

MINUTES of the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chambers and livestreamed at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au at 5.30pm on 28 February 2022.

PRESENT

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor), Cr Di Bell, Cr David Bowe, Cr Penny Flynn, 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; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Lucy DeWit, Procurement Officer; Kerrie Bell, Manager Governance & Information.

Alison Foletta (Wimmera Mail-Times)

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, Jupagulk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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

We pray for the people impacted by the conflict in Ukraine and the flood affected areas in Qld and NSW and our thoughts are with them at this time.

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**Council Resolution**

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the apology from Cr Claudia Haenel be received.

CARRIED

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

NIL

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held online and livestreamed at 5.30pm on 24 January 2022 and 5.15pm on 14 February 2022 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held online and livestreamed at 5.30pm on 24 January 2022 and 5.15pm on 14 February 2022 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Members of Staff

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers or people engaged under contract to the Council providing a report or advice to Council must disclose any conflicts of interests in the matter, including the type of interest.

Cr Robyn Gulline acknowledged that she had previously declared a conflict of interest for 9.4 (Flood Amendment) but now believes her interest is in common.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM ANGELA MUNN ON BEHALF OF THE HORSHAM NORTH (PLANNING AND COMMUNITY)

Question 1:

Residents of Northern Horsham (Planning and Community) request that the following information, works and issues be actioned by HRCC. Can this be done as a priority please?

Speed humps in Albert Street is the highest priority.

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

It is agreed that the re-construction of Albert St, completed in 2021, left the speed hump near Crump St as being less effective. This was identified in about December 2021, and works are planned to re-shape this speed hump to slow traffic more effectively very soon. The southern speed hump was unaffected by these works, and remains acceptable.

Question 2:

Remediation of Mill St is our second highest priority.

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

Council has commenced developing a landscape plan for the Horsham Rail Corridor, this will include consideration of improvements to Mill Street between Kalkee Road overpass and Wawunna Road. The issues outlined regarding Mill Street are also being considered in the development of the 2022-23 council budget.

The Horsham North community will be able to provide feedback on the draft landscape plan in the coming months as part of the broader Horsham North Local Area Planning project.

Question 3:

The parks in Horsham North were another highly ranked issue of need.

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The development of a Playspace Plan for the municipality is currently being considered as part of 2022-23 budget deliberations. This will provide guidance for the further development of all our parks including those in Horsham North. The community will be given an opportunity to be involved in the development of this plan.

Question 4:

Dooen Rd pedestrian access – Dooen Rd/Edith St was the final item that residents determined needed attention immediately.

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

Council's initial draft capital works budget for 2022-23 includes provision for upgrades to footpaths in Horsham North, so that all streets will have footpaths on at least one side. This upgrade program has identified the connection between the existing Edith St footpath and the railway crossing as a gap that

needs to be fixed. The existing footpath along the west side of Dooen Rd is agreed as a priority for upgrade. It is currently only bitumen for part of this length, with some being a loose crushed rock surface. While not yet included in the Horsham North Footpath Upgrade project, it is a sensible inclusion to that program to provide a suitable standard footpath connection along Dooen Rd.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM NEVILLE MCINTYRE OF HORSHAM

Question 1:

Is it Council's intention to still abide by the local traders parking requirements within the Horsham CBD?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The Draft Horsham CAD Revitalisation Streetscape Plan which is currently out for community feedback includes exploring options for parking in Firebrace Street including parallel parking and also options for the location of a town square.

Community responses will be considered by Council in regards to the options put forward in the draft streetscape plan.

Question 2:

Business houses need to know, as Council forced the removal of these verandahs without any compensation if Council wants them back up who pays for their replacement?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The Draft Horsham CAD Revitalisation Streetscape Plan is currently out for community feedback which includes a proposal to reinstate Verandahs in the CAD. To fund these works it is proposed to establish a local heritage restoration fund and/or loan scheme to offer financial assistance to owners of commercial historic buildings to undertake restoration, conservation and enhancement projects.

Council welcomes feedback on this proposal.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM ANGELA MUNN OF HORSHAM

Question 1:

The plans that are currently being proposed for Horsham North affect just under 1/4 of Horsham's urban population. As it is going to have such a huge impact on our community, it would seem reasonable that residents should have a higher level of participation than is typically offered by HRCC as consultation. We are seeking IAP2 Level 4 (collaboration) as a minimum level for public participation - prior to the development and implementation of any stage of such planning. Is there any reason that this should not occur?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place

These comments will be referred to Evan Burman Strategic Planner/Urban Design Lead project manager for the Horsham North Local Area Planning project for consideration.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 COMMUNITY DONATIONS POLICY REVIEW

Author's Name:	Susan Surrige	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations & Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F20/A01/000012

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

Community Donations Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To adopt the amended Community Donations Policy.

Summary

- A review of the Community Donations Policy is undertaken annually.
- One minor change has been recommended to the Community Donations Policy to reflect changes in wording in the new Council Plan.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the amended Community Donations Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Council adopt the amended Community Donations Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**).

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The Community Donations Policy is reviewed and updated each year as part of the annual budget process. The Community Donations Policy provides the framework for the delivery of Council's annual community donations. It outlines the purpose, principles, eligibility criteria and application process.

Discussion

One minor change has been made to the Community Donations Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**). The change is the removal of the words "Horsham and" to align with Theme 1 of the Council Plan.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to accept all, part or none of the recommended changes.

Sustainability Implications

There are no direct sustainability implications relating to the changes to the Community Donations Policy.

Community Engagement

The proposed changes to the Community Donations Policy was reviewed by relevant Council staff, discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and at the Councillor Briefing on 17 January 2022. This is an established Council program. Donations are published in the Council Budget each year.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Continuous annual review and update of the Community Donations Program in line with best practice

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications relating to the changes to the Community Donations Policy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Community Donations Policy funding priorities align with the new Council Plan.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

A review of the Community Donations Policy is undertaken annually. A minor change has been recommended to the Community Donations Policy.

9.2 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Author's Name:	Fiona Kelly	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	EA to CEO & Councillors	Directorate:	Chief Executive Officer
Department:	Chief Executive Officer	File Number:	F19/A11/000001

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

Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Completed Council Resolutions Action List – November 2020 to November 2021 (**Appendix 9.2B**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List and the Completed Council Resolution Action List.

Summary

- Immediately following each Council meeting, all formal resolutions are placed on the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List.
- The Council Report author is responsible for updating outstanding actions on the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List in a timely manner.
- The Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List is reviewed by the Executive Management Team and provided to Councillors quarterly.
- The Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.2A**) and Completed Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.2B**) are formally presented to Council annually.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List attached as **Appendix 9.2A**.
2. Receive and note the Completed Council Resolutions Action List attached as **Appendix 9.2B**.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List attached as **Appendix 9.2A**.
2. Receive and note the Completed Council Resolutions Action List attached as **Appendix 9.2B**.
3. Review and discuss outstanding resolutions.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

Horsham Rural City Council has a Council Resolutions procedure in place to ensure that all resolutions of Council are closely monitored and actioned within the required timeframe.

Discussion

Resolutions of Council are placed on an Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List and circulated to Directors and Responsible Officers immediately following each Council meeting. The author of the Council Report is responsible for ensuring that their actions are updated in a timely manner. The action list is reviewed quarterly by the Executive Management Team and circulated to Councillors. Completed actions are then transferred to the Completed Council Resolutions Action List.

The Outstanding Council Resolutions Action List (**Appendix 9.2A**) and Completed Council Resolutions Action Lists (**Appendix 9.2B**) are formally presented to Council annually.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Nil

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

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 Leadership

Procedure No P04/003 – Council Resolutions

Risk Implications

There may be significant risks to Council if formal Council resolutions are not monitored and actioned in a timely manner.

Conclusion

This report provides an update on outstanding and completed Council resolutions.

9.3 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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 – October to December 2021 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

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

Summary

- This is a newly developed Quarterly Performance Report template 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 Updates
 - Service Performance Indicators
 - The tracking of any major initiatives
 - Community Project Reports
 - Community Engagement
 - Major Projects and Capital Works
 - Councillor Expenses
 - Audit and 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 December 2021 (**Appendix 9.3A**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the three months to 31 December 2021 (**Appendix 9.3A**).

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*, 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 and 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 reports back to Council and the community on key strategic items, in a clear and concise manner that is readable and informative.

The report contains the following sections:

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

The COVID-19 pandemic still had an impact on Council operations, however services recommenced but with limitations, as dictated by State and Federal Government Directives on social distancing, masking and gathering of numbers.

The format for this has evolved significantly from the previous year and includes additional sections on community projects and current community engagement. This report provides Local Government Performance Reporting data titled as "Service Performance Indicators" which will evolve to include some further customised indicators of council performance.

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 Report's 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

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 - Leadership

Good governance, through leadership and connection with the community.

Build Trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision making.

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.

9.4 FLOOD AMENDMENT

Author's Name:	Stephanie Harder	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Strategic Planning & Heritage	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F24/A05/000004

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Coordinator of Strategic Planning & Heritage owns a dwelling within the DDO9 – SBO1 translation extent.

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix:

Horsham Flood Studies, Land Subject to DDO9, Land Subject to DDO4, GIS Data Cleaning Rules, Existing and Proposal FO and LSIO Mapping (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Purpose

To request Ministerial authorisation and public exhibition of Amendment C81 to amend the flood controls in the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Summary

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority has prepared six flood studies since 2009/2010. These include:

- Horsham and Wartook Valley Flood Investigation (2019)
- Natimuk Flood Investigation (2013)
- Warracknabeal Brim Flood Study Investigation (2016)
- Mount William Creek Flood Investigation (2014)
- Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek Flow Investigation (2009/10)
- Lower Wimmera Flood Investigation (2016/17).

Each of these studies recommended that the Flood Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) be introduced over flood affected areas.

As part of a review of the current planning controls it is also proposed to replace the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 9 (stormwater management area) with the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1 (SBO1) -and delete Schedule 4 to the Design and Development Overlay (flood fringe development-

To introduce the FO, LSIO and SBO a planning scheme amendment is required to the Horsham Planning Scheme (HPS). A planning scheme amendment requires the authorisation of the Amendment by the Minister, public exhibition inviting submissions to the proposed planning controls, and should submissions not be resolved or withdrawn, a public Panel hearing.

It is proposed to seek authorisation of the Amendment late December/early January and to exhibit the Amendment in February.

Recommendation

That Council, pursuant to section 8A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to implement the findings of the Horsham and Wartook Valley Flood Investigation (2019), Natimuk Flood Investigation (2013), Warracknabeal Brim Flood Study Investigation (2016), Mount William Creek Flood Investigation (2014), Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek Flow Investigation (2009/10) and Lower Wimmera Flood Investigation (2016/17) in the following manner:

- a) Amend the planning scheme maps to apply the LSIO to reflect updated data
- b) Amend the planning scheme maps to apply the FO to reflect updated data
- c) Delete Development Design Overlay Schedule 4 (flood fringe development)
- d) Delete Development and Design Overlay Schedule 9 (stormwater management area) as a result of being replaced by the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1
- e) Amend the planning scheme maps to apply the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1
- f) Amend Schedule 1 to Clause 44.04 LSIO and Clause 44.03 FO to meet the requirements of the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes (section 7(5) of the Act), clarify exemptions and remove duplication in the scheme
- g) Amend Clause 02.03-3 (Environmental risks and amenity) by making specific reference to the five flood studies undertaken by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and the application of the flood-related overlays.
- h) Delete Clause 13.03-1L (Floodplain management) on the basis that the provisions are effectively replaced by the schedules to the overlays.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Di Bell

Recommendation

That Council, pursuant to section 8A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to implement the findings of the Horsham and Wartook Valley Flood Investigation (2019), Natimuk Flood Investigation (2013), Warracknabeal Brim Flood Study Investigation (2016), Mount William Creek Flood Investigation (2014), Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek Flow Investigation (2009/10) and Lower Wimmera Flood Investigation (2016/17) in the following manner:

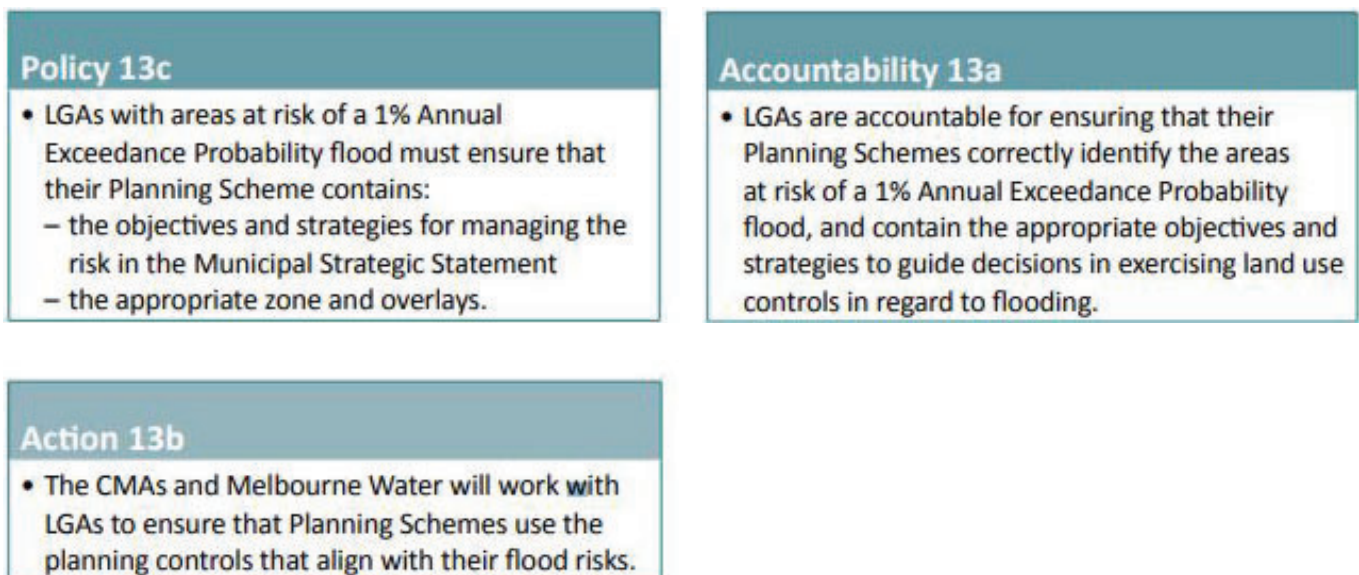
- a) Amend the planning scheme maps to apply the LSIO to reflect updated data
- b) Amend the planning scheme maps to apply the FO to reflect updated data
- c) Delete Development Design Overlay Schedule 4 (flood fringe development)
- d) Delete Development and Design Overlay Schedule 9 (stormwater management area) as a result of being replaced by the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1
- e) Amend the planning scheme maps to apply the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1
- f) Amend Schedule 1 to Clause 44.04 LSIO and Clause 44.03 FO to meet the requirements of the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes (section 7(5) of the Act), clarify exemptions and remove duplication in the scheme
- g) Amend Clause 02.03-3 (Environmental risks and amenity) by making specific reference to the five flood studies undertaken by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and the application of the flood-related overlays.
- h) Delete Clause 13.03-1L (Floodplain management) on the basis that the provisions are effectively replaced by the schedules to the overlays.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The Amendment is currently being prepared by the Strategic Planning Unit and planning consultant, Transect Planning, to implement six flood studies prepared by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (Wimmera CMA). The Wimmera CMA is the floodplain management authority for the Wimmera region covering the local government areas of Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera, Horsham Rural City, as well as parts of Ararat, Buloke, and Pyrenees Shires.

In Victoria, effective floodplain management is a responsibility of catchment management authorities (CMAs) in partnership with local government. [Action 13b](#) of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (2016) outlines this partnership stating that “the CMAs and Melbourne Water will work with LGAs to ensure that planning schemes use the planning controls that align with their flood risks”. For Horsham Rural City Council, the floodplain management authorities are the Wimmera CMA and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

**FIGURE 1 EXTRACT FROM THE VICTORIAN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (2016)**

It is highly critical that planning decisions are based on all available information. Given that flood extent mapping has been undertaken via six flood studies by the Wimmera CMA as the relevant floodplain management authority, Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that available flood extent mapping is translated into planning controls and applied in a transparent manner. The usual controls to identify land affected by a 1% AEP flood event are the Flood Overlay (FO), the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO), or the Special Building Overlay (SBO). The *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (2016)* at Policy 11a identifies draft Planning Scheme Amendments as a required output for all flood studies, unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.

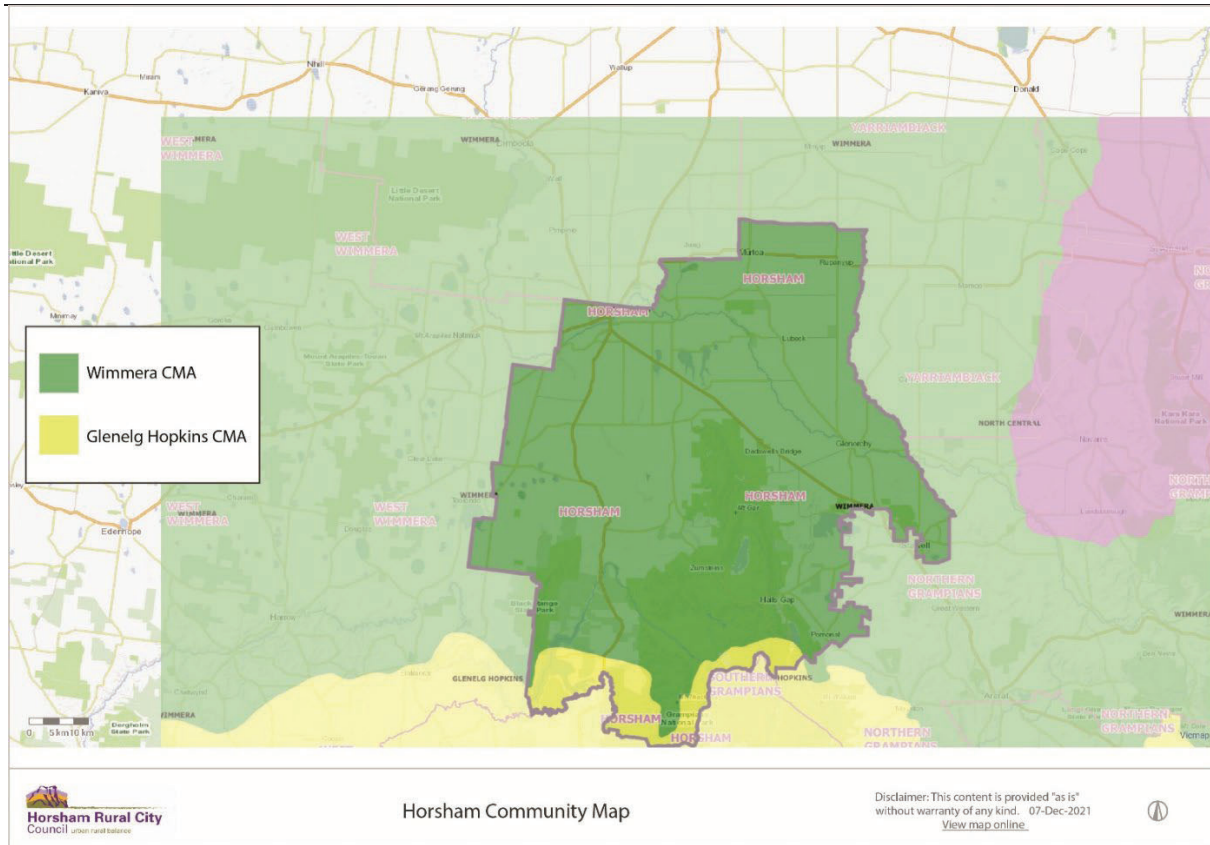


FIGURE 2 CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

[Planning Practice Note 12 - Applying the flood provisions in planning schemes](#) (DELWP, June 2015) states the following:

“Flooding is a natural hazard but, unlike most other natural hazards, floods are to a great degree predictable in terms of their location, depth and extent. This means that appropriate measures can be developed to reduce flood damage. Land use planning is recognised as being the best means of avoiding future flooding problems. Through careful planning, flood risks to life, property and community infrastructure can be minimised and the environmental significance of our floodplains protected.

