

MINUTES of the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in person and livestreamed at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au at 5.30pm on 26 April 2021.

PRESENT

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor), Cr Di Bell, Cr David Bowe, Cr Penny Flynn, Cr Claudia Haenel, Cr Les Power, Cr Ian Ross.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; Mazen Aldaghstani, Acting Director Infrastructure; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Councillors.

Neville McIntyre (VFF), Phillip Chalker, Alex Darling (ABC Wimmera), Alison Folette (WMT), Alex Dalziel (WMT), Abby Walter (Horsham Times), A. Williams, Dean Lawson (The Weekly Advertiser), Noel Hopper

1. PRAYER

Almighty God, we pledge ourselves to work in harmony for, the social, cultural and economic well-being of our Rural City. Help us to be wise in our deliberations and fair in our actions, so that prosperity and happiness shall be the lot of our people. AMEN

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

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 Robyn Gulline formally welcomed those in attendance 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.

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

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 in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 22 March 2021 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That the minutes emanating from the Horsham Rural City Council Meetings held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 22 March 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Di Bell declared a general conflict of interest for agenda item 9.7, Community Grants and Donations 2021-2022. Cr Bell provided a completed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form. Cr Bell left the meeting at 6.26pm and returned at 6.28pm. Cr Bell was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Cr Robyn Gulline declared a general conflict of interest for agenda item 9.7, Community Grants and Donations 2021-2022. Cr Gulline provided a completed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form. Cr Gulline left the meeting at 6.29pm and returned at 6.31pm. Cr Gulline was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**PUBLIC QUESTION FROM BRIAN BASHAM, HORSHAM****Question 1:**

Can you indicate if you condone the use of ratepayers' money to advertise HRCC employee's businesses?

Question 2:

Can you advise if you or the CEO have referred these matters to IBAC as per the advisory flow chart from their web site? If not, why not?

Response by the Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline

All eligible businesses were contacted by Grampians Tourism on behalf of the 4 member Councils and given an opportunity to have their businesses displayed in the Grampians Holiday Planner.

The business owned by a former Council employee was not given any preferential treatment over the other eligible businesses and the former employee had no internal involvement in the matter.

The matter was not referred to IBAC because there was no suspicion of corrupt conduct based on the former employee's disclosure that they had accepted an opportunity to have their business displayed in the Holiday Planner, similar to the other eligible businesses who accepted the offer during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Question 3:

Can you indicate if these matters have been referred to the Audit & Risk Committee about the authenticity of data provided to the TAC regarding the Hamilton Street bike lanes? If not, why not?

Response by the Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline

There has been no referral to the Audit & Risk Committee about the authenticity of data provided to the TAC regarding the Hamilton Street bike lanes as it is considered unnecessary to do so. However, Council may by resolution as reinforced by the Committee Chairperson refer any matter to the Committee for consideration.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM PHILLIP CHALKER, HORSHAM**Question 1:**

I put forward a question in 2017 asking if we can have bike lanes in streets. I also brought this up with the Mayor and John Martin in December 2020 and have still not received an answer. What was done to the roundabout in Horsham has made it even worse for bike riders. More people are riding their bikes on footpaths.

Response by Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

Mr Chalker indicates that he raised issues with the Mayor and John Martin in December 2020 and that they were not answered. In contrast, we consider that many issues that were raised by Mr Chalker were answered during a meeting held with him, attended by the Mayor and John Martin, on 9 December 2020. Some follow-up information was forwarded to Mr Chalker by email later on the same day as the meeting.

In relation to bike lanes, Mr Chalker has been advocating to Council that we should be looking at safer arrangements for bike lanes in the CBD for some time. However, that is expensive, and requires careful planning. This issue will be considered during the City to River planning for the CBD revitalisation which will occur during the balance of this calendar year.

John Martin is unaware of any issues with the bike lane at the roundabout at the Hamilton Street Firebrace Street intersection, and if it is thought that there are some, he would be keen to hear of them and address them.

Question 2:

Can everyone receive 2 tip vouchers per year (not just the landlord) so that tenants can dispose of their waste.

Response by Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

The introduction of tip vouchers several years ago was done to offset the increased bin charges due to increased costs of recycling. The use of rates notices as the means of administering the tip voucher scheme has proven to be efficient, and avoids the potential for some people to try to rort the process. It is suggested that tenants should ask their landlords for permission to use the voucher that applies to their rented property, this could be done by the landlord providing a photocopy of the rates notice. It is not proposed at present to increase this to two vouchers per year.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM NEVILLE MCINTYRE, MCKENZIE CREEK**Question 1:**

The VFF both state and local has asked all Councils that rate increases be fairly distributed amongst all sectors. Under a 2.5% rate cap the only fair way is to increase each sector by 2.5% as other Councils have done previously. A 10.6% rate increase on farmers under a 2.5% rate cap is grossly unfair. I point out to Councillors that a couple of years ago under a rate cap farmers received a \$680,000 rate increase to give the residential sector a \$80,000 rate deficit.

This proposal must be stopped even in draft form a 2.5% rate cap must be put on all sectors as VFF advises. Will Council amend this draft decision before going any further tonight?

Response by Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services

The rate cap and rate increases across various categories are part of the report and budget document Council will be considering and debating tonight.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 HORSHAM PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY - DEREGISTRATION

Author's Name:	Kevin O'Brien	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Director Communities and Place	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F10/A05/000005

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To note the deregistration of Horsham Performing Arts Company (HPAC).

Summary

- Establishment of Horsham Performing Arts Company and its purpose
- Fundraising for the Horsham Town Hall
- Decision to Deregister

Recommendation

That Council note the deregistration of Horsham Performing Arts Company.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council note the deregistration of Horsham Performing Arts Company.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The HPAC was officially constituted on 9 November 2010, and was a company limited by guarantee.

The Company was incorporated as a cultural charitable organisation for the promotion of the performing arts and for other cultural purposes for the benefit of the community of the City including without limitation any or all of the following:

- To fund the development of the Horsham Performing Arts Centre
- To advance the work and profile of the Company through performance, exhibitions, education programs, marketing, fundraising, partnerships and sponsorships
- To encourage the participation of artists and the broader community in the performing arts
- To conduct festivals featuring the performing arts
- To provide leadership in the promotion of the performing arts
- To participate in arts initiatives beyond the City when such participation will result in benefit to the community.

Discussion

The HPAC was primarily set up to raise funds for the Horsham Town Hall redevelopment. Net fundraising for the period 2013-14 to 2019-20 was \$814,293. The HPAC has continued to operate after the Horsham Town Hall commenced operations in February 2016. There has been minimal fundraising occurring especially in the past two years (net fundraising \$269.00). The HPAC made a decision at its AGM in October 2020 to close the company and write to ASIC to request deregistration. This process has now been completed.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Nil

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2020-2024

Council's four-year priority – 1.3 Contribute to cultural activities that enhance our community

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The report is provided for council's information to officially note the winding up of the Horsham Performing Arts Company.

9.2 WIMMERA REGIONAL MULTI-SPORT PRECINCT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Author's Name:	Mandy Kirsopp	Director:	Kevin OBrien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Recreation and Open Space	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Arts, Culture and Recreation	File Number:	F06/A13/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study Project Brief (**Appendix "9.2A"**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study project brief.

Summary

Council's endorsement of the City to River Masterplan on 25 November 2019 included the requirement to undertake an independent feasibility study to consider the preferred location for the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct.

Council's resolution directed the independent study to:

- determine the economic and social impacts of the facility;
- be informed by the technical feasibility of each site, operational model and costs; and
- involve engagement with the Showgrounds Committee and Greyhound Racing Victoria to determine the cost of relocation.

The total budget for this planning work is \$60,000. Planning funding of \$30,000 was successfully obtained from Sport and Recreation Victoria's (SRV) Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and was matched by a Council contribution from the 2020-21 budget. A funding agreement has been signed with SRV, the grant monies released and the project is due for completion by 31 January 2022.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the scope of the project brief in relation to the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

That the draft project brief be rewritten to ensure that this study is conducted in line with resolutions 11 and 12 of 25 November 2019 Council meeting.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The 2021 *Horsham Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study* will be informed by previous work completed by HRCC, including the Business Case and Feasibility Study of the Indoor Sports Stadium. The new study will explore the feasibility of a regional multi-sport facility (inclusive of indoor and outdoor sports) and will be required to undergo a site assessment process across multiple locations, just as the original Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility did.

This precondition ensures best practise and considers factors impacting a larger site footprint for both indoor and outdoor facilities. The crownland area at Showgrounds precinct and the site near Jenkinson Street will be included in the site assessment process. SRV have advised that without undergoing this broader work, it would not have funded the project.

The approved SRV grant will need to address the feasibility of at least 2 targeted sites and demonstrate how the future facility will:

- Increase multi-sports programming
- Increase sporting participation
- Provide clear social benefits
- Demonstrate economic benefits

Sport & Recreation Victoria also co-funded the Wimmera Regional Indoor Stadium Study in 2017. The proposed Horsham Regional Multi-sport Precinct Feasibility Study will build on the analysis completed for the 2017 study to look at the co-location of indoor and outdoor sports in a multi-sports precinct.

Discussion

The objectives of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Study are to:

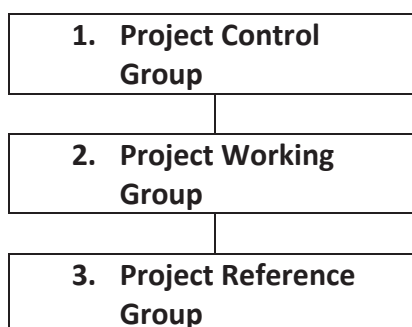
- identify the functional requirements of an outdoor regional multi-sport precinct in association with the proposed Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium consistent with State Sporting Association (SSA) planning
- determine the feasibility of an outdoor multi-sports precinct that can meet the needs of the users and provide a facility that can cater for regional sporting activities
- determine the most suitable location for an outdoor multi-sport precinct with consideration of co-location options with the proposed Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium.

The Feasibility Study will consider and incorporate the following:

- all recent previous work undertaken through consultation with the community, and particularly potential user groups and other stakeholders
- utilise the completed Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report (2017) and build on this for the outdoor sports precinct requirements
- validation of data from this previous work to verify its accuracy and currency
- identify and address current and potential future gaps in service provision with a view to increasing programming and participation in sport and recreation at the local and regional level

Key strategic planning documents that will be reviewed and considered include:

- Wimmera Sports Stadium Business Case and Concept Design Report December 2017
- City to River Masterplan December 2019
- Horsham CAD Wimmera River Technical Report May 2019
- Horsham Sports Facility Demand Study May 2019
- Wimmera River Precinct and Central Activity District Background Report May 2019
- Open Space Strategy December 2019
- Social Infrastructure Framework 2020

Project Governance

A Project Control Group (PCG) will be established and will act as a high-level steering committee responsible for ensuring that the project outcomes are met, and that project budget, time and quality criteria are achieved. It will comprise of representatives from Sport and Recreation Victoria, State Sporting Associations, Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and Horsham Rural City Council

A Project Working Group will provide recommendations to the PCG on key project issues for decision making and include representatives from Horsham Rural City Council and Sport and Recreation, Victoria.

The Project Reference Group will facilitate input into the planning and design of the new facilities, usually from user groups or the community. It will be comprise representatives from relevant local sporting clubs and the community.

The Feasibility Study is a comprehensive and detailed project that will include a range of considerations:

- programming opportunities for a range of sports impact on participation numbers for a range of sports
- detailed technical feasibility study of all possible sites including traffic management, geological conditions and flooding issues
- engagement with a range of key stakeholders to assess the impact of the facility in each location
- detailed concept designs and QS estimates for facilities at each location

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Sustainability considerations include natural, social and economic elements of the proposed multi-sport precinct.

Assessment of the suitability of all potential sites will include: land capacity and availability, soil conditions, flood mitigation options (if applicable), traffic management, car parking, amenity impact on adjoining land uses and integration with the adjoining land uses including residential areas and/or riverfront.

Community Engagement

The Feasibility Study will include a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed in accordance with the IAP2 best practice model and Council's Community Engagement process. The Project Consultant will develop the plan in consultation with Council's Community Relations and Advocacy Team and with input from the PWG & PCG.

The Feasibility Study requires intensive engagement with key stakeholders in this project, recognised as the following as a minimum:

- Sport & Recreation Victoria;

- State sporting associations relevant to the precinct, (to understand the needs, requirements and support for a multi-sports precinct in Horsham that would service the wider region);
- All sporting groups that might be located within the precinct;
- Wimmera regional sporting associations relevant to the precinct.

Site specific stakeholder engagement may include:

- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority;
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
- Groups currently utilising potential sites;
- VicRoads;
- Adjacent land users.

The draft Feasibility Study will require a period of public feedback. The Project Consultant will prepare an Engagement Report including recommendations for changes to the draft Feasibility Study resulting from the engagement process.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Feasibility Study is a comprehensive project that will build on an extensive foundation of existing plans and strategies.

The Study will provide a detailed analysis of options relating to a multi-sport precinct, reflecting industry best practice in the co-location and multi-use of publicly funded infrastructure.

Collaboration

Refer to Community Engagement section above

Financial Implications

The Feasibility Study has a budget of \$60,000.

Analysis will include a funding and operational business plan that considers the cost/benefits of development on either purchased freehold land or Crown Land including the impacts of any potential relocation of current user groups

The Study will also provide a detailed schedule of use of the proposed development, including additional participation and programming opportunities which encourage the broadest possible participation rates at local and regional level (by individual sport).

The Feasibility Study will determine the operational feasibility of the new sporting precinct (at all potential sites). This will include the economic feasibility of the new sporting precinct, including: development costs of each site (land purchase requirements, costs associated with relocating any existing user groups) and the economic cost/benefit analysis of impact on tourism/hospitality industries.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active Victoria 2017-2021

Strategic Directions:

- Increase the capacity of sport and active recreation infrastructure
Create flexible and innovative participation options
- Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation
- Invest in state and regional facilities that underpin Victoria's event calendar
- Department of Health and Human Services' Strategic Plan 2019

Council Plans, Strategies and PoliciesCouncil Plan 2020-2024**Goal 1 Community and Cultural Development**

- 1.1 Contribute to building a vibrant, diverse and resilient community;
- 1.2. Develop a safe, active and healthy community, encouraging participation;
- 1.2.04 Implement outcomes from the multipurpose/indoor sports and community facility feasibility study City to River masterplan 2020
Showgrounds Crown Land Precinct - potential location for Multi-sport Indoor stadium and outdoor sports precinct
- 1.4 Develop the municipality as a desirable place to live, work and enjoy for people of all ages and abilities;

Goal 2 Sustaining the economy

- 2.3 increase visitors to the municipality

Goal 3 Asset Management

- 3.1 Determine infrastructure needs and expectations through consultations with developers and the community
- 3.4 Deliver works to develop and maintain Council's physical assets for long term sustainability, amenity and safety;

Risk Implications

A complete risk assessment has been done and is part of the Project Plan

Initial high level risk assessment

Risk Scan PESTEL	(Consider Budget, Time & Quality)
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City to River Vision & Masterplan has received a significant amount of comment and community feedback. The location of the proposed facility was a key theme in the Engagement Report and a well-managed and transparent community engagement process will be required for the Feasibility study
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Feasibility Study will include an economic analysis of the proposed multi-sport precinct • Comprehensive costing (QS Report) is required to ensure that the budget is as accurate as possible for the staged development of the project.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of existing sporting groups into the planning is required • Multi-age facilities need to be provided • Female Friendly facilities to be provided
Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed technological assessments of potential site locations is an essential component of the Feasibility Study. These assessment must be undertaken by an independent consultant with significant experience in soil analysis and the construction of facilities with problematic soil conditions
Environmental/Ecological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of flood plain management issues by the consultant and engagement with WMCA
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified at this early stage

Conclusion

The proposed Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility study is the result of extensive Council planning and deliberation resulting in decisions made at the Council meeting 25 November 2019. Funding has been allocated to the project from both HRCC and Sport and Recreation Victoria and the proposed study aligns with the strategic directions of a number of State Sporting Associations.

The Consultants Brief has been developed in close collaboration with Sport and Recreation Victoria.

9.3 OVERVIEW OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LOCATED AT DOOEN

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/A09/000003

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

The Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct – Stage 1 Development Plan (**Appendix "9.3A"**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Development Plan for the Industrial Estate located at Dooen and note the recent activities taking place in relation to the development of the precinct.

Summary

- To provide Council with an overview of the Development Plan for the Industrial Estate located at Dooen within the Horsham Rural City Council municipality.
- To inform Council of a two staged sub-division planning application and scope of works for an internal road construction.
- To advise Council that the Industrial Estate has received recent expressions of interest to purchase land within the site and as such should public advertise Councils intent to sell land within the industrial area.
- To consider a name change for the Dooen Industrial Estate to separate it from the current name which is predominantly focuses on the Freight Terminal.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the report including information in regards to the sub-division, scope of works for internal road construction and recent expressions of interest to purchase land within the estate.
2. Endorse the suggested name for the Dooen Industrial Estate site being 'Wimmera Enhanced Agriculture and Logistics Hub'.
3. Publicly advertise Council's intent to sell land at the Dooen Industrial Estate.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Di Bell**

That Council:

1. Note the report including information in regards to the sub-division, scope of works for internal road construction and recent expressions of interest to purchase land within the estate.
2. Publicly advertise Council's intent to sell land at the Dooen Industrial Estate.

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council endorse the suggested name for the Dooen Industrial Estate site being 'Wimmera Enhanced Agriculture and Logistics Hub'.

Amendment**MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That the name for the Dooen Industrial Estate site be changed to Wimmera Agriculture and Logistics Hub.

When the amendment was PUT it was CARRIED. The amendment then became the substantive motion and when it was PUT it was CARRIED.

REPORT

Background

The Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) land owned by Council is 83.3ha. in size and is situated within the larger 470 hectare (approx.) WIFT Precinct, a Special Use zoned landholding in Dooen, bound by Henty Highway to the west and Wimmera Highway to the north / north-east. The property is also bounded by the rail-line to the southern boundary, whilst Freight Terminal Road provides access within the site and to the freight terminal. The total undeveloped land area of the WIFT Precinct is 394.2ha. Council owns approximately 21% of the undeveloped land that has current development potential. Council has 100% ownership of the WIFT facility (which comprises an area of 3.6ha) that is leased with the current vision being to triple the throughput of the terminal.

The WIFT is located approximately 8.5 kilometres north-east of the Horsham CAD. As advised by Council, the south-west portion of the WIFT, bound by Henty Highway, Freight Terminal Road and the rail-line is Council owned which equates to approximately 83 hectares of the 470 hectare site or approximately 21% of the site area. Council has prepared a Structure Plan for the WIFT with bespoke Planning Scheme controls providing the mechanism for controlling development outcomes. With the exception of the freight terminal and the development of Freight Terminal Road, the site is largely undeveloped. It is noted that the WIFT terminal and broader WIFT precinct need to be separately considered. Both the WIFT terminal facility and land on the south side of Freight Terminal Road within the WIFT precinct are Council assets. While the WIFT Terminal is an operational facility, the broader WIFT precinct is a Greenfield development site. It is also noted that an Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 7 that protects the best available buffer area for industry in the precinct covers the WIFT Precinct. No other industrial areas in Horsham have comparable land buffers in place. It is also be noted, however, that no land owned by Council is within the buffered industrial area.

With regard to the WIFT landholdings, the following key constraints and opportunities have been identified:

- Large Precinct with direct access to the rail via the Freight Terminal, noting Council's landholding does not have direct access to the terminal.
- The significant size of the site with a planning control framework and Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO7) that provides the best available buffer area of industry in the precinct to support industrial uses.
- Significant opportunities associated with potential mineral sands mining projects including the storage of mineral sand and direct exporting capabilities via the freight terminal.
- Council does not own all of the WIFT precinct (approximately 21 per cent) which places some constraint on Council's ability to influence development decisions of the private landholder. The land best suited for industry is also not owned by Council.
- Potential incentivisation involving Council subsidising the cost of infrastructure development (with State and or Federal Government support) through application of developer contributions methodologies.

Discussion

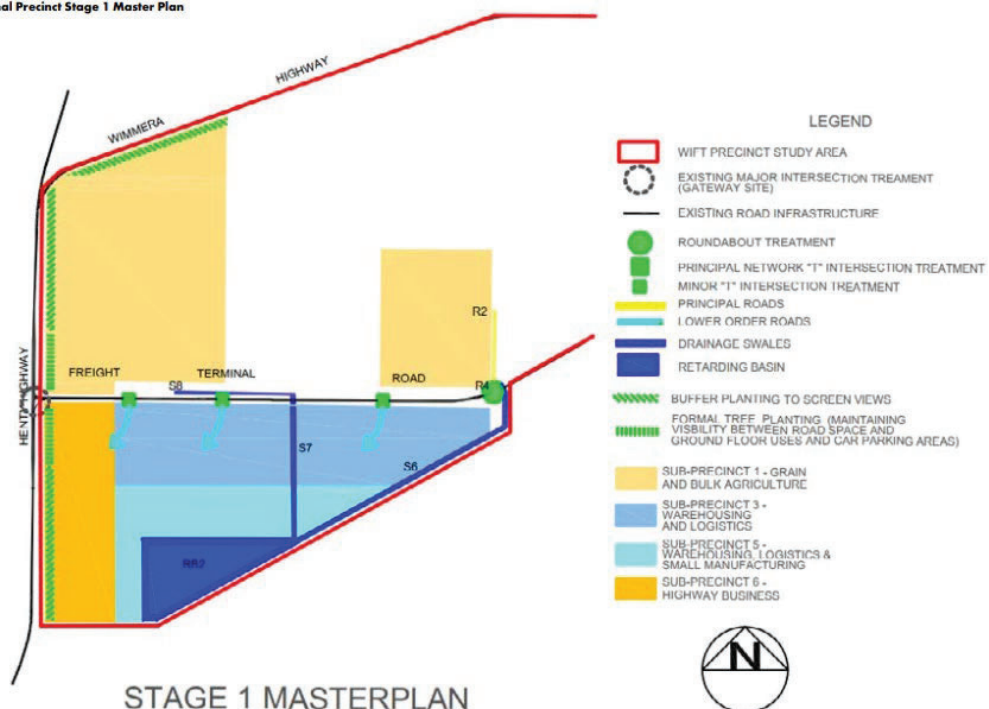
The WIFT Precinct (Precinct) – Stage 1 Development Plan identified that the Precinct will comprise industry involved in the storage and transfer of primary produce and raw materials from farm-road- rail, for eventual transport to sea-ports and international markets beyond. The Precinct will be supported by a range of complementary activities and businesses, including container park facilities, large volume container packing, bulk loading and warehousing facilities. The Precinct will incorporate industry that adds value to primary produce and raw materials through their manufacture, packaging and transportation. The Precinct will contribute to the diversification of employment opportunities for the municipality of Horsham and the wider Wimmera-Southern Mallee region by establishing a thriving industrial employment precinct that provides or a range of businesses and jobs. The Precinct will incorporate principles of quality design and landscaping, environmentally sustainable development and water sensitive urban design (refer to **Appendix “9.3A”**).

Illustrated below in Figure 1 is the development plan identified for the WIFT Precinct. This has further been modified with a sub-division planning application submitted to support the construction of an internal road within the industrial estate. The construction of the road is designed to attract investment. (See figure 2)

WIFT PRECINCT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Figure 1 Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 Development Master Plan, below, identifies the following elements of the development of the WIFT Precinct:

Figure 1:
Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal Precinct Stage 1 Master Plan



Stage 1 Development Plan | 5

Figure 1

Over the past six months a number of interested parties have expressed their interest in purchasing Industrial Estate land at Doon which is owned by Council. As such it is recommended that Council publicly advertise its intent to sell land at this precinct.

To further build the confidence within this market, services such as the construction of an internal road, water and power connections are being sought for potential supply. A two staged sub-division planning application has been submitted for approval to enable stage one to seek certification and land titles so negotiations towards sale can be fast-tracked and possible developed can occur in time for the next grain harvest whilst the road construction of stage two occurs in parallel.

Sub-division Plan

Sub-division plan for the construction of an internal road (potential road as marked in purple)



Figure 2

The Industrial Estate is currently referred to as WIFT and this creates confusion as investment can be developed independently of the freight terminal. The Investment Attraction and Growth Working Group has been working over the past six months and are focused on the industrial site being purchased to support agricultural manufacturing within our municipality and region. This includes large scale agricultural industry such as hay, grain and lentil manufacturing. To fully support these developments the group is suggesting a name change of the Dooen Industrial Estate to identify the activities desired to occur in this precinct and to provide separation from WIFT as a precinct name which has a focus on rail freight and is confusing to the market.

The proposed name is 'Wimmera Enhanced Agriculture and Logistics Hub' (WEALH).

Options to Consider

1. Note the information within the report including the information in regards to the sub-division, scope of works for an internal road construction and recent expressions of interest to purchase land within the site.
2. Do not note the report as received
3. Approve the name change as presented 'Wimmera Enhanced Agriculture and Logistics Hub' (WEALH).
4. Do not approve the name change and suggest another name.
5. Do not approve the name change and continue for the precinct to be referred as the WIFT.

Sustainability Implications

It is important that the Industrial Estate at Dooen be developed to attract investment and long-term industrial activity to support new industry and jobs within the municipality.

Community Engagement

It is legislative requirement that Council inform the community/public of any intent to sell land.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Nil

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

Information provided in this report is designed to support Council to make informed decisions on the Industrial Estate located at Dooen. This is a multifaceted agricultural hub and needs to be supported by Council to enable investment and job growth within the municipality. A new name for the Industrial Estate at Dooen will promote the marketing of the Hub and in turn create opportunities for investment to occur.

9.4 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH REPORT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for February 2021.

Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Report provides a summary of investment attraction and growth activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for February 2021.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for February 2021.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

An Investment Attraction and Growth Report is tabled monthly at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Discussion

The work undertaken across Investment Attraction and Growth includes Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Building Services, Visitor Services, Business, Tourism and Events.

STATUTORY PLANNING

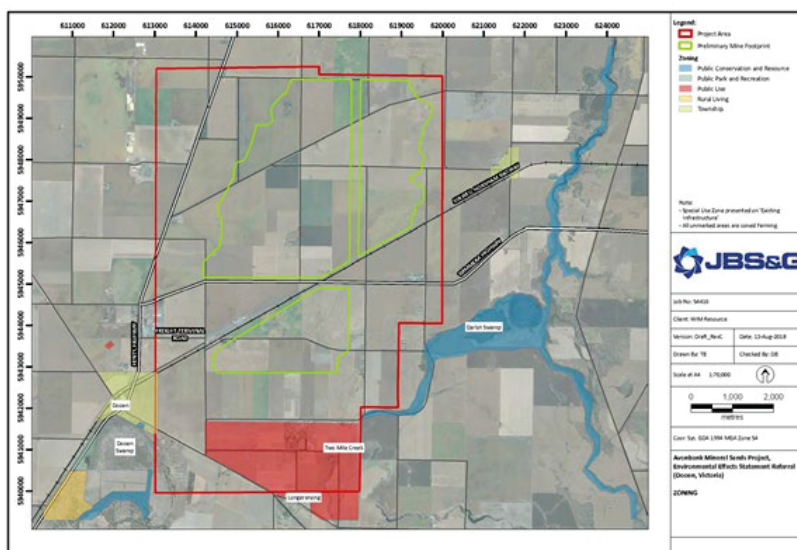
Mineral Sands Projects

The Wimmera region contains some of the world's most significant deposits of mineral sands and is currently subject to a number of proposals for extraction and processing. Mineral sands are used for many purposes and can be found in a range of everyday products and include Titanium minerals which are used as the feedstock to produce pigments for colourants in paints, paper and plastics and Zircon which is used in ceramic tiles and in metal castings.

There are currently two proposals for mineral sand mines within Horsham Rural City from Iluka and WIM Resources.

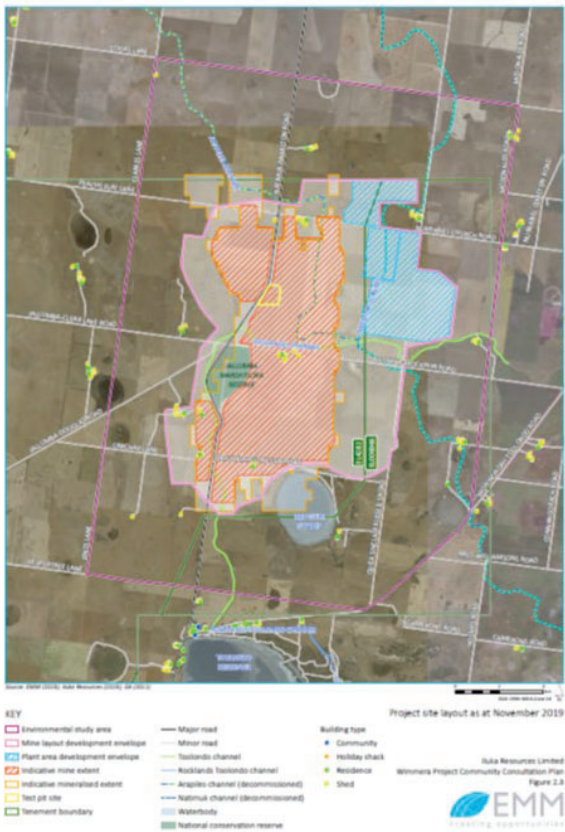
1. Avonbank - WIM Resources

The Avonbank-WIM Resources proposed mine is located between Dooen and Jung. Further information can be found at - <http://www.wimresource.com.au/irm/content/avonbank.aspx?RID=312>



2. WIM 100 – Iluka

The WIM 100 – Iluka mine is proposed north of Toolondo. Further information can be found at - <https://www.iluka.com/operations-resource-development/resource-development/wimmera>



Applications have been made for the two mines under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 and accordingly the Minister for Planning has referred both for assessment under Environmental Effects Act 1978 prior to any decision being made by the State government.

This process is now underway and will follow the process outlined in Figure 1. Both developments are currently preparing a range of reports, including environmental effect on flora and fauna, agriculture, ground water and other matters raised in the assessment.

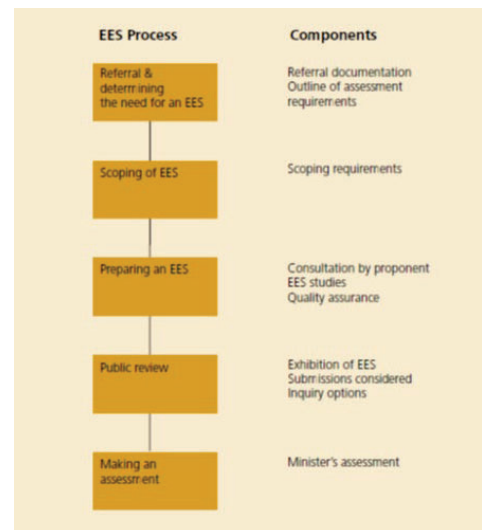


Figure 1

It is anticipated that EES process will take approximately 1-2 years and be completed in 2022. A range of direct landholder negotiations, community engagement activities and agency review will continue to occur over the next twelve months.

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of February 2021 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	FEB 2021		FEB 2020	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	2	\$1,004,622	2	\$456,000
Industrial/Commercial	3	\$152,900	2	\$61,318
Subdivisions	3 (6 lots)	-	2 (4 lots)	-
Other	-	-	2	0
Total	8	\$1,157,522	8	\$527,318

(*Please note: Not all applications have a \$ figure)

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021 is 85 compared to 75 in the same period in 19/20.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have created 36 new lots from 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021 compared to 36 in the same period in 19/20.

There has been one planning applications appealed to VCAT this month being PA2000019- 37 Rennison Streets, Horsham.

BUILDING SERVICES

Swimming Pool registration

The Victorian Government introduced laws in 2020 to improve safety around swimming pools and spas. Under these laws, owners are required to register their pool or spa with Council and obtain compliance certificates to show pools and spas meet a minimum set of safety requirements. Owners of pools and spas are subject to mandatory requirements to have inspections completed, by a registered inspector, to determine whether their safety barriers are compliant. Currently Horsham Rural City Council has 693 pools registered



Council's authorised building surveyors will conduct a pool presentation session on Zoom in March to provide further information and clarity around this process. This will give ratepayers the opportunity to submit questions and have them answered by Council's building surveyors. These questions could be in regards to the new swimming pool and spa safety requirements or any other building related topics of interest, such as building permits, inspections or Council approvals.

Building Permits Issued

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of February 2021 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	FEB 2021		FEB 2020	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	1	200,000
Dwelling resitting's	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	\$24,415	2	\$66,406
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	1	150,000	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	3	\$174,415	3	\$266,406

Permits issued by other Private Building Surveyors for this Municipality or by Government Departments

Type	FEB 2021		FEB 2020	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	15(17*)	5,827,958	2	\$526,250
Alterations to Dwellings	2	36,080	5	\$196,975
Dwelling resitting's	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	6	314,137	2	\$20,406
Removal/Demolish	-	77,500	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	1	17,235	1	\$125,000
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	28	6,272,910	10	\$868,631

(*15 permits for 17 dwellings)

A total of 40 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$2,899,807 from 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021 compared to 62 Building Permits at a total value of \$4,221,515 for the same period in 2019/20.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 177 Building Permits at a total value of \$40,765,239 from 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021 compared to 120 at a total value of \$34,980,384 for the same period in 2019/20.

STRATEGIC PLANNING**Horsham Town Hall – Auditorium Floor Replacement**

Heritage Victoria's Living Heritage Grant Program is currently open. This grant program offers funding of up to \$200,000 for urgent conservation works to a State listed heritage place that will also bring about strong community benefit.

The Strategic Planning Unit is currently preparing an application to the grant program to help fund the replacement of the hard timber floors in the Town Hall's auditorium. The auditorium faces the risk of losing its long-term and historical use as an important community facility for public functions such as ceremonies, wedding receptions, dancing events, debutant balls, exhibitions and conferences due to the fragile and deteriorated state of the floor and associated safety concerns. Council is also no longer able to sand the surface of the floor for routine maintenance as the floorboards have reached the end of their effective life. Any further sanding will further spilt the floorboards and expose floorboard tongues.

Last November 2020 Heritage Victoria granted Council a heritage permit exemption to replace the 'tongue and groove' timber floorboards in Mountain Ash timber and stumps with new joists and bearers installed. There is the condition to retain a sample of the existing stumps and footings in front of the stage. An approved permit exemption will provide certainty to the Grant Assessment Panel that the conservation approach for the floorboards is acceptable and presents a 'shovel ready' project.

New Strategic Planner – Evan Burman

The Strategic Planning Unit is happy to announce a new team member, Evan Burman, who joined the Unit on Monday, 15th March, as a Strategic Planning Officer. Evan has extensive experience working in local government in Victoria and South Australia and he comes to us from Bayside City Council. He has both urban planning and urban design qualifications and experience and will be a valuable asset to the team.

Evan recently led the preparation of a Municipal Urban Forest Strategy for Bayside. Prior to Bayside he was employed at Yarra City Council where he led the preparation of the Johnson Street Structure Plan and developed built form controls for areas experiencing strong growth pressures.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND EVENTS

1. Stronger Business Assistance Grant – Now closed

Business assistance grants program which had three categories supported innovation, operational improvements, marketing strategies, and business growth in response to the challenges of COVID-19.

What has been consider under the Stronger Business Assistant Grant funding, as follows:

- Skills development
- Business mentoring
- Improved online presence
- Infrastructure / equipment upgrades
- Improved financial recording
- Business planning
- Marketing plans/strategies

2. Stronger Business Outdoor Dining - Proposals

The Victorian State Government Local Council Eating and Outdoor Entertainment Package aims to increase outdoor dining opportunities in a COVID safe manner.

- Support hospitality businesses across our municipality to improve permanent infrastructure for enhanced outdoor dining experiences
- Permanent infrastructure could include tables, bench seats, Perspex wind barriers, umbrellas, planter boxes, heating and awnings.

To achieve a greater outcome from our regional hospitality sector, the Business Development Team visited 76 hospitality businesses during the month of February. Developing the proposals with business operators and assisting them as required. There has been 32 proposals received to date. Assessment process to commence earlier March 2021.

3. Stronger Business Fronts Submissions

Business Front Upgrades is a business assistance grant stream to support the upgrade and improvement of visual appeal of business fronts. Funding includes landscaping works and entrance signage.

Examples of funding:

- Landscaping and beautification works
- Blinds and awnings
- Signage

There has been 15 applications received to date. Assessment process commenced earlier March 2021.

Business Development Unit – Visitations

Number of Business Visits – Statistics			
	January	February	YTD
Retail / Accommodation	11	24	35
Hospitality -	12	77	89
Events - interactions	10	21	31

Events and Visitor Statistics

	January	February	YTD
Notice of intention to hold an event application	8	9	17
Visitor Information Centre visits	430		
Google Analytics statistics for the www.visithorsham.com.au website	5212	3,438 Visitations between 1 st Feb to 28 th Feb 2021 Resulting in 12% returning visitors and 3,329 new visitors to the site	8,650

Events Notifications – February 2021

Community event notifications received during the month of February 2021, as follows

- Haven Market
- Natimuk Farmers Market
- Murray to Moyne Bike Ride
- Traction Ag Demonstration Day
- Horsham Ag Society 150 Feast
- RSL Anzac Day
- Horsham Motocross MX Amateurs
- Breaveheart Mower Man (Sole walker)
- Clean Up Australia Day

There were 21 interactions (direct contacts) made with event organisers for the month of February.

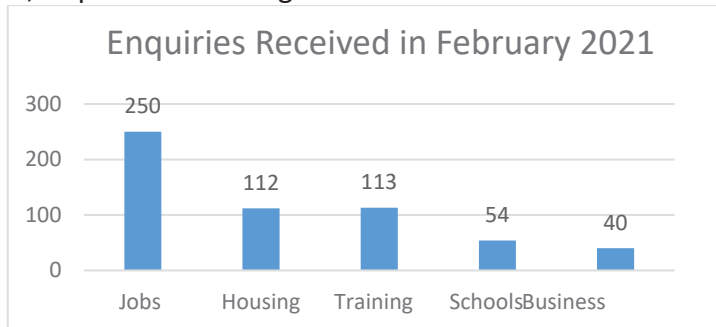
Shift Regional

Grampians Tourism, Ararat Rural City, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire and Southern Grampians Shire Councils are partnering together to address a key economic and social challenge facing the regions.

The project partners work together to implement a coordinated and consistent marketing campaign and develop a Grampians New Resident and Workforce Attraction Strategy and Action Plan.

Live the Grampians Way website: <https://grampianslife.com.au/>

The below graph illustrates the total enquires received and directed to the Horsham region. There was interest shown in the following areas. It is worth noting that each enquire ticked off on more than one area of interest, as per below listing.



In addition to the Horsham enquires the overall Grampians Way Campaign statistical data for the region is captured below:

- 5,749 people visited the Grampians Way Campaign website in February.
- 83% came from PAID digital advertising.
- 65% of visitors to grampianslife.com.au were from Melbourne.
- 344 people visited the Jobs site in February (94% new), with 164 clicking through from the grampianslife website.
- 146 job vacancies were posted in February.
- Another 116 people registered interest in moving to the Grampians Region in February. (28 days)
- 103 (89%) included their Primary Skill /Preferred Type of Employment)
- 19 of these (18%) completed the 2nd level of employment profile (resumes).
- 11 of these were Non-Australian Citizens
- The overwhelming majority (95%) are willing to move to the Grampians region within the next 12 months - with 45% willing to make the shift immediately.
- 87% of registrations were from Greater Melbourne. Total of 17,448 people have visited on www.grampianslife.com.au website in the first three months and total of 276 people registered interest to move to the Grampians region. These registrations continue to flow into the database - on average of 4 per day. The next stage of the campaign will see the introduction of 'print and radio' advertising.

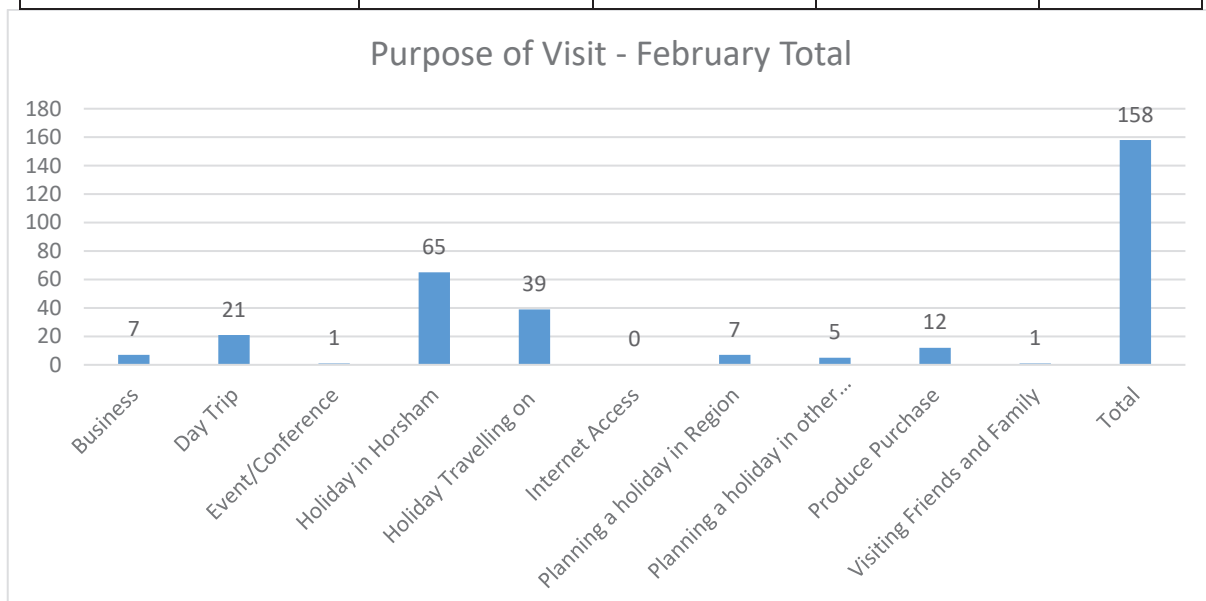
Council are currently undertaking a project with Latrobe University titled 'Retail Horsham is Open for Business Strategy' the project forms part of the Regional Economic Development course that is being led by Dr M Kennedy with 20 Students participating, including our own statutory planner Kirsten Miller. The aim of the project is to find the right trading times for our businesses located in the Central Activities Districts (CAD) that meet the need of our local residents and visitors to our region. A report will be presented to Council with recommendations on what Council could do differently to increase the days and hours of trading in the CAD toward the mid of the year. In addition the Business Team have been collecting data in regards to vacant businesses within the Central Activity District. This data will be reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

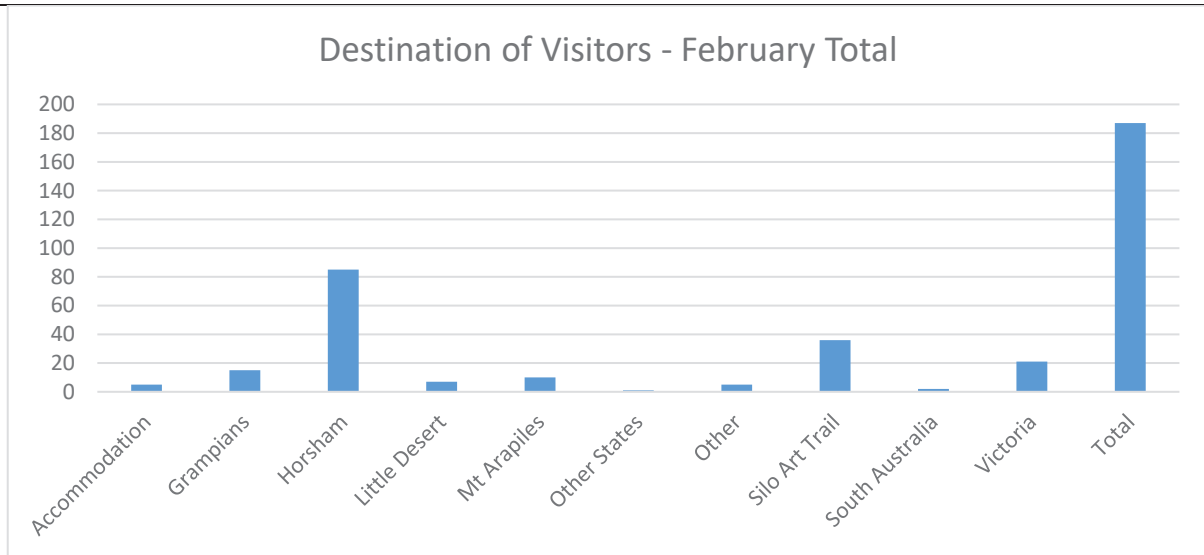
Horsham Visitor Services

Due to the COVID snap lockdown in mid February visitor numbers dropped significantly in week three and gradually increased towards the end of week four. Not surprising totals for individuals within groups was approximately 60 per cent down on last year which was just the beginning of COVID. Obviously produce sales also reflect the recent lockdown. Despite the lockdown the web statistics have increased by 275 hits compared to the previous year. The purpose of visits for the majority of visitors was to holiday in Horsham.

Horsham was the most popular destination to visit in Horsham with a total of 85 visitors. The Silo Art Trail was next popular with 36 visitors. Holidaying in Horsham and travelling on were the two major reasons for coming to Horsham.

	February	Previous Month	YTD	Previous Year
Groups recorded	159	379	438	N/A
Total for individuals within groups	282	1086	1368	467
Visithorsham.com.au web visits	3438	5672	9094	3163
Emails	223	201	424	N/A
Produce Sales	\$730	\$1599	\$2329	N/A





Options to Consider

Not applicable – no decision required

Sustainability Implications

Report provides overview development and business activity across the region with no direct sustainability implications.

Community Engagement

Report has been prepared in consultation with range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Business Horsham, WDA and on HRCC website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Report provides overview of activity and assists with continuous improvement.

Collaboration

Report has been prepared in collaboration with council officers across Planning, Building and Business and Tourism Support.

Financial Implications

The Business and Community Support package will deliver projects that make up Councils direct financial contribution of \$484,000.

Further projects will be developed to support businesses through the Local Council's Outdoor Eating and Entertaining program for \$500,000. These funds need to be fully expended by 30 June 2021.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable – no direct relationship or requirements

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Report aligns with 2020-2024 Council Plan - Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy

Risk Implications

Not applicable – no decision required

Conclusion

The activities undertaken by the Investment Attraction and Growth Department are designed to support a broad sector of those who live here, do business here and visit here. This report clearly identifies the impact COVID lockdowns have on our region when the Visitor Services statistics are compared to the previous month (January 2021) when there were no lockdowns.

9.5 BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

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

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 17 September 2020 (**Appendix "9.5A"**)

Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 17 December 2020 (**Appendix "9.5B"**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Biannual Report for the Audit and Risk Committee for the six month period from September 2020 to March 2021.

Summary

- Re-establishment of Council's Audit and Risk Committee and comprehensive review of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and Annual Work Program in line with legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*
- New Councillor Committee representatives commenced December 2020, following Council Elections conducted in October 2020
- 100% attendance rate by Independent Committee Members and Councillor Representatives

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Biannual Report for the Audit and Risk Committee for the six month period from September 2020 to March 2021.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council receive and note the Biannual Report for the Audit and Risk Committee for the six month period from September 2020 to March 2021.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council's Audit and Risk Committee to "prepare a Biannual Audit and Risk Report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and includes its findings and recommendations".

Council's Audit and Risk Committee was established pre December 2004, and was reviewed on 24 August 2020 when Council resolved to adopt the 'Audit and Risk committee Charter 2020' as per the new Act.

The first meetings of the newly established Audit and Risk Committee were held on 17 September 2020 and 17 December 2020. This report presents the findings and recommendations from these meetings for consideration by Council. The minutes for both of the meetings within this reporting period including the findings and recommendations and are presented as attachments to this report. These minutes have previously been provided to Council and the public through the regular Quarterly Performance Report.

Membership

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises two appointed Councillors (one of whom is the Mayor) and three independent members with technical expertise and industry experience.

Members over the previous six months were:

- Richard Trigg –Chair/ Independent member
- Vito Giudice – Independent member
- Mark Knights – Independent member
- Cr Mark Radford – Councillor representative/Mayor (Final Meeting Sept 2020 – Councillor Term ended)
- Cr David Grimble – Councillor representative (Final Meeting Sept 2020 – Councillor Term ended)
- Cr Robyn Gulline - Councillor representative/Mayor (First Meeting Dec 2020 – Councillor Term commenced)
- Cr Ian Ross - Councillor representative (First Meeting Dec 2020 – Councillor Term commenced)

Ex-officio members:

- Horsham Rural City Council – Sunil Bhalla (CEO), Graeme Harrison (Director Corporate Services), Heather Proctor (Finance Manager) and Diana McDonald (Co-ordinator Governance)
- Internal Auditor – RSD Audit (contractor)
- Auditor General's agent McLaren Hunt Financial Group attends meetings to report matters of significance in relation to the Financial Statements

Independent Members / Councillor Attendance for the reporting period:

(Noting that due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions, the September 2020 meeting was conducted via Zoom)

MEETING DATE – 17 September 2020	ATTENDED YES/NO	ONLINE / IN PERSON	% RATE OF ATTENDANCE
Richard Trigg	Yes	Via Zoom	100%
Vito Giudice	Yes	Via Zoom	100%
Mark Knights	Yes	Via Zoom	100%
Cr Mark Radford	Yes	Via Zoom	100%
Cr David Grimble	Yes	Via Zoom	100%

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

MEETING DATE – 17 December 2020	ATTENDED YES/NO	ONLINE / IN PERSON	% RATE OF ATTENDANCE
Richard Trigg	Yes	In Person – Council Chamber	100%
Vito Giudice	Yes	In Person – Council Chamber	100%
Mark Knights	Yes	In Person – Council Chamber	100%
Cr Robyn Gulline	Yes	In Person – Council Chamber	100%
Cr Ian Ross	Yes	In Person – Council Chamber	100%

Discussion**Responsibilities of the Audit Committee**

The responsibilities and Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee are clearly defined in Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which is renewed annually and formally approved by Council. The full charter can be viewed at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

All three Independent Committee Members have completed their Initial Personal Interests Returns (November 2020) and Biannual Personal Interests Returns (March 2021) in accordance with the requirements under Division 3 of Part 6 (Sections 132-136) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

As recorded in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 17 September 2020 and 17 December 2020 the following reports were tabled:

Meeting - 17 September 2020 – Reports Tabled

- Final Charter and Annual Work Program endorsed by Council 24.08.2020
- CEO Update
 - Council Election
 - Organisation Restructure
 - Home Support Services – Council Decision
 - Government Stimulus
 - 2020/2021 Budget
- New Membership Guide and reappointment letters sent to Independent Members
- RSD Internal Audit Progress Report (September 2020)
- RSD Audit: Waste Management – Landfill & Transfer Station Operations – Audit Scope
- Strategic Risk Review update
- Internal Audit Actions Report – Council
- Review of the Road Management Plan – CT Management
- Compliance and Legislation:
 - *Local Government Act 2020* Implementation
 - Victorian Ombudsman Reports – Investigation into three Council's outsourcing parking fines, Worksafe 2 – Follow Up investigation into the management of complex workers compensation claims
 - Ombudsman's Review of Financial Hardship
- Reporting:
 - Draft Annual Financial Accounts – McLaren Hunt
 - Draft Performance Statement – McLaren Hunt
 - Quarterly Performance Report – 30 June 2020
 - CEO Expenses 201/2020
- Risk Management:
 - Risk Management Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Risk Management Framework & Strategy
 - Insurance Update Report

- Governance:
 - Governance Compliance Framework – Biannual Update
 - Audit & Risk Committee Biannual Report (September 2020)
 - Policies Reviewed and Adopted (5 June 2020 – 9 September 2020)
- Depot Contamination Remediation Works update
- Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Project Update
- Inclusion of Audit and Risk Committee Independent Members on Council’s website
- Councillor Committee Members Retiring – Cr Radford and Cr Grimble

Meeting - 17 December 2020 – Reports Tabled

- CEO Update
 - Council Induction
 - Advisory Committees Review
 - Home Support Service Transition
 - Visitor Information Services Realignment
 - Emergency Management
 - COVID-19 Update
- RSD Internal Audit Progress Report (December 2020)
- Internal Audit Actions Report – Council
- Road Management Plan Audit
- VAGO – Follow Up Review
- Compliance and Legislation:
 - 2021/2022 Budget Update
 - *Local Government Act 2020* Implementation
 - IBAC – Unauthorised access and disclosure of information held by Local Government
 - Compliance with Legislation – Election Campaign Donation Returns information provided in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020*
 - Ombudsman’s Report into Financial Hardship (Report Delayed)
 - IBAC Annual Report
 - Ombudsman’s Report – Complaints about Financial Grants for Small businesses
- Reporting:
 - Final Closing Report – McLaren Hunt
 - Final Management Letter & Auditor’s Opinion – McLaren Hunt
 - Council’s Annual Report 2019/2020 Distributed to Members
 - Quarterly Performance Report – 30 September 2020
- Risk Management:
 - Risk Management Committee Meeting Minutes
 - Risk Management Framework & Strategy
 - Insurance Update Report
 - Strategic Risk Review
- Governance:
 - Council Policies and Procedures Review Project
 - Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Report
 - Policies Reviewed and Adopted (10 September 2020 -10 December 2020)
- Confidential Discussion: Home Support Services
- General Business:
 - Membership Renewal (Councillor Members)
 - Audit & Risk Committee Self-Assessment for External Committee Members
 - Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Project Update
 - Depot Contamination – Tank Extraction

- Meeting schedule for 2021

INTERNAL AUDITS CONDUCTED

1. Development of 3-year Internal Audit Plan	Completed March 2020 / Ongoing
2. Risk Management Framework	Underway
3. Road Management Plan Audit	Completed September 2020

INTERNAL AUDITS SCHEDULED

1. Waste Management – Landfill & Transfer Station Operations	Scheduled for October 2020
2. Human Resources	TBC
3. Asset Management	Scheduled for December 2021

HRCC IN-HOUSE ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENTS SCHEDULED

1. IBAC – Unauthorised access and disclosure of information held by local government	Completed March 2021
2. VAGO – Sexual Harassment in Local Government	Completed March 2021
3. Ombudsman’s Report into Financial Hardship	Scheduled for April – June 21
4. Complaints about financial grants for small business	Scheduled for April – June 21
5. Ombudsman - Investigation into corporate credit card misuse at Warrnambool City Council	Scheduled for April – June 21

Community Engagement

Given the nature of this internal report, no external stakeholder consultation with the community has been undertaken in the preparation of the report. The Executive Management Team (EMT) has been consulted in the preparation of the report, and this report was tabled at the most recent Audit and Risk Committee Meeting on 18 March 2021 and the Council Briefing on 7 April 2021.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The review of the Annual work Program includes a range of continuous improvement actions including a stronger emphasis on the key role that internal control environment plays and how Committees can monitor this area of Council’s performance more effectively. This change includes references to the impact of the new Governing Principles on Council’s policies and procedures and is captured in the new Charter and Annual Work Program.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial or resource impacts arising from the recommendation of this report.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

4.2 Manage risk to the organisation and 4.4 Achieve high standards of organisational performance

Risk Implications

The Audit and Risk Committee is an important committee of council required under the *Local Government Act 2020*. 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.

Conclusion

As required by Section 54(5) of the Act this report provides a biannual update on the activities and recommendations from Council’s Audit and Risk Committee from the date of its establishment to 11 March 2021.

9.6 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2021

Author's Name:	Faith Hardman	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Corporate Planner	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F18/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Quarterly Performance Report – January to March 2021 (**Appendix “9.6A”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the three months to 31 March 2021.

Summary

- This is the third Quarterly Performance Report of the financial year 2021 and is part of the continual improvement process of reporting back to Council and the community.
- The Quarterly Performance Report brings together into a single, easy to read document, a range of reports including:
 - Quarterly Budget Report
 - Council Plan Goals and Actions
 - Local Government Performance Framework Indicators
 - The tracking of any major initiatives
 - Councillor Expenses
 - Audit & Risk Committee minutes
- It reports all items over a consistent quarterly reporting timeline.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the three months to 31 March 2021.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the three months to 31 March 2021.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council's operations are large and complex, with over 80 different broad service delivery areas from road maintenance and construction, waste collection, parks, building and planning, to early years, visual and performing arts. This diversity in services creates challenges in many facets of Council's operations, which then create challenges in reporting on these to Council and the broader community.

The Local Government Act 2020 at section 97 requires that as soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public. The Quarterly Performance Report encapsulates a quarterly budget report, Council Plan Goals and Actions, the tracking of any major initiatives, Council Expenses and Audit & Risk Committee minutes for the relevant quarter.

Council has in place a Financial and Performance Reporting Framework that provides some guidance on Council's reporting processes. These guidelines state the following:

"Councillors take ultimate responsibility for the performance of Council and are accountable to the ratepayers and community of the municipality. As Councillors are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Council, they rely on policies, procedures and internal controls to provide assurance about the information reported to them and in turn reported to the community and other stakeholders."

The provision of relevant information on a regular basis is an important part of that internal control process and is necessary for the various levels of Council to carry out their responsibilities and obligations to the community in the management of Council business.

Central to Council's Financial and Performance Reporting Framework, are the following objectives:

- Council is committed to providing accurate, correct and quality information to the Community around its performance.
- Council is committed to providing high quality relevant internal and external reporting, in a timely manner.
- Council is committed to providing regular targeted reporting to Management, its Audit and Risk Committee, Council and the Community.
- Council is committed to sound governance through the alignment of performance reporting with its strategic direction.
- Performance reporting is not just a compliance exercise but is integral to better understanding of how Council is performing in its delivery of key strategies and operations from the Council Plan.

Discussion

As a part of the continual improvement process, this report takes the approach of reporting back to Council and the community on these key strategic items, in what is hopefully a clear and concise manner that is readable and informative.

The report contains the following sections:

1. CEO Overview
2. Council Plan Actions and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF)
3. Customer Service Targets
4. Business Improvements
5. Capital Works
6. Councillor Expenses
7. Audit and Risk
8. Quarterly budget report

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on Council operations, with number of facilities again closed and services ceased during the quarter. Services have commenced reopening but with limitations as dictated by State and Federal Government Directives on social distancing, masking and gathering of numbers.

The format for this reporting has been evolving over time and may include additional sections, but essentially will be mindful of the need to be relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable. This report provides Local Government Performance Reporting data for the first and second quarters as available, noting that there are some instances where data isn't available.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable save and except included reporting on council's environmental and sustainability goals.

Community Engagement

The Quarterly Performance Report has been developed by the Governance Team, in consultation with the Executive Management Team and Departmental Managers. It has been reviewed at a Council Briefing Meeting.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Quarterly Performance Reports intention is to continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective and succinct reporting on key strategic items, in a clear and concise manner that is readable and informative.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

This report is prepared using existing staff resources.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Priority 4.1 – Continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective consultation

Risk Implications

Provision of good quality, regular reporting of financial and non-financial information to the community mitigates against the risk of poor financial governance and possible financial mismanagement. The Municipal Association of Victoria's Good Governance Guide states "the Council is ultimately accountable for the financial management...it should not have a hands-on role... but it needs to ensure that it has sufficient information to be satisfied that finances are in order and that the budgetary and financial planning goals are being met".

Conclusion

The Quarterly Performance Report will provide a regular and succinct quarterly report for Council and the community to assess how Council is performing financially and against its key objectives.

9.7 COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2021-22

Author's Name:	Susan Surrige	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Coordinator Community Relations & Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F20/A01/0000012

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason:

At all levels of the assessment process, those on the assessment panels and at briefings have been requested to declare any conflict of interest and to not discuss or vote on any particular applications where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest. Details of conflict of interest declarations made by Officers and others involved in the process is attached **(Appendix “9.7B”)**

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Community Grants and Donations 2021-22 **(Appendix “9.7A”)**

Community Grants and Donations Conflict of Interest Declarations **(Appendix “9.7B”)**

Purpose

To approve proposed Community Grants and Donations for inclusion in the 2021-22 budget.

Summary

This report details approved community grant allocations and donations for the 2021-22 budget:

- Grant allocation to increase by CPI factor of 1.5% from 2020-21 to \$384,756 plus an additional \$50,000 allocated through the COVID support package, bringing total allocation for donations and grants to \$440,527.
- 73 applications received, 24 less than 2020-21 – a 25% decrease
- Total grant funds requested is \$328,326 a 14% decrease from 2020-21
- Decrease in applications is unusual and quite likely impacted by the effect of COVID on community groups
- 77% of the total dollar grant requests have been funded
- \$185,078 allocated for Community Donations
- \$255,449 allocated for Community Grants.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Allocate funding of \$440,527 in the 2021-22 Budget for approved community grants and donations.
2. Approve allocations to various community grant and donation recipients as detailed in **Appendix "9.7A"**, with the exception of allocations to Longerenong College, Wimmera Association of Genealogy, Horsham Fishing Competition and Kannamaroo.
3. Approve the annual community donation allocations to Wimmera Association for Genealogy and Longerenong College (Citizenship Prize).
4. Approve the community grant allocations to Horsham Fishing Competition and Kannamaroo.
5. Advise all successful and unsuccessful community grant applicants of the outcome of their applications during May 2021.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council deal with items 1, 2 & 5 as a group, followed by Item 4 and then lastly Item 3.

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Di Bell, Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council:

1. Allocate funding of \$440,527 in the 2021-22 Budget for approved community grants and donations.
2. Approve allocations to various community grant and donation recipients as detailed in **Appendix "9.7A"**, with the exception of allocations to Longerenong College, Wimmera Association of Genealogy, Horsham Fishing Competition and Kannamaroo.
3. Advise all successful and unsuccessful community grant applicants of the outcome of their applications during May 2021.

CARRIED

Cr Di Bell left the room at 6.26pm

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council approve the community grant allocations to Horsham Fishing Competition and Kannamaroo.

CARRIED

Cr Di Bell returned to the room at 6.29pm

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Di Bell, seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Cr Ian Ross be nominated as Acting Mayor for Item 3.

CARRIED

Cr Ian Ross assumed the Chair as Acting Mayor.

Cr Robyn Gulline left the room at 6.29pm

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Council approve the annual community donation allocations to Wimmera Association for Genealogy and Longerenong College (Citizenship Prize).

CARRIED

Cr Robyn Gulline returned to the room at 6.31pm

Cr Robyn Gulline resumed the Chair as Mayor.

REPORT

Background

Council has annually allocated funding to support community and sporting groups in the municipality as part of its budget process. These funds cover both recurrent 'Donations' (in accordance with Council's Donations policy) for sporting groups, halls, kindergartens, groups and events to assist them with their operations as well as 'Community Grants' for specific projects (in accordance with Council's Grants Policy).

Applications for the 2021-22 Community Grants Program were invited in February, with a closing date of 1 March 2021.

Discussion

Following the closing date, applications have been considered by an interdepartmental working group of Council Officers, Executive Management Team and at a Council Briefing meeting.

This year, Council received 73 community grant applications requesting total grants of \$328,326. This was a significant 25% decrease in applications and a 14% decrease in overall grant funds requested. This decrease is unusual and almost certainly reflects the COVID impact on the activities of community groups.

A ranking system used in previous years, has been used again in the assessment of applications for 2021-22 and reflects the assessment criteria in the grant guidelines. The objective of the ranking system is to provide some general guidance for assessors and greater transparency in the assessment process.

A final list of proposed Community Grants and Donations has been developed for the consideration and approval of Council (**Appendix "9.7A"**).

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic may again impact on the delivery of some of this program. Where a community group's program may be impacted, the grant will be carried forward for a future year. This will be assessed as the year progresses. For event funding, should an event be cancelled for 2021-22, the grant allocation will be withdrawn, and the organisation encouraged to apply for a grant in 2022-23 for the next scheduled event.

Options to Consider

Council can consider allocating either more or less funding to the Community Grants Program for 2021-2022.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

In line with previous practice, upon adoption of the Community Grants and Donations for 2021-22, it is proposed that groups be advised as soon as practicable to assist them in preparing for the implementation of their projects and budgets for the 2021-22 financial year.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Proposed allocations are \$185,078 to Community Donations and \$255,449 to Community Grants. This represents 82% of grant funds requested. The proposed total allocation of \$440,527 represents a 1.5% CPI increase on the previous year's allocation plus a one-off additional \$50,000 COVID recovery allocation as determined in the 2020-2021 budget. This allocation has been included in Council's Draft 2021-22 Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

Community Inclusion Plan

Youth Strategy

Age-Friendly Communities Implementation Plan

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The 2021-22 Community Grants and Donations program will release over \$440,000 into the local community and economy. The local expenditure resulting from this Council support will provide an important stimulus to our not-for-profit sector as we move through the COVID-19 recovery phase.

9.8 COUNCIL EXPENSES POLICY

Author's Name:	Sue Frankham	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F19/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Council Expenses policy (**Appendix "9.8A"**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Council Expenses policy (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

Summary

- The Council Expenses policy was adopted by the former Council on 24 August 2020.
- At that meeting, it was also resolved "that the newly elected Council review the Council Expenses policy within six months."
- Councillors reviewed the Council Expenses policy at the Council Briefing Meeting on 12 April 2021 and recommended some minor formatting changes.
- The Council Expenses policy meets the requirements of the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Council Expenses policy as attached (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council adopt the revised Council Expenses policy as attached (**Appendix "9.8A"**).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Council Expenses policy was adopted by the previous Council on 24 August 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

At that meeting, it was also resolved “that the newly elected Council review the Council Expenses policy within six months.”

Discussion

The Council Expenses policy provides advice, and an operational framework for the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and delegated committee members where Council is satisfied that:

- The claim is for bona fide expenses
- The expenses have been reasonably incurred in the performance of their role
- The expenses are reasonably necessary for the Councillor or delegated committee member to perform that role.

Council officers have reviewed the policy and have not identified or recommended any changes.

Councillors reviewed the Council Expenses policy at the Council Briefing Meeting on 12 April 2021 and were satisfied that the policy meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, however, some minor formatting changes were recommended.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Prior to adoption, the draft Council Expenses policy was placed on the Horsham Rural City Council website and promoted in Council’s Public Notices pages in the Horsham Times and Weekly Advertiser newspapers on 10 and 15 July 2020. Community feedback was sought over a 21-day period from 8 to 29 July 2020.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Since the policy was adopted, quarterly reports of all Councillor and delegated committee member expenses are now provided as part of the Quarterly Performance Report to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee. Details are also published in the Annual Report.

Collaboration

Recommendations, guidelines and a draft template provided by the Victorian Local Governance Association were taken into consideration when developing the Council Expenses policy.

Financial Implications

The Council budget includes provision for the reimbursement of expenses relating to Councillors and delegated committee members as defined in this policy.

Details of how Council expenses will be reported to ensure that the principle of ongoing financial viability of Council is met is included in the policy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

When developing the Council Expenses policy, consideration was given to the *Gender Equity Act 2020*, which requires Councils to take positive and effective steps to improve gender equity outcomes both as a workplace and a deliverer of services. This policy ensures that people of all genders are supported to take up roles as Councillors and committee members and that no-one is disadvantaged.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-Year Priority 4.4.08 – Manage the implementation of the major revision to the *Local Government Act 1989*

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Council Expenses policy adopted on 24 August 2020 meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Apart from some minor formatting changes, no further changes are recommended.

9.9 CONTRACT 21-018 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE MEDIUM RIGID STREET SWEEPER WITH OPTIONAL TRADE-IN

Author's Name:	Warren Kennedy, Spencer Smith, Krishna Shrestha	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Fleet Coordinator, Fleet Admin & Strategic Asset Manager	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure	File Number:	F13/A01/000003

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil (Appendix provided in confidential report on this subject)

Purpose

To award Contract 21-018 for the supply and delivery of a new Hino FG1628 truck with a Bucher Municipal VT652 street sweeper, including trade-in of Council plant no. 1397 being a 2015 Hino FG1628 with a Rosmech Scarab Mistral street sweeper body.

Summary

- Council's street sweeper, plant number 1397 was purchased in 2015 and is due for replacement. The truck has done 80,000 km and 10,000 hrs over the six-year period.
- Based on an assessment of fuel efficiency, maintenance costs, trade-in value and potential future major maintenance, it has been scheduled for replacement in the 2020-21 financial year.
- The tender was advertised through the normal processes, with five companies providing responses.
- The tender evaluation panel recommends replacement of the plant 1397 with a Hino FG1628 truck with a Bucher Municipal VT652 street sweeper body.
- The replacement is to be funded from the plant reserve within the 2020-21 plant budget allocation.

Recommendation

That Council accept the tender of Bucher Municipal for supply and delivery of a Hino FG1628 truck with a Bucher Municipal VT652 street sweeper body at a total cost of \$243,818.34 ex GST, representing a new purchase price of \$348,363.79 less trade in of \$104,545.45.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Council accept the tender of Bucher Municipal for supply and delivery of a Hino FG1628 truck with a Bucher Municipal VT652 street sweeper body at a total cost of \$243,818.34 ex GST, representing a new purchase price of \$348,363.79 less trade in of \$104,545.45.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council's street sweeper, plant number 1397 was purchased in 2015 and is due for replacement, and was included in the 2020-21 plant replacement program. Over a period of six years it has accumulated 10,000 machine hours and travelled 80,000 km. Delaying replacement of this plant could result in major component failures besides increased routine maintenance cost and reduced fuel efficiency.

The tender process occurred according to Council's normal process including advertising on the Council website, in the Wimmera Mail-Times, Weekly Advertiser and The Age newspapers.

Discussion

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

- Five companies submitted tenders for 10 different products
- The evaluation of tenders was based on the criteria presented in the tender specification.
- Tenders were assessed on the basis of best value to Council, and conformance with required specifications rather than the cheapest price.
- The two preferred companies were asked to provide demonstrations of their vehicles onsite at Council's Operations depot as part of the tender evaluation process.

Tender returns were received from the following five companies;

- Bucher Municipal
- Rosmech Pty Ltd SA
- Mike Trace Engineering / CityRay
- Superior Pak Qld
- Auto Retail Group / Till Hino Geelong

The tender of Bucher Municipal for a Hino FG1628 with a Bucher Municipal VT652 Street Sweeper has been assessed as the best value to Council due to its conformance with the tender specification, acceptance by the user group, feedback from users of similar products, resale value and various mechanical parameters. This tender was the cheapest tender including trade in.

Options to Consider

There are four potential options to consider. However, evaluation favoured HinoFG1628 tendered by Bucher Municipal.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The recommended tender is priced at \$243,818.34, which is within the available 2020-21 plant replacement budget for this item. This represents a new purchase price of \$348,363.79, less a trade-in of \$104,545.45.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

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

This street sweeper is required to deliver Council's street cleaning and maintenance program throughout the municipality.

Risk Implications

All tenderers included risk assessments related to the use of street sweeper as part of the information submitted with their tenders.

Conclusion

The tender evaluation process has assessed that the preferred replacement street sweeper is a Hino FG1628 truck with Bucher Municipal VT652 tendered by Bucher Municipal.

9.10 PROPOSAL TO SELL COUNCIL PROPERTY AT BURNT CREEK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Author's Name:	Tennille Ellis	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Property Management	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F04/A06/000007

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Public Notice (**Appendix "9.10A"**)

Written submissions (**Appendix "9.10B"**)

Proposed Subdivision Plan (**Appendix "9.10C"**)

Purpose

To approve the sale of land at Burnt Creek Drive, Bungalally.

Summary

- In accordance with section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act"), Council formally notified the public of its proposal to sell six lots of land at Burnt Creek Drive, Bungalally ("Notice");
- The Notice (Attachment 1) outlined the terms and conditions of the proposed sale, invited submissions on the proposal and opportunity for those making submissions to be heard by Council in support of those submissions;
- In response to the Notice, six submissions (Attachment 2) were received by Council, and all submitters were heard at a Council Briefing on Wednesday 7 April 2021;
- All submissions opposed the proposed sale of some the land, citing potential impacts to operations and future developments at the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange as issues of concern.

Recommendation

That Council having formally considered the submissions and hearings at Council Briefing on Wednesday 7 April 2021:

1. Proceed with the intended sale of the four lots of land at Burnt Creek Industrial Estate known as Lot 3 PS641596 and Proposed Lots 12, 16, 17 bordered in red on the Proposed Subdivision Plan (Attachment 3);
2. Further investigate the requirements of the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange regarding the future use of Lot 3 PS421087 and Proposed Lot 15 at Burnt Creek Industrial Estate as shown hatched in green on the Proposed Subdivision Plan (Attachment 3) to determine sale options.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Di Bell**

That Council having formally considered the submissions and hearings at Council Briefing on Wednesday 7 April 2021, proceed with the intended sale of the four lots of land at Burnt Creek Industrial Estate known as Lot 3 PS641596 and Proposed Lots 12, 16, 17 bordered in red on the Proposed Subdivision Plan (Attachment 3).

CARRIED

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Ian Ross**

That Council remove lot 3 PS421087 (10 hectares) and proposed lot 15 (1.41 hectares) incorporating lot 1, part of lot 2 and part of section 2 (PS641596) permanently from sale and formerly assign these lots to the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange for long term operations and future developments.

MOTION LOST

Cr Claudia Haenel called for a Division of Council**For the Motion:**

Cr Di Bell

Cr Ian Ross

Against the Motion:

Cr David Bowe

Cr Penny Flynn

Cr Robyn Gulline

Cr Les Power

Cr Claudia Haenel abstained from voting due to insufficient information to make an informed decision.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council having formally considered the submissions and hearings at Council Briefing on Wednesday 7 April 2021, that Council further investigate, in conjunction with the HRLE advisory board, the requirements of the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange regarding the future use of Lot 3 PS421087 and Proposed Lot 15 at Burnt Creek Industrial Estate as shown hatched in green on the Proposed Subdivision Plan (Attachment 3) to determine sale options.

CARRIED

Cr Claudia Haenel called for a Division of Council**For the Motion:**

Cr Di Bell

Cr David Bowe

Cr Penny Flynn

Cr Les Power

Cr Ian Ross

Cr Robyn Gulline

Cr Claudia Haenel abstained from voting due to insufficient information to make an informed decision.

REPORT

Background

In performing its function and exercising its powers Horsham Rural City Council acquires, deals with and disposes of land. Its right to do so is confirmed by Section 5(2)(d) of the Act. Section 189 of the Act requires Council to consult residents and ratepayers on any proposal to sell land, and prescribes a process for doing so.

In 2007, *The Burnt Creek Industrial Estate Development Guidelines and Conditions* were established by Council, with the aim of developing an industrial precinct at Burnt Creek. Council has prepared a proposed subdivisional plan for the Burnt Creek Industrial Estate. Six parcels within the proposed sub-division were identified by Council as land intended for sale, and Notice of this intention advertised.

Discussion

The proposed sale of Council's property in Burnt Creek Drive, Bungalally, is intended to achieve economic outcomes in attracting new business to the region and also facilitate further development of the Burnt Creek Industrial Estate precinct.

Six submissions were received in regard to the Notice. The submissions generally expressed concern that the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange could be adversely affected by potential land sales, and noted possible impacts that some land sale may have on both current and future operations and developments of the livestock exchange.

All submitters were heard in support of their submissions at a Council Briefing on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Concerns and issues raised in the submissions:

- Any future expansion and development of the livestock exchange site could be adversely affected by some of the proposed land sales in the Burnt Creek Industrial Estate, but particularly land on the south side of the sale yards;
- Several submissions specifically noted concerns with sale of Lot 3 PS421087 and potential impact to:
 - existing/proposed "buffer zone";
 - future expansion and ability to cater for larger truck access;
 - the land that is currently provided for stock agistment for buyers.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to sell all, some, or none of the advertised lots.

Sustainably Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The Notice was advertised in The Horsham Times newspaper and on Council's website.

Section 223 of the Act requires submissions to be considered in relation to the Notice. All submissions were tabled and heard at a Council Briefing on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Council's Community Engagement Policy requires Council to hear comments and implement recommendations from the community on Council plans, strategies and operations for compliance with the community engagement requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Part 3 – Council decision making, Division 1 – Community Accountability, Sections 55 and 56).

The public notice process and consideration of submissions supports transparent governance and an actively engaged community.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There is currently a demand for industrial land in the Horsham area and the proposed sale of these lots intends to address this need.

Collaboration

Consultation has occurred with Regional Development Victoria in relation to the current demands for industrial land in the Horsham area.

Financial Implications

The sale of the properties will create additional capital for Council to reinvest and further develop infrastructure at the Burnt Creek Industrial Estate.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

- 2017-2021 Horsham Economic Development Strategy
- Council Property Strategy S04/005
- Community Engagement Policy C04/095
- 2007 Burnt Creek Industrial Estate Development Guidelines and Conditions.

Risk Implications

Council is required to consider all submissions prior to determining whether to proceed with the proposed sale of the land.

Conclusion

Formally consider the submissions received and heard in response to the Notice and determine whether to proceed with the intended sale of the land at Burnt Creek Drive, Bungalally, as proposed.

9.11 PROCUREMENT POLICY

Author's Name:	Michelle A Plain	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Procurement and Contracts Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F13/A01/000003

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Procurement Policy (**Appendix “9.11A”**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Procurement Policy, following its annual review, in accordance with Section 186A (7) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Summary

- Under Section 186A (7) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must review its current Procurement Policy at least once in each financial year.
- There are no significant changes proposed to the Policy during this review period. Minor typographical errors have been detected and amended.
- In accordance with the new *Local Government Act 2020* the Procurement Policy will require a comprehensive review with adoption and implementation to be achieved by 31 December 2021. This review will be conducted through consultation with key stakeholders within the organisation.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the revised Procurement Policy.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council adopt the revised Procurement Policy.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Under Section 186A (7) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must review its current Procurement Policy at least once in each financial year. Council's Procurement Policy was last reviewed in May 2020, where several changes were made predominately the introduction of revised procurement thresholds as indicated in the table below:

Threshold	Revised Policy
\$0 to \$1,000	No quotes required
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Minimum of 1 verbal quote
\$3,001 to \$15,000	Minimum of 1 written quote
\$15,001 to \$150,000	Public Request for Quote process with minimum of 3 written quotes
\$150,001+	Public Tender

Discussion

There have been no significant changes to the Policy for discussion.

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

This report was tabled for discussion at the Council Briefing on 12 April 2021.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

In accordance with the new *Local Government Act 2020* the Procurement Policy will require a comprehensive review with adoption and implementation to be achieved by 31 December 2021. This review will be conducted through consultation with key stakeholders within the organisation.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Continual review of the Procurement Policy and procurement practices provides an opportunity to consider greater financial and business efficiencies for the Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Revision to the Procurement Policy aligns with the State Government's Best Practice Procurement Guidelines, and has been revised with input from an internal staff.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Risk Implications

Regular reviews of Council's Procurement Policy ensures that the policy is up to date and reflects best practice in procurement, thereby limiting the risk to Council from poor procurement processes.

Conclusion

This review ensures Council's Procurement Policy continues to align with the Victorian Local Government Best Practice Procurement Guidelines 2013 and delivers efficiencies and best practise with Council's procurement activities.

9.12 DRAFT BUDGET 2021-22 & DRAFT REVENUE & RATING PLAN 2021-2024

Author's Name:	Graeme Harrison	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F18/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Draft Budget 2021-22 (**Appendix “9.12A”**)

Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-24 (**Appendix “9.12B”**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Draft Budget 2021-22, Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-2024 and Proposed Rates and Charges for public exhibition in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, Section 129 (3)(b) and (c) for a period of at least 28 days.

Summary

- The Draft Budget 2021-22 has been prepared through a process of consultation and discussion with Council Officers and Councillors, and aligns with objectives as set out in the 2020-24 Council Plan.
- The Draft Budget 2021-22 is balanced on a cash basis.
- The Draft Revenue & Rating Plan has been written based on councils previous Rating Policy & Rating Strategy, as reviewed by Council, and satisfies the requirements of Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- The Draft Budget 2021-22 & the Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-24 are now available for community comment and feedback until 5pm, Monday 7 June 2021.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Draft Budget 2021-22 attached as **Appendix “9.12A”** and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on Monday 7 June 2021.
2. Propose the rate in the dollar and charges as set out in Section 4.1 of the draft budget document attached as **Appendix “9.12B”**.
3. Receive and note the Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-2024 and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on Monday 7 June 2021.
4. Consider and hear any submissions on the Draft Budget 2021-22 on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 5.00pm.
5. Consider the Draft Budget 2021-22 and Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-2024 for adoption at its meeting on Monday 28 June 2021.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Draft Budget 2021-22 attached as **Appendix "9.12A"** and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on Monday 7 June 2021.
2. Propose the rate in the dollar and charges as set out in Section 4.1 of the draft budget document attached as **Appendix "9.12B"**.
3. Receive and note the Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-2024 and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on Monday 7 June 2021.
4. Consider and hear any submissions on the Draft Budget 2021-22 on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 5.00pm.
5. Consider the Draft Budget 2021-22 and Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-2024 for adoption at its meeting on Monday 28 June 2021.

Amendment**MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Ian Ross**

That the Hamilton Street Bridge be excluded from the draft budget.

When the amendment was PUT it was LOST. The original motion then became the motion and when it was PUT it was CARRIED.

Cr Penny Flynn called for a Division of Council**For the Motion (Amendment):**

Cr Di Bell

Cr Ian Ross

Against the Motion (Amendment):

Cr Claudia Haenel

Cr David Bowe

Cr Penny Flynn

Cr Les Power

Cr Robyn Gulline

REPORT

Background

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to have impacts on Council's services as they struggle to return to normal and as the broad government direct stimulus declines. Opportunities for grant funded capital works have been taken where possible but the capacity to respond to opportunities is dependent upon the shovel ready nature of any plans. Like last year the exact impact of COVID19 on Councils operations and the broader community during 21-22, is very hard to predict. The assumption made however is that the economy will continue on track to return to some normality as the COVID vaccine is rolled out across Australia. There is no firm consensus on what the stimulus measures will mean for the economy going forward and for economic wellbeing but council needs to remain agile in its response going forward.

This year's budget is the 5th year under rate capping and the rate cap was set by the Minister at 1.5% to which this budget has been framed.

Council has a range of both internal and external cost pressures to contend with, and still recognises the need to play an important role as the regional city for the western area of the state, with the provision of quality services to more than just our own residents. Council also needs to be mindful of the role that it plays in keeping economic activity happening and the importance of that within our community at these challenging times. Maintaining "business as usual" as much as is physically possible is also critical during these difficult times.

Council's Draft 2021-22 budget is balanced on a cash basis.

Discussion

A. BUDGET OVERVIEW

Rates have been increased by the 1.5% Ministerial Rate Cap, Farm Differentials have been reduced from 67% to 59% and the Municipal Charge has been decreased from \$274 to \$240.

Net service delivery has increased by 2.8% from the 20-21 Budget which on the surface seems reasonable but there are many factors at play, particularly in relation to COVID19 responses and the discontinuance of the Home Care Services.

Spending on Rural Roads and infrastructure is increasing in a significant way. With a rate cap of 1.5%, the program is increasing overall by \$1.56 million or 27% as follows:

- Grading program \$64,000 or 10.4%
- Drainage program \$25,000 or 11.1%
- Vegetation Management \$48,000 or 17.6%
- General Maintenance \$20,000 or 2.9%
- Road Construction & Rehabilitation \$572,000 or 17.2%
- Gravel Re-sheeting program by \$364,000 or 67.9%
- Bridges & Culverts \$455,000

Capital spending from general revenues has increased by \$0.34 million or 6.8% on the 20-21 Budget but this was cut by \$0.51 million under COVID, so expenditure has not been returned to pre-COVID levels, which is a reflection of the tightening situation under the rate capping environment.

Initiatives have stayed reasonably constant at \$0.48 million.

Financing costs have also stayed reasonably constant but they have shifted from external loans to internal loans (loans funded from Councils own cash reserves).

B. BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

I. Rates

In the Draft Revenue & Rating Plan, Council is providing the following:

- A reduction of the farm differential from 67% to 59% in response to the significant increase in farm values relative to general values (farm values rose by 22.9% more than residential values). This change is being made as Council is mindful of the impacts of revaluation on the farm sector particularly and is seeking to mitigate to some degree the rating shock that this causes.
- Reducing the fixed component of rates, the municipal charge from \$274 to \$240 (The Rate Review Committee in 2019 had recommended \$200). This, will shift the contribution of rates slightly from lower valued properties, to higher valued properties across all sectors.
- Relaxing the approach to interest payments on overdue rates such that they are only applicable when a ratepayer does not put in place a payment arrangement with Council.

These changes will deliver a fairer outcome to the 2021-22 rate distribution but because of the changes in valuations, will still see the average contribution of rates for the farm sector rise by 10.6% and for the residential sector by 3.0%, Commercial will fall by 4.3% and Industrial will increase by 0.2%.

Rates are not a payment for service but a tax that contributes to the operation of over 80 services across the entire community, and as it is a wealth tax, it means that those in the community who have greater wealth (as measured by property values) contribute more than those who have less wealth.

The farm sector contributes \$6.9 million of the overall rate pool for Council or 29.5% (last year it was 27.9%). Council is spending \$7.3 million on rural roads and bridges (excluding the overhead and governance costs), of which \$4.7 million or 64% comes from general revenues (which includes rates). These assets are an important component of infrastructure for farm operations and living.

II. Capital projects

The capital works program for the 2021-22 year is budgeted at \$20.36 million. There will also be carried forward works uncompleted from 2020-21 but as yet these are not finalised or factored in to the budget, this will be done soon after 30 June. In prior years this has been around \$4 to \$5 million of works.

Council has increased its allocation to capital works from general revenues by \$0.41 million or 7.2% (Last year it was reduced by \$0.51 million or 5% in response to COVID measures put in place).

The 2021-22 works are funded from \$8.90 million of external specific purpose grants (including Roads to Recovery), \$6.08 million from General Revenues, \$4.76 million from cash reserves & the balance of \$0.62 from asset sales and contributions. There are no external or new internal borrowings planned for this year.

Renewal works total \$9.97 million or 49% of the overall program (last year was 74% and prior to that 48%), \$2.65 million of this is from the tagged rate rises since 2008-09. New works total \$7.39 million or 36% and upgrade works \$3.01 million or 15%.

The overall capital works program is \$20.36m which is \$4.32m more than 2020-21. \$1.0m extra in Infrastructure which is largely Rural Roads & Bridges, \$4.8m in Recreation and Open Space and reductions in Waste Management works this year \$2.68m less.

Appendix D in the Draft Budget 2021-22 provides more detailed information on the following highlighted Capital Works projects:

Description	RENEWAL	UPGRADE	NEW
Switchboard Upgrades Centre Cinema, Hamilton Lamb, Taylors Lake	93,600	-	-
Town Hall Heritage Hall Floor Replacement	410,000	-	-
Parking Management Plan Implementation	165,000	165,000	-
Aquatic Centre Accessible Change Room	-	715,000	-
Caravan Park Development	227,050	158,950	-
City Gardens Wetland Refurbishment	120,000	-	-
City to River	-	-	4,006,050
Wimmera River Pedestrian Footbridge Extension of Hamilton Street	-	-	2,100,000
Renewal of Plant & Equipment	2,377,200	-	49,000
Energy Saving Measures - Zero Carbon Plan Implementation	-	-	54,500
Ladlows Stage2B Cell 2B Phase 3 Construction	500,000	-	-
CBD Public Convenience Renovation	250,000	-	-

III. Service Delivery

Some areas where costs have risen or where additional funding has been provided are as follows:

- Council responses and impacts re COVID are difficult to list but are throughout the budget
- Insurances have risen by \$41,000 or 11%
- Software Licensing and Support costs have risen by \$69,000 or 22% as new software solutions have been introduced and software services have moved to a subscription based approach.
- Horsham Public Amenities spending has been increased by \$24,000 or 11.6%
- Rural Roadside vegetation management program has been increased by \$47,000 or 17.6%
- Rural Sealed road maintenance program has been increased by \$40,000 or 7.8%
- Rural roadside drainage maintenance program has been increased by \$25,000 or 11.1%
- Gravel roads grading program has been increased by \$64,000 or 20.6%
- Earth roads grading program has been increased by \$40,000 or 19.8%

All services are being maintained at their existing levels other than the Home and Community Care Services that council exited from during 2020-21.

IV. Initiative projects

The following one-off initiative projects have been funded in this year's budget, funded \$0.48 million from general revenues, \$0.48 million from council's cash reserves and \$0.05 million from external sources or grants:

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Meeting

Category	Project Title	Project Description	Proposed Gen Rev Alloc	Reserves	Other Sources	Total
Audit/Risk	Compliance Software	Implement the compliance module for the Reliansys Delegations database.		\$10,800		\$10,800
	Level 3 inspection of 6 bridges	Conduct detailed structural assessment of bridges.	\$30,000			\$30,000
	Depot Decontamination Works	Complete the works re soil decontamination at the Selkirk Rd Depot.		\$330,000		\$330,000
	Zero Carbon Plan Implementation	Complete actions from the Zero Carbon Plan		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Audit/Risk Total			\$30,000	\$390,800	\$50,000	\$470,800
Business Improvement	Cambron Replacement	Replace the software system that manages councils tracking of audit and council plan actions as well as staff performance appraisals.		\$30,000		\$30,000
	Geotechnical testing & pavement design	New operational budget component to assist with reducing the costs of reconstructing Council's roads	\$20,000			\$20,000
	Human Resource Management System	Commence implementation of a Human Resource Software package to assist in meeting workforce planning needs and create efficiencies in managing staff.	\$50,000			\$50,000
	Project Mgt System	Implement an integrated Project Management Software system	\$20,000			\$20,000
Business Improvement Total			\$90,000	\$30,000		\$120,000
Land Use Planning	Aerodrome Master Plan completion	Completion of planning work undertaken in 2019 to formalise the Aero Master Plan	\$60,000			\$60,000
	Horsham South Structure Plan - technical background reports	A structure plan is to be prepared for Horsham South, a 'big picture' plan that sets the vision for subdividing and developing land. It will be the primary plan for guiding urban development and infrastructure delivery within the area.	\$90,000			\$90,000
	Precinct Planning and Design Services	External design and planning expertise for planning & precinct development work.	\$40,000			\$40,000
Land Use Planning Total			\$190,000			\$190,000
Legislative Requirement	Asset Plan & LTFP Deliberative Engagement	Facilitate the deliberative engagement processes for the Asset Plan and LTFP. Additional facilitation workshop with Councillors re the Council Plan	\$45,000			\$45,000
	Local Law Review	Mandatory 10 year review of Council's local laws. Review of Compliance Policies and Procedures.	\$20,000			\$20,000
Legislative Requirement Total			\$65,000			\$65,000
Service Level	Additional Media resources	An additional 0.4 FTE in to the Comms & Media function of Council to pick up on graphic design functions inhouse and help improve communications generally.	\$47,000			\$47,000
	Daughters of the West Program	Program to deliver support needs to rural women during and as a result of the Covid pandemic	\$20,000			\$20,000
	Firebrace St Commercial Properties Rising Damp	Council's Commercial shops - Rising Damp Inspections		\$20,000		\$20,000
Service Level Total			\$67,000	\$20,000		\$87,000
Strategic Planning	Firebrace St Commercial Properties - Residential Living	Investigate conversion of Council's former offices in Firebrace Street to become CBD Living spaces		\$40,000		\$40,000
	Investment Attraction Plan	Industrial precincts investment background data to support industry development for the industrial precincts	\$40,000			\$40,000
Strategic Planning Total			\$40,000	\$40,000		\$80,000
Grand Total			\$482,000	\$480,800	\$50,000	\$1,012,800

Options to Consider

The Council Budget is a statutory requirement and must be adopted each financial year by the 30 June.

Sustainability Implications

Rate capping continues to place restrictions on Councils ability to raise its own source income and places and ever increasing reliance on grants from other tiers of government which may be turned on and off over time. Council's share of the overall tax revenues of all tiers of government as approximately 3% but additional responsibilities and obligations are being given to council without adequate consideration of the taxation implications. These issues mean that council must be forever mindful of its own financial sustainability and as a result take a more conservative approach to debt than may be taken by other levels of government and the private sector.

Community Engagement

For this draft budget 2021-22, Council is following the community engagement processes as previously defined under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Section 129 (3)(b) as the Local Government Act 2020 does not specify the engagement process. Council will make Draft Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-24 available for inspection for a period of approximately 6 weeks with the closing date for submissions being 5pm on Monday 7 June 2021.

Submission can be made via an on-line form on the Council website www.hrcc.vic.gov.au and look for the "Have your Say" section, or in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sunil Bhalla, PO Box 511, Horsham Vic 3402, or via email to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au. Community should indicate in their submissions if they or a representative of theirs, wish to be heard in person by Council on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 5.00pm.

A community engagement plan has been developed and a number of planned engagement activities will occur during May 2021, face-to-face contact may be limited by the need to comply with COVID-19 restrictions during this period, but will also utilise on-line tools where appropriate. The following actions are planned to take place during May 2021:

- On-line information will be provided on Council's website
- Flyers re "where \$100 of rates are spent" will be made available on-line and in appropriate public places
- A number of static displays will be established in the CBD
- A "drop-in shop" to be investigated for a number of days, where the community may call in to discuss the budget
- A social media question and answer session will be held
- A Zoom webinar will be held to summarise the budget and promote submissions
- The Community Map will be promoted as a graphical tool for the viewing of capital works
- An on-line forum will be setup for questions and answers to be provided
- Promotion of the capital works highlights document and budget flyers
- Media release
- Public notices
- Radio opportunities
- Facebook posts.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Draft Budget 2021-22 contains a number of innovative initiatives that will seek to improve councils operations and provide efficiencies.

Collaboration

There are many collaborative activities that council will be undertaking within the Draft Budget 2021-22, however a significant project is the Rural Council's Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) project that is seeking to procure and implement a common financial, rating, and payroll system across a group of 6 Councils in the region. The implementation of a common software system for these critical functions is expected to facilitate greater sharing of resources and lead to efficiencies over time. It is an innovative project funded by the State Government.

Financial Implications

All matters under discussion impact on the 2021-22 Council Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The state policy with most significance for Council's budget is the Fair go rates system that sees the capping of councils rate increases at the level set by the Minister each year.

Environmental Implications

The Council budget contains allocations for addressing climate change issues for Council and specifically has \$100,000 allocated to support the implementation of the Zero Carbon Plan that was adopted by Council during 2020-21.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The Budget and Revenue & Rating Plan have been prepared with reference to the 2020-24 Council Plan. Preparation of the budget is a statutory requirement. Future budgets post this will be influenced by the Community Vision and new Council Plan which are due to be finalised by 31 October 2021 under the Local Government Act 2020.

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The Draft Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-24 are made available for community comments and feedback.

9.13 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 Officer	File Number:	F06/A01/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for April 2021.

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 April 2021.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for April 2021.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

At the 24 June 2019 Council meeting, 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

Hon Jaala Pulford, MP, Minister for Employment; Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and Digital Economy; and Minister for Small Business: The Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer met with Minister Pulford on 24 March to discuss the COVID 19 impact and recovery initiatives in the region. It was also an opportunity to brief the Minister on Council's priorities for the municipality.

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV): The Mayor and CEO attended a Regional Cities Victoria meeting on 24 March 2021 via zoom. Discussions included a proposal to host the Commonwealth Games in regional Victoria, a presentation on NBN Local teams and the Regional Co-Investment Fund, VPA regarding their interest in working with RCV more constructively going forward, an update from Rural and Regional Victoria and Regional Development Victoria on the recovery outlook for regional Victoria and regional priorities for 2021-22, a presentation from DJPR's Tourism and Events Branch primarily focusing on the regional tourism review and a new destination masterplan for the State.

Hon Mary-Anne Thomas, MP, Minister for Regional Development; Minister for Agriculture: The Mayor and CEO met with Minister Thomas on 7 April to brief the Minister on Council priorities.

The CEO also met the Minister separately as part of the Regional Partnership to discuss regional priorities.

MAV and LGPro Forum: The CEO attended a MAV and LGPro Forum on 8 April via zoom titled Digital Leadership in an Era of Change.

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV): The Mayor and CEO attended a Regional Cities Victoria meeting on 22 April 2021 in Melbourne. Guest speakers included Alix Rhodes, Executive Director Regional Victoria, Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and the Hon Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Regional development and Agriculture. A workshop was held to form RCV advocacy positions on affordable housing, digital connectivity and transformation, education, training and skills, population growth and tourism, and business and investment attraction.

B. Community Engagement

Horsham Regional Art Gallery Education Calendar: The Gallery has an exhibition for all the family, Body Language explores the identity of Australia's diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, the iconography of language expressed in art. Body Language is a National Gallery of Australia exhibition and is open daily 10am - 4pm until 16 May.

Listening Post at Horsham Plaza: Local Laws team staff set up a listening post at the Horsham Plaza to hear the community's thoughts on the proposed new Parking Management Plan. If the draft plan is adopted, the most noticeable change will be the extension of one-hour parking to two hours and the provision of more accessible parking. Find out more here <http://bit.ly/HRCCParkingPlan>

C. Projects and Events

Installation of Solar Lights: The installation of 3 solar lights at Jung Peppertree Park commenced last week through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding Scheme. Currently, a large area of the park has no lighting and is not illuminated by street lighting. The installation of lighting will improve the safety and amenity of the public space, allowing it to be used in the evenings for recreational purposes. The lights will illuminate to full brightness for 5 hours from dusk, and then will illuminate in a dim mode - 20% brightness. The systems have a motion sensor that will activate the full brightness for 1 minute if there is activity in the area. Additionally, the poles have a hinged base plate that will facilitate maintenance.

Mitre Hall Refurbishment: The refurbishment of the Mitre Hall kitchen commenced last week through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding Scheme. Mitre Hall is a focal point for the small rural community of Mitre, based at the foot of Mt Arapiles. The 100-year-old Hall regularly hosts community events and activities. The new kitchen facilities will improve the safety of the users, comply with the current standards and provide a modern community asset.

Intranet launch: The Council intranet was launched on 22 April in the Council Chambers and provided an opportunity for staff to ask questions and be shown how to use the new site.

Detox Your Home: Council will again be hosting Detox Your Home where residents can bring in their unwanted chemicals for free and safe disposal on Saturday 8 May.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2020-2024 Council Plan

Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for April 2021.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

- 23 March 2021 -
 - ABC Wimmera radio interview with Rebekah Lowe
 - Hosted Darren James from 3AW Saturday Breakfast and his wife Kathy on a tour of Horsham
 - With Cr Bell and John Martin, met with Rail Future Institute members and Council reps from Northern Grampians and Southern Grampians to discuss the return of passenger rail
- 24 March 2021
 - With CEO met with Jaala Pulford, Minister for Small Business and representatives from Business Horsham and WDA.
 - Regional Cities meeting with CEO via Zoom
- 26 March 2021
 - Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
 - Horsham College Year 12 Deb Ball
- 27 March 2021
 - 3AW Saturday Breakfast radio interview with Darren James
 - Natimuk Show with Cr Flynn
- 29 March 2021
 - Regional Mayors meeting to discuss future of local health services
 - Cultural Awareness training with Jo Clarke and Lissy Johns
- 30 March 2021
 - Regional Mayors COVID update from Shaun Leane, Minister for Local Government
- 1 April 2021
 - City of Horsham Lions Club Inc – draw Easter raffle
- 7 April 2021
 - Met Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Regional Development with CEO
 - Hosted 2 Bendigo City Councillors for tour of Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange
- 12 April 2021
 - Chaired Aboriginal Advisory Group
- 13 & 14 April 2021
 - Horsham Plaza for community consultation on Parking Management Plan
- 15 April 2021
 - Attended the Horsham Community and Policing Consultative Committee meeting
 - Your Council and Climate Change – DEWLP webinar
- 16 April 2021
 - Longerenong College Graduation
- 17 April 2021
 - Commissioner's Dinner and Gala for the Blue Ribbon Foundation

- 22 April 2021
 - Regional Cities meeting with CEO in Melbourne
- 25 April 2021
 - Anzac Day – Dawn and morning services

Cr Penny Flynn

- 18 March 2021 - VLGA, LGiU Australia & LGPro Vic Global Local Government Executive Forum Via Zoom
- 20 March 2021 – Opening of Jack Schier Memorial – Official Naming
- 16 April 2021 – Rotary Club of Horsham East 50th Birthday Celebration

Cr Di Bell

- 23 March 2021 – Railway Futures Institute Meeting - Stawell
- 25 March 2021 – Horsham Lions Club dinner – guest speaker – Life journey to Councillor and encouraged those present to be involved in the Community Vision
- 29 March 2021 – Cultural Awareness Training
- 29 March 2021 – Council Briefing
- 1 April 2021 – Sunnyside Independent Unit Residents – Community Vision and encouraged to submit their thoughts re the Hospital merger.
- 7 April 2021 – Council Briefing
- 8 April 2021 – Your Council and Climate Change – understanding the risks and learning to adapt
- 11 April 2021 – Attended meeting of the newly formed Friends of Horsham Railway Precinct Group
- 12 April 2021 – Council Briefing
- 19 April 2021 – Council Briefing

Cr Claudia Haenel

- 29 March 2021 - WBC Cultural awareness training & HRCC Budget Briefing
- 4 April 2021 – Natimuk Farmers Market
- 7 April 2021 – HRLE visit with Bendigo Councillors
- 7 April 2021 –HRCC Council Briefing
- 12 April 2021- HRCC Council Briefing
- 17 April 2021 – Police Commissioners Gala Event Horsham Golf Club (paid from personal expenses)
- 19 April 2021 – HRCC Council Briefing
- 21 April 2021 – HRCC Council Staff Fluvax – Kalkee Road Children’s and Community Hub
- 23 April 2021 – HRCC Councillor Planning – Horsham Golf Club
- 26 April 2021 – Citizenship Ceremony – Council chambers
- 26 April 2021 – HRCC Council meeting – Council chambers

I wish to acknowledge the wonderful effort from the committee and volunteers for the Police Commissioners Gala Event held at the Horsham Golf Club on Saturday 17 April 2021. It was a very bonding occasion for community and our police services with some very moving speeches and a generous \$30,000 was raised on the night.

I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful hospitality provided by our Horsham Rural City municipality hospitality and business operators over the Easter weekend this year. I attended the Natimuk Farmers market on Easter Sunday where many visitors from Melbourne and all over the state had converged on Horsham to spend the Easter break. And all were delighted with the service and hospitality showered on them from our community during their stay. We hope they will be back soon for another visit.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the women of all ages in our municipality who have personally reached out to me about their very real and personal stories of domestic violence, in their enthusiasm to see a women's serenity garden, a safe place for all women to access in the CBD. Our Horsham Municipality has the highest rate of domestic violence in the state and with women making up 51% of the population, I am excited that HRCC have committed to allowing all women to come and speak at a briefing date to be set in the near future. In the meantime I encourage all to write in and support a women's serenity garden safe space project In Horsham CBD for all women in our community.

Cr David Bowe

- 29 March 2021 - Cultural Awareness Training
- 29 March 2021 – Council Briefing Meeting
- 7 April 2021 - Council Briefing Meeting
- 9 April 2021 – Library Service Provision Meeting
- 12 April 2021 - Council Briefing Meeting
- 15 April 2021 - Your Council & Climate Change: Understanding the risks & learning to adapt (via zoom)
- 16 April 2021 - Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting
- 16 April 2021 – Rotary Club of Horsham East 50th Anniversary Dinner
- 17 April 2021 – Rotary Club of Horsham East 2021 Art Fair

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

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

CARRIED

The time being 7.38pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 7.52pm, the Council meeting resumed.

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Claudia Haenel

That the Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 29 March 2021 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Council Briefing Meeting held on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 5.35pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 19 April 2021 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Minister Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Regional Development response to Stuart Grimley MP, Member for Western Victoria question in Parliament about the Riverfront Play Park.

Refer to **Appendix “13.3A”**

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Sunnyside Park Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 7.30pm.
- Horsham Tidy Towns Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 12.30pm
- Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange Board of Management meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2021 at 5pm

Refer to **Appendix “13.4A”**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings 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 Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

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

CARRIED

The time being 7.54pm, the meeting closed to the public.

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 7.59pm

Robyn Gulline

The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson