
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 March 2022.

PRESENT

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor), Cr David Bowe, Cr Penny Flynn, Cr Les Power

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Fiona Kelly, EA to CEO and Councillors.

Kath Dumesny, Angela Munn, Abby Walter (Horsham Times), Alex Darling (ABC)

PRESENT**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE****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.

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting is being livestreamed and will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as possible.

4. APOLOGIES

Cr Di Bell

Cr Claudia Haenel

Cr Ian Ross

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That the apologies from Cr Di Bell, Cr Ian Ross and 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 in the Council Chambers and livestreamed at 5.30pm on 28 February 2022 be adopted.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chambers and livestreamed at 5.30pm on 28 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, Mayor declared a Conflict of Interest at item 9.1, Memorandum of Understanding between Horsham Rural City Council and WIM Resource Pty Ltd for the Avonbank Project. Cr Gulline provided a completed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM ANGELA MUNN OF HORSHAM

Question 1:

IAP2 level 4 (collaboration) is/has recently been provided for the communities of Haven, Natimuk, Sunnyside and even the Horsham skate park. Is there any reason that IAP2 Level 4 (collaboration) for the Horsham North planning should not occur?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

Council's community reference group engagement model which aligns with Collaboration on the IAP2 spectrum occurs where planning is either at the precinct or project level. In regards to the Horsham North Area Plan this is a higher level plan.

To be noted is that Council has extended the timeframe for community engagement on the plan to the end of April. There will also be a workshop conducted with the Horsham North community in early May. This will enable involvement of the community in finalising the draft plan before being presented back to Council.

Question 2:

With reference to Horsham North: There is no lighting for pedestrians along the pathway on the western side of Dooen Rd, or when crossing over the railway tracks. This is a huge safety issue, particularly for women. It is especially disconcerting, knowing that this has been acknowledged and installed in other areas, including funding being allocated for the Hamilton St bridge project. I would hope Horsham North lighting is finalised before the Hamilton St pedestrian bridge lighting is completed. Safety is just as important to the people of Horsham North.

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

The lack of lighting on the Dooen Rd path towards the railway line has recently been identified as an issue. Budget provision for this is proposed to be included in the Horsham North Footpath Upgrade program in the 2022-23 Capital Works Program.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM BRIAN BASHAM OF HORSHAM

Question 1:

I refer to Item 9.2 in the February 2022 minutes. I was of the belief that Cr Bell's motion at Point 3 stated that Council review and discuss outstanding resolutions (refer audio at 13.38 minutes) and carried unopposed. However, I note in the draft minutes the word 'Council' does not appear in point 3. Is this a typographical error? Can it be corrected before the minutes are approved?

Response from Sunil Bhalla, CEO

The minutes for Item 9.2 are correct as per Cr Bell's motion "That Council review and discuss outstanding resolutions".

Question 2:

In the previous Council, then Mayor Mark RADFORD, obtained funding for paddle boats for the riverfront activation. I also remember an agreement being drawn up with the local APEX club to manage their use. However, several summers have gone past (excluding COVID lockdown), including this summer, and yet the paddle boats have not appeared. Is the Mayor able to indicate if the paddle boats have been purchased, and when we might see them on the river?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The peddle boats were funded through the State Government's Pick my Project initiative. They have been purchased. Unfortunately Council has not been able to secure an operator despite approaching a number of groups. After considering all relevant information, the Apex Club made a decision not to operate the peddle boats. This is mainly due to risks associated with peddle boat operations including volunteer requirements etc. There is no specific timeframe in regards to when the peddle boats will operate on the river.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM KEVIN LANE OF HAVEN**Question 1:**

Why hasn't the Council published the CAD revitalisation plans in large scale in the press to allow all residents to review in detail what they plan to do in the CBD. It needs to extend the time to respond.

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The current stage of the CAD Revitalisation project has undergone consultation since the 21st February and will now conclude at 5pm this Friday 1st April (six weeks), allowing sufficient time to provide feedback for all community members. The plans are available online and can be printed at A3 and made available upon request by community members. The Draft Streetscape plan has been available at the Civic Centre for community members to view.

Question 2:

Will the Council only be happy when they force all traffic and businesses out of the CBD through lack of parking for shoppers in the area. Foot traffic, trees and cyclists won't save them.

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

Council is undertaking the CAD Revitalisation project in order to identify streetscape and public realm improvement projects to encourage people to visit and spend time in the Horsham town centre, and to support business activity. The Horsham town centre has the potential to be an even more attractive place to visit for a wide variety of users and the project intends to improve the amenity and attractiveness of the town centre, whilst balancing parking, business and community needs.

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

Cr Robyn Gulline declared a Conflict of Interest for item 9.1 but did not leave the chair because there would not be a quorum. An alternative recommendation was put to the Council and adopted.

9.1 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL AND WIM RESOURCE PTY LTD. FOR THE AVONBANK PROJECT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/A07/000024

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

Memorandum of Understanding between Horsham Rural City Council and WIM Resource (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To endorse the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and WIM Resource, which seeks to confirm the principles of a collaborative approach, recognising the specific roles and obligations of each of the parties.

Summary

- The aims of this MoU is to ensure that:
 - the roles of each party are clearly understood and respected by both parties
 - processes are developed that will assist the parties to facilitate positive local economic and social outcomes associated with the project
 - processes and mechanisms are in place to support clear communication, collaboration and support, and these mechanisms are understood and supported by both parties
 - both parties understand and commit to providing the capacity necessary to deliver the intent of this MoU.
- WIM is a privately owned Australian heavy mineral sands (HMS) resource development company, with one of the largest portfolios of HMS projects in the world.
- The Avonbank Project is WIM's flagship project and is located 15km north of the City of Horsham.
- WIM anticipates mining the mineral sands ore body over a period of thirty-six years.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the proposed MoU between Council and WIM Resource as presented in **Appendix 9.1A** and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the MoU on its behalf.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council:

1. Pursuant to Section 67(4) of the Local Government Act 2020 establish a Delegated Committee.
2. Appoint Councillors Flynn, Bell, Power, Bowe, Ross and Haenel to the Delegated Committee to consider the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and WIM Resource, and Councillor Penny Flynn as the chair of the Delegated Committee.
3. Confirm that the delegated committee appointed by Council meet on 4 April 2022 at 5.00pm.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The MoU seeks to confirm the principles of a collaborative approach, recognising the specific roles and obligations of each of the parties.

Discussion

WIM is a privately owned Australian heavy mineral sands (HMS) resource development company, with one of the largest portfolios of HMS projects in the world. WIM's vision is to become a long-term producer of zircon, titanium, and rare earth minerals, these minerals are critical to everyday living. WIM's corporate and technical team have a proven tracked record of mine development having been involved in the development of several Australian HMS mines.

The Avonbank Project is WIM's flagship project and is located 15km north of the City of Horsham. WIM anticipates mining the mineral sands ore body over a period of thirty-six years. It will supply mineral concentrate containing zircon, ilmenite, and minor rare earth by products to offshore markets.

WIM has invested heavily in the project over the past nine years and recently completed a test pit, pilot plant, which represented a major commitment and investment by WIM shareholders to move the project into full scale development.

In addition, there are ongoing environmental and socio-economic related studies as the project moves towards the construction stage. The project is currently at a Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) or Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) stage. This advanced stage of development will enable WIM to commence a fund raising exercise from 2022.

For the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) related studies, WIM expects to complete this process in late 2021 –mid 2022. Subject to final approvals and finance, WIM plans to commence construction within the next three years.

The Avonbank Project is one of the most significant investments likely to occur in the Southern Wimmera region in the past twenty years. Economic modelling has found that there will be substantial net positive economic impacts for Horsham Rural City, the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, and the State of Victoria generally.

Options to Consider

1. Council can choose to resolve to sign the MoU
2. Council can choose not to resolve to sign the MoU

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 3 – Sustainability

3.2. A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive

3.4. A region that attracts new investment, technologies and opportunities

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The MoU seeks to confirm the principles of a collaborative approach, recognising the specific roles and obligations of each of the parties. The purpose of this agreement is for parties to develop processes to support working cooperatively and collaboratively, to maximise mutually beneficial community and economic outcomes, and ensure best environmental practice from the development and operation of the Avonbank Mineral Sands Project within the Rural City of Horsham.

9.2 HORSHAM REGIONAL ART GALLERY COLLECTION POLICY

Author's Name:	Kevin O'Brien	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Director Communities and Place	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Arts, Culture & Recreation	File Number:	F34/A03/000001

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

A: Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Policy 2018 (**Appendix 9.2A**)

B: Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Policy 2022 (tracked changes) (**Appendix 9.2B**)

C: Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Policy 2022 (clean version) (**Appendix 9.2C**)

Purpose

To adopt the updated Horsham Regional Art Gallery (HRAG) Collection Policy.

Summary

- The policy needs to be updated due to the discontinuation of the HRAG Advisory Committee as a result of the recent Committees Review process that was undertaken.
- The HRAG Trust will provide the necessary oversight in regards to accessioning and de-accessioning where it relates to objects that are under the trust's responsibility

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Policy as presented in **Appendix 9.2C**.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council adopt the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Policy as presented in **Appendix 9.2C**.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

As a result of the review of Council's Committee Review undertaken in 2021, Horsham Regional Art Gallery (HRAG) wound up its Advisory Committee in December 2021.

The Gallery Collection and Acquisition Policy refers to the Committee of Management and or Advisory Group as part of the process of managing and informing the Gallery's Collection, this policy needs to be updated.

Discussion

The policy for managing the Collection as presented has been amended/updated to reflect the new Committee structure. Approvals for Acquisitions, Donations and De-accessioning will be the primary responsibility of the Acquisitions Committee. All purchases will be communicated to the Trustees at their quarterly meetings. The Trustees distribute the funds from the Trust in areas, to enable new works to be purchased, upon the professional recommendation from the Gallery Director (Coordinator) and the Acquisitions Committee

Members of the HRAG Trust have been informed that the policy for the HRAG Collection is to be updated to reflect changes from the Committees review. Once approved by Council, the policy will be communicated to the HRAG Trust and uploaded onto the internet.

Options to Consider

- To endorse the policy as presented.
- Not to endorse the policy as presented and resolve on any changes.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Extensive engagement occurred when the committees of council were reviewed. The HRAG Trust have discussed the proposed new policy and have no issues with the proposed changes.

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

There are no risks associated with the change in the policy. The HRAG Trust will have oversight in regards to acquisitions.

Conclusion

As a result of the review of Council's Committee Review undertaken in 2021, HRAG wound up its Advisory Committee in December 2021. The policy has been updated to reflect this change where reference to the advisory committee has been replaced by the HRAG Trust and is now presented to Council for adoption.

9.3 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH REPORT

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

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for January 2022.

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 January 2022.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Report for January 2022.

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 Development, Tourism and Events. This report also includes statistical information from the Visitor Services at the Horsham Town Hall.

STATUTORY PLANNING

The proposed draft Stockton Park Estate a 56 lot subdivision has recently been placed on public exhibition in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The subdivision forms the last stage of development to the south east of Horsham city and involves an extension of Stockton and connections to Waterlink Estate to the west. Due to the flooding associated with Burnt Creek and the Wimmera River there has been ongoing discussion with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) and Council to ensure any flood risks are considered and together with advice from other authorities will form part of the assessment.



Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of January 2022 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	JANUARY 2022		JANUARY 2021	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	4	273,309	8	1,095,976
Industrial/Commercial	2	120,000	2	14,360,000
Subdivisions	1 (9 lots)	0	2 (6 lots)	
Other	0	0	3	0
Total	7	\$393,309	15	\$15,455,976

(*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 January 2022 is 82 compared to 40 in the same period in 20/21.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 48 new lots from 1 July 2021 to 31 January 2022 compared to 29 in the same period in 20/21.

BUILDING SERVICES**Building Permits Issued**

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of January 2022 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	JANUARY 2022		JANUARY 2021	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	539,020	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	1	889,000	-	-
Dwelling resiting's	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	31,975	2	9,360
Removal/Demolish	2	40,318	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	6	1,500,313	2	9,360

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

Type	JANUARY 2022		JANUARY 2021	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	2(4*)	1,109,982	6	2,478,007
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	2	118,400
Dwelling resiting's	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	6	387,593	6	257,123
Removal/Demolish	1	19,000	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	3	378,307	1	131,923
Signs			-	
Total	12	1,894,882	15	2,985,453

(*2 permits for 4 dwellings)

A total of **54** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$3,949,918** from 1 July 2021 to 31 January 2022 compared to **40** Building Permits at a total value of **\$2,725,392** in 2020/21.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **50** Building Permits at a total value of **\$18,958,417** from 1 July 2021 to 31 January 2022 compared to **65** at a total value of **\$24,337,597** in 2020/2021.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Horsham South Structure Plan

Mesh consultants has been formally engaged to commence the Horsham South Structure Plan and Phase 1 of the project (Inception and Engagement Planning) is presently underway. The project will shortly move into the technical report development phase (Phase 2) of the project. The technical reports (round 1) to be undertaken include:

- Biodiversity
- Drainage needs
- Economic and retail / industrial land use
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Land capability
- Utility and infrastructure servicing

These studies will support proposed land use changes, planning controls and infrastructure provisions for Horsham South. Relevant statutory authorities will be engaged to provide technical input into investigation scopes and feedback on draft reports prepared.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND EVENTS

PRIME Mentoring



Grampians Tourism is inviting businesses in the region to participate in the Prime Mentoring Program; an exclusive initiative which aims to provide Grampians tourism operators with business support and become PRIMED for success.

The PRIME Mentor Program is a tailored approach to tourism industry training, to support Grampians tourism businesses to thrive as they rebound from a period of extreme business disruption. The bespoke program aims to guide businesses to develop refreshed visitor experiences, aligned to their region's destination marketing strategy. Participants will receive mentoring to enhance tourism operations and marketing skills which will establish strong foundations to encourage entrepreneurship and grow reach through new partnerships in the wider tourism sector.

The mentoring program has been developed by Distinctly Tourism Management (DTM) in partnership with Grampians Tourism. The program will deliver upskilling in the following areas:

- P - Product operations for practicality, efficiency and profit
- R - Relevance to target audiences, market demand drivers, competitiveness and readiness
- I - Innovation to stand out from the crowd, find a gap in the market
- M - Marketability to be authentic to the region and their own brand
- E - Engagement with partnerships and distribution

Business Development Team – Business Visitations for the Month of Year 2022

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event interaction contacts	Event Notifications	Over all contacts for the month
January	6	5	10	5	26

2022 Visitations to the www.visithorsham.com.au website

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

Website Visitation Statistics		
Dec 21	Jan 22	Same period last year Jan 21
4,888 users (12.8% returning visitors and 87.2% new visitors to the site).	4,531 users (13.8% returning visitors and 86.2% new visitors to the site)	5,212

HORSHAM VISITOR SERVICES

With school holidays in full swing, January was typically a quieter month with many people holidaying in coastal areas and NSW and Queensland with the opening up to interstate travel. The total number of groups recorded was 173 with a total of 358 people, a 34% difference to December. The majority of groups recorded were couples followed by families of 4.

In conjunction with our visitor numbers being down, the Visithorsham web stats were 7.5% down on December.

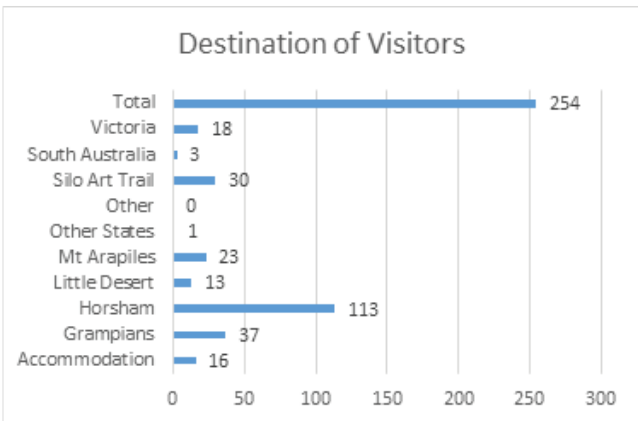
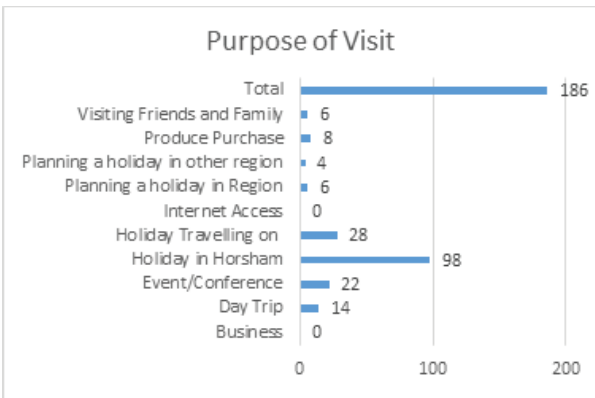
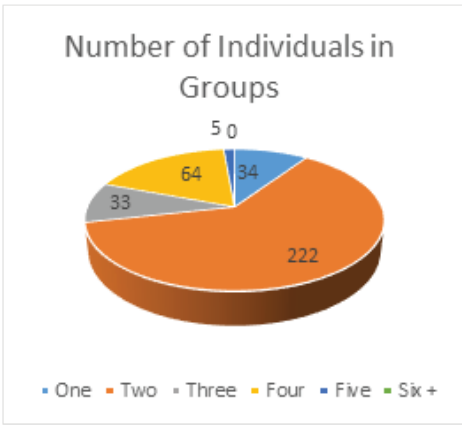
January's produce sales couldn't match December's hamper sales but considering the lower visitor numbers coming through and the usual post Christmas slump in sales due to overspending with the lead up to Christmas, they were acceptable.

The Dressmaker Exhibition in the Gallery continued to be a popular attraction for Horsham particularly on hot days being the third top purpose of visitation to Horsham.

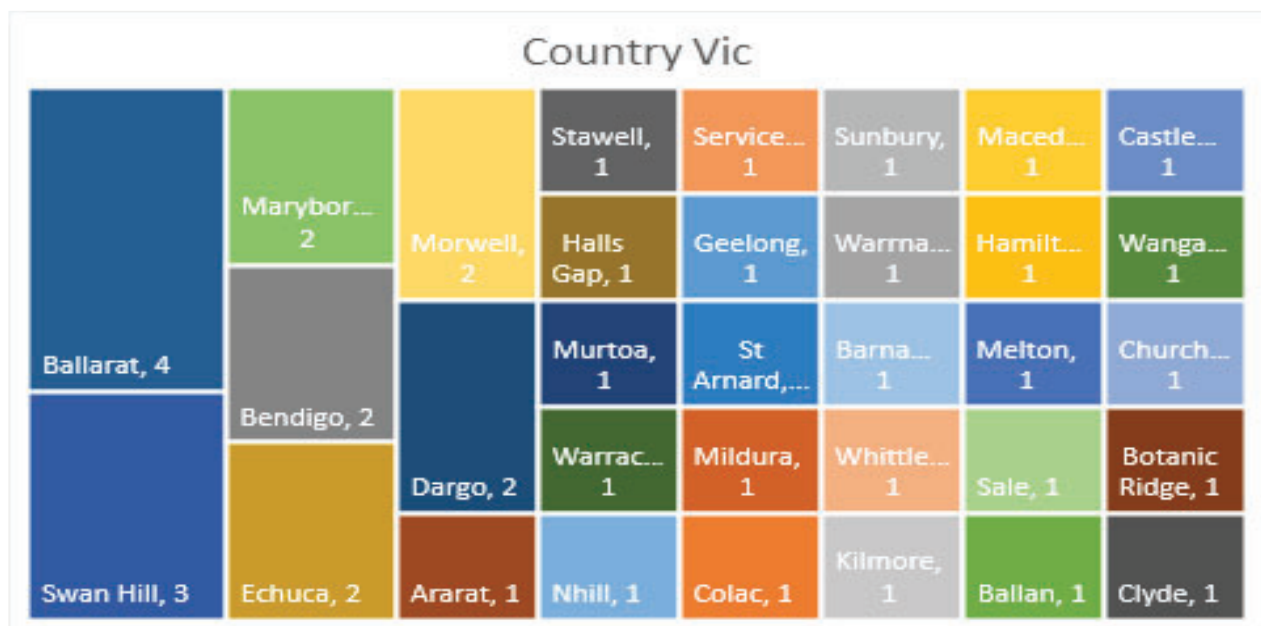
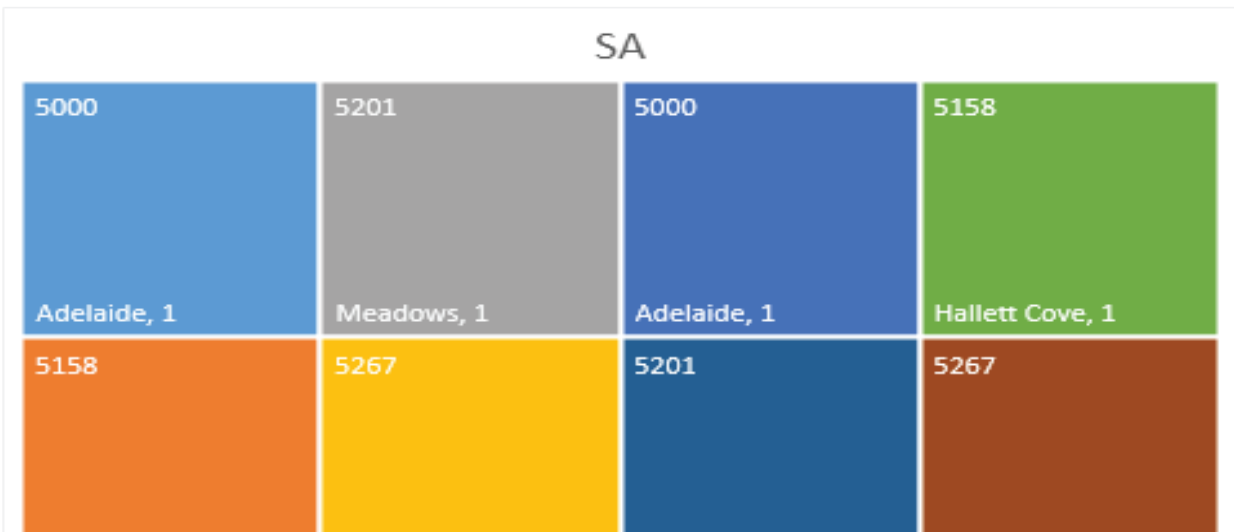
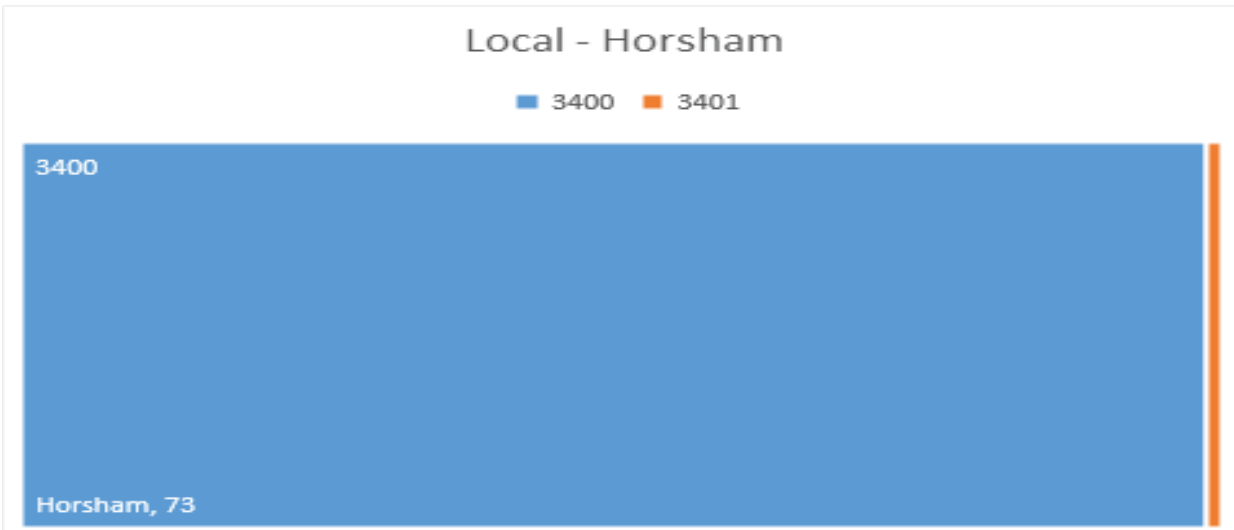
The Grampians was second most popular destination to visit after Horsham. Interestingly we had higher than usual enquiries during January from people travelling with dogs asking about places they can visit with their dogs, in particular the Grampians. As dogs are not allowed in national parks, this also led to enquiries as to what Doggie day care is available in and around Horsham.