Section 6 (2) (e) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 enables planning schemes to ‘regulate or prohibit any use or development in hazardous areas, or areas likely to become hazardous’. As a result, planning schemes contain State planning policy for floodplain management requiring, among other things, that flood risk be considered in the preparation of planning schemes and in land use decisions.

The statutory authorities responsible for the collection of flood information and for land use planning in flood-affected areas are councils and floodplain management authorities (i.e. Melbourne Water and Catchment Management Authorities).”

The Amendment will ensure that Council can appropriately regulate proposed development on flood prone land and ensure that flooding is not worsened on other properties by inappropriate development. Whilst the new planning controls will increase the number of planning permits required, it is important to identify the flood threat to ensure that life and property are not unduly placed at risk.

Proposed Flood Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

The Horsham Planning Scheme (HPS) currently includes flood controls that were introduced following the completion of:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment Flood Data Transfer Project in the 1990s; and
- Amendment C22 Horsham Flood Study 2003 (gazetted in 2007).

In 2018, Clause 21.04-1 (Flooding) of the Horsham Planning Scheme was amended to list the various flood investigations that had been prepared since the previous planning scheme review.

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) has undertaken six flood investigations, including:

Study Date	Study Name	Study Area waterways	Consultation
2019	Horsham & Wartook Valley Flood Investigation	Wimmera River, Burnt Creek, Bungalally Creek, MacKenzie Creek, Norton Creek. (upstream of Riverside for Wimmera River & entire Wartook catchment)	Multiple community consultation meetings. No final meetings at this point.
2013	Natimuk Flood Investigation	Natimuk and Little Natimuk Creeks (entire catchments)	Extensive community consultation – before/during & after study
2016	Warracknabeal Brim Flood Study Investigation	Yarriambiack Creek	Consultation focussed on towns- before /during and after – flood mapping reflected well the extents in town.
2014	Mount William Creek Flood Investigation	Mount William Creek, Wimmera River, Golton Creek, Middle Creek	Multiple community meetings during and after study. Results matched and supported by community.
2009/10	Wimmera River & Yarriambiack Creek Flow Investigation	Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek, 2 Mile Creek, Corkers Creek, Ashens Creek, Sheepwash Creek,	Consultation with focussed community at beginning and on finalisation public launch. Product used extensively and successfully in 2010-11 floods. Huge support from community and agencies.
2016/17	Lower Wimmera Flood Investigation	Wimmera River from Jeparit to Natimuk	Two rounds of community meetings were held in two locations; Quantong and Antwerp.

Appendix 9.4A (1) shows the six studies areas and the extent of land where the two overlays will apply.

It is appropriate to implement the findings of the six flood investigations into the Horsham Planning Scheme via two changes:

- The identification of Flood Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) areas on the planning scheme maps.
- Amending the Flood Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) schedules to ensure the schedules cover the areas subject to the maps.

The probability of flood occurring within a year, called the Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) is an industry standard. The Flood Overlay (FO) is where the depth of flooding in a 1% AEP exceeds 0.5 meters. The FO generally has a 10% AEP, i.e. each year the flood level has a 10% chance of occurring. The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) has a 1% AEP, which means each year the flood level has a 1% chance of occurring (previously referred to as a 1- 2 in-100 year flood).

The main purpose of the Flood Overlay (FO) is to:

- To identify waterways, major floodpaths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.
- To ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage and is compatible with flood hazard, local drainage conditions and the minimisation of soil erosion, sedimentation and silting.

The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) has a similar purpose:

- To identify flood prone land in a riverine or coastal area affected by the 1 in 100 (1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability) year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.
- To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- To minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.

The LSIO is applied to land affected by flooding associated with waterways and open drainage systems. The FO is applied to land at a higher risk of flooding than LSIO land. It is normally where mainstream flooding occurs, where flooding is likely to be deep and flooding occurs most frequently.

The FO applies to areas that become an active floodway where the water is deep or the flow is fast. The FO applies in both rural and urban settings or where development is anticipated.

The LSIO applies where water is of a lower risk (pooling, rather than flowing). It applies in both rural and urban zoned areas or where development is anticipated. It has also been applied to rural zoned land which is subject to higher flood frequency, depth and velocity but where less development is planned.

Both the FO and LSIO trigger a permit for buildings and works. Exemptions from a permit can be included in the schedule to the FO and LSIO.

In accordance with Clause 66.03 (Referral of Permit Applications), any application for a planning permit for development on flood prone land will need to be referred to the Wimmera CMA for consideration as a determining referral authority.

The proposed application of the FO and LSIO is consistent with [Planning Practice Note 12 - Applying the flood provisions in planning schemes](#) (DELWP, June 2015). These overlays are appropriate planning tools for identifying flood risk and have been applied in the majority of other Victorian planning schemes, including neighbouring municipalities Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack. The flood controls do not address the cause of flooding, but the way future land development will impact on the flooding problem or be impacted itself by flooding.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

There is flood extent mapping available via the Glenelg River Regional Flood Mapping project (2014), however, it is not in format that is suitable for implementation through a Planning Scheme Amendment. It is proposed that discussions with Glenelg Hopkins CMA are had in future to ascertain whether it wishes to request Council to introduce flood planning controls.

Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 9 Stormwater Management Overlay

This schedule applies to parts of Horsham's urban areas and operates similar to the Special Building Overlay (SBO). One of the purposes of the SBO is to:

- Identify land in urban areas liable to inundation by overland flows from the urban drainage system as determined by, or in consultation with, the floodplain management authority.

The use of the Design Development Overlay for the control of flood risk is not consistent the ministerial direction for the use of planning zones and overlay and the use of the Special Building Overlay will update this anomaly within the Horsham Planning Scheme.

The Wimmera CMA has advised that some re-modelling has occurred in this area and it may be appropriate to update the extent of the DDO (see **Appendix 9.4A (2)**) for the extent of land subject to the DDO9 – SBO1 translation).

The amendment will seek to translate the DDO into the SBO and update the mapping where appropriate.

Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 4 Flood Fringe Development

Schedule 4 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO4) is proposed for deletion on the basis that it is redundant (see **Appendix 9.4A (3)**) for extent of land subject to DDO4).

Planning Scheme Amendment Process

The planning scheme amendment process includes the following steps:

- Preparation of planning scheme amendment documentation
- Council decision to seek authorisation and exhibition
- Exhibition of Amendment (direct notice to directly impacted owners/occupiers)
- Receipt of submissions
- Council decision to request a Panel (if submissions received objecting to amendment)
- Panel hearing
- Council decision (Adopt, amend or reject Panel recommendations)
- Minister decision to approve or reject or amend

In addition to the above steps, an important part of the process will be to discuss the submissions with submitters and seek to clarify or resolve many issues as possible.

Discussion

The following issues are relevant in considering the planning scheme amendment to amend the flood controls into the HPS:

Timing of flood studies

The five flood reports were undertaken between 2009/2010 and 2019. The Wimmera CMA has verified that the flood reports include the most up-to-date flood data information. While the Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek study was undertaken before the significant 2001 floods, the Wimmera CMA indicated that the flood data proved to be generally accurate.

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

Wimmera CMA Officers have advised Council that mapping outputs underwent a review process whereby reports and accompanying data were finalised upon the satisfaction of the Wimmera CMA. The validation and calibration of mapping data was undertaken as part of the flood studies prepared by engineering consultants including a review by the Wimmera CMA in relation to key points and aspects of draft outputs. The preparation of the flood studies also involved extensive consultation with community members, Council and key agency representatives to ensure there was the ability to review the data the produced and provide feedback on draft mapping outputs.

Furthermore, the Wimmera CMA has a comprehensive library of old flood photographs, studies and aerial photos which were also used to help calibrate the flood study results.

Consultation with the community occurred early to ensure important inputs to the flood studies such as historical flood photos and flood marks were captured. The Horsham Wartook Flood Study was the most recent flood study undertaken and covers an extensive urban area. Letters were sent to all landholders directly impacted on by the changes to flood levels and were provided the opportunity to meet in person through drop in sessions. Issues raised were discussed and resolved with landowners, where possible. Pozi was used as a consultation platform whereby community members were able to access and review draft results and provide written feedback. The Wimmera CMA also raised awareness to that fact that the mapping data and flood study results would be later implemented through an Amendment led by Council.

The Wimmera CMA has also advised that it will support Council during the Amendment by reviewing supporting material and assisting with consultation and resolution with the community, including queries and objections to flood extent mapping (FO and LSIO). It will contribute to a Panel Hearing, if required.

The Wimmera CMA is available to brief Council and take questions on notice if requested.

Interpretation and accuracy of mapping information

The combined mapping is currently made up of:

- 57,977 LISO shapefile polygons
- 38,369 FO shapefile polygons

It has been determined that the LSIO and FO need to be generalised and simplified (also described as 'smoothing').

The FO and LSIO mapping have been 'cleaned' by:

- Removing 'puddles' that are less than the minimum areas specified in the table below; and
- Converting islands that are the minimum area or less to the surrounding overlay.

Appendix 9.4A (4) shows the rationale that has been applied in determining the simplification of the mapping.

The flood investigations listed above were combined into one dataset. **Appendix 9.4A (5)**

Selection of overlay

Data from the below flood investigations have been combined and used to identify draft maps of where the FO and LSIO overlays may be applied across the municipality.

The FO has been applied to areas where in a 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) flood event, the area becomes an active floodway, where the water is deep or the flow is fast. The LSIO has been applied where the water is of a lower risk (pooling, rather than flowing) but floodwaters extensively submerge land.

Some of the flood investigations overlap geographically. Where two or more investigation areas overlap, the following approach to selecting the overlay was applied:

1. Floodway Overlay:

- a. If an area is classified as FO in all overlapping investigations, it is classified as FO.
- b. If an area is classified as FO in at least one investigation but not in all overlapping investigations, it is classified as LSIO.

2. Land Subject to Inundation Overlay:

- a. If an area is classified as LSIO in all overlapping investigations, it is classified as LSIO.

Involvement of Wimmera CMA

While Council is the proponent of the Amendment, it is in effect implementing (with support funding from DELWP) the technical work prepared by the Wimmera CMA as the relevant agency for flood management. The Wimmera CMA has confirmed that it will provide assistance in the assessment of submissions and discussions with submitters and appearance at the Panel hearing (if held). However, the Wimmera CMA has indicated that Council would need to meet the cost of an expert witness at the Panel hearing should it be decided an expert witness is required.

Consistency with adjoining planning schemes

Adjoining municipalities that have introduced, or are proposing to introduce flood controls, include West Wimmera, Yarriambiack and Northern Grampians. DELWP have requested that Council liaise with these municipalities to ensure that any flood maps bordering these municipalities are consistent with the mapping proposed for the HPS.

Exemptions

Both the current FO and LSIO schedules contain exemptions from the need for a planning permit. However, it would be appropriate to review these exemptions with the aim of expanding the list of exemptions consistent with more recent FO and LSIO schedules, such as Northern Grampians FO and LSIO schedules approved in Amendment C31 to their planning scheme. Discussions will occur with the Wimmera CMA and DELWP on the nature of the exemptions that may be appropriate prior to exhibition of the Amendment.

Fact sheet

As well as the normal statutory notice required under *the Planning and Environment Act 1987*, it would be appropriate to prepare a fact sheet clearly explaining the purposes of the amendment, the areas affected the amendment and the consultation processes. The fact sheet should be packaged with the notice documents and uploaded onto Council's web site.

Next steps

1. Completion of amendment documentation for submission for authorisation and exhibition
2. Submission of amendment documentation to DELWP
3. Upon authorisation, exhibit the Amendment

Options to Consider

1. Agree to seek authorisation and exhibition of the Amendment
2. Disagree to seek authorisation and exhibition of the Amendment

Sustainability Implications

Some of the purposes of the both the FO and LSIO include sustainability objectives, as follows:

- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

Community Engagement

A summary of the community consultation undertaken by the Wimmera CMA and its consultants who prepared the flood studies is provided in the table above.

The exhibition of the Amendment will invite landowners to make a submission to the Amendment. Notice will include direct notice to all affected owners/occupiers. 2,816 properties are directly affected by this proposed amendment. It is yet to be determine how many new properties will be affected by the FO and LSIO. It is proposed to consult with landowners who make submissions to clarify any issues raised and to seek resolution of any concerns. This will be done prior to reporting the Amendment back to Council.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Amendment helps to ensure that Council through its planning scheme is improving its response to a potential significant risk issue to life and property that may be caused by flooding. The expansion of exemptions from the need to obtain a permit within the FO and LSIO will ensure that landowners are not unnecessarily inconvenienced.

Collaboration

This project has involved important collaboration between Council, Wimmera CMA and DELWP. Some collaboration with adjoining municipalities is required to address mapping issues. It will be important that collaboration with the Wimmera CMA and DELWP continue as the amendment progresses.

Financial Implications

Funding of \$60,000 has been provided by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) to assist in the implementation of the Amendment. Funding for this project has been budgeted in the following manner:

- A GIS consultant was previously engaged to compile and 'clean-up' the flood extent GIS files to ensure they were fit for the planning scheme amendment.
- A planning consultant is currently engaged to lead the amendment preparation and process up until the Amendment's approval / gazettal.
- The cost of a Panel Hearing cannot be determined at this stage due to the complexity of issues and the amount of submissions will determine the number of Panel Members and days required.
- Expert witness costs may be required to resolve submitter issues at Panel Hearing.
- Panel Costs are allowed for in DELWP's \$60,000 grant.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Clause 13.03-1S of the State section of the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) includes a number of objectives and strategies on floodplain management. This clause refers to *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2016)

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Clause 13.03-1L of the Local section of the PPF includes a section of flood management in Horsham. This policy was introduced following the completion of the Horsham Flood Study (Water Technology, February 2003).

In addition, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has prepared the following flood plans:

- Horsham Rural City Council Flood Response Plan
- East Horsham Flood Intelligence Report
- Natimuk Flood Intelligence Report

Risk Implications

Some of the purposes of both the FO and LSIO address the issue of risk. Under the FO, a purpose is to:

- Identify waterways, major floodpaths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.

Under the LSIO, a purpose is to:

- Minimise the potential flood risk to life, health and safety associated with development.

In addition, the FO and LSIO schedules can require a statement of risk to be prepared for a particular identified as flood prone.

Conclusion

With the completion of six flood studies by the Wimmera CMA and the recommendations to apply the FO and LSIO over affected flood areas there is clear strategic justification for this Amendment. Council has a statutory responsibility to introduce the controls into the Horsham Planning Scheme given that flood modelling and mapping has been undertaken by the Wimmera CMA as the relevant floodplain management authority.

The Amendment will ensure Council can suitably regulate proposed development on flood prone land and ensure that flooding is not intensified on other properties by inappropriate development.

Once authorisation is provided the Amendment will be publicly exhibited, including directly to affected landowners. A Council report will be prepared after the exhibition process is completed in relation to the submissions received and whether a Panel hearing is required.

9.5 GREENING GREATER HORSHAM – MUNICIPAL TREE STRATEGY

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Department:	Arts, Culture and Recreation	File Number:	F01/A05/000003

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

Greening Greater Horsham – Municipal Tree Strategy 2022 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Community Engagement Plan (**Appendix 9.5B**)

Tree Management Policy 2022 (**Appendix 9.5C**)

Purpose

To adopt the Greening Greater Horsham - Municipal Tree Strategy 2022 and the Tree management Policy 2022.

Summary

The development of a municipal tree strategy: *Greening Greater Horsham – Municipal Tree Strategy (Appendix 9.5A)* is now finalised and ready to be presented to Council for endorsement.

The strategy contains a detailed Action Plan. Responsibilities within the Action Plan have been checked and confirmed by relevant teams and Departments and the document represents a comprehensive organisational-wide commitment to improving tree selection and management practices that reflect contemporary best practice and that will contribute to increased neighbourhood amenity.

The strategy is also supported by the review of the 2010 Tree Policy and the development of a contemporary tree policy to guide operational activities: *Tree Management Policy 2022 (Appendix 9.5C)*.

The strategy, action plan and accompanying policy demonstrate a shared commitment by HRCC to addressing climate change, improving the amenity and comfort of our urban environment and rural townships, recognises the economic value of trees and provides a framework for the proactive and sustainable management of trees.

Recommendation

That Council

1. Adopt the Greening Greater Horsham – Municipal Tree Strategy 2022 (**Appendix 9.5A**).
2. Adopt the Tree Management Policy 2022 (**Appendix 9.5C**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council

1. Adopt the Greening Greater Horsham – Municipal Tree Strategy 2022 (**Appendix 9.5A**).
2. Adopt the Tree Management Policy 2022 (**Appendix 9.5C**).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) has not previously had a strategic planning document in relation to selection, prioritisation and management of trees. To address this, provision was made in the 2020-2021 Budget to undertake this work.

A member of the Recreation and Open Space Planning team, was engaged to manage the project.

Development of the strategy commenced in December 2020 with the establishment of an Internal Working Group and in February 2021, Urban Forest Consulting was engaged to support the project. Extensive consultation has occurred via the Internal Working Group and more generally across the organisation and with key external stakeholders. Baseline data has been collected and benchmarked against comparable LGAs. A Vision has been established and key objectives identified.

A draft strategy was developed and was released to the community for a 6 week period of consultation (September – October 2021).

Feedback was received, reviewed and where appropriate, integrated into the strategy, including specific feedback from representatives from Barengi Gadjin Land Council. The strategy has been finalised and is being presented for adoption by Council.

The strategy is supported by an Action Plan that reflects a collaboration of actions and responsibilities shared across the organisation. The Action plan has been reviewed and endorsed by the Internal Working Group and by all work units named in the Action list.

To support both the strategy and the action plan, and to provide specific procedural guidance for the HRCC Operations' Team, a *Tree Management Policy 2022* has also been developed. Urban Forest Consulting has liaised directly with members of the Operations' team in the development of the Tree Policy.

Discussion

The development of the Strategy and Action Plan involved extensive consultation with staff across the organisation.

Insight shared by the different work units provided details of existing tree planning and management procedures, challenges in planning and daily operations, and importantly, opportunities for improvements in both the planning and operational aspects of tree selection and protection. The commitment of staff within the organisation to creating neighbourhoods and community environments that are cool, shaded, sustainable and safe should be noted.

There is widespread endorsement of a vision that:

Trees will be healthy, vibrant and valued assets of the municipality's infrastructure.

Using integrated sustainable management practices, Council will create a welcoming landscape with a canopy cover that supports biodiversity and climate resilience, contributes to the community's physical and mental well-being and raises awareness of the importance of culturally significant trees.

The Strategy seeks to embed the following objectives into Council's everyday business:

- ***Protect and enhance existing public trees:***
Ensure existing trees are protected from unnecessary removal or damage and that they are cared for to ensure longevity, optimum health and minimisation of risk.
- ***Increase tree canopy cover:***
Improve the cover of natural shade in our townships to create attractive and walkable streets.
- ***Improve streetscape character and biodiversity linkages of Horsham and townships including river frontage***
Utilise tree planting to improve the look and feel of our streetscapes and to increase connectivity and habitat for biodiversity.
- ***Educate and engage with the community***
Raise awareness within our community about the importance of urban trees, including on private land and increase community participation in decision making.
- ***Deliver a best practice tree management program***
Ensure the care of our trees is based on industry best practice of urban tree management techniques and methods.
- ***Celebrate cultural heritage***
Plan for the City's landscape to help define its character, culture and image and reinforce the value placed on culturally and historically significant trees.

Sustainability Implications

The Strategy will contribute to increased vegetation and canopy cover that provides areas of habitat for biodiversity, and cooler, greener townships that enhance the amenity and character of our municipality.

Community Engagement

The Community Expo held 24-29 June 2021 provided an initial opportunity for our community to provide input into issues and opportunities regarding a Tree Strategy.

The draft *Greening Greater Horsham – Municipal Tree Strategy*, was shared with our community for a 6 week period of consultation (September 2021 –October 2021). A variety of engagement methods were used and we received 129 completed surveys. All feedback has been considered and where appropriate has been incorporated into the strategy.

Feedback from our community and various internal and external stakeholders has resulted in some changes to the strategy that provide greater clarity and detail. The intent, objectives and action items have remained largely unchanged. Importantly, the development of a Tree Management Policy provides clarity regarding how HRCC will manage trees. The policy specifies the processes and procedures that the Parks and Gardens team will follow. Many of the concerns and questions we heard from the community are addressed in the policy. Together, the strategy and policy document provide a clear understanding as to the ways HRCC will manage our tree resources into the future.

During different stages of the project, contact was also made with key external stakeholders to ensure input from the groups had been accurately integrated into the strategy.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The *Greening Greater Horsham - Municipal Tree Strategy* identifies opportunities for innovation and improvement, including: the development of a comprehensive tree inventory and tree management policy, investigating species selection and investigating and implementing water sensitive design elements in the built environment.

This is the first time that Council has developed a strategy to guide and inform the management and improvement of municipal tree assets and commit to increasing overall canopy cover.

Collaboration

The Tree Strategy has been developed with input from a range of council staff/teams and external organisations. Details of engagement and collaboration are provided in the attached Engagement report **(Appendix 9.5B)**.

The draft Tree Strategy was endorsed by an Internal Working Group in August 2021 and the Tree Management Policy was developed after extensive consultation with the Manager of Operations and members of the Parks and Gardens team.

Financial Implications

One of the key recommendations from the Strategy is the commitment to the establishment of a comprehensive and accurate Tree Inventory. This will provide the operational tool to create efficiencies in plant selection, prioritisation of planting, maintenance and will guide urban planning and development. The cost of the Audit /Inventory is between \$100-200K and has been flagged for consideration in the 2022-2023 Budget.

The 5 year program of proactive tree maintenance works cannot be costed until the tree inventory is completed. A commitment to increased tree canopy cover has not yet been costed.

An allocation of \$2.24m over the next 6 years, for the Horsham Shade project has been identified in the 10 year Capital Works Plan which is part of the 10 year Financial Plan. Exact allocations each year will be subject to yearly budget discussions.

When the *Greening Greater Horsham – Municipal Tree Strategy*, has been endorsed, discussions can occur regarding the staged implementation of the actions within the strategy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The Strategy addresses all Regional, State, or National Plans and Policies that affect or govern the management of trees.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2021-2025

Theme 2 – Liveability - HRCC will actively work to create a healthy and connected community that is a great place to live, work invest and explore for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Strategy 4 - Diverse and connected open spaces

Initiatives and Priorities

- Create engaging spaces and places for social connection and wellbeing to build community resilience

Theme 3 – Sustainability - HRCC will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategy 1 - Achieve a sustainable and sound environmental future

Strategy 3 - A region where climate change impacts are addressed and remediated

Initiatives and Priorities

- A priority action is the establishment of a comprehensive and accurate tree inventory.
- The Action Plan provides details of the timeframe (Short term / Medium) and approximate budget range. Availability of resources will inform the prioritisation of actions

Risk Implications

A number of risks of inaction or of delaying remedial action have previously been identified and include:

- Reactive asset management and concerns identified by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) in 2011
- Risks associated with limited tree species selection (disease, ageing, whole of avenue destruction)
- Climate change and associated pressures on the natural environment (water scarcity and heat stress) and on the human environment (heat island effect, health and wellbeing, particularly for people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage)
- Community reaction to tree removals that appear to be not informed by a strategic, long term and defensible plan
- Failing to invest in the tree inventory which compromises successive work and objectives outlined in the strategy
- Tree canopy loss due to failures in setting and reaching targets and effectively resourcing the strategy.

Conclusion

The *Greening Greater Horsham – A Municipal Tree Strategy* recognises that trees are a valuable asset to our community. Trees contribute significantly to our health and wellbeing, to neighbourhood character and are part of what we understand when we refer to the liveability of a community or place.

Trees support biodiversity and climate resilience and trees increase land values. The *Greening Greater Horsham* project commits us to better managing our trees as assets so we can maximise their benefits and our return on investment in them.

The Strategy, Action Plan and supporting Tree Management Policy have been developed after extensive consultation with staff across the organisation and with key stakeholders, individuals and groups throughout our community.

The documents represent a desire by many to work together to create a cooler, greener, sustainable and healthy environment. The best time to plant a tree was 20 years' ago. The next best time is now.

The Strategy (including an action plan) and Policy are presented for consideration and endorsement.

9.6 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH REPORT

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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 December 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 December 2021.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for December 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, Business, Tourism and Events. This report also includes statistical information from the Visitor Services at the Horsham Town Hall.

STATUTORY PLANNING

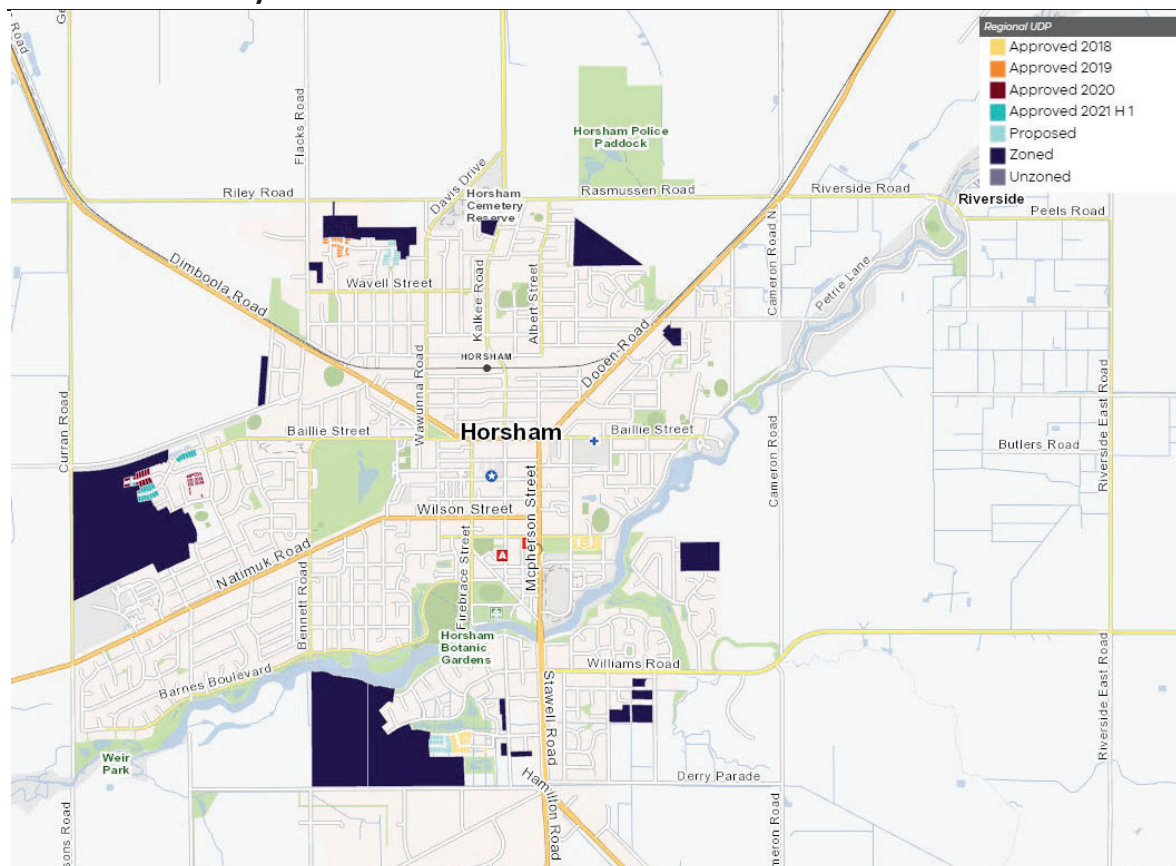
DELWP has expanded its greenfield land supply analysis to parts of Regional Victoria. Working with councils, the Regional Urban Development Program (UDP) has been published for: Ballarat, Bendigo, Churchill, Drouin, Geelong, Gisborne, Horsham, Kyneton, Mildura, Moe/Newborough, Morwell, Traralgon, Warragul and Winchelsea.

The Regional UDP website provides a range of tools including:

- interactive graphs
- spreadsheets of data for users to create their own charts
- a link to the UDP's mapping tool which enables users with no GIS training to navigate, interrogate and map information on a lot by lot basis.

You can access the Regional UDP here (<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/land-use-and-population-research/urban-development-program/regionaludp>)

The information contained within the report is consistent with the population growth of Horsham over the last decade, which has grown by 600 people to reach a population of around 20,000. Around 100 dwellings per year have been built over the last 10 years across the municipality report indicates there is 32 years + greenfield supply.



Planning Applications Determined

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

Type	DECEMBER 2021		DECEMBER 2020	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	7	2,052,200	6	1,020,570
Industrial/Commercial	4	190,000	9	2,384,600
Subdivisions	-	-	6 (13 lots)	-
Other	1	10,000	2	10,000
Total	12	2,252,200	23	3,415,170

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 is 75 compared to 63 in the same period in 2020-2021.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 39 new lots from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 compared to 23 in the same period in 2020-2021.

BUILDING SERVICES**Building Permits Issued**

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

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	DECEMBER 2021		DECEMBER 2020	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resiting's	-	-	-	--
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	40,210	7	100,645
Removal/Demolish	1	14,850	1	2,500
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	1	6,773
Signs	--	-	-	-
Total	3	55,060	9	109,918

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

Type	DECEMBER 2021		DECEMBER 2020	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	5	1,692,823	4	1,462,531
Alterations to Dwellings	3	66,830	2	95,736
Dwelling resiting's	1	65,367	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	11	331,409	5	201,233
Removal/Demolish	-	-	1	300,000
Industrial/Commercial	5	7,240,228	4	1,614,142
Signs	-	-	-	--
Total	25	9,396,657	16	3,673,642

A total of 48 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$2,449,605 from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 compared to 38 Building Permits at a total value of \$2,716,032 for the same period in 2020-2021.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 149 Building Permits at a total value of \$37,707,261 from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 compared to 138 at a total value of \$34,454,690 for the same period in 2020-2021.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Unit is preparing for a second round of engagement with the community on the Draft Horsham CAD Revitalisation: Streetscape Plan in February/March 2022. The development of the draft Streetscape Plan has been informed by community feedback, both recently and also from previous years, in relation to the broader City to River Project.

The consultants, UrbanFold, have identified a number of strategic opportunities for developing activated, safe, attractive, and high-quality streetscapes and public spaces throughout the Horsham town centre (or Central Activities District). These opportunities focus on urban design, landscape, heritage, public realm and streetscape improvements, intended to improve the character, physical connections and amenity of the town centre. The identified opportunities are:

1. Develop the off-street laneway network into a series of comfortable and interesting places that also provide a safe and convenient pedestrian network throughout the CAD.
2. Make Firebrace Street the 'postcard' street and the premier place for dining, meeting and greeting in Horsham.
3. Strengthen character and identity by promoting and restoring heritage features and telling the stories of the town and the area.
4. Create more outdoor places for meeting, gathering and socialising in Horsham's Town Centre.
5. Improve physical and visual connections between the Town Centre and broader Horsham.
6. Improve the streetscapes of Horsham's Town Centre with more shade, lighting, furnishings, paving and planting.
7. Green the Town Centre and better utilise the streets and public spaces to create a cooler, more climate-ready urban environment

Following internal review and some external stakeholder engagement, Council will actively seek community feedback on the Draft Streetscape Plan in February/March and subject to future COVID-19 restrictions, conduct drop-in sessions, as well as online engagement.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND EVENTS

Horsham Golf Club

Golf events are starting to fire up and the Horsham Golf Club held a seniors event in early December, attracting a large number of visitors to the Horsham region. Feedback from the event was really positive with visitors enjoying their experience in the Wimmera. Some feedback from local businesses to their board members was also positive... *“shops like Abode, Horsham Newsagents, Maria Da Ross and Undercover Lingerie were all happy to have the visitors shop, look and spend in their stores. Jenny from Undercover even said it had made their week. Maria’s staff said they had a great time in store and a big spend up. A great vibe for our club and town.”*

The Horsham Golf Club, at their AGM, thanked Horsham Rural City Council for their support provided to their Club. The Club is looking forward to a busy and productive 2022.

Grampians Resident and Workforce Attraction Report – December

Once again, there has been a mixture of skills enquires for the following business sectors: Plumbers, Managers, Disability Workers, Mechanics, Chefs, Allied Health and Hospitality Workers.

HORSHAM Jobs Dashboard

Indicated the following for the period of 1 December 2021 to 1 January 2022

229 jobs viewed by candidates

11 candidates clicked the apply now

Grampians Jobs Website Traffic - www.grampiansjob.com.au. Provided the following stats:

Live the Grampians Way website attracted 735 people to the Jobs site in December (706 new) across the four councils of the Grampians.

Grampians Life website - www.grampianslife.com.au in December attracted 5,137 visits the site, (compared to 4,479 in November), resulting in 575 people accounted for 78% of the visitors clicked through to look at the jobs on the Grampians Jobs website.

There were 105 jobs posted in December

27 people clicked on the ‘Apply Now’ button.

Average time spent on the Jobs site was 2.12 minutes

Grampians Life Website Traffic – Is where we refer to the google analytics data that tracks traffic to a website. Google reports on the location of 'ISP's' - where's people's internet connections are hosted - which provides some indication of where they are located.

Advertising has been directed into Melbourne, Adelaide, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, that's where Shift Regional expect visitors to the site to come from, hence the following results for the month of December.

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

2,900 (56%) from Melbourne
 437 (8.5%) were from Adelaide
 185 (3.6%) were from Sydney
 99% came from PAID digital advertising

Overall, there were 55,000 people visited the *Grampians Life* website over the 12 months of 2021.

Business Development Team – Business Visitations for the Month of Year 2021

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event interaction contacts	Event Notifications	Over all contacts for the month
January	11	12	10	8	41
February	24	77	21	9	131
March	40	61	31	5	137
April	8	10	9	6	33
May	22	11	4	2	39
June	25	12	6	2	45
July	30	12	15	6	63
August	10	2	6	11	29
Sept	35	18	10	2	65
October	45	40	10	4	99
Nov	12	2	20	15	49
Dec	38	14	7	7	66
Monthly total	300	271	149	77	797 Total YTD

2021 Visitations to the www.visithorsham.com.au website

The visithorsham website continues to draw steady visitation hits per month.

Website Visitation Statistics								
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
5,212	3,438 Resulting in 12% returning visitors and 3,329 new visitors to the site	5,290 Resulting in 12.5% returning visitors and 87.5% (5,154) new visitors to the site	4,971 Resulting in 14% returning visitors and 88% (4,755) new visitors to the site	3,350	3,100 Resulting in 12.5% returning visitors and 87.5% (3,012) new visitor to the site)	2,929 Resulting in 14.6% returning visitors and 85.4% (2,757) new visitors to the site	2,168 Resulting in 11.5% returning visitors and 88.5% new visitors to the site	2,414 Resulting in 12.1% returning visitors and 87.9% new visitors to the site.
Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD 2021		Same period			

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					last year 2020			
3,080 Users Resulting in 12.3% returning visitors and 2993 new visitors to the site	4,616 users resulting in 13.2% returning visitors and 4,507 new visitors to the site	4,888 users resulting in 86.2% returning visitors and 13.8 new visitors to the site	Jan 1 to Dec 31 2021 Visitations to the site resulted in 44,538 users This is an increase of 13,121 visits compare to the previous year		Jan 1 to Dec 31 2020 visitation to the site resulted in 31,417 users			

	December	Previous Month	YTD (Jan-Dec)	Previous Year
Groups recorded	212	241	2529	N/A
Total for individuals within groups	505	454	5260	N/A
Visithorsham.com.au web visits	4888	4617	44538	N/A
Emails	288	360	2872	N/A
Produce Sales	\$29,135.14 (Ex Tax)	\$2,476.16 (Ex Tax)	\$41,835.60	N/A

**Horsham
Visitor
Services**

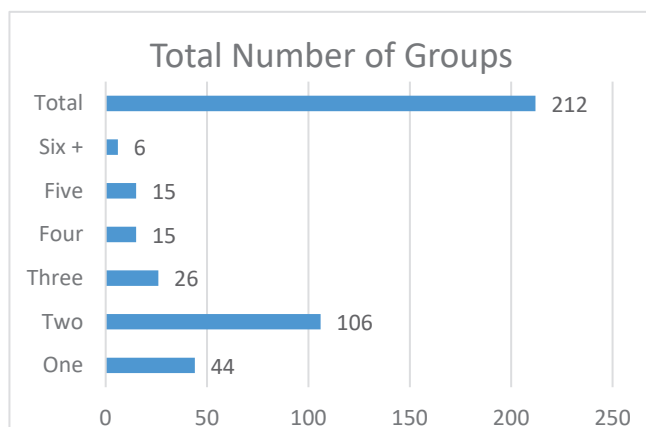
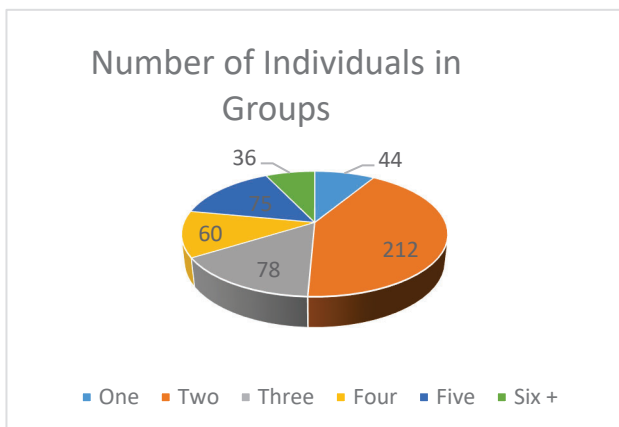
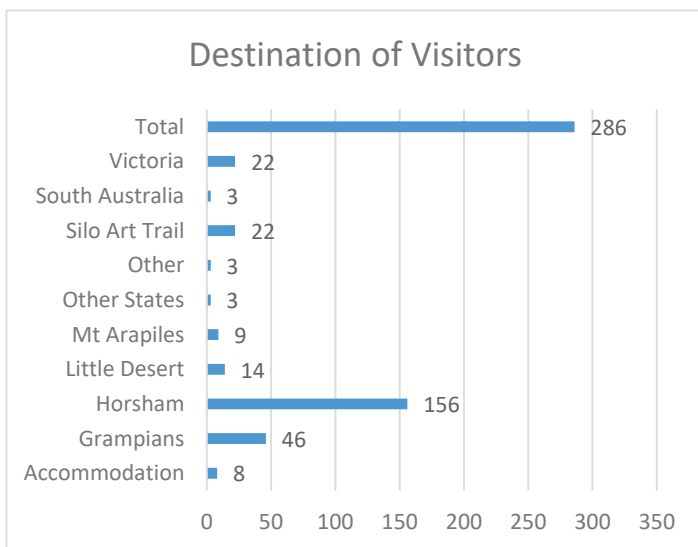
With the start of the school holidays, Christmas and promises of opening borders, people were keen to travel to see family and to go somewhere, anywhere, just to get away. Usually a quieter time in Horsham due to people holidaying in popular coastal areas, Horsham still saw a constant flow of visitors. Less groups were recorded, however we saw more families coming through than in previous months and a much wider demographic of people.

The Visit Horsham website continued to show an increase in the number of users month on month with a small increase of 6% on November.

December’s produce sales blew all previous monthly sales out of the water with a whopping \$29,135.00 This was predominantly helped along with an order of 150 Christmas hampers from the Murra Warra Wind Farm. Something worth considering when marketing/advertising next years Christmas hampers. Definitely worth targeting the corporate market and getting in early as it has been noted that many local businesses were offering similar products.

The Dressmaker Exhibition in the Gallery has been a popular attraction for Horsham for all ages, from individuals, couples to families. Feedback has been very positive and It has been a great asset on hot days when visitors have been seeking water and airconditioned activities to do in the area. This is also something to consider for future summer holidays for people wanting to escape the heat, having an exhibition that appeals to a wide range of visitors.

The top three purposes for visitation to Horsham were 1. to Holiday in Horsham with 102, 2. Holiday travelling on with 39 and joint third – Produce Purchases and The Dressmaker Exhibition with 32 each. The most popular destinatons for Visitors were Horsham – 156, followed by the Grampians – 46 and thirdly the Silo Art Trail – 22.



Where people travelled from across Victoria and Australia to visit Horsham’s Visitor Services

Local - Horsham

129

SA

Adelaide, 4

Clarence Park, 1

NSW

2000

2076

2095

2101

2233

2300

2478

2575

2600

Sydney, 2

Normanh...
1

Manly, 1

Ingleside, 1

Heathcote,
1

Newcastle,
1

Ballins, 1

Mittagong,
1

Canberra, 1

WA

Perth, 1

Woodvale, WA, 1

Overseas

Argentina, 1

Auckland, 1

Country Vic

3350

3340

3228

3250

3388

3390

3393

3418

Ballarat, 5

Bacchus
Marsh, 2

Ha...
1

Torquay, 2

Colac, 1

Rupanyup,
1

Murtoa, 1

Aubrey, 1

Nhill, 1

3220

Mildura, 3

3429

3280

3423

3480

3496

3219

Geelong, 4

Bendigo, 3

Sunbury, 2

Warrnam...
1

Jeparit, 1

Donald, 1

Red Cliffs, 1

East
Geelong, 1

3500

3429

3300

3214

3227

3805

3806

Geelong, 4

Bendigo, 3

Sunbury, 2

Digby, 1

Amphthe...
1

Wodonga,
1

Langwar...
1

Foster, 1

Hamilton, 1

Corio, 1

Barwon
Heads, 1

Fountain
Gate, 1

Berwick, 1

3305

3216

3564

3844

3929

3931

3309

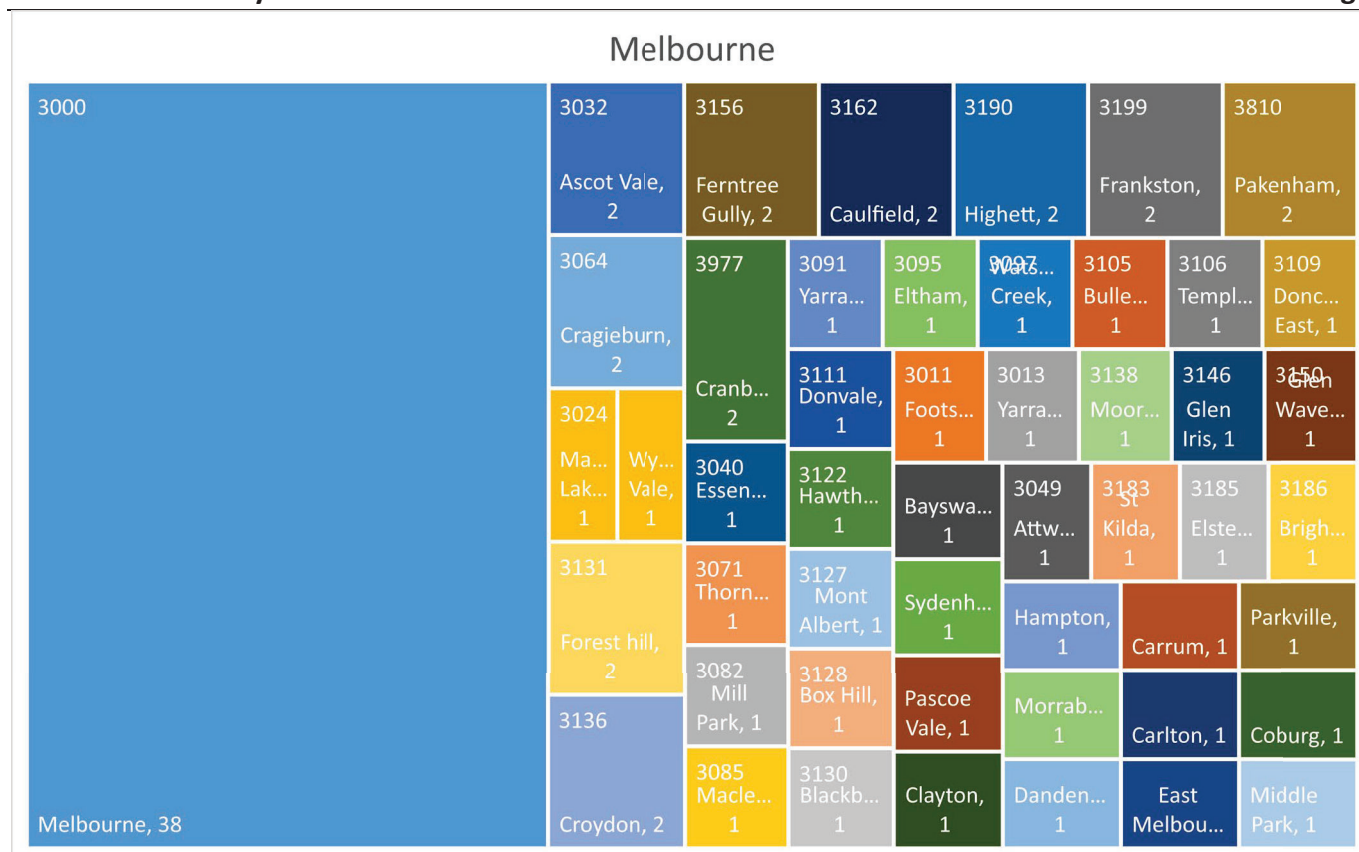
Belmont, 1

Echuca, 1

Blackwa...
1

Flind...
1

Mor...
1



Wimmera Business Centre

Vacant Shops December figures:

Street/ Number of Vacancies	July 2021 FY 21/22	September FY 21/22	November FY 21/22	December FY 21/22
Darlot Street	4	3	2	2
Firebrace Street	7	7	6	6
Hamilton Street	1	1	1	1
Wilson Street	4	4	5	5
Pynsent Street	5	5	2	3
Roberts Ave	3	3	2	2
McLachlan Street	1	1	0	0
Total	25	24	18	19

Please Note: An existing business is currently temporarily occupying another shop for an end of year sale.

Investment Attraction

The Wimmera Agriculture and Logistic Hub (WAL HUB) Subdivision off Burgin Drive is officially on the market with Lot 9 already sold. Further development is also occurring within the industrial precinct (special use zone) with the expansion of the Johnson Asahi Hay site. The next precinct improvements are landscaping, entrance signage and fencing.



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 Wimmera Development Association, Business Horsham 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

Nil

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable – no direct relationship or requirements

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2021-2025

Theme Three - Sustainability - Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategy 2: A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive.

Risk Implications

Not applicable – no decision required

Conclusion

Council's recent investment into the development of the WAL HUB industrial land (special use zone) has resulted in the recent purchase of Lot 9 and expansions to Johnson Asahi Hay industry also located within the industrial precinct.

9.7 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Author's Name:	Kerrie Bell	Director:	Graeme Harrison
Author's Title:	Manager	Directorate:	Corporate
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F19/A09/000001

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 Annual Action Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**)

Purpose

To receive and note the draft Annual Action Plan and make it available to the Community for feedback.

Summary

- The Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted by Council at the meeting held on 25 October 2021.
- Following extensive community engagement and feedback, the adopted Council Plan included the requirement for the development of an Annual Action Plan to detail how the initiatives and priorities identified in the Council Plan will be implemented.
- The draft Annual Action Plan is now presented for community feedback.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the draft Annual Action Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**).
2. Make the draft Annual Action Plan available to the Community until 25 March 2022 to provide feedback.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Di Bell

That Council:

1. Receive and note the draft Annual Action Plan (**Appendix 9.7A**).
2. Make the draft Annual Action Plan available to the Community until 25 March 2022 to provide feedback.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

During 2021, following a comprehensive process of deliberative community engagement, the Council Vision and the Council Plan 2021-2025 were adopted by Council. A project was then commenced to develop an Annual Action Plan that would set out the key activities that would be implemented to achieve the priorities and initiatives outlined in the Council Plan.

Discussion

Broad consultation has been undertaken with Councillors, Executive, Managers, Co-ordinators and staff to develop actions that align to the priorities and initiatives in the Council Plan, including measures and expected timeframes. Progress on the enactment of the Annual Action Plan will be reported to Council quarterly.

The draft Annual Action Plan has been constructed following feedback from Councillors at briefings in December, January and February. It is intended that the Annual Action Plan will be reviewed each year to capture appropriate changes or additions

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

The Annual Action Plan touches all elements of Councils operations into the future and will therefore influence and impact all sustainability matters, environmental, climate, social and economic.

Community Engagement

Council developed the Community Vision and Council Plan using deliberative processes with a Community Panel. Community feedback was sought and considered in the development of the Council Plan which included the Health and Wellbeing plan. The initiatives and priorities are listed in the Council Plan under the five long-term strategic objectives and themes of Community, Liveability, Sustainability, Accessibility and Leadership.

The draft Annual Action Plan is how we will deliver the Council Plan to the Community and will be made available to the Community via Council's Have Your Say page for the period to 25 March 2022, with feedback encouraged.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The work undertaken to develop the Council Plan 2021-2025 has been a significant change from previous years and has led to better connection between the community priorities and their implementation by the organisation. The addition of an Annual Action Plan to steer the implementation of the Council Plan and provide regular reporting to the Community is a new innovation for our Council and will evolve over time as we embed an improved and more mature approach to our strategic planning processes. This approach is as documented in Councils Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework.

Collaboration

The draft Annual Action Plan has been developed from the Council Plan and created in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including input from the Council and council offices.

Financial Implications

The activities within the Annual Action Plan will be financially resourced from various methods including using currently available resources, new initiatives, reserves and grants. The financial resourcing will be considered as part of the annual Budget development process.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2021-2025

Risk Implications

Strong and robust planning allows Council to align its objectives with those of the community and in turn ensures that the operations of Council are also working towards the same goals as the community that it is working for.

Conclusion

The draft Annual Action Plan is how we will implement the Council Plan 2021-2025 to the Community. Feedback from the Community will now be sought and considered.

9.8 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 January/February 2022.

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 January/February 2022.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Di Bell, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for January/February 2022.

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

Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal: The CEO and Mayor met with The Hon David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia and Dr Anne Webster, Member for Mallee on Monday 17 January 2022 at the WAL HUB. The discussion focussed around the current operations of the WIFT and the infrastructure constraints at the terminal, and future opportunities for the WAL Hub.

DJPR, CEO's and MAV Forum: The CEO attended a joint State Local Government CEO virtual meeting on Wednesday 16 February 2022. Municipal Association of Victoria, Local Government and Suburban Development (DJPR) and Senior Executives from State Government attended the meeting. Strategic discussions were held on Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan, Veteran's Employment, Sex Work Decriminalisation Update and LGV update.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The CEO met (virtually) with the neighbouring CEO's on Friday 18 February 2022. The group received an update from Chris Sounness (WDA). Marianne Hendron (Women's Health Grampians) spoke to the group about Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Leadership Group.

Funding Opportunities:

- Sport and Recreation Victoria – Local Sports Infrastructure fund - annual program – Female Friendly City Oval Netball application submitted 7 February 2022
- Regional Tourism Investment Fund (VIC) – application for City Oval Events Stage submitted 14 January 2022
- Building Better Regions Fund (Round 6) – application for \$12.8million City Oval Stage 1 project submitted 10 February

B. Community Engagement

Australia Day Celebrations: Council hosted the Australia Day event at Sawyer Park on Wednesday 26 January 2022. A free BBQ breakfast was supplied by the combined service clubs before the official ceremony which started at 8am with a Welcome to Country by Aboriginal Elder Anne Moore, raising of the National Flag, singing the National Anthem, Citizenship Ceremony led by the Mayor, address by Ambassador Christine Nixon, AO APM followed by the presentation of the 2022 Australia Day Awards.

Concept Plan for Anzac Park: On Saturday (5 February) members of the Haven Recreation Reserve Community Reference Group (CRG) attended the Haven market to gain feedback on the draft concept plan for Anzac Park. Anzac Park is located along Henty Highway and the vision of the CRG is that Park become a welcoming (green and shaded) entrance to the Haven Recreation Reserve. Although the Haven Market was quieter than usual, the HRCC marquee was busy all morning with strong enthusiasm for proposed improvements at the Park.

C. Projects and Events

Exhibition Opening: The Horsham Regional Art Gallery held an Exhibition Opening for Fertile Ground on Friday 18 February. Fertile Ground brings together nine artists who use food as an entry point to discuss urgent political, societal and environmental issues. These artists offer food as a tool for activism, cultural exchange, repositories of history and visions for the future. Interrogated through the mediums of photography, video, sculpture and mixed media installation, Fertile Ground enables new perspectives and explorations in social space and thinking.

Horsham Nature and Water Play Park: Council has secured \$2.45 million from State and Federal Governments to fully fund the region's first Nature and Water Play Park. This project is the second funded stage of the Riverfront Activation Project and construction is scheduled to commence this month and will take approximately 12 months to complete. The Nature and Water Play Park design with interactive graphics can be viewed on the Council [website](#).

Sawyer Park Public Toilets: The formwork has been removed from the roof structure and these public facilities are really starting to take shape. The installation consists of two accessible and six ambulant cubicles. Work is scheduled to be completed before the Horsham Fishing Competition in March.

City to River Works – Pergolas: Construction of the nodes commenced this week and the contractor has set out the smaller piles and driving them into the ground. Also, the construction of the pergolas will commence next week. This project contributes to the creation of a new riverfront destination and public realm at the southern end of Firebrace Street, on the banks of the Wimmera River, as part of the City to River Stage 1 Priority Works. City to River is about imagining together, talking together, working together and moving forward together. One pergola will provide a gateway entrance to the precinct – framing the riverfront from one direction and the CBD in the opposite view. The second pergola will extend and enhance the usability of the Angling Clubrooms.

Sawyer Park Health and Wellbeing Activation: The ROSP team and the staff from the Horsham Town Hall are working closely with local health and wellbeing providers to deliver free community health and wellbeing sessions every Saturday at Sawyer Park (Horsham Soundshell). Planning is well underway and the first session is scheduled to be held Saturday 5 March at 9am and continuing each Saturday through to December. These sessions will range from fitness, dancing, yoga, mindfulness and more. Funding for this program is through the Business Activation fund. These free sessions will be suitable for all fitness levels and age groups. So grab your family, friends, neighbours or someone you are yet to meet and come get moving on a regular basis with us!

Grader Story: The Hunt family from South Australia donated a grader back to Council. The grader was built in Port Melbourne by Malcolm Moore Engineering. The grader worked in the Arapiles Shire till the mid-fifties and was auctioned off and purchased by the Farley family of Goroke who eventually moved to South Australia, then the Hunt family purchased it.

The Grader was built during the Second World War years hence, due to a lack of materials, labour and all focus being on the war effort, the grader was built on top of a Fordson Major Tractor.

The Hunt family are willing to donate Fordson Major parts to get the grader operational again but it is thought that it might be better replacing old rusted out panels, tyres, removing non period parts and painting to original colours with original sign writing. It can then be fenced off, mounted on a slab and admired hopefully somewhere in the former Arapiles Shire or perhaps the entrance to the new Council depot, along with council's steam roller.

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

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 - Leadership

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for January/February 2022.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

- 25 January 2022 – ABC Wimmera radio interview (phone)
- 26 January 2022 – Australia Day celebration at Sawyer Park
- 28 January 2022 – Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter (phone)
- 28 January 2022 – Horsham & District Harness Racing Club Annual Dinner
- 1 February 2022 – 3WM radio interview (phone)
- 1 February 2022 - National Farmers Federation Regional Development Precincts proposal discussions with CEO (Virtual)
- 4 February 2022 – Met with Zach Oates from Office of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance with John Martin (Virtual)
- 7 February 2022 – Aboriginal Community Round Table (virtual)
- 15 February 2022 – HRCC Community Grant Information Session (virtual)
- 16 February 2022 – Met with Liam Sloan, Pro Vice-Chancellor Vocational Education and Training, Chief Executive Federation TAFE
- 17 February 2022 – Regional Cities Victoria meeting (virtual)
- 17 February 2022 – Met with Don Pirouet, Horsham RSL President
- 18 February 2022 – Darwin Defenders Commemoration Service
- 18 February 2022 – Rail Freight Alliance AGM (virtual)
- 18 February 2022 – Fertile Ground, Art Exhibition Opening
- 22 February 2022 – WDA Inc Board Meeting (virtual)
- 23 February 2022 – CWA West Wimmera Group AGM
- 23 February 2022 – RFI & TCPA - Rail as a Catalyst for Regional Growth (webinar)
- 23 February 2022 – Met with Sophie Baldwin, Independent Candidate for Mallee with CEO
- 24 February 2022 – Ovarian Cancer Australia morning tea
- 24 February 2022 – Ss Michael & Johns PS - Grade 3 & 4 - Talk about Local Government
- 24 February 2022 – Lutheran Rest Home Dinner
- 25 February 2022 – Met Paul Duggan - Grampians Community Power Hub with CEO (virtual)
- 27 February 2022 – Horsham Pacing Cup luncheon

Cr Penny Flynn

- 26 January 2022 – Australia Day Celebrations - Sawyer Park
- 17 February 2022 – A Discussion into the Cultural Review – ALGWA Vic – Online
- 18 February 2022 – Exhibition Opening Event - Fertile Ground – Horsham Regional Art Gallery

Cr David Bowe

- 4 February 2022 - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - Governance Advisory Network Meeting – (Virtual via zoom)
- 7 February 2022 - Council briefing meeting (Virtual via zoom)
- 14 February 2022 - Council briefing meeting (Virtual via zoom)
- 18 February 2022 - Fertile Ground Exhibition Opening Event – Horsham Art Gallery
- 21 February 2022 - Council briefing meeting (Virtual via zoom)

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 6:41pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 6:45 pm, the Council meeting resumed.

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

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 7 February 2022 at 5.15pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on 14 February 2022 at 6.00pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on 21 February 2022 at 5.05pm

Refer to **Appendix “13.1A”**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Deed of Variation of Lease – Premises: Horsham caravan Park, 190 Firebrace Street, Horsham between Horsham Rural City Council and Horsham Riverside Caravan Park Pty Ltd.

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

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 David Bowe, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

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 Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

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

CARRIED

The time being 6:47pm, the meeting closed to the public.

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 6:49pm

DocuSigned by:

Robyn Gulline

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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson