067

Summary of building permits issued YTD

	Number	Total Value	Commercial		Domestic	
			No	Value	No	Value
Council	51	\$3,583,709	12	\$1,868,485	39	\$1,715,224
Private Surveyor	96	\$26,965,358	24	\$9,692,211	72	\$17,273,147
Total	147	\$30,549,067	32	\$11,560,696	111	\$18,988,371

Business Engagement**Direct business engagement**

	Number	YTD
General business	19	118
New or expanding business	0	26
Event organisers	11	51
Total	30	195

Networking and business event breakdown

	Number	YTD
Networking & business events	1	22

Networking attended	Attendees	Details
Horsham Golf Club strategic Planning	20	Attended facilitated strategic planning day to assist in the development of the Horsham Golf Club strategic plan
Total	-	

Facilitated business events	Attendees	Details
Nil		
Total	-	

Tourism and Events

	Number	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event applications	8	61
Visitor information Centre visits	1,171	7,460
Visithorsham.com web visits	3,735	20,697

Strategic Planning

Horsham South Structure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is needed in order to ensure that South Horsham develops in a coordinated way, ensuring infrastructure needs such as traffic and transport connectivity, sewer, water and drainage to be developed in a sequenced way, avoiding land use conflicts and development limitations in the future. Horsham South Key Strategic Directions Report is currently under review by the PCG, in preparation for targeted landholder engagement.
Horsham Aerodrome Business Plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has appointed a consultant to begin development of the Horsham Aerodrome Masterplan. An assessment of both the previous Aerodrome Business Plan and Aerodrome Masterplan has been undertaken along with stakeholder engagement. On 20 June 2019, further engagement took place with the Aerodrome user group to discuss the draft findings.
City to River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider community engagement process commenced 4 July and closed 30 August 2019. All submissions were summarised further targeted engagement is planned.

Infrastructure Development

Enhanced Broadband Project (Connecting Regional Communities Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of \$1.7 million has been announced to install high speed broadband at one gigabit per second in both directions in the Horsham Rural City Council area. This proposed fixed wireless service will be available to businesses in Horsham, Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct, Aerodrome and Horsham Enterprise Park. Spirit Telecom has been awarded the tender to deliver this “state of the art” internet access through fixed wireless. Construction has begun and services are expected to be available for businesses in the second half of 2019. Spirit Telecom has begun advertising services to businesses.
Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange roofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has successfully received funding under the Building Better Regions Fund to roof the Livestock Exchange for \$1.49 million towards a total project of \$3.03 million to improve animal and human welfare, value of sheep from improved shelter conditions, water savings and efficiencies in cleaning the facility. A tender process has been completed and construction planning is underway.

Projects and Programs

Environmental Upgrade agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has agreed to offer Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA’s) that assist businesses and commercial property owners in Horsham by providing access to Environmental Upgrade Finance. This scheme gives access to finance for energy and environmental efficiency upgrades to buildings with repayments made through Council’s rates system. Initial interest has been positive with applications progressing through the system. Community interest remains positive and further agreements are expected.
Wimmera Business Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the centre and its operations is being undertaken to look at the current offerings from the Business Centre, review practices in other centres and to identify start up trends. Engagement through this process has quantified a level of interest in a co-working space in Horsham. Further workshops with small and home based businesses are being arranged.
Horsham Visitor Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VIC review is continuing in association with Grampians Tourism who are undertaking a Grampians wide Visitor Servicing review. The final report has now been received and is being evaluated.

Business Development, Tourism and Events

Major Sporting Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horsham will be hosting a double header series of National motocross championships over one weekend in May 2020. This events is estimated to be worth close to \$500,000 in income to Horsham and the region.
Localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Localised project aims to raise awareness of local businesses, prevent spending leakage from the region and facilitate business to business communication. This has been a major business engagement tool with currently 82 profiles across the Wimmera.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Victoria tourism review is looking at revising the number of regional tourism boards across Victoria.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

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 Economic Development Report for December 2019 is provided for the information of Councillors.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor

- 16 December 2019 – Mick Farrell’s funeral
- 16 December 2019 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 17 December 2019 – Wimmera Mall Sustainability Alliance
- 18 December 2019 – Horsham College Year 12 Graduation
- 19 December 2019 – Staff Christmas party and presentations
- 23 December 2019 – Letter to Terry Sartori, retiring shop owner
- 24 December 2019 – Visit Horsham Plaza Manager, Allison Roberts
- 28 December 2019 – 3AW Radio interview re overland train
- 30 December 2019 – Channel 9 Interview re New Year’s Eve fireworks
- 3 January 2020 – Liam Batson’s funeral
- 6 January 2020 – ABC Radio interview re overland train
- 7 January 2020 – Wimmera Mail-Times interview re local sport discussion
- 8 January 2020 – Horsham Table Tennis visit
- 8 January 2020 – Letter to Rev Linley Liersch, local Minister
- 9 January 2020 – Mildura trip – riverside inspection
- 10 January 2020 – Andy Wood’s funeral
- 12 January 2020 – Horsham’s Eight Ball Championship
- 17-18 January 2020 – Overland Passenger train trip
- 20 January 2020 – Weekly Advertiser interview re overland train
- 20 January 2020 – Councillor Briefing Meeting
- 22 January 2020 – Meeting with Dr Anne Webster, Member for Mallee
- 22 January 2020 – World War 2 memorial discussions
- 25 January 2020 – Horsham Greyhound Club awards
- 26 January 2020 – Australia Day Ceremony – Horsham

Cr Alethea Gulvin

- 15 January 2020 – Pedal boat on the Wimmera River
- 20 January 2020 – Councillor Briefing Meeting
- 26 January 2020 – Australia Day Ceremony – Natimuk
- I would like to formally acknowledge the local community and the way that they have rallied together to support those affected by the bushfire crisis. I am incredibly proud to be a part of this strong community. My thoughts and prayers are with those affected.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

Moved Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Alethea Gulvin

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.07pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 6.17pm, the Council meeting resumed.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

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 Monday 20 January 2020 at 5.00pm, in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Horsham

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

From The Hon Melissa Horne MP dated 7 January 2020 re Return of Passenger Rail

Refer to **Appendix “13.3A”**

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2019

Western Highway Action Committee meeting held on Friday 13 December 2019

Horsham Tidy Towns Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019

Refer to **Appendix “13.4A”**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

CARRIED

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Alethea Gulvin, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.19pm, the meeting closed to the public.

The time being 6.47pm, the meeting opened to the public.

The meeting closed at 6.47pm.



The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford
Chairperson