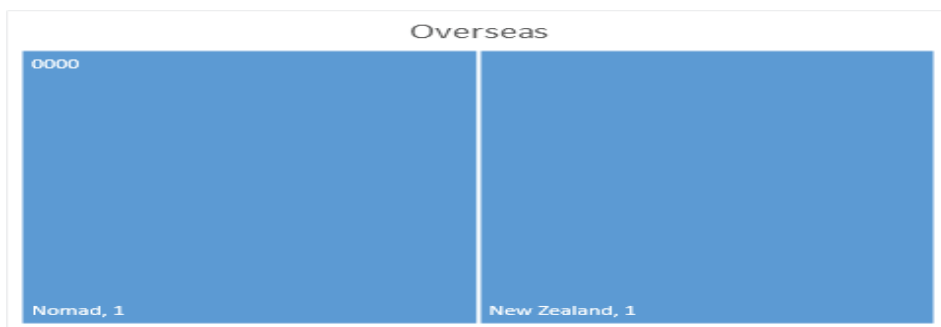
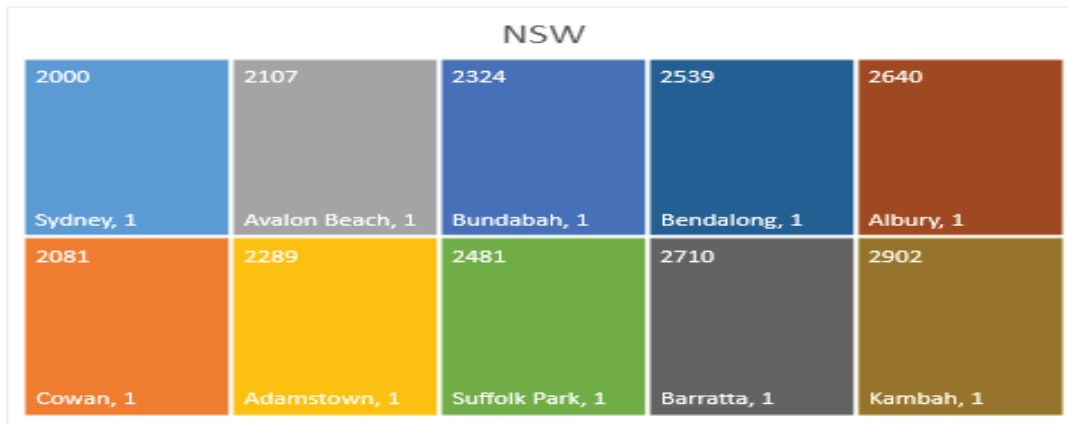
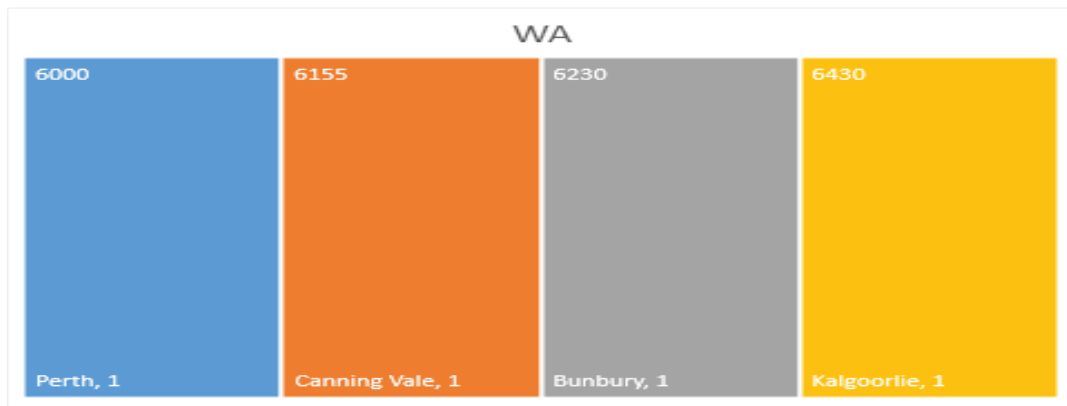
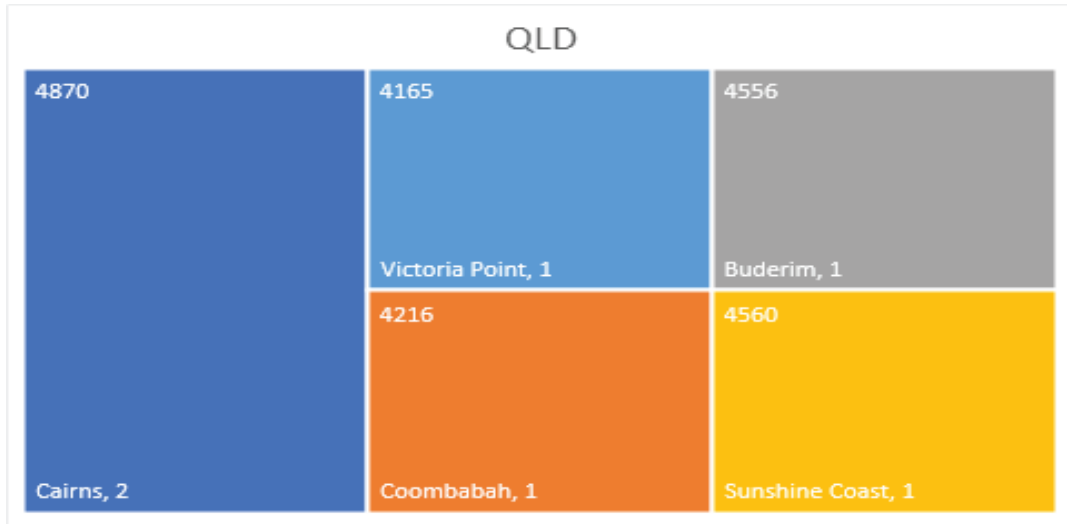
Enquiries about water activities and places you can swim in and around Horsham and the Grampians were typically higher on hot days. The Silo Art continues to be a popular trail.

	January	Previous Month	YTD (Jan-Dec)	Previous Year
Groups recorded	173	212	173	N/A
Total for individuals within groups	358	505	358	N/A
Visithorsham.com.au web visits	4531	4888	4531	N/A
Emails	396	288	396	N/A
Produce Sales	\$1776.14 (ex Tax)	\$29,135.14 (Ex Tax)	\$1776.14	N/A



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

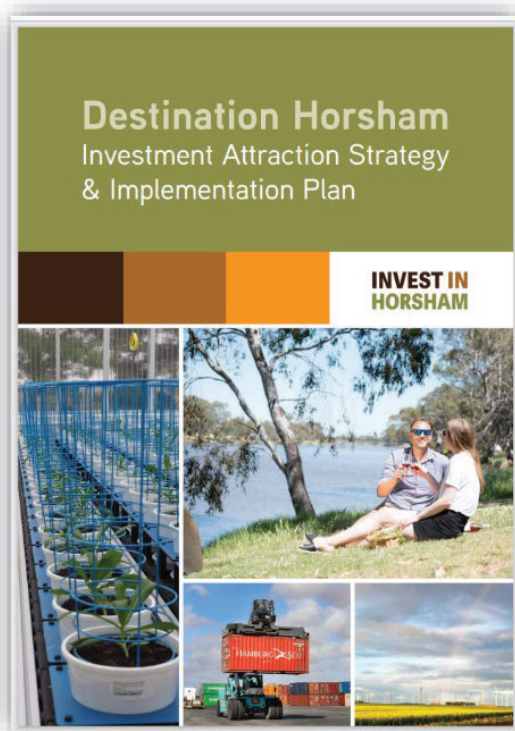




Wimmera Business Centre

Vacant Shops January figures:

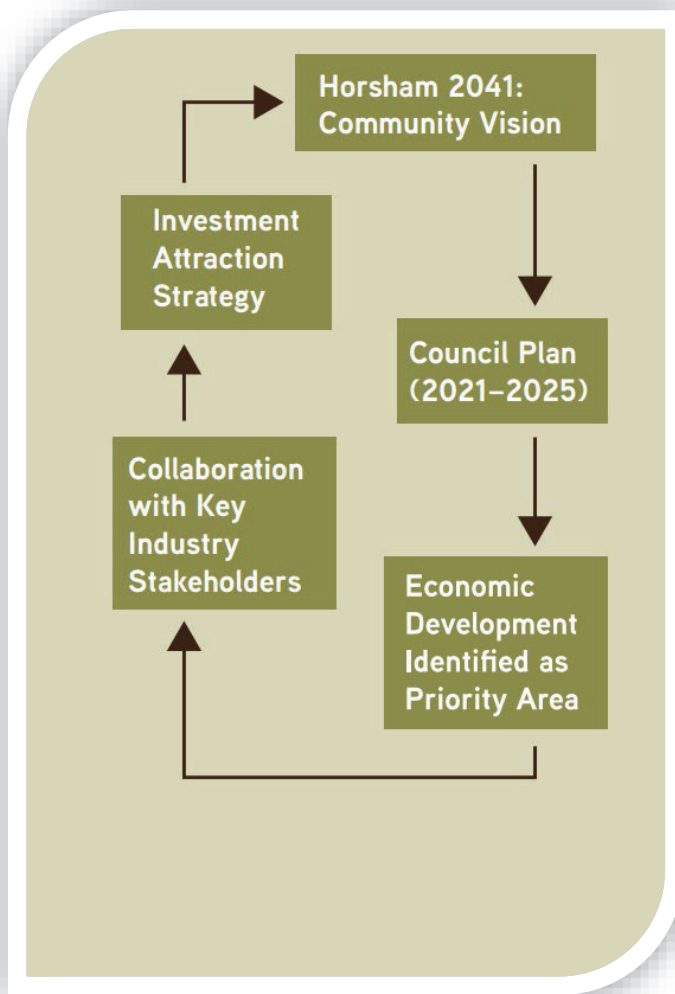
Street/ Number of Vacancies	July 2021 FY 21/22	September FY 21/22	November FY 21/22	December FY 21/22	January FY 21/22
Darlot Street	4	3	2	2	2
Firebrace Street	7	7	6	6	6
Hamilton Street	1	1	1	1	1
Wilson Street	4	4	5	5	5
Pynsent Street	5	5	2	3	3
Roberts Ave	3	3	2	2	1
McLachlan Street	1	1	0	0	0
Total	25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

Investment Attraction**Scope and Aim of the Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan**

This document's primary objective is to highlight the strengths of the Horsham region as an exciting regional area to live, work and invest. This document displays the value propositions of Horsham and aligns them with investment opportunities to fulfil the economic potential of the region. This will ensure Horsham can achieve our goal of becoming a sophisticated regional city. The value propositions will be represented within the four key investment themes of:

1. Agriculture
2. Renewable Energy
3. Commercial and Industrial Land Development
4. Tourism

The document also includes an implementation plan which outlines the proactive and effective actions that will be made on the ground. This will assist with developing outcomes for the key priority areas in the region.



Stakeholder Engagement

The Investment Attraction Strategy has used stakeholder engagement from the local community, industry leaders and small business owners. The main document used for the local community consultation process is Horsham 2041: Community Vision. The local community consultation process was used to form the vision and set objectives within the Council Plan. Within this, economic development was identified as a key priority area and highlighted within the Horsham Rural City Council Health and Wellbeing Plan. Through discussing community consultation with key industry stakeholders, this document is underpinned by the community's vision for Horsham.

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, West Vic Business and on Council's 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

Not applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable – no direct relationship or requirements

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

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

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan provides clear direction for the Investment Attraction and Growth department to deliver on the Community Vision 2041 through implementing the Council Plan's initiatives which are focused on economic development and growth.

9.4 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2022 - 2026

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/A01/000006

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

Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022-2026 (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021(**Appendix 9.4B**)

Economic Development Strategy Review December 2021(**Appendix 9.4C**)

Purpose

To receive and note the review of the Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2021 and adopt the new Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022-2026.

Summary

- A complete review of the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021 has been completed.
- The Investment Attraction Strategy development commenced with understanding the community vision for council, and the themes/strategies identified within the Council Plan 2021-2025, and how these aspects relate to investment and growth within our municipality and the wider region.
- An Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022-2026 has been developed
 - To reflect what the community told Council
 - Using Council's value propositions and current economic place-based evidence
 - With consideration for Commonwealth and State strategic planning and policies to enable opportunities to seek external funding to support initiatives and delivery of actions through the implementation plan
- The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan provides clear direction for the Investment Attraction and Growth department, in delivering economic growth for the municipality and wider region.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021 review.
2. Adopt the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 -2026 for immediate implementation.
3. Undertake further consultation with key stakeholders and the broader community to strengthen the delivery of investment and economic benefit within the municipality and the wider region.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021 review.
2. Adopt the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 -2026 for immediate implementation.
3. Undertake further consultation with key stakeholders and the broader community to strengthen the delivery of investment and economic benefit within the municipality and the wider region.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

This report is required to advise Council that the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 has been prepared in alignment with the current Community Vision 2041 and Council Plan 2021-2025. This new strategy and implementation plan clearly articulates the economic development actions relevant to Council's current economic environment and will replace the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021.

An Investment Attraction and Growth Report report is presented to Council each month which provides a summary of investment attraction and growth activities in the municipality during the reporting period.

The report covers the work undertaken across Investment Attraction and Growth department and includes Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Building Services, Business, Tourism and Events. The report also includes statistical information from the Visitor Services now located at the Horsham Town Hall.

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan is required to enable economic development activities to be undertaken using a coordinated approach, so as to gain the best benefits for Council and the community using resources in an efficient and effective matter. This enables reports to be provided to Council with measurable outcomes.

The Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021

The Economic Development Strategy had six key themes and within these themes were 20 strategies with over 60 actions to be delivered from 2017-2021.

Key Themes

1. Best Practice in Economic Development
2. Primary Industry
3. A vibrant Central Activity District
4. Public Sector Industry
5. Destination Horsham
6. Economic Infrastructure

Highlights from the Economic Development Strategy 2017- 2021

1. Best Practice in Economic Development

Improvement to the governance structure of the economic development unit with a review of the Wimmera Business Centre, Business Development and Tourism Unit, Visitor Services. A new governance model was implemented at the end of 2021 for the Wimmera Development Association. Love our Community, a project implemented through COVID-19 has ensured the Visit Horsham Website is relevant with updated business and industry information. The responsibility of the website has been transferred to Visitor Services. The Investment Attraction Strategy will continue to make relevant website information related to investment and the marketing of the Horsham municipality and its wider region.

Partnership with Wimmera Development Association and Regional Development Victoria continue to be fostered in regards to opportunities and issues faced throughout the municipality.

2. Primary Industry

Council has established an internal Investment Attraction Group which meets fortnightly to progress investment and large development projects.

Council has focused on further development of their three industrial estates, WAL Hub, Burnt Creek Drive and Enterprise Estate to make them market ready which has resulted in recent lot sales at the WAL Hub, Dooen.

Marketing material has been developed and is used in potential developer's information packs and will be used to inform Council's Investment and Business website pages.

3. A vibrant Central Activity District

Council is undergoing the CAD Revitalisation project which will be completed mid-year. The Draft CAD Streetscape plan had identified a number of themes and actions which is currently being discussed with the community.

4. Public Sector Industry

Longerenong College continues to expand and reached enrolment capacity for 2022 in November 2021.

5. Destination Horsham

The Grampians Way / Shift Region website has been established and promotes Horsham as a location to live and work with a positive lifestyle theme.

6. Economic Infrastructure

The WAL Hub site continues to be developed with the subdivision being completed at the end 2021. The land is now market ready.

For more detailed information refer to the attached Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021 (Appendix 9.4B) and the Economic Development Strategy Review December 2021 (Appendix 9.4C) which outlines the themes, strategies and actions undertaken including comments on the project outcome.

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan has four investment themes:

1. Investment Theme 1 - Agriculture
2. Investment Theme 2 - Renewable Energy and Sustainability
3. Investment Theme 3 - Commercial and Industrial Land Development
4. Investment Theme 4 - Tourism

The Investment Attraction Strategy's primary objective is to highlight the strengths of the Horsham region as an exciting regional area to live, work and invest. This document displays the value propositions of Horsham and aligns them with investment opportunities to fulfil the economic potential of the region. The document also includes an implementation plan which outlines the proactive and effective actions that will be made on the ground. This will assist with developing outcomes for the key priority areas in the region.

The four themes within the strategy communicate the current environment, what's happening on the ground, an investment vision to aspire to, why Horsham is best suited for investment related to the theme, our key attributes, impact of the investment, and potential investment and future opportunities.

The Implementation Plan for the Investment Attraction Strategy has evolved from the direction and actions as identified through Council's Community Vision. The Community Vision informed the Council Plan 2021 -2025 and its associated Action Plan. Council's Investment Attraction and Growth Department teams are responsible to deliver the Plan against set goals, timeframes, resources and budget. The annual review of the Plan ensure it stays relevant to the people of this region and continually changing environments. The actions within the plan are driven by community and stakeholder engagement, the vital key to Horsham identifying as a destination and sophisticated regional city

Investment Attraction and Growth Department teams:

1. Investment Attraction Team - Open the pathway to key developers, estate agents and other stakeholders of interest to share Council's ambition and willingness to explore the potential that already exists in Horsham while also sharing the future strategies and narrative that inform and shape future developments
2. Business Development and Tourism Team - Engage with the business community and commercial/industrial investors to understand their needs, keep them connected with Council and deliver the support required in navigating connections to the regulatory process.
3. Strategic Planning Team - Enable the sustainable growth and liveability of Horsham. This is achieved through early engagement with developers to share expectations and build shared vision. The aim is to articulate the required development outcomes and success measures that guide decision making on how Horsham is improving the quality of urban development. The Team's role is to communicate existing guiderails and policies that apply for now, while also sharing insight into the positive impact that longer term strategic planning policy and reviews will have on the future of Horsham.
4. Statutory Planning Team - case manage the technicalities of the planning and regulatory requirements related to the development and planning approvals process. The team aims to ensure early engagement clear expectations to ensure the Council's vision for quality developments in Horsham is understood upfront and opportunities are explored to bring outcomes for all

The teams also support the delivery of major projects as identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025. These projects will be further investigated and made investment ready by the Investment Attraction and Growth department and other sectors within council pending external funding opportunities.

Options to Consider

1. Receive the Economic Development Strategy Review December 2021
2. Choose not to receive the Economic Development Strategy Review December 2021
3. Adopt the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan for immediate implementation
4. Choose not to adopt the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan for immediate implementation

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement



The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 has used stakeholder engagement from the local community, industry leaders and small business owners. The main document used for the local community consultation process is Horsham 2041: Community Vision. The local community consultation process was used to form the vision and set objectives within the Council Plan. Within this, economic development was identified as a key priority area and highlighted within the Horsham Rural City Council Health and Wellbeing Plan. Through discussing community consultation with key industry stakeholders, this Investment Attraction Strategy is underpinned by the community's vision for Horsham.

Once the Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan is adopted by Council for immediate implementation, further consultation with key stakeholders and the broader community will be undertaken to strengthen the delivery of investment and economic benefit within the municipality and the wider region. This will ensure the document remains investment focused, relevant and that there is ongoing involvement from key stakeholders and the community.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council has taken a new approach in its development of the Investment Attraction Strategy. The focus has been on 'Why Horsham' with a call to action. It highlights Council's value propositions and what can be achieved now. We are open for business!

Collaboration

The development of the Investment Attraction Strategy involved one on one interviews with:

- Regional Development Victoria
- Grampians Tourism
- Longerenong College
- Representatives from retail, hospitality and accommodation sectors

-
- Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal
 - Developers

Financial Implications

The development of an Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan was identified in the Council Budget 2021/2022 and an allocation of \$40,000 to create an Investment Attraction Plan was determined.

This project has been delivered within the budget allocation and on time. The implementation plan will be delivered through established staff and financial resources or where external or other Council funds have been determined through budget processes.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

- Draft Wimmera Southern Mallee – Regional Economic Development Strategy (Consultation Draft Only)
- Regional Development Australia Grampians – Agriculture Value Add and Supply Chain Analysis September 2021 SED
- Victorian State-Wide Visitor Economy Masterplan
- Inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism and event sectors 2020
- Wimmera Southern Mallee – Invest in Victorian Agriculture and Food – August 2018

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

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.

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Economic Development Strategy 2017-2021
- HRCC Tourism Master Plan 2016-2020
- Framework for Managing Growth 2013
- Zero Net Emission Action Plan 2020
- Urban Transport Plan 2020
- Open Space Strategy 2019
- Horsham South Emerging Option Plan 2020
- Social Infrastructure Framework 2020
- City to River Vision and Master Plan 2020
- Youth Strategy 2018
- Early Years Plan 2019-2023

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan provides clear direction for the Investment Attraction and Growth department to deliver on the Community Vision 2041 through implementing the Council Plan's initiatives which are focused on economic development and growth.

9.5 DRAFT WIMMERA REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION ANNUAL BUDGET 2022-23

Author's Name:	Kevin O'Brien	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Director Communities & Place	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Not Applicable	File Number:	F11/A02/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Draft Annual Budget 2022-2023 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Purpose

To receive and note the proposed 2022-23 budget for the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation (WRLC) including Horsham Rural City Council's contribution to the library service.

Summary

- The 2022-23 Draft Annual Budget was discussed at the February Board Meeting of the WRLC.
- Horsham Rural City Council's contribution needs to be included as a line item in Council's 2022-23 Budget.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the proposed 2022-23 budget for the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation.
2. Refer Council's contribution to the 2022-23 Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Annual Budget to its budget process.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council:

1. Receive and note the proposed 2022-23 budget for the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation.
2. Refer Council's contribution to the 2022-23 Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Annual Budget to its budget process.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board considered its draft annual budget for 2022-23 on 18 February and resolved that the budget be referred to member councils for consideration in accordance with the Regional Library Agreement.

Discussion

The draft budget includes:

- Maintaining 48.5 opening hours per week in the Horsham Library;
- Outreach library services to Natimuk and Laharum;
- Collections budget, including e-resources of \$173,900;
- Maintaining a Wi-Fi environment that enables patrons and visitors 24/7 internet access;
- Wage increases of 2% minimum as per WRLC Enterprise Agreement;
- Continuation of Libraries Victoria shared consortia arrangements; and
- Continuation of State government library grants of \$192,754.00.

Options to Consider

1. Refer library budget to the 2022-23 council budget process.
2. If any significant concerns/ issues have been identified, refer the draft budget back to the WRLC Board.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The budget has been developed in consultation with key staff, Board members and Council officers. A draft version of the budget was presented at the December 2021 Board meeting.

The Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board comprises two member council representatives who have participated in the draft budget discussions. Cr Ian Ross, Kevin O'Brien (Director Communities & Place) and Janet Hall (Community Representative) represent Horsham Rural City Council and are Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board members.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The budget supports the delivery of the Library Plan which builds on the strengths of the staff, as well as moving WRLC into a position of innovative services.

Collaboration

The WRLC has two member councils that form the WRLC Board.

Financial Implications

The contribution required for Horsham Rural City Council for 2022-23 is \$536,132, an increase on the current year's contribution which is \$512,323. This is mainly due to an increase in capital required for IT resources.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

- 2021-2025 Council Plan
- 2021- 2024 WRLC Library Plan
- 2017 -2021 Health and Wellbeing Plan
- 2019 Early Years Plan

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

On an annual basis the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board considers its budget and then refers the draft budget to councils who are members of the corporation so that these councils can consider their contribution to the library corporation as part of the annual council budget process. The draft budget is based on contributions required from the two council members of the corporation.

9.6 CONTRACT: 22/014 - MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE

Author's Name:	Carolynne Hamdorf	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Arts Culture & Recreation	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Arts Culture & Recreation	File Number:	22/014

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

Refer to the tender evaluation in the confidential report on this subject.

Purpose

To award Contract 22/014 - Management and Operation of Horsham Aquatic Centre

Summary

- On June 30 2020, the current contract to manage the operations of the Horsham Aquatic Centre expired, prompting a requirement to go out to the market and seek a new contractor to deliver the service.
- The expiry coincided at a time of high social and financial instability brought on by facility closure due to the impacts and uncertainties of Covid. State government mandated closures of public facilities, including aquatic and recreation facilities severely affected the revenue and membership of the HAC.
- Prior to the contract expiry date, Council sought a Ministerial Exemption to temporarily extend the service contract with the Y for a further 12 months.
- Once granted, the Y continued to manage the operations of the HAC for a further 12 months to June 30 2022.
- In preparation of the expiration of the Exemption period, tender documents have been prepared and submitted to the market to seek expressions and interest in a new contract to manage the HAC. This was publicly lodged on 13 December 2021.
- The tender was open for approximately 5 weeks and closed on 17 January 2022.
- During this time an open site visit at the HAC was provided to any interested parties on 20 December 2020. A number of parties attended.
- At the close of the tender, two compliant submissions were received, one from the Victorian YMCA (the Y) and one from Belgravia Leisure (BL).
- This report outlines the recommendations made by the panel in the assessment of this tender.

Recommendation

That Council accept the lump sum tender from the Victorian YMCA for the management and operation of Horsham Aquatic Centre at a total cost of \$825,863.63 ex GST for a three year period, with an option for a further 2 x three year terms.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council accept the lump sum tender from the Victorian YMCA for the management and operation of Horsham Aquatic Centre at a total cost of \$825,863.63 ex GST for a three year period, with an option for a further 2 x three year terms.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The Horsham Aquatic Centre's (HAC) operation is currently contracted to YMCA Victoria (the Y). The contract is for a 12-month period, enabled through a Ministerial Exemption and negotiated monthly through a non-guaranteed arrangement.

In preparation for the Ministerial Exemption ending on 30 June 2022, contract documentation has been prepared and submitted to the market. Two responses to the tender were received, one from the Victorian YMCA the other from Belgravia Leisure.

A tender evaluation panel was established. The panel undertook the initial and independent assessment of the tenders and reviewed these collectively on Tuesday 8 February 2022. The tender submissions were aligned with Panel members individually scoring each tender submission within the framework of the weighted matrix.

The panel carried out follow up interviews with the two suppliers so that additional information could be provided to assist in the process of determining the best future service provider.

Further information was then sought through contacting the referees provided by both parties, in an effort to identify more explicit or informative points of difference.

Post the reference check process, the panel was of the belief that both candidates could competently and confidently offer a quality service and deliver the Aquatic/leisure & recreational services at the HAC.

The panel have decided to recommend the awarding the contract to the YMCA.

Options to Consider

There are two tendered options to consider. However, the evaluation, interviews and reference checks favoured awarding the tender to the Victorian YMCA for a further three year period with an option to extend a further 2 x three year periods

Sustainability Implications

As one of Council's key pieces of social infrastructure, the Horsham Aquatic Centre requires particular consideration in how it sustainably offers a range of cost effective services, especially when demand is low and future up take uncertain (due to Covid hesitancy and competition for other leisure activity explored through times of closures). The re-activation phase at the HAC has been slower than expected and variable.

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The recommended tender price is under the forecasted amount proposed in preparation for this tender which was \$300,000.00 per annum. The new contract will be a fixed lump sum amount which reduces in years 2 and 3. There will clear milestones and benchmarks to monitor and assess the delivery of the contract for the benefit of the wider Horsham community.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 2021
- Horsham Aquatic Centre Master Plan 2017
- Early Years Plan 2019-2023

Risk Implications

The position of the panel is that both tenderers are more than capable of delivering on this contract. It was good to be in a position where two strong contenders apply.

The difficulty for the panel has been in deciding who of the two could deliver the best outcomes for our community and Council, based on the assessment criteria, the interviews and the reference checks. Throughout the assessment process, the panel felt there was no clear or obvious 'winner' and that points of difference were minimal with pros and cons presented by both parties.

The re-negotiation of the new contract will need to pay close attention to caveats relating to covid and pandemics. The current HAC contract is silent on this. The Y has provided some suggested inclusions to the new contract to address this, but these will need to be looked at with appropriate legal and risk advice provided

Conclusion

That Council accepts the lump sum tender from the Victorian YMCA for the management and operation of Horsham Aquatic Centre at a total cost of \$825,863.63 ex GST for a three year period, with an option for a further 2 x three year terms

9.7 DOOEN SOLID INERT LANDFILL - REINSTATEMENT OF WASTE INTO CELL

Author's Name:	Rehan Majeed and Paul Atherton	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Acting Coordinator Waste & Sustainability and Project Manger	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Engineering and Capital Projects	File Number:	22/023

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

Refer to the appendix in the confidential section.

Purpose

To award the contract for reinstatement of waste into Cell 2B at the Dooen Landfill following the fire in that cell which started in December 2020.

Summary

- A major fire occurred at the hard waste cell 2B at Dooen Landfill in December 2020.
- The Country Fire Authority and Fire Rescue Victoria initially controlled the fire so that it was only burning within the waste mass, below the surface.
- A prolonged response was required until recently, as the fire continued to burn within the waste mass. Controlling this below surface fire was extremely challenging.
- Extinguishment of the fire required near complete removal of the deposited waste in the cell.
- The absence of any heat anomalies in the waste mass allows Council to now reinstate the stockpiled material into the constructed cell.
- The report proposes the award of the contract for the reinstatement works.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Award the contract for reinstatement of material removed from the hard waste Cell 2B back into the cell, to HED Industries, for a contract sum of \$524,800 ex GST.
2. Include a provision of this amount in the 2021-22 budget, funded by a transfer from the Waste Reserve and enable completion of these works this financial year.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council:

1. Award the contract for reinstatement of material removed from the hard waste Cell 2B back into the cell, to HED Industries, for a contract sum of \$524,800 ex GST.
2. Include a provision of this amount in the 2021-22 budget, funded by a transfer from the Waste Reserve and enable completion of these works this financial year.

CARRIED

Background

In order to extinguish a fire on the south side of the Dooen landfill in early 2021, deposited waste materials were moved from an engineered landfill cell (Cell 2B) to a temporary storage area adjacent to the cell. The volume of waste moved is estimated to be 33,500 cubic metres.

As part of EPA licensing conditions, it is now required to relocate the waste back to the cell.

A Request for Tender for *“Dooen Solid Inert Landfill, Reinstatement of Waste into Cell 2B”* was advertised between 3 March 2022 and 21 March 2022 via Council’s normal E-procure portal.

The Request for Tender invited submissions in two forms:

- Return of all waste including tarpaulins and poles to the cell, and/or
- Return of waste excluding the tarpaulins and/or poles with innovative ways to deal with the plastic and power poles.

A compulsory pre-tender meeting was conducted on 10 March 2022. The meeting was attended by three contractors.

The Request for Tender closed on 21 March 2022.

Discussion

Management of the landfill cell fire has been a painstaking and prolonged process. A single source of the fire was not able to be identified, and due to the mix of materials, the fire spread within the cell, particularly along voids created by tarpaulins and power poles.

Regular and, for most of the period, weekly communication was required with the EPA about the status of the fire. Daily temperature readings were taken, as these indicated areas where the fire was spreading.

Despite large quantities of water being applied, and excavators being used to “chase” the fire, ultimately it was required that all of the material in the cell had to be removed, other than the base layer of tyres. These tyres had been deposited there by the EPA in their clean-up of a site at Stawell. Managing the fire to avoid this tyre layer was a critical objective of the response.

This tender has now been called to reinstate the material into the cell. This is planned to be a more efficient process than the initial removal of waste, as the problematic materials – the tarpaulins and power poles – have been separated from the general waste material.

Details of the tender evaluation are presented in the appendix to the confidential report on this subject. Key points of the evaluation are:

- Tenders were submitted by two of the three companies that attended the inspection.
- The preferred tender was that of HED Industries, of Horsham, for a sum of \$524,800 ex GST.
- HED Industries also submitted a proposal for the optional scope, which included separate handling of the potentially recyclable material. The cost of that option exceeded \$1.1 million, and is not considered viable.

Options to Consider

As referenced above, plastic tarpaulins and timber poles have been segregated with a preferred goal of recovering them, rather than returning them to the cell. Processing of this material will allow for greater compaction of the cell and would achieve a preferred environmental outcome. As indicated above, the one tender that responded to this option presented a price which makes this option unviable.

Sustainability Implications

The landfill is required to be managed in accordance with strict guidelines established by the EPA to ensure protection of the surrounding environment.

Community Engagement

Nil in relation to this tender.

It is worth acknowledging again the efforts of the local CFA brigades who assisted with the initial response to the fire in December 2020.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The tender specification was developed in a manner that provided opportunities for innovation.

Collaboration

A local recycling specialist assisted with suggestions on how some of the materials may be recovered.

Financial Implications

The project is not in the 2021-22 budget but is mandatory work required to be done by Council in accordance with directions from EPA Victoria. Provision for the cost of these works has been included, retrospectively, in the budget planning process for next year, which has included an allocation in the latter part of this financial year for this work.

The impact of this works, and the earlier fire response, have been included in the long term planning for the Waste Reserve. The Waste Reserve is projected to remain sound until 2026-27, which is the year in which the next major cell construction is planned, and then quickly recovers in subsequent years.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The landfill is required to operate in accordance with the EPA guidelines.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Nil

Risk Implications

The reinstatement of the material will remove the current risk associated with the stockpiled material being outside the approved, constructed cell. The works themselves involve minimal risk.

Conclusion

Reinstatement of the removed waste from the hard waste Cell 2B is a necessary action following the fire, to comply with EPA licence requirements.

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 March 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 March 2022.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for March 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

City Oval/Sawyer Park Redevelopment: Following Council endorsement of the funding strategy for City Oval/Sawyer Park Stage 1 redevelopment, advocacy effort to secure state and federal government grant funding is continuing.

B. Community Engagement

Horsham North Issues and Opportunities Paper – Community Engagement: The Strategic Planning Unit has prepared a Draft Issues and Opportunities Paper for Horsham North that identifies some of the issues and opportunities in terms of parks, public spaces, streetscapes, and pedestrian/cyclist connectivity in Horsham North. This work isn't new and the project will pick up from previous work and community engagement that informed the Horsham North Urban Design Framework (2013) and the Rail Corridor Masterplan (2016). Both of those "strategies" or "plans" identified a number of issues and opportunities in addressing public realm and accessibility issues. Since the creation of those documents, Council has undertaken a number of projects and is in the process of undertaking current projects, including planning work for the conversion of the railway corridor for public use and also the upcoming Silo Art project. The community now has the opportunity to express their views on Horsham North and we will work together with the community to identify opportunities for improvement across the area. Feedback on the current stage of the project is due by the 1st April.

CAD Revitalisation – Draft Streetscape Plan: The CAD Revitalisation: Draft Streetscape Plan is currently open for feedback from the community and last week, the consultants visited Horsham and discussed the project with members of the community at the corner of Firebrace Street and Roberts Ave. along with Council staff and the Mayor, who also attended. Submissions are due by the 25th March, after which Council will review the feedback and the Streetscape Plan will be finalised, along with an implementation plan.

ACTIVE Horsham Sessions – Every Saturday 9am: HRCC's ACTIVE Horsham Initiative has begun with many local residents, young and old, getting involved. Week one was hosted by the YMCA who delivered a family group fitness session and weeks two and three were delivered by Planet Feelgood with Yoga and Core Training. These sessions are free to the community and a great way to get active and meet up with friends or even make some new ones. Sessions are held every Saturday at the Horsham Soundshell at 9am. Why not grab a friend or family member and head along?

Conservation management plan (CMP) for the Horsham Theatre: Council intends to undertake a conservation management plan (CMP) for the Horsham Theatre (cinema). It is a tool to help owners make sound decisions about conserving, managing and adapting a heritage building. An important aspect of the CMP is understanding the social value our community holds for the cinema to ensure we can maintain a 'sense of place' and protect what makes it special. We are seeking community input to help us record memories, experiences and attachments to the Horsham Theatre. This will assist us in our initial understanding of the intangible and non-material aspects of the theatre's cultural heritage.

C. *Projects and Events*

Wotonga Basin works: A new inlet structure is required in Wotonga Basin as part of the irrigation system re-design for the Botanical Gardens and Sawyer Park. To enable this work to be undertaken, the water level in the Basin has been dropped and a temporary earthen dam placed around the works area to protect it in case rainfall causes the water level in the Basin to rise. Council staff have been working closely with the Catchment Management Authority to ensure appropriate controls are in place to protect the river. The construction of the inlet structure is expected to be complete in the next week, with the temporary earthen dam removed the following week.

Microsurfacing: Council's contractor has been undertaking microsurfacing roadworks throughout Horsham over the last week. Microsurfacing is used to seal the road from moisture and correct pavement shape, maintain the existing road integrity and extend road pavement longevity. This work is expected to continue in local streets for another week. Initially, the newly paved surface may seem coarser and more inconvenient due to the loose stones flicking the tyres; however, this is an important part of the process and we ask for your patience while the pavement cures. The street will be swept 2-4 weeks after being paved.

Otta Sealing: Otta Seal is being applied to a number of rural gravel roads. This type of road surface is suitable for local traffic roads with volumes up to 100 cars per day. It provides the benefit of a sealed road at lower cost, and removes the need for regular grading of the gravel surface. Vectis Station Rd at Vectis and Winfields Rd at Laharum have recently been sealed with this treatment.

Solar Panel Installation: As part of Council's Zero Carbon Plan and continued solar power implementation on high electrical use facilities, contractors have installed solar panels at the May Park public toilets and the Horsham Aerodrome.

D. *Staff Matters*

Organisation Culture: The UniSA team will be holding workshops with staff in April to discuss the Organisation Culture survey results and explore opportunities for improvement.

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 March 2022.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

- 2-3 March 2022 - CAD Community Engagement- spent 4 hrs over 2 days in Roberts Place speaking and listening to business owners, residents and visitors about proposals to upgrade and enhance the Central Activity District (CAD). Great feedback was heard on elements they liked and those they had concerns about.
- 16-17 March 2022 - Horsham North Local Area Plan- I attended 2 community information sessions discussing the draft Issues and Opportunities Paper with residents of Horsham North, listening to their thoughts, concerns and proposals for improving the liveability, amenity and accessibility of the area.
- 20 March 2022 - Maydale Reserve improvement Official Opening- Thanks to a Federal Government grant, the Horsham Agricultural Society were able to upgrade their Maydale Pavilion, install a new public amenity and improved lighting around the reserve. I joined Dr Anne Webster MP, Member for Mallee for the official opening of the works.
- 22 and 24 March 2022- Harmony Day - I joined the Jellybeans Playgroup celebrations supported by Wimmera Settlement Services, Oasis Wimmera and Horsham Neighbourhood House; and those at the Centre for Participation. These events were an opportunity for our migrant community to share their culture, food, dress, dance and language with each other and the broader community.
- 23 March 2022 - Citizenship Ceremony (Mar 23) - It was an honour to guide 7 new Australians through the Pledge and Oath of Allegiance to Australia. Congratulations and welcome to the Australian family.

Cr Penny Flynn

- 3 March 2022 – Circular Economy Leadership Course Live Webinar (UNSSC and MWRRG)
- 10 March 2022 – Circular Economy Leadership Course Live Webinar (UNSSC and MWRRG)
- 17 March 2022 – Audit & Risk Committee Meeting – Via Teams
- 17 March 2022 – Circular Economy Leadership Course Live Webinar (UNSSC and MWRRG)
- 18 March 2022 – VLGA - Councillor Leadership Development Program – Melbourne
- 23 March 2022 – Citizenship Ceremony – Council Chamber

Cr David Bowe

- 7 March 2022 – Council Briefing Meeting (Council Chambers)
- 10 March 2022 – How to use simulation in Housing Planning (Online webinar)
- 18 March 2022 – Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) Fastrack - Councillor Leadership Development Program (Melbourne)
- 21 March 2022 – Council Briefing Meeting (Council Chambers)
- 24 March 2022 – Local Government Reform: Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) & Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Australia Global Live Panel Forum (online via Zoom)

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.10pm, the Council meeting was suspended.

RESUME STANDING ORDERS

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Standing Orders resume.

CARRIED

The time being 6.14pm, the Council meeting resumed.

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

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 March 2022 at 5:05pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on 21 March 2022 at 5:05pm

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Part 2 held on Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 5pm.

Refer to **Appendix 13.4A**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

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

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr 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 Les Power

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.16pm, the meeting closed to the public.

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 6.26pm

DocuSigned by:

Robyn Gulline

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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson