

MINUTES of the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held online and livestreamed www.hrcc.vic.gov.au on 22 June 2020 commencing at 5.34pm.

PRESENT

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor, Cr Pam Clarke, Cr David Grimble, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr John Robinson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; 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, Jupagulk, 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 Councillors, staff, members of the public and the media to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as possible. He also stated that the meeting was being streamed live on the internet.

The Mayor advised that Councillors participating in the meeting by electronic means will be taken to be present and part of the quorum for the meeting, provided that they can hear proceedings, they can see and be seen by other members in attendance, and they are able to speak and be heard by those in attendance. The Mayor asked Councillors individually to confirm that they could see and hear other members in attendance and be able to speak. Confirmed by all Councillors.

4. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Cr Alethea Gulvin.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr David Grimble

That the apology be accepted.

CARRIED

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held online and livestreamed at 5.30pm on 1 June 2020 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held online and livestreamed at 5.30pm on 1 June 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Pam Clarke declared a conflict of interest for agenda item 9.3 Two Lot Subdivision and Variation of Restrictive Covenant Lot 275 PS449841W 15 McLean Drive, Horsham. Cr Clarke provided a completed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form. Cr Clarke left the meeting at 6.31pm and returned at 6.49pm. Cr Clarke was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 DOGS IN HORSHAM BOTANIC GARDENS

Author's Name:	Carolynne Hamdorf	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Arts, Culture and Recreation	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Arts, Culture and Recreation	File Number:	F25/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

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the results from a 28 day survey conducted in February 2020 on whether dogs should be allowed 'on lead' and 'on path' in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

Summary

- The survey was undertaken to provide direction to Council in response to an initial letter from Mike Coffey, supported by the Domestic Animal Management Advisory Committee (DAMAG), requesting Council to reassess its 'no dog' policy in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.
- The survey included responses from the public via online and face-to-face surveys. The face-to-face surveys were conducted by Council staff in in the Horsham Botanic Gardens and at Council-owned off-lease dog areas.
- Over 419 responses to the survey were received.

Recommendation

That Council, based on community and staff feedback, continue maintaining the current 'no dog' policy in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council, based on community and staff feedback, continue maintaining the current 'no dog' policy in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Currently, Horsham Botanic Gardens is a 'No Dogs Permitted' area. This policy does not apply to seeing-eye and other assistance dogs. Council initially reviewed the issue of dog access to the gardens on 4 April 2016, and at that time, decided to maintain the 'No Dogs Permitted' status.

In mid-2019, the DAMAG requested that the decision be reviewed. The DAMAG requested access for dogs, provided they remain 'on lead' and 'remain on existing pathways' whilst in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. A report outlining this request was presented to Council on 25 November 2019.

At that meeting, Council resolved to:

Conduct a 28-day survey in February 2020 to gauge desire for dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

This report provides a summary of the methods and outcomes of the survey conducted in February 2020, and provides advice to Council of the outcome.

Discussion

Council staff developed a simple survey that could be undertaken in less than 5-10 minutes to gauge public sentiment on the issue of allowing dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. The survey was conducted over 28 days in February 2020. The survey was designed to provide Council with clear information in relation to the public's view on this issue, and to inform Council to be able to make a decision about this issue.

The survey was designed and constructed in January 2020, allowing the public to respond in any one of the following ways:

- Via an online survey on the Council website
- Via a paper copy of the survey
- Face-to-face survey of users of the Botanic Garden over four randomised days in February
- Face-to-face survey of dog owners at 'off leash dog areas' in Horsham over four randomised days in February 2020.

The same number of surveys were undertaken at both the off leash dog areas and Horsham Botanic Gardens. The survey was advertised in Council's Public Notices pages in the Wimmera Mail-Times and The Weekly Advertiser during February 2020.

The Survey Monkey platform was used to conduct the survey. The survey was designed to take approximately five minutes to complete and closed at 5pm on Saturday 29 February 2020.

The survey included seven short questions including asking if the respondent:

- Owned a dog
- Had visited the Horsham Botanic Gardens recently and the frequency of visits
- Agreed or disagreed with the statement: "Dogs should be allowed 'on lead and on paths' in the Botanic Gardens in Horsham" (the survey also asked the same question in reverse to determine consistency of response)
- Could outline the one main reason for their point of view.

The survey also collected some standardised demographic data on the participants.

2020 Survey Response

The survey elicited a very strong response with 419 people responding.

A summary of the outcomes of the survey include:

- 69% of all respondents said they currently own a dog
- 88% of respondents had visited the Horsham Botanic Gardens in the past 12 months with: 4% frequenting more than once a week; 14.7% approximately once a week; 35% once a month; 30% once every six months and 12% once a year
- 72% of the respondents were women, 24% men and the remainder undisclosed/unanswered
- The age range of respondents was relatively young, with -
 - 8.5% under 24 years
 - 48 % aged between 25- 44 years
 - 33% aged between 45- 64 years
 - 9.5% aged 65 years and above.

Of the two key questions asked, respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the following statement:

- a. Dogs **should** be allowed 'on lead and on paths' in the Botanic Gardens in Horsham
37.74% strongly disagreed, with 34.62% strongly agreeing.
The overall response to disagree (including both strongly disagree and disagree) was 50.48%, compared to 46.64% agreeing overall (including strongly agree and agree).
(2.88% neither agreed nor disagreed, 3 respondents skipped the question)
- b. Dogs **should not** be allowed in the Botanic Gardens in Horsham
33.09% strongly disagreed, with 41.30% strongly agreeing.
The overall response to disagree was 45.41%, compared to 50.24% agreeing.
(4.35% neither agreed nor disagreed, 3 respondents skipped the question)

So, on balance, the general public are more inclined not to allow dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

Key reasons provided by survey respondents for why dogs **should** be allowed in the Botanic Gardens (on leash, on path) include:

- Opens the gardens to dog owners who may feel excluded
- Dog ownership is on the rise and many people treat their dogs and animals as family
- It encourages people to get out and exercise
- I can't use the gardens currently when I am with my dog
- Dogs are allowed in other botanic gardens
- It's a nice place to visit and I'd like to be able to do that with my dog
- It's a public space that should be enjoyed by all
- I would visit the garden more, if I could bring my dog
- We take our dogs everywhere, why not the gardens?
- It's a good, safe place for small dogs, as opposed to off leash dog parks
- We can take dogs most other places around Horsham, why not the botanic gardens
- A lot of travellers and visitors have dogs
- If they clean up after their dogs, then there's no harm
- If dogs were allowed it may increase use of the gardens.

Key reasons provided by survey respondents for why dogs **should not** be allowed in the Botanic Garden include:

- The variation in how dog owners manage and control their dogs, 'not everyone is responsible'.
- People don't pick up their dog excrement, 'just look along the river front, even when dog bags are provided'.
- Can we have just one dog free place?
- How do you manage dogs/owners who don't follow the 'on leash, on path' rule, who will police it?
- Gardens are a peaceful place, to be enjoyed by those not wanting to encounter animals they fear.
- We have playgroup sessions there often and it is a time I can actually switch off and enjoy watching my children play safely.
- There are plenty of places for dog owners to take their animals either on or off lead.
- Dogs are allowed everywhere else.
- Not all dog owners are responsible people and not all children know to stay away from dogs.
- This is one place you can peacefully enjoy beautiful manicured gardens free of dog damage, excrement and dog interactions with people and other dogs.
- No way to effectively monitor to ensure dogs are kept on leads and on paths only.
- The Botanic Gardens playground is the only place in Horsham parents can take their children where there are no dogs present.
- The Botanic Gardens host weddings and private ceremonies.
- Irresponsible owners do not clean up after themselves in the areas already provided so why add another area that is in pristine condition to the list.
- We picnic there with our small kids and meet there in groups frequently. Dogs would be another thing to have to watch out for like they are at May Park.
- With the abundance of other areas which are dog accessible in the Horsham area, Botanic Garden users utilise this space because there is no risk of dogs.
- Some people will not comply to keep their dogs on leads and will not pick up excrement.
- Please keep some areas of Horsham dog free for those of us who do not like dogs.

In addition to the survey responses, advice was sought from Council Parks and Gardens and Community Safety Unit staff. The advice provided by staff is that there would be some cost implications if dogs were permitted in the gardens. These would be: the cost of enforcing dogs on lead, staying on paths and off gardens, and the maintenance and upkeep costs resulting from the soiling of gardens and grassed areas.

Parks and Gardens and Community Safety Unit staff were not in favour of allowing dogs in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. The Botanic Gardens is used for special events, children's birthday parties, fitness groups, picnics and weddings. These often take place on the grassed areas, and as such, ensuring a well-maintained and clean grassed area is priority for these activities to occur. Furthermore, it would be difficult to police and ensure dogs remain on existing pathways given their typical preference to excrete on grass. The Horsham Botanic Gardens also has an unfenced playground. May Park, Horsham's regional park, does allow dogs on lead and has an unfenced play space.

In addition to the many on-lead walking trails across Horsham, Council also has designated off-leash dog areas for visitors and residents at the following locations: Weir Park, Central Park, Lions Park, Jenkinson Reserve and Langlands Park.

Standards and Quality of the Horsham Botanic Gardens

Considerable effort is put into maintaining the gardens to a high standard. Some of the factors that concern Parks and Garden staff include:

- Residue and dead patches left from dogs urinating and excreting within the gardens – both turf and garden beds
- Not all dogs are responsible owners and pick up litter
- Staff concerned with policing on-leash, off-leash policy
- The need of extra receptacles at around \$200 each – including ongoing maintenance of refilling
- Dogs digging in garden beds and tramping of juvenile plants such as annual flowers etc
- Behaviour of dogs near barbecue and picnic areas
- Fear of dogs fighting in and near the children's play area
- Issues with dogs and wildlife
- Balancing the needs and expectation of users of the gardens for special events, such as family celebrations, weddings and picnics.

Community Safety Unit

The Community Safety Unit does not currently have the capacity to patrol the Horsham Botanic Gardens, other than sporadically. Additional patrolling and possible enforcement requires additional resources. The Community Safety Unit deals with dog attacks frequently. Where large numbers of people gather in a public space for functions, the inclusion of even leashed dogs can present a potential risk to the public. Council has provided five off-leash areas for socialising and exercising dogs, and ample recreational opportunities for those who walk their dog on leash, such as along the river and around the Horsham Botanic Gardens.

Consultation / Engagement

As per the survey summary provide above.

This report was also presented back to the DAMAG Friday 22 May 2020. No specific feedback was provided by the group to the report. A copy of the Council resolution and the report will be provided to members of the DAMAG, post the 22 June 2020 Council meeting.

Financial Implications

Advice provided by staff is that there would be some cost implications if dogs were permitted in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. These include: the cost of enforcing dogs on lead, staying on paths and off gardens, and the maintenance and upkeep costs resulting from the soiling of gardens and grassed areas.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Outcome 1.2 – Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation

Horsham Rural City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021

Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy 2019

Horsham Rural City Council Community Local Law Number 3 - 2011

Risk Implications

Council has sought advice from the public on this issue a number of times. It is clear the majority view on the issue, inclusive of the professional advice provided by staff who maintain the service and amenity of the Gardens, is to continue with the 'no dogs' policy.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Results from both the public survey conducted in February 2020 and advice from Council staff who maintain the amenity and safety of the Horsham Botanic Gardens has resulted in the recommendation that dogs not be allowed on lead and on path in the gardens for the foreseeable future, and for current signage to be reviewed and updated where required.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig**

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

*The meeting was suspended at 5.52pm.***RESUME STANDING ORDERS****MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr David Grimble**

That Standing Orders resume.

*The meeting resumed at 5.56pm.***SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS****MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke**

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

*The meeting was suspended at 5.57pm.***RESUME STANDING ORDERS****MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr David Grimble**

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

*The meeting resumed at 6.07pm.***Council Motion****MOVED Cr John Robinson, Seconded David Grimble**

That agenda item 15.1 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes Confidential Item – Governance Review City to River Project be moved from Confidential Matters to agenda item 9 Officers Reports.

MOTION LOST

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke**

That Standing Orders be suspended.

CARRIED

*The meeting was suspended at 6.11pm.***RESUME STANDING ORDERS****MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke**

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

*The meeting resumed at 6.12pm.***Council Resolution****MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig**

That the Officers provide further clarity around the City to River Audit Report (agenda item 15.1) and that the report be deferred until we receive further advice.

CARRIED

9.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Author's Name:	Diana McDonald	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Governance	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F18/A13/000001

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

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes – 11 June 2020 (**Appendix “9.2A”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 June 2020.

Summary

- The Audit and Risk Committee meets quarterly.
- VAGO Reports and other status reports were provided at the meeting on 11 June 2020.
- The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 June 2020 are provided for the information of Council in accordance with good governance principles.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 June 2020.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 June 2020.

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

Main points of the meeting were as follows:

- Report regarding Council Plan timeframes
- Interim Management Letter year ending 30 June 2020
- Internal Audit Risk Review and Audit Plan
- Internal Audit Progress Report
- Draft Budget update
- Quarterly Performance Report (quarter ending 31 March 2020)
- Risk Management and Insurance Report
- Business Continuity Plan and COVID-19 update
- Chief Executive Officer Update on Emerging Issues
- *Local Government Act 2020* Implementation and Local Government Victoria Transitional Arrangements
- Rural Council's Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Project Overview
- New Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (Staff)
- City to River Confidential Audit.

Financial Implications

The operations of Council's Audit and Risk Committee are covered within the 2019-20 operational budget allocation.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan - Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Priorities:

4.2 – Manage risk to the organisation

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 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 *Local Government Act 2020*. The minutes are provided to Council in-line with good governance and record keeping.

9.3 TWO LOT SUBDIVISION AND VARIATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT LOT 275 PS449841W 15 McLEAN DRIVE, HORSHAM

Cr Pam Clarke left the meeting at 6.31pm.

Author's Name:	Nicholas Carey	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Acting Co-ordinator Statutory Planning and Building Services	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F24/A04/000001

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

Delegation Report (**Appendix "9.3A"**)

Purpose

To determine Planning Permit Application PA2000001 to subdivide the land so as to create two lots, and to vary Restriction 1 on Plan of Subdivision 449841W so as to remove the reference to Lot 275, being burdened by Restriction 1 and include Lot 275 in Restriction 2.

Summary

- The proposal is to create two lots and to vary the restrictive covenant that burdens the land so as to enable a dwelling to be constructed on each lot.
- Following notification of the proposal, three objections were received.
- Notwithstanding, the proposal to subdivide the land is considered to have merit. Taking into account the relevant provisions of the Horsham Planning Scheme, it is considered that the proposal to vary the restrictive covenant does not satisfy the test in Section 60(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Recommendation

That Council, as the Responsible Authority having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA2000001 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 and Section 60 (2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, decide to issue a Refusal to Grant a Permit for a two (2) lot subdivision and variation of restrictive covenant at 15 McLean Drive (Lot 275 PS 449841W), Horsham on the following grounds:

- The proposal fails to meet the requirements of Section 60(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, as the Responsible Authority, is not satisfied that the owner of any land benefited by the restriction, will be unlikely to suffer loss of amenity and loss arising from the change in neighbourhood character as a consequence of variation to the restriction.

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

That Council, as the Responsible Authority having caused notice of Planning Application No. PA2000001 to be given under Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and having considered all the matters required under Section 60 and Section 60 (2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, decide to issue a Refusal to Grant a Permit for a two (2) lot subdivision and variation of restrictive covenant at 15 McLean Drive (Lot 275 PS 449841W), Horsham on the following grounds:

- The proposal fails to meet the requirements of Section 60(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, as the Responsible Authority, is not satisfied that the owner of any land benefited by the restriction, will be unlikely to suffer loss of amenity and loss arising from the change in neighbourhood character as a consequence of variation to the restriction.

CARRIED

Cr Pam Clarke returned to the meeting at 6.49pm.

REPORT

Background

The proposal is to subdivide the land so as to create two lots and to vary Restriction 1 on Plan of Subdivision 449841W, so as to remove the reference to Lot 275 being burdened by this restriction and include Lot 275 in Restriction 2. The reason for seeking this variation is to allow a dwelling to be constructed on each lot created.

The restriction applying to Lot 275 PS449841W states:

The registered proprietor or proprietors for the time being on any lot on this plan shall not: Construct or cause to be constructed any dwelling other than one single dwelling containing a floor area or aggregate floor area of not less than 150 square metres within the outer walls thereof on Lots 273 to 285 inclusive and on Lots 287, 288, 290, 292 and 294.

Discussion

A detailed assessment of the proposal against the Horsham Planning Scheme provisions is contained in the Delegation Report (**Appendix "9.3A"**).

The subject land is located in the General Residential Zone where the purpose of the Zone is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework
- To encourage development that respects the neighbourhood character of the area
- To encourage a diversity of housing types and housing growth particularly in locations offering good access to services and transport
- To allow educational, recreational, religious, community and a limited range of other non-residential uses to serve local community needs in appropriate locations.

The creation of two lots will assist in providing the opportunity to encourage a diversity of housing types. An assessment of the proposal against Clause 56 of the Horsham Planning Scheme demonstrates the proposal meets the objectives of Clause 56.

Covenant variation

Section 60 (2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* states that:

(2) The responsible authority must not grant a permit which allows the removal or variation of a restriction (within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988) unless it is satisfied that the owner of any land benefited by the restriction (other than an owner who, before or after the making of the application for the permit but not more than three months before its making, has consented in writing to the grant of the permit) will be unlikely to suffer—

- (a) Financial loss; or*
- (b) Loss of amenity; or*
- (c) Loss arising from change to the character of the neighbourhood; or*
- (d) Any other material detriment—*

As a consequence of the removal or variation of the restriction.

Clause 52.02 of the Horsham Planning Scheme states a permit is required before a person proceeds under Section 23 of the *Subdivision Act 1988* to create, vary or remove an easement or restriction or vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement in a Crown grant.

The purpose of Clause 52.02 of the Horsham Planning Scheme is to enable the removal and variation of an easement or restrictions to enable a use or development that complies with the planning scheme after the interests of affected people are considered.

A detailed assessment of the proposal to vary the restriction is detailed in the Delegation Report (**Appendix “9.3A”**).

Having considered all of the relevant matters pursuant to Section 60(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, it is considered the owner of any land benefited by the restriction will be unlikely to suffer financial loss or any other material detriment.

It is, however, considered the Responsible Authority cannot be satisfied that the owner of any land benefited by the restriction will be unlikely to suffer loss of amenity and loss arising from the change in neighbourhood character as a consequence of the removal or variation of the restriction.

Financial Implications

Defending the Responsible Authority’s decision in VCAT should an application for review of the responsible authority’s decision be made.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Four-Year Outcome 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 and beneficiaries of the covenant. In addition, public notice was placed in the Wimmera Mail-Times and a sign placed on the site.

Three objections have been received. A consultation meeting was held between the applicant’s representative and objectors. No objections were withdrawn.

Risk Implications

Challenge of decision in VCAT.

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 and any requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. As noted in the above assessment, it is considered that, although the proposal to subdivide the land meets the requirements relating to subdivision in the General Residential Zone, and the beneficiaries of the covenant will be unlikely to suffer financial loss or any other material detriment as a result of the variation to the covenant, the Responsible Authority cannot be satisfied that the owner of any land benefited by the restriction will be unlikely to suffer loss of amenity and loss arising from the change in neighbourhood character as a consequence of variation to the restriction. Accordingly, it is recommended that a Notice of Refusal to grant a permit be issued.

9.4 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY 2020

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:		File Number:	F14/A05/000001

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 Satisfaction Survey Summary Report 2020 (**Appendix "9.4A"**)

Purpose

To receive and note the results of the 2020 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Summary

- Reporting of the summarised results from the 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey.
- Results have declined further from 2019 across all measures except customer service.
- An action plan will be developed.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the 2020 Horsham Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey results.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr John Robinson

That Council receive and note the 2020 Horsham Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey results and that Council consider the satisfaction report in line with the draft budget.

CARRIED

Cr David Grimble called for a division of Council

For the Motion:

Cr Les Power
Cr Josh Koenig
Cr David Grimble
Cr John Robinson
Cr Mark Radford

Against the Motion:

Cr Pam Clarke

REPORT

Background

Horsham Rural City Council has again participated in the Local Government Community Satisfaction survey. The survey is co-ordinated by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on behalf of Victorian Councils and was undertaken by JWS Research. The survey provides Council with some of the key performance indicators required under the Planning and Reporting Regulations (2014). The survey included compulsory questions and Council selected two additional free text questions and one tailored question with regard to sealed local roads.

The survey is conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, which is a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years, and seeks to target the surveys to the gender and age profile of the community. The survey is undertaken from publicly available phone records, including up to 40% mobile phone numbers, to cater to the diversity of residents in the Council, particularly young people. Sixty-three of the 79 Councils across the state participated in this 2020 survey, with the other 16 Councils choosing to conduct their own alternative surveys.

Four hundred completed interviews were achieved from 17 February to 30 March 2020. Horsham has been classified for the purposes of this year's survey as a Regional Centre which includes Bendigo, Geelong, Latrobe, Mildura, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

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








Discussion

Core Measures

Council's core measures compared to the previous year, Regional Centres and State-wide averages are shown in the following table:

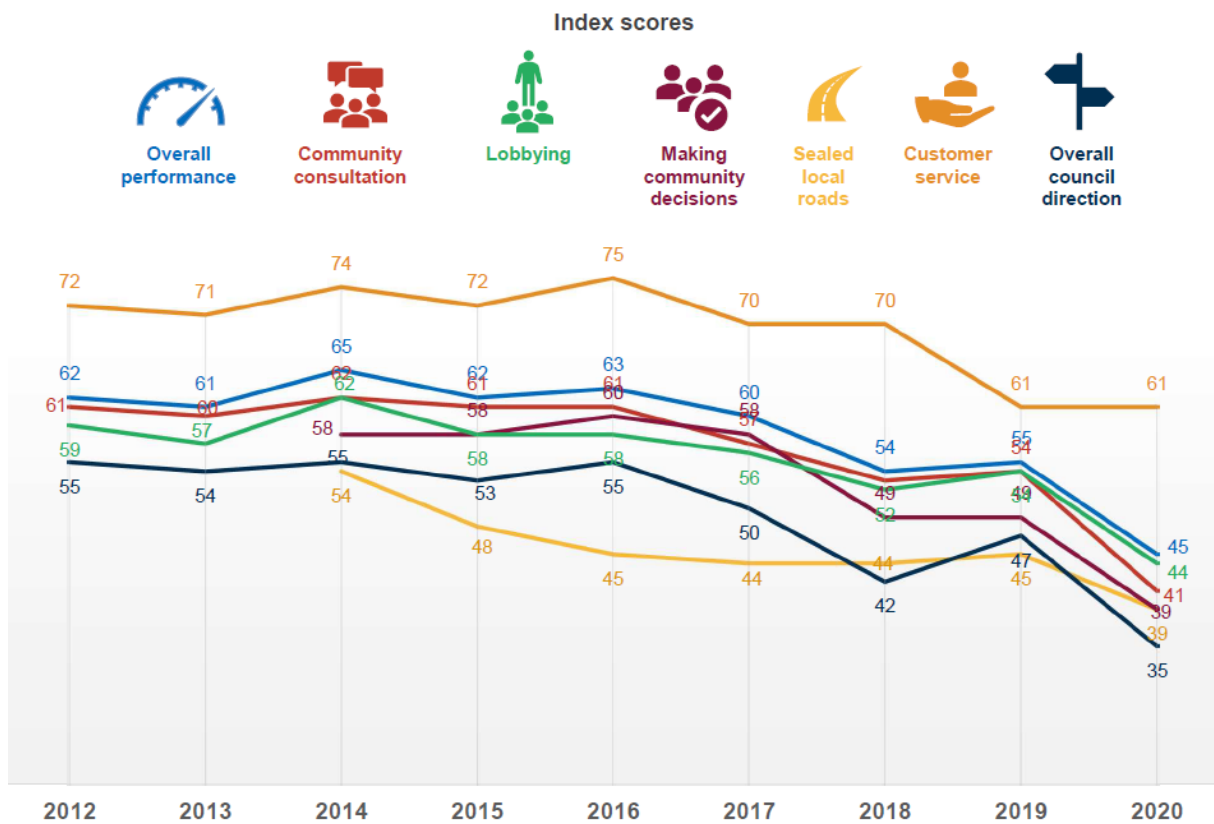
Summary of Horsham Rural City Council performance



Services	Horsham 2020	Horsham 2019	Regional Centres 2020	State-wide 2020	Highest score	Lowest score
 Overall performance	45	55	56	58	Women	Men
 Overall council direction	35	47	50	51	Aged 18-34 years	Rural Area residents
 Customer service	61	61	70	70	Aged 65+ years, Aged 35-49 years	Rural Area residents, Men, Aged 50-64 years, Aged 18-34 years
 Lobbying	44	54	52	53	Aged 65+ years, Women	Men
 Consultation & engagement	41	54	51	55	Women, Aged 18-34 years	Rural Area residents
 Community decisions	39	49	50	53	Women, Aged 18-34 years	Aged 35-49 years
 Sealed local roads	39	45	55	54	Aged 65+ years	Rural Area residents

The graph below details trends over time for Horsham Rural City Council in each of the core performance areas:

Summary of core measures



This graphically highlights the downward trend from 2016-2018. This trend stopped in 2019, but has again dropped significantly in 2020.

The survey report (**Appendix "9.4A"**) provides detailed analysis for each of the Core Measures.

A separate question was asked with respect to sealed local roads to identify which local roads were an issue. Of the 153 instances of roads being named, 120 are Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) (formerly VicRoads) or 78%. Educating the community as to the difference between a RRV road and a Council Road will need to take place.

An action plan will be developed in the coming weeks once the analysis of the feedback is completed.

Financial Implications

The survey participation costs of \$12,530 were included as part of the 2019-20 Council Budget.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Four-Year Outcomes:

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

4.4 – Achieve high standards of organisational performance

Consultation/Communication

The full survey results are quite detailed in terms of demographic breakdown and content, and are available to Council through a portal. The summary report (**Appendix "9.4A"**) is attached for public information. The Councillors, Executive Management Team and Departmental Managers have had an individual briefing with the survey provider, JWS Research, and discussed the results. An action plan will be developed and communicated in the near future.

Risk Implications

The measures of Community Engagement and Overall Council Performance are included on the Know Your Council website for comparison with all other Councils across the state. The inclusion here presents a reputational risk to Council if the poor performance is not addressed.

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 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for 2020 has been completed and the report is presented for noting by the Council.

9.5 PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY FOR THE COUNCIL PLAN

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance	File Number:	F19/A11/000001

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 report on Council's approach to the period used for the adopted Council Plan.

Summary

- A question from a member of the public was received on 24 February 2020 regarding Horsham Rural City Council's approach to adopt a rolling Council Plan, rather than a plan just fixed for the 4 year term of Council.
- At the same meeting, Council resolved "That Council seek clarity from the Municipal Association of Victoria around the validity of the Council Plan as highlighted by a member of the public, and that advice be provided as a report to Council and to the Audit and Risk Committee."
- The *Local Government Act 1989*, Section 125 (2) (b) refers to "strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years".
- The *Local Government Act 2020* Section 90, essentially uses the same words as Section 125 of the 1989 Act.
- The words "at least the next 4 years" imply a greater term may be considered.
- Council has an adopted a Planning and Budgeting framework that clearly states it will take the approach to have a rolling 4 year Council Plan. This framework will be reviewed as part of the implementation of the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report on the period of applicability of the Council Plan.
2. Note that Council is not in breach of any sections of the *Local Government Act 1989* or *Local Government Act 2020* by adopting a rolling 4 year Council Plan.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report on the period of applicability of the Council Plan.
2. Note that Council is not in breach of any sections of the *Local Government Act 1989* or *Local Government Act 2020* by adopting a rolling 4 year Council Plan.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

At the Council meeting on 24 February 2020, a member of the public asked a question with respect to the dating of Council Plans and the period to which they apply. A response was provided that Council could look to name them differently in the future if the future Council so desired, but the member of the public did not agree with the response.

Following on from this, a motion from the floor was moved and Council resolved the following:

That Council seek clarity from the Municipal Association of Victoria around the validity of the Council Plan as highlighted by a member of the public, and that advice be provided as a report to Council and to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Council sought advice from the Municipal Association of Victoria, but did not receive any authoritative advice. In turn, they advised that they do not provide legal advice but are there to advocate on behalf of Councils and to provide broad governance advice. As a result, Council has sought and been provided legal advice from Macquarie Lawyers stating that Council is not in breach of the *Local Government Act 1989* or *Local Government Act 2020* in terms of taking a rolling approach to the Council Plan.

The objective of any strategic planning exercise is to give some substance to future direction for the organisation. The Strategic Plan should inform the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) and any Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), and provide a framework that can guide decisions being made about the future.

It is government's role to provide long term vision for the communities they serve and not just to think in political cycles. Any subsequent political cycle can elect to change the direction as they see fit in accordance with their electoral mandate. To further recognise the need for longer term planning, the new *Local Government Act 2020* will now require Councils to have a 10 year Long Term Financial Plan that will clearly extend beyond the 4 year Council term.

It is worth noting that no Council can bind a future Council's decisions. At any time, a Council can resolve to do anything within its powers.

At any time a Council Plan, SRP, LTFP, Municipal Strategic Statement, other plans and strategies will have objectives that reach beyond the term of the current Council. In fact this year, as occurs each election cycle, this Council will adopt a budget that goes beyond its Council term. This is a fact within the political system.

Discussion

A. *Local Government Act 1989*

The following are relevant sections from the *Local Government Act 1989*:

Section 125 – Council Plan

(1) A Council must prepare and approve a Council Plan within the period of 6 months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

- (2) A Council Plan must include—
- (a) the strategic objectives of the Council;
 - (b) strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years;
 - (c) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
 - (d) a Strategic Resource Plan containing the matters specified in section 126;
 - (e) any other matters which are prescribed by the regulations.
- (7) At least once in each financial year, a Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustments in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan.

Section 126 – Strategic Resource Plan (SRP)

- (2) The Strategic Resource Plan must include in respect of at least the next 4 financial years—

Use of the term “at least the next 4 years” clearing implies that a Council Plan is to be for a minimum 4 year period, it does not say that it must be for the 4 year Council term. This aligns with the language also used for the SRP that is also for “at least the next 4 financial years”. Section 125 (2) (d) says the Council Plan must contain the SRP.

B. Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations (2014)

The following is the relevant provision in relation to the SRP in the Planning and Reporting Regulations:

Part 2 – Division 1 – Regulation 6 – The financial statements

For the purposes of section 126(2)(a) of the Act, the financial statements included in a Strategic Resource Plan must—

- (a) contain a statement of capital works for the financial years to which the financial statements relate; and
- (b) be in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report.

These regulations enshrine the use of the Local Government Model Financial Report.

C. Local Government Model Financial Report

A template is provided by Local Government Victoria for the Model Budget. This template requires Councils to provide the SRP in a particular format that includes the financial statements for the current year, plus the next year’s budget and the following 3 years. These 4 years then constitute the SRP that must be included in the Council Plan in accordance with Section 125(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

D. Local Government Act 2020

The following are relevant sections from the *Local Government Act 2020*:

Section 88 – Community Vision

- (2) The scope of the Community Vision is a period of at least the next 10 financial years.

Section 89 – Strategic planning principles

- (1) A Council must undertake the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans in accordance with the strategic planning principles.
- (2) The following are the strategic planning principles –
 - (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
 - (b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;

Section 91 – Financial Plan

- (2) The scope of a Financial Plan is a period of at least the next 10 financial years.

*Section 92 – Asset Plan**(2) The scope of an Asset Plan is a period of at least the next 10 financial years.**Section 94 – The Budget**(1) A Council must prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years by –**(a) 30 June each year; or**(b) Any other date fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.**(2) A Council must ensure that the budget gives effect to the Council Plan and contains the following - ...*

All the above requirements clearly demonstrate the need for Council to think beyond the 4 year Council term and align its planning processes within the 10 year requirement for the Community Vision.

E. Council's Planning and Budgeting Framework

Council views the Council Plan as a rolling 4 year plan that is updated regularly, but at the commencement of the 4 year Council term it will have a more significant review, to ensure that the input from new Councillors is taken into account in the setting of the strategic direction for the following 4 year period of the Council term.

This then ensures alignment of the Council Plan with the requirements of the SRP and provides the strategic basis on which the SRP can in fact be developed.

Financial Implications

The cost of this report has been the time of Council Officers and the cost of the legal advice.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Consultation/Communication

This report was received by Council's Audit and Risk Committee at its 11 June 2020 meeting, in accordance with the Council resolution.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

The newly elected Council post October 2020 will have the opportunity to review Council's Planning and Budgeting Framework and develop a Community Vision and a new Council Plan, taking on board the requirements of the new *Local Government Act 2020* and any subsequent Ministerial Guidelines that may be issued.

9.6 COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS PROGRAM

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Engagement	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F15/A07/000017

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

Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program Funding Guidelines (Appendix "9.6A")

Purpose

To note and endorse an application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program for the development of Horsham Regional Water Play Park.

Summary

- The SRV Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program is a one-off grant opportunity for large, regionally significant projects.
- The program is highly competitive as there is only \$64million available across the State.
- This application provides a unique opportunity to progress the 'game changing' Regional Water Play Facility, with a small contribution from Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note and endorse the application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program for the development of the Horsham Regional Water Play Park.
2. Provide its contribution of \$350,000 towards the project from the recently announced Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program grant allocation of \$1.4million.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council:

1. Note and endorse the application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program for the development of the Horsham Regional Water Play Park.
2. Provide its contribution of \$350,000 towards the project from the recently announced Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program grant allocation of \$1.4million.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In late May 2020, SRV announced a one-off funding program designed to inject economic stimulus into the Victorian economy as we move to the recovery phase of COVID-19. This funding round has less than a four-week turnaround, with applications due by Friday 19 June 2020.

The Guidelines (**Appendix “9.6A”**) indicate the following key requirements:

- Grant requests must be between \$1million and \$10million
- Minimum Council contribution of 10% (can include Federal funding)
- Projects must be ‘shovel ready’ to start construction within six months of signing the funding agreement.

The Horsham Regional Water Play Park has been identified as the most competitive project for this grants round. The project will provide a new regional level water play facility – the first water play park in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region (catchment population 50,000+). The nature themed water play facility to be constructed along the Wimmera River in central Horsham will provide an exciting outdoor recreation facility, free and accessible for all ages and capabilities.

Discussion

A recent briefing with Senior Officers from SRV, Grampians Region confirmed the following:

- This is a unique opportunity to advance major projects that will have a regional impact for a very small local contribution.
- The funding round will be highly competitive with assessment focused on economic stimulus, jobs and increased participation.
- From the list of major projects that could commence construction within six months, the Regional Water Play Park is the most competitive project, and exciting new regional attraction and outdoor recreation space that would provide a lasting positive outcome from COVID-19 in our region.

Council considered a report on Federal and State Government Grant Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure Projects at the Council meeting on 1 June 2020. At that meeting, the following resolutions were passed by Council.

That Council:

1. *Endorse the major, minor (<\$1 million) and road infrastructure priority project listings as attached (**Appendix “9.4A”, “9.4B” and “9.4C”**)*
2. *Seek opportunities to access COVID-19 recovery stimulus funding from the State and Federal Governments for major, minor (<\$1 million) and road infrastructure priority projects as attached (**Appendix “9.4A”, “9.4B” and “9.4C”**).*

Extract from Appendix 9.4A – Major Projects

City to River Riverfront Activation project – Area A & D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Regional Water Play Park • Supporting carpark and roadworks • Riverfront Activation nodes X 2 • Upgrade to Rowing Club facilities (including public amenities upgrade) 	<p>\$1.478million</p> <p>\$1.535million</p> <p>\$0.58million</p> <p>\$1.291million</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City to River Masterplan - Precinct 1 Riverfront Activation • Open Space Strategy
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Following this resolution, TRACT Landscape Designers were engaged to undertake the detailed concept and schematic designs required as supporting material for the funding application. A QS report outlining the project budget is also required.

Financial Implications

The initial budget for the funding application is \$2,978,000 (ex GST) with a proposed Council contribution of \$350,000, with the balance funding through the SRV grant. Council's contribution can be provided through the recently announced Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program which has provided a grant allocation of \$1.4million to Council.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

This project is directly linked to the endorsed City to River Masterplan, with resolution to proceed to concept and schematic design for the Riverfront Precinct as follows:

9.5 Riverfront Sub-Precinct – Commence implementation of concept and schematic design for the riverfront improvements, including the splash park and site selection for the café/restaurant.

Consultation/Communication

The design work of TRACT for the water play park has been based on over 550 comments from the City to River engagement process, which strongly supported a water play park and natural themed development of the riverfront.

The Riverfront Activation Community Reference Group (CRG) have reviewed the initial concept plans for the Riverfront Precinct (including the Water Play Park), and their views have been taken into consideration in the final Concept design for the Water Play Park. The CRG has endorsed the submission. Council is currently working with the CRG to plan the public engagement phase.

Risk Implications

This is a funding opportunity only, in a highly competitive state funding round. The Water Play Project will only proceed if the application is successful.

Environmental Implications

The Water Play Park has important environmental design components that will be addressed as part of the detailed construction drawings i.e. water reticulation, lighting, draining, landscaping. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is currently being developed for the entire Precinct 1 Riverfront area.

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

Council endorsement of the application to the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program for the development of the Horsham Regional Water Play Park and allocation of \$350,000 as its contribution from the recently announced Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program grant allocation of \$1.4million is now sought.

9.7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	File Number:	F06/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

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for June 2020.

Summary

The Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance and matters which may not be subject of Council reports or briefings.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for June 2020.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Josh Koenig, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for June 2020.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

At the 24 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council, it was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer provide an operational report to Council.

Discussion

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

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

Regional Cities Victoria: The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer attended a Regional Cities Victoria meeting on 11 June 2020 via zoom. Dr Rob Grenfell, Health Director, Health and Biosecurity at CSIRO was guest speaker and talked about CSIRO's search for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Grampians Tourism (GT): The Recovery Taskforce which includes the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of GT and Chief Executive Officers of member Councils met on 11 June 2020 to consider destination marketing campaigns for the GT region. With the international borders expected to remain closed in the near future, there is an increased emphasis on targeting domestic visitors to the region. An update on the COVID-19 impact on regional tourism and the recovery planning was also provided to the Mayors and CEOs of the member Councils by the GT CEO.

Rural Council's Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Meeting: The RCCC Board which includes the Chief Executive Officers of Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Buloke, Yarriambiack, Loddon and Horsham had its meeting on 11 June 2020. Local Government Victoria has provided a verbal approval to the Business Case addendum for the transformation project which allows the procurement process to commence.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The Chief Executive Officer met via zoom with the Chief Executive Officers of Buloke, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack and Northern Grampians on 11 June 2020. The Regional Director from Regional Development Victoria provided a State Government update.

B. Community Engagement

Building a Better Wimmera Southern Mallee: The Chief Executive Officer participated in a regional roundtable held via zoom on Tuesday 2 June 2020 and involving the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership, Regional Development Advisory Committee and Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Development Australia Committee. The purpose of the roundtable was to ensure government understands the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on Wimmera Southern Mallee's rural and regional communities and the opportunities and challenges we face in driving socioeconomic recovery.

C. Projects and Events

Civic Centre Carpark Works: The accessible carpark in front of the Civic Centre in Roberts Avenue needs updating to meet current standards and improve usability. Willmore Contracting will be raising the level of the road pavement, re-align the kerb and upgrade the access path. Four parking bays directly in front of the Civic Centre will remain available to the public during the works. Works should be completed by the end of this week, weather permitting.

Pedestrian Crossing Works: Works to build a pedestrian crossing outside Wimmera Base Hospital's main entrance has commenced. The crossing will provide a much safer location for patients and visitors to cross Baillie Street at the entrance to the hospital as well as other facilities in the area.

Firebrace Street Works: Footpath alteration works at the corner of Firebrace Street and Roberts Avenue were carried out to reduce the gradient of the ramp that runs from the traffic lights to the paved footpath at 68 Firebrace Street. This section of footpath is now much smoother and safer for pedestrians.

D. Staff Matters

Civic Centre Customer Service: The Civic Centre Customer Service area reopened to the public on Tuesday 9 June 2020. Council still has an obligation as directed by the State Government, that where staff can work from home, they will continue to do so.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

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

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for June 2020.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor

- 1 June 2020 – Letter of support for the Natimuk Fringe Festival
- 1 June 2020 - ‘Share your Care’ Briefing for promoting Foster Care (Zoom)
- 1 June 2020 – Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 1 June 2020 – Council Meeting (Virtual)
- 2 June 2020 – ABC Radio Interview
- 2 June 2020 – Nine News Interview (Overland Train) (Virtual)
- 2 June 2020 - 3WM Radio Interview
- 2 June 2020 – Horsham Times Interview x2
- 3 June 2020 – WIN News Interview (Budget) (Virtual)
- 4 June 2020 – Murray Bridge News Interview (Overland Train)
- 4 June 2020 – Wimmera Mail-Times Interview
- 4 June 2020 – Business Horsham Forum (Virtual)
- 5 June 2020 – WSM Media/Council Liaison Meeting (Virtual)
- 5 June 2020 – Business Visit to Victoria Hotel
- 9 June 2020 – Meeting with Graeme Arnott, Author
- 9 June 2020 – Council Briefing Meeting
- 10 June 2020 – Grampians Tourism Mayors/CEOs Meeting (Virtual)
- 10 June 2020 – Performance Review Meeting (Virtual)
- 11 June 2020 - Regional Cities Victoria with Dr Rob Grenfell (Virtual)
- 11 June 2020 – Meeting with Public Transport Minister re Overland Service (Virtual)
- 11 June 2020 – Audit and Risk Committee (Virtual)
- 12 June 2020 – Business Visits
- 12 June 2020 – WSM Media/Council Liaison Meeting (Virtual)
- 12 June 2020 – Letter of congratulations to Cr Bruce Meyer, OAM
- 12 June 2020 – Letter of congratulations to Mr Gary Aitken, OAM
- 15 June 2020 – CEO Performance Review (Virtual)
- 15 June 2020 – Community Satisfaction Survey presentation (Virtual)
- 16 June 2020 – ABC Radio interview
- 16 June 2020 – WIN News interview (Overland) (Virtual)
- 16 June 2020 – WDA Leadership Webinar (Virtual)
- 16 June 2020 – Meeting with Marc Sleeman, Grampians Tourism CEO
- 17 June 2020 – Meeting with Margaret Millington
- 17 June 2020 – COVID-19 Agencies Group (Virtual)
- 18 June 2020 – Horsham Police and Community Consultative Committee
- 18 June 2020 – Regional Cities Victoria Meeting (Virtual)
- 18 June 2020 – Meeting with Dr Anne Webster MP re Overland Service
- 18 June 2020 – Council Budget live Q&A Session (Virtual)
- 19 June 2020 – Serviceton Summit Overland Webinar (Virtual)
- 17 June 2020 – Learning to Unlearn Webinar (Virtual)

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

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

CARRIED

The Council meeting was suspended at 7.57pm.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The Council meeting resumed at 8.01pm

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, 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 Meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2020 at 5.05pm via Zoom (video conferencing)

Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020 at 5.00pm via Zoom (video conferencing)

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Wimmera Regional Library Corporation 2020 Agreement and Service and Funding Agreement 2020 - 2023

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

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 Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Les Power

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

**15.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – GOVERNANCE
REVIEW CITY TO RIVER PROJECT**

Deferred (refer to Council Resolution on page 11).

CLOSE

The meeting closed at 8.06pm.



The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford
Chairperson