
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 23 October 2023.

PRESENT

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor), Cr Penny Flynn (Deputy Mayor), Cr David Bowe, Cr Claudia Haenel, Cr Les Power, Cr Bob Redden, Cr Ian Ross.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Kevin O'Brien, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services; Fiona Gormann, Acting Director Communities and Place; John Martin, Director Infrastructure; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Councillors.

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

Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

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

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline read the following statement:

My role as Mayor is to ensure the Council meeting is conducted in accordance with the Council's Governance Rules (sub rule 69.2). Members of the public do not have a right to address Council and may only do so with the consent of the Chair or by prior arrangement (sub rule 69.1). It is important for a successful Council meeting that the members of the gallery respect the setting and do not disrupt the meeting, particularly during the debate and discussion on Council items (sub rule 69.3). If required, as Chair, I may order the removal of any person (other than a Councillor) who disrupts the meeting or fails to comply with sub rule 69.2 (rule 70).

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 25 September 2023 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Bob Redden

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 25 September 2023 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.

Nil

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

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CLOSE



KEVIN O'BRIEN

Acting Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sarah McIvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Project Officer - Corporate Reporting	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F06/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

2022-2023 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To present the 2022-2023 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council for adoption by Council.

Summary

- The 2022-2023 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council reports on our performance for the financial year, with specific reporting against the Council Plan 2021-2025.
- The Annual Report also contains annual Financial and Performance Statements approved in principle by this Council at its meeting on 25 September 2023.

In preparing this report, the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Act (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* have been fully considered and achieved.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the attached 2022-2023 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Bob Redden

That Council adopt the attached 2022-2023 Horsham Rural City Council Annual Report (**Appendix 9.1A**).

CARRIED

Cr Claudia Haenel requested that her opposition to the motion be recorded.

REPORT

Background

Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that 'a Council must prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year'. The report must contain

- a) a report of operations of the Council;
- b) an audited performance statement;
- c) audited financial statements;
- d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement;
- e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*;
- f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Discussion

In relation to specific provisions of the legislation above, Council must provide information about the operations of the council, including the results achieved against the prescribed indicators and measures of services funded by the council. Council must also provide information on the progress of major initiatives included in the budget.

The performance statement is to present the audited results achieved against the prescribed performance indicators and measures while the financial statements present the audited financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. Both the Financial and Performance Statements were approved in principle by Council at its September meeting as recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee who considered those statements on 20 September.

The 2022-23 Annual Report presented for adoption meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Options to Consider

Under section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Annual Report must be presented by the Mayor at a meeting of Council open to the public by no later than Tuesday 31 October 2023. There is no provision for an extension or alteration of this deadline. Failure to comply with this deadline may result in a breach of the Act.

Further, the *Act* requires that Councils have submitted to the auditors, their performance statement, and financial statements, incorporated any recommended changes from the auditors and certified the documents by Tuesday 31 October 2023.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

A notice advising the public that they may inspect the 2022-23 Annual Report (including the Auditor's Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023) will be published on Council's website, and in a local newspaper as part of Council's next public notices submission.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Costs associated with production of the 2022-23 Annual Report are included in the 2023-24 Council Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 – Leadership

Strategies

1. Good governance, through leadership and connection with community
2. Good management for financial sustainability

Risk Implications

Council is required by law and as a matter of good governance to prepare an Annual Report in line with legislation and associated regulations. Failure to achieve this outcome may result in a breach of the Act and would have significant and adverse reputational impacts for Council. Further it would raise concerns with state government regulators as to the Council's ability to capably manage its financial and non-financial obligations.

Conclusion

The 2022-2023 Annual Report for Horsham Rural City Council is commended to Council for adoption.

9.2 DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Author's Name:	Daniel Rees	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Community Inclusion Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F09/A08/000001

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

Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Purpose

To seek Council's approval to establish a Disability Advisory Committee to Council to support the application of equity and access principles in Council decision-making and present an associated Terms of Reference for such a Committee for Council's consideration.

Summary

The introduction of a Disability Advisory Committee will ensure regular opportunities for HRCC staff to engage people with a disability, and amplify those voices in Council's planning and delivery of service and infrastructure projects.

Members of the Committee will have the opportunity to advocate to Council and raise issues on behalf of all people living with disability in the municipality.

The proposed Committee is structured similarly to other advisory committees. It is proposed that the new committee will meet four times a year.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve the establishment of a Disability Advisory Committee; and
2. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Disability Advisory Committee as per **Appendix 9.2A**.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Bob Redden

That Council:

1. Approve the establishment of a Disability Advisory Committee; and
2. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Disability Advisory Committee as per **Appendix 9.2A**.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

In its newly-endorsed Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026 (DAIP), Council committed to establishing a Disability Advisory Committee.

As per Council's Committee Framework, the purpose of an Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing support and advice to Council relating to a service Council provides or the operation of a Council asset. The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body, its role is to help identify key issues and provide advice to Council.

Further the Council's Committee Framework Policy provides principles for the operation of Advisory Committees. Specifically, the Principles require the following:

- 4.5.1 IAP2 level of participation – Involve
- 4.5.2 Advisory committees have a strategic policy focus.
- 4.5.3 They are community wide by sector or are a major economic operation
- 4.5.4 Representatives are skill based and/or are representing a key stakeholder
- 4.5.5 No decision-making responsibility (advisory only)
- 4.5.6 No operational or asset management responsibility
- 4.5.7 Financial management is the responsibility of Council
- 4.5.8 Meeting procedures to conform to Terms of Reference
- 4.5.9 Regular reports to Council in accordance with Terms of Reference
- 4.5.10 Staff are ex-officio members with secretariat responsibilities

Minutes will be provided to Council as per the process for other Advisory Committees and reports on specific issues will be provided as required.

Discussion

Disability is very diverse. It is important to include the perspectives of people that experience a range of different disabilities in our engagement.

Many local government authorities have a Disability Advisory Committee. Such committees ensure Councils receive advice from people with lived experience of disability, as well as others who are experts on issues relating to disability. It is also an avenue to raise the profile of people with a disability, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are highlighted. Many will otherwise face barriers to having a say and participating in civic activities.

The following groups currently provide regular opportunities for HRCC staff to engage with people with physical disabilities and intellectual disabilities:

- Wimmera Mobility Group
 - The Wimmera Mobility Group includes members that use mobility devices.
- Beyond Community Inclusion
 - This is a participation group that meets every day at Beyond Community Inclusion in Firebrace Street, Horsham, it includes participants with intellectual disability.
- General Education Class
 - This class is held at Centre for Participation and includes participants with intellectual disability.

There are no regular opportunities however, for HRCC staff to engage with people with sensory disabilities and psycho-social disabilities.

As well as gaining perspectives from a wide range of people who experience different disabilities, the Committee will also raise the profile of people living with disability within our community. It will ensure people with disability have a say on Council matters and encourage other people living with a disability to participate in civic activities.

The Committee's Terms of Reference includes membership of people with lived experience of disability, people who work in a disability-related role, and people who care for people living with disability. The Committee will consist of up to 10 members.

Once the establishment of the Committee has been endorsed by Council, a recruitment process will be undertaken throughout the rest of 2023. It is the intention that the Committee will begin meeting in early 2024.

Options to Consider

As the Disability Advisory Committee is a formal strategic commitment made by Council in its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2023-2026, any decision not to introduce the Committee would require review of the DAIP.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was undertaken during development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan including engagement with approximately 110 people. Of these:

- 21% had lived experience of disability.
- 69% were community members.
- 30% were HRCC staff.
- 20% were carers, family or friends of people that live with a disability.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

There are significant barriers that people with a disability face in this community around accessing services, accessing information, and participating in economic and civic activities. As an organisation we must establish ourselves as an example of good community inclusion practices.

The Committee will provide a platform for people with disability to be at the centre of how HRCC becomes more inclusive. It is important that we have a resource of people with lived experience of disability to support the organisation in being more innovative in relation to inclusion as well as ensuring we implement more inclusive practices.

Collaboration

Collaboration will occur between HRCC and the Committee in relation to relevant projects that HRCC are delivering.

Financial Implications

Resourcing this Committee includes staff hours to facilitate meetings, follow up on actions, support Committee members and conduct other administrative tasks.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006* (Vic) requires all Victorian councils to have a disability action plan. This identifies actions to remove physical barriers for people with a disability and also focuses on providing inclusive employment and changing community attitudes.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) requires local government authorities to provide equal access to employment, public buildings, goods, services and facilities.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 - Community

Enhance the inclusivity, accessibility and safety of our places and spaces.

2023-2026 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Action 1.1 – Establish a Disability Advisory Committee to provide feedback on Key Council projects, policies and processes.

Risk Implications

There is a reputational risk to Council if we do not establish a Disability Advisory Committee given the commitment to do so articulated in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Conclusion

The establishment of a Disability Advisory Committee will provide HRCC with an important voice in its future decisions. The Committee will raise the profile of people with a disability in our community and highlight the importance of meaningful engagement in this space.

9.3 COLLEGE OVAL PRECINCT– DETAILED DESIGN FUNDING STRATEGY

Author's Name:	Sue Sheridan/Susan Surridge	Director:	Fiona Gormann (Acting)
Author's Title:	Senior Project Manager- Strategic Projects/Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F01/A05/000001

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

Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Funding Guidelines Stream 1 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

To propose a funding application to the Commonwealth Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 1 Precinct Development and Planning.

Summary

- Council, at its meeting on 26 June 2023 resolved to:
 1. Endorse the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report
 2. Prioritise the development of an indoor sporting stadium and precinct at College Oval (Dimboola Road) as presented in the Final Report.
 3. Advance the development of schematic plans for the three precincts (Dimboola Road, Haven Recreation Reserve and Dudley W Cornell Park).
- In early September 2023, a major new funding initiative was announced by the Federal Government that provides an opportunity to gain significant funding for the detailed planning of a precinct as follows:-
 - Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP)– Precinct development and planning (Stream 1) due October 2023 (**Appendix 9.3A**).
- The fund has specific guidelines, funding criteria and documentation requirements.
- This report details the funding strategy for the major redevelopment of the College Oval precinct.
- With such a large investment into the detailed planning stage (Stream 1), Council will then be in a good position to apply for funding of the construction through a future round of the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Precinct delivery – (Stream 2), Growing Regions Fund or other Federal or State Government programs.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Support the application for Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program– Precinct development and planning (Stream 1) for the detailed planning for the College Oval precinct.
2. Approve a Council co-contribution of \$150,000 to be funded through the monies allocated for project planning in the 2023-2024 budget.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Bob Redden, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Support the application for Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program– Precinct development and planning (Stream 1) for the detailed planning for the College Oval precinct.
2. Approve a Council co-contribution of \$150,000 to be funded through the monies allocated for project planning in the 2023-2024 budget.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

At its meeting on 26 June 2023, Council resolved to:

1. Endorse the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report
2. Prioritise the development of an indoor sporting stadium and precinct at College Oval (Dimboola Road site) as presented in the Final Report.
3. Advance the development of schematic plans for the three precincts (Dimboola Road, Haven Recreation Reserve and Dudley W Cornell Park).

Council has allocated \$150,000 in the 2023-2024 budget for planning of the College Oval precinct. This funding provides an opportunity to leverage significant funding through the Regional Partnerships and Precincts program - Stream 1.

The outcome of this funding application will be known by the end of November / early December 2023. This will provide around 18 months to carry out all the consultation, detailed plans and agreements for any community groups, Horsham College and key stakeholders that require relocation as part of the concept plan.

Haven and Dimboola will both progress to Schematic plan stage (not construction plans) to seek future funding opportunities in the 2024-2025 project planning budget.

Discussion

The Regional Precincts and Partnerships program is a new grants initiative of the Federal Government. There are several key elements to this program that align strongly with the Indoor Sports Stadium and precinct at the College Oval site:

- Stream 1 is designed to support precinct plans to become investment ready
The Concept Plan for the College Oval precinct has been approved by Council and is ready to progress to 'investment ready' stage through more detailed planning and design.
- Seeks to deliver transformative investment in regional, rural and remote Australia
The facilities to be developed at the College Oval site include a regional level Indoor Stadium (including four high ball courts) and outdoor netball courts, and a municipal hockey pitch.
- Focus on a **partnership approach**, bringing together governments and communities to deliver regional precincts that are tailored to local needs and have a shared vision in how that precinct connects to the region. Establishment of a partnership is essential for application to the program.
The College Oval project features a strong existing partnership with Horsham College and the Department of Education, as well as with relevant State Sporting Associations, local community sporting groups and Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Stream 1 is targeting larger precinct planning projects with a minimum grant of \$500,000 and a maximum grant of \$5million.
The development of this precinct to 'investment ready' status will require a total cash budget of \$2.737million through two distinct phases.
Phase 1 – Schematic Design
Phase 2 – Detailed design with construction drawings and tender documentation.
This is a large scale, 18 months planning project.
- No fixed funding contribution or ratio. To be competitive Council needs to invest both cash and in-kind support for the project.

Council can leverage an existing approved allocation of \$150,000 in the 2023/2024 budget together with \$255,000 of in-kind project management (Senior Project Manager- Strategic Projects).

- Timing of application and assessment process. Stream 1 is open for rolling applications but will only be assessed twice each year. The first assessment period is in November/December 2023
With the completion of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report, Council has all documentation required to lodge an application by the end of October 2023.

The funding application (if approved) will be lodged by the end of October to take advantage of the first assessment period for the grant program.

Options to Consider

There are three locations identified in the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report for facility development. The College Oval precinct was the priority for development. The focus of the Regional Partnership and Precinct program is for the development of a precinct (not multiple locations).

Sustainability Implications

This project will provide built-for-purpose sporting and community facilities that will contain modern sustainable design features as appropriate.

Community Engagement

Development of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report involved an extensive engagement process from and involved collaboration with Horsham Secondary College, State Sporting bodies, Sport and Recreation Victoria, local sporting clubs and included current user groups. Further engagement and partnership development will occur through the funded planning project.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The redevelopment of the Dimboola Road Precinct includes a regional level Indoor Stadium (including four high ball courts) and outdoor netball courts, and a municipal hockey pitch.

Collaboration

Council staff have worked closely with Horsham College, Sport and Recreation Victoria, State Sporting associations and local clubs in the development of the Wimmera Regional Precinct Feasibility Final Report.

Financial Implications

This report contains a contribution which is currently in the 2023/2024 Council budget. As outlined below, the proposed funding strategy for the Steam 1 is:

• Regional Precincts and Partnerships (RPPP)	\$ 2,587,000*
• Project Management (In Kind)	\$ 255,000
• <u>Council (23/24 budget)</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
• Total	\$ 2,992,000

* Estimated figure only – Currie and Brown are preparing the QS for the application

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The development of the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report included collaboration with Sport and Recreation Victoria as well as a wide range of State Sporting Associations to ensure that the final report supported regional, state, and national plans and priorities.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies**2021-2025 Council Plan**

- Theme 1 – HRCC will develop the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.
- 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.
- Theme 3 – Sustainability – HRCC will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.
- Theme 4 – Accessibility – HRCC will meet community needs through connected transport networks and the provision of accessible and welcoming places and spaces.

Risk Implications

The risk of this Funding Strategy lies in the uncertainty around which funding applications will be successful in a highly competitive environment. This risk is mitigated by:

- a) Identification of the funding commitment required by Council.
- b) Good track record in successful applications with the nominated funding bodies.
- c) The progression of the planning for the College Oval precinct will not progress until sufficient funding is available.

There is some additional risk around the need for relocation of sporting groups prior to the commencement of construction (however this will be addressed in the planning stage). This is being mitigated through ongoing open and transparent discussions and following the proposed plan of relocation in the Feasibility Final Report.

Conclusion

The Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Precinct Feasibility Final Report has provided an opportunity for upgrades or the development of new sport and recreation facilities that offer physical and mental health, social, environmental, and economic benefits to the Horsham municipality and the broader region.

To provide these benefits and optimise usage by community, new and upgraded infrastructure will be designed to reflect changing sport and recreation participation trends, leisure patterns and community expectations.

9.4 HORSHAM CITY OVAL GRANDSTAND HERITAGE FINDINGS

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Fiona Gormann (Acting)
Author's Title:	Acting Director Communities & Place	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/A07/000026

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

Planning Permit NO PA2200355 – City to River – Stage 2 (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Sawyer Park City Oval Concept Plan (**Appendix 9.4B**)

Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment (**Appendix 9.4C**)

Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment - Revised (**Appendix 9.4D**)

Horsham City Oval Grandstand – Heritage Citation Report 30 August 2023 (**Appendix 9.4E**)

Purpose

To provide Council with an overview of the discussions that transpired to support the Horsham City Oval Grandstand inclusion into the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Summary

- The Heritage Study Part One (2012) and Part 2 (2014) did not include the City Oval Grandstand.
- Council received correspondence from a community member in support to retain the 97-year-old grandstand and its 97-year-old history.
- A Letter received from the Executive Director Heritage Victoria dated 10 September 2020 advised a Notice of Refusal – Nominated of Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400 to the Victorian Heritage Register.
- A Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment was undertaken by Grieve, Gillett and Anderson, in March 2022 and found the Grandstand meet Criterion A, D and G.
- The Sawyer Park City Oval Endorsed Concept Plan (**Appendix 9.4B**) (Planning Permit NO PA2200355) (**Appendix 9.4A**) identified a new grandstand with maintenance area under, terraced seating with incorporated ramped access to grandstand. May 2022.
- At the request of Council, Landmark Heritage undertook a peer review of the Horsham City Oval and Grandstand Heritage Assessment originally undertaken by Grieve, Gillett and Anderson in March 2023. They provided further information and concluded with the same conclusion that the Grandstand meet Criterion A, D and G. (**Appendices 9.4C and 9.4D**)
- As part of the Heritage Study Review 2023, Landmark Heritage were commissioned to complete a Heritage Citation for the Horsham City Oval Grandstand (**Appendix 9.4E**).

Recommendation

That Council include the City Oval Grandstand citation as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council include the City Oval Grandstand citation as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Part One and Part Two of the Heritage Studies (2012, 2014) did not identify the City Oval Grandstand as a significant building to be included within the Horsham Planning Scheme heritage overlay.

In 2019 the City to River Master Plan was finalised and the concept plan for Sawyer Park identified that the Grandstand was to be demolished and replaced with a new grandstand.

A local resident informed Council during 2019 and 2021 that in their opinion the building had heritage significance and as a result Council commissioned a Heritage Assessment on the City Oval Grandstand. This resulted in the Heritage Assessment identified Criteria A, D and G were met.

Grieve, Gillett Anderson heritage assessment found the Horsham City Oval Grandstand determined the place to be of historical and social significance. This places less importance on the physical fabric (the building) of the place, and more on the *social and historical associations* (what people do in the place) that it has formed for the community.

The planning permit PA2200355 acknowledged the historical and social association significance by endorsing the Sawyer Park Concept Plan that states:

Grandstand - Following assessment of its heritage value and limiting accessibility constraints, the Grandstand will be replaced and HRCC will investigate interpretive measures to ensure the historical and social aspects of the grandstand valued by the community are recognised. Research and oral history from stories and memories associated with the building, together with physical elements from the structure will be meaningfully and respectfully interpreted and integrated into the redevelopment.

A further peer review by Landmark Heritage concluded with the same findings.

The table below identifies the associated timelines with the City Oval Grandstand and identifying its heritage significance.

Grandstand	Date	Outcome
Heritage Study	2012 2014	Part 1 of the Heritage Study completed. Part 2 of the Heritage Study completed. (Grandstand not included in either study)
City to River Master Plan	2019	City to River Masterplan was developed. (Grandstand identified to be replaced by a new development)
Letter to Council	December 2019 -July 2021	Various submissions lodged in regards to the City Oval redevelopment. (It was determined to undertake a heritage review for the City Oval Grandstand)
Letter received from Executive Director Heritage Victoria	10 September 2020	Notice of Refusal – Nominated of Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400 to the Victorian Heritage Register.

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

Grieve Gillett Anderson Heritage report	March 2021	Grieve Gillett Anderson completed an initial review of the Grandstand and identified Citations A, D and G.
City to River Master Plan	May 2021	City to River Concept Plan was endorsed as part of the Planning Permit (PA2200355).
City Oval Grandstand site visit	December 2022	Landmark Heritage undertook a site visit of the City Oval Grandstand to further inform the Heritage Assessment undertaken by Grieve, Gillett Anderson.
Peer review	December 2022	Landmark Heritage peer review of Grieve Gillett Anderson report and identified Criterion A, D and G.

Discussion*City Oval Grandstand Heritage Assessments*

The City Oval Grandstand was determined not to have State Significance by Heritage Council Victoria after receiving a nomination to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. Heritage Council Victoria also undertook a nomination review following a request by the nominator.

Council received a copy of the Notice of Refusal for the Nominated of Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham Vic 3400 to the Victorian Heritage Register and a copy of the Request for a Nomination Review.

Council was advised that Hume City Council would undertake a nomination review on behalf of the Heritage Council Victoria. To inform this review Council was required to provide further information as a result of an RFI to Council from the Heritage Council Victoria. This information was addressed by Council on 20 October 2020.

The Heritage Assessments undertaken by Grieve Gillett Anderson Heritage determined that the Grandstand is significant in the following areas:

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of historical significance for their enduring association with the development of sporting codes, particularly Australian Rules football and cricket, and other popular recreational pastimes from around the turn of the century through to the present day. The ongoing use of the place and associations with local sporting clubs is of historic importance to the City of Horsham. (Criterion A)

Citation A is about ensuring people can come to this location and participate in sporting and social activities and gatherings.

The Grandstand is of representative significance as a good representation of this place typology, being a public facility supporting sport and other recreational and social activities. While very simple in form, the Grandstand is still largely intact beneath the current metal cladding. (Criterion D)

Criterion D is about the timber hidden under the metal cladding.

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are of social significance to the Horsham community, having provided a venue for countless sporting and recreational events since the turn of the century. It has hosted many significant events for the district, including football grand finals, and regional sporting competitions. (Criterion G)

Criterion G is about the City Oval site and the events and activities held there.

The Grieve Gillett Anderson report dated March 2021 concluded with the following:

The Horsham City Oval and Grandstand are considered to be of local heritage value, and should be considered for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay within the Horsham Rural City Council's Planning Scheme.

The assessment of significance has determined the place to be of historical and social significance. This places less importance on the physical fabric, (the building), of the place, and more on the social and historical associations, (activities that have occurred and continue to occur at the City Oval i.e. football and events), that it has formed for the community. This affords a level of flexibility in development opportunity, even if the place achieves a formal heritage listing. The continued use of the place for community recreation and socialisation is a key component of the significance that should be maintained into the future.

Notwithstanding the above, there are works that could be considered to improve the appearance of the Grandstand to reflect a more original configuration. These include replacement of the metal wall cladding with a more appropriate material, and potentially the repair / replacement of remaining timber cladding, depending on its condition; the reinstatement of timber seating in lieu of the aluminium bench seats; and the provision of interpretive material to assist in the understanding of the place's heritage value.

Planning Permit

A Planning Permit was approved in 2022, after Council had undertaken the heritage assessment of the City Oval Grandstand, for the City to River redevelopment, the endorsed plan notes the replacement of the Grandstand with the following:

It was deemed that following assessment of the heritage value and limiting accessibility constraints, the Grandstand will be replaced and Council will investigate interpretive measures to ensure the historical and social aspects of the grandstand valued by the community are recognised. Research and oral history from stories and memories associated with the building, together with physical elements from the structure will be meaningfully and respectfully interpreted and integrated into the redevelopment.

Also noted on the Planning Permit No PA2200355

- a) All work must be undertaken in accordance with DELWP Land Owner Consent.
- b) The permitted works do not include the demolition or redevelopment of the Grandstand which has been identified as of Local Significance and forms part of the Heritage Study.

The notes in the planning permit ensure that the new development is designed in a way which meaningfully and respectfully interpretive the history and stories from the Grandstand into the design elements of the new development this will include the use of the City Oval Grandstand timbers (physical fabric) into the new construction.

Landmark Heritage Peer Review 2022

Another peer review undertaken by Landmark Heritage concluded with the same findings as Grieve Gillett Anderson report. This followed a site visit of the Grandstand in December 2022.

Options to Consider

1. That Council chooses to include the City Oval Grandstand as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.
2. That Council chooses not to include the City Oval Grandstand as part of the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Sustainability Implications

The recommendation to include the City Oval Grandstand into the Heritage Study Review 2023 will not result in any adverse environmental or sustainability impacts. A future planning scheme amendment tasked with implementing the recommendations of Heritage Study Review will have positive environmental and sustainability effects as it will ensure that places of heritage significance will be conserved and that their significance can be considered at any future planning permit stage.

Community Engagement

All other heritage citations have been released for comment for six weeks. Letters have been sent to all land owners and occupiers included in a heritage citation. Due to the level of complexity of the feedback provided, submitters will be able to speak with council planning officers or Landmark Heritage. Following consultation, Landmark Heritage will review all compiled feedback, comments and submissions received during consultation and will revise heritage citations accordingly. It is also important to note that there will be other opportunities to provide feedback and submissions through the planning scheme amendment at Exhibition.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Protecting heritage will have a positive social impact as it will ensure that places of cultural heritage significance will be conserved and their significance can be properly considered early and in a meaningful way maintaining and enhancing the community's sense of place and identity.

Collaboration

Council has responded positively to a local resident and carried out its responsibility and diligence under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 by undertaken a heritage assessment, applying for a planning permit which recommends that the City Oval Grandstand be included in the Heritage Study Review 2023. Council also undertook an additional peer review of the Heritage Assessment and completed a site visit by a heritage advisor.

Financial Implications

The releasing of the heritage citations will have a financial implication for Council. Consultation with land owners and revisions to heritage citations will incur a cost as Council requires a heritage consultant to review all feedback provided, provide a response and recommend a change to a citation if necessary. A budget is included the 2023-2024 budget to prepare for and exhibit planning scheme amendments. This budget will be used to finalise Statements of Significance as well as any financial implementation associated with a future planning scheme amendment including Exhibition.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local governments have a statutory obligation to ensure that the planning schemes "conserve and enhance those buildings, areas of other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical, or otherwise of special cultural value" (Planning and Environment Act 1987). They do so by undertaking heritage studies and assessments of places thought to be of heritage value. Councils use this information to decide if a place's heritage significance is enough to warrant statutory protection through the application of a heritage overlay.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Heritage protection has been frequently raised as a high priority for the community during public consultation on a variety of plans and strategies. This feedback has influenced the development of heritage related objections and strategic directions.

Risk ImplicationsFinancial risk

Where heritage is overlooked, not adequately managed or funded, there is significant financial risk to Council, owners and communities alike. If Council does not proactively manage its heritage by allocating sufficient skilled resources and funds this can lead to wasted time and costs at a higher number of VCAT or planning panel hearings, defending inadequate action. The cost of legal representation and officer work is substantial. Additionally, Council-owned or managed heritage assets become costlier to repair over time if not properly maintained.

Risks to the public

When heritage assets are neglected and become derelict as a result of inadequate protection, management or maintenance, there may be a direct risk to the safety of the public.

Reputational risk

Communities expect Council to protect significant heritage places and assets and make good decisions about changes to heritage places. Councils must also look after their own heritage assets, including buildings, parks, monuments and gardens. Council could experience criticism in the press and negative media attention if a heritage place is demolished, inappropriately developed or if Council heritage assets are not maintained.

Criticism and negative feedback from the community

Although Council have completed a previous Heritage Study in two stages, between 2012 and 2014. A formal Heritage Amendment to implement the recommendations never actually took place. Council could experience criticism and negative feedback from the wider community due to the additional overlays and any controls proposed for properties deemed as being of heritage significance.

Conclusion

Council has met its statutory obligation to ensure that the planning schemes “conserve and enhance those buildings, areas of other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical, or otherwise of special cultural value” (Planning and Environment Act 1987) for the City Oval Grandstand by undertaking the Grieve Gillet Anderson Heritage Assessment, the Heritage Assessment Peer review, developing a draft City Oval Citation and recommending through the Planning Permit PA 2200355 that the City Oval Grandstand be included in the Heritage Study Review 2023.

Councils in Victoria are obliged to conserve places of cultural heritage significance through the preparation of heritage studies and the application of appropriate planning controls to conserve places identified in heritage studies.

The Horsham Heritage Study Review has been prepared, and Council officers will be requesting at a later date that it be adopted, and that a planning scheme amendment be prepared to give effect to the findings and recommendations of the Study.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**9.5 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Fiona Gormann (Acting)
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

Spendmapp Report August (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Purpose

To present the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for August 2023.

Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report provides the progress and outcomes achieved through the delivery of the investment attraction strategy and implementation plan during the reporting period.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for August 2023.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

That Council receive and note Item No's:

9.5 Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for August 2023

9.6 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 2023

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

Discussion

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

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan progress and key achievements for the month of August are articulated in the information and tables, as follow.

Actions are measured by goals and set timelines. The timelines are indicated by years which relate to financial years.

Year 1 - 2022-2023

Year 2 - 2023-2024

Year 3 - 2024-2025

Year 4 - 2024-2025

Year 5+ 2025+

The teams will focus on delivering actions within the current financial year whilst carrying out the necessary planning to ensure targets are meet in sequential years.

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
1.3.6 (2 year)	Implement priorities from Horsham North Local Area Plan for the Horsham Rail Corridor Project	Finalise Rail Corridor landscape plan	Draft landscape plan finalised and ready for community feedback in November.
		Finalise concept design of the Pedestrian underpass.	Completed and incorporated into draft landscape plan
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	Draft plan presented to the Project Control Group in August 23

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Spendmapp

Spendmapp report for August 2023 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

*data is from bankcard transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry

Grampians Tourism - Industry Partner Program 2023 / 2024



Image: Chris and Sam Spence – Norton Estate Wines

Marc Sleeman CEO Grampians Tourism and Gloria McRae Tourism and Business Development Officer Horsham Rural City Council, worked in partnership during the month of August meeting with our tourism businesses and new industry partners to learn more about what makes this region such a unique destination. Our region offers a truly authentic experience to our visitors.

The business visitation related to destination marketing and in turn highlighting our regions strengths by working with industry and stakeholders.

Norton Estate Wines, Westside Horsham, Riverside Caravan Park, Capital Horsham, Kalish Ashram Yoga, Happy Wanderer Holiday Resort and Mount Stapylton Wines where just a few businesses undertaken.

Business Visitations for the Month of August 2023

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event contacts	Over all contacts for the month
February	13	8	15	36
March	35	6	12	53
April	20	13	10	43
May	15	8	4	27
June	28	4	5	37
July	71	17	15	103
August	62	33	7	102
Total	244	89	68	401

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	July FY 23/24 Businesses Occupied	August FY 23/24 Businesses Occupied	August FY 23/24 Businesses Vacant	August FY 23/24 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	41	2	95%
Firebrace St - 99	90	90	9	91%
Hamilton St - 17	15	16	1	88%
Wilson St – 34	29	29	5	85%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	22	23	5	82%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	25	25	2	93%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	23	23	1	96%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	245/272	247/272	25	91%

(Businesses are determined by whether they are 1. A premises, 2. Have customers 3. Exchange money; i.e Centre Link and the Cinema are included, and the Public Library is excluded). There are four known shops that are not suitable for occupancy as they require major renovations or are being used as a secondary business not requiring a retail front. These shops are reflected in the vacant shop numbers and unfortunately reduce the percentage of occupied businesses.

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
2.1.2 (ongoing)	Design, promote, participate and support municipal activities and events as scheduled including NAIDOC, Volunteers, International Women's Day & Seniors Week	Events reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Planning underway to activate the pop up riverfront café during Summer. A series of events will be held through Dec-March.
2.7.1 (ongoing)	Identify and seek out commercial opportunities to activate the riverfront	Commercial opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	An expression of interest to operate the pedal boats has been released to the public in August.
2.8.1 (ongoing)	Support the delivery of tourism opportunities on the Wimmera River, Mt Arapiles and lakes in our region	Tourism opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	A meeting with WCMA was attended in August to engage with stakeholders with regard to a Green Lake Water Action Plan. The consultant will be looking at the whole precinct.
3.1.3 (2 years)	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan and Dadwell Bridge Community Action Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	A community meeting was held in August and it was resolved to revisit the process of forming the advisory committee. This will be decided at a public meeting in September.

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
3.2.1 (ongoing)	Work with local business leaders throughout the municipality to develop business confidence and growth	2 business forums held annually	CAD CRG identified the Town Square as their priority project.
(ongoing)	Ensure constant communication through e-mails and business newsletters with tourism operators and local businesses regarding what is happening in the region	A minimum of 10 business newsletters distributed annually 4 business forums are held annually	Two business newsletters were sent 4 and 25 August. The first newsletter received 391 opens and 21 clicks. The second newsletter received 352 opens and 52 clicks.
(yearly)	Update and audit the Council Website Business Page	The annual audit identified no outdated information	The Wimmera Business Centre page on the Council website has been updated with new information and an online room booking form.
(ongoing)	Encourage homebased and start-up businesses to expand through the Wimmera Business Centre	Having two start-up businesses per year gain support through the WBC.	The WBC spare office has just been leased by a home based business taking the next step. The WBC is now at 100% capacity. A hot desking office is in the process of being set up.
(ongoing)	Attract businesses to lease vacant shops in the Horsham city centre through the Wimmera Business Centre	Vacant shops reduced from 24 shops to 20 in the first year and maintained at or below 18 shops for the succeeding years	See table below
(ongoing)	To promote Live the Grampians Way to local businesses and engage with people who show an interest in moving to the region	Ensure every person who contacts Live the Grampians Way has received a welcome/information sheet and follow up phone call	Grampians Tourism have contracted a new marketing company to promote the existing Live the Grampians Way site and each Council will now manage their own enquiries and continue to promote the opportunity for businesses to list their vacancies on the site.

STATUTORY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING**Strategic Planning****Horsham and Natimuk Housing Strategy (including Affordability and Diversity)**

The Horsham and Natimuk Housing Strategy has commenced with the appointment of SGS Economics and Planning as the project consultants. An inception meeting undertaken in August and work has commenced on delivering the first milestone of the project which is a Technical Background report that will include a population and housing trends analysis, housing needs analysis, capacity assessment, gaps analysis and land suitability assessment. This will involve consultation with internal and external technical experts.

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Meeting

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.5.3 (2 years)	1.5.3 Engage early with traditional owners in identifying and recognising places of cultural heritage significance.	Report to Council on engagement with Traditional Owners on strategic planning projects	BGLC to undertake a consultation session for the Horsham South Structure Plan. GHD have been appointed to undertake this work with BGLC.
1.6.4 (2 years)	Implement the Horsham Heritage Study to protect buildings and places of historic cultural heritage to reinforce a 'sense of place' and celebrate Horsham's character and distinctiveness	Horsham Planning Scheme amended	A Council report has been prepared to provide Councillors with the background information and next steps for consultation.
2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy and complete an amendment to the planning scheme	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	SGS Economics and Planning have been appointed and a project inception meeting has been undertaken with the Project Control Group.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	A workshop has been undertaken in August with representatives from various state agencies and internal Council departments to seek direction on the Future Urban Structure. The workshop was well attended with representative from WCMA, GWM Water, DTP and DEECA.

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of August 2023 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	AUGUST 2023		AUGUST 2022	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	2	850,000	4	1,002,510
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	5	769,850
Subdivisions	3 (36 lots)	-	6 (69 lots)	50,000
Other	2	98,000	-	-
Total	7	948,000	15	1,822,360

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 is 10 compared to 20 in the same period in 2022/2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 38 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 compared to 71 in the same period in 2022/2023.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of **August 2023** and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	1	140,000	-	-
Dwelling resitings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	31,277	1	50,000
Removal/Demolish	2	49,247	1	22,220
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	1	63,900
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	5	220,524	3	136,120

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

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	5	2,583,500	7	3,314,952
Alterations to Dwellings	1	34,430	4	131,785
Dwelling resitings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	4	118,639	10	336,080
Removal/Demolish	1	34,980	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	6	5,579,980	7	982,116
Signs	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	17	8,351,529	28	4,764,933

A total of 8 Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of \$279,021 from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 compared to 4 Building Permits at a total value of \$150,496 for the same period in 2022/2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 29 Building Permits at a total value of \$11,804,105 from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2023 compared to 48 at a total value of \$14,677,197 for the same period in 2022/2023.

Options to Consider

Not applicable – no decision required

Sustainability Implications

Report provides overview of the 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 Southern Mallee Development, West Vic Business, and Grampians Tourism 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 Development 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

2021-2025 Council Plan: 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 monthly Investment Attraction and Growth Department report provides the opportunity to give Council and the community an insight into the projects being undertaken to grow our municipality and Horsham as a regional city.

9.6 ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Kevin OBrien	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	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 present the Acting Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 2023.

Summary

The Acting 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 Acting Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 2023.

Refer to Item No. 9.5 for Council resolution.

REPORT**Background**

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

Discussion

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

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

RCCC Board Meeting: The RCCC Board met (virtually) on Thursday 28 September 2023 via Teams.

Joint State/Local Government Monthly CEO Forum: CEOs, Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Victoria attended the forum held on Wednesday 4 October 2023. Discussions were held on the Public Intoxication Reform.

WSM Regional Partnership Mid Quarter Briefing: The Acting Chief Executive Officer attended (virtually) the WSM Regional Partnership Mid Quarter Briefing meeting on Thursday 5 October 2023. Discussions were held on the Homes Vic Housing Investments in WSM and New Housing Programs and an update was provided for the WSMD Regional Housing Initiatives.

Victorian Local Government Grants Commission: The Acting Chief Executive Officer attended the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission meeting on Tuesday 17 October 2023. Some of the items discussed included General Purpose Grants, Local Roads Grants and Trends in Grant Outcomes.

Council CEO Emergency Management Briefing- Spring Preparedness: The Acting Chief Executive Officer attended the Council CEO Emergency Management Briefing- Spring Preparedness on Wednesday 18 October 2023. Items discussed included BOM and Agency Preparedness and Relief and Recovery Preparedness.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The Acting CEO from Horsham, and CEOs from West Wimmera, Buloke and Hindmarsh met (virtually) on Thursday 19 October 2023. DJSIR discussed Flexible Local Transport Solutions.

RCV General Meeting: The Acting CEO attended (virtually) the RCV General Meeting on Thursday 19 October 2023. Victorian Executive Director from Property Council attended as a guest speaker to provide an overview of the Property Council's reaction to the Housing Statement and open discussions regarding the impact for regional cities.

Funding Opportunities:

Nil

B. Community Engagement

Natimuk Public Meeting No.2: The CEO and Mayor attended the Natimuk Public Meeting No. 2 at Natimuk on Wednesday 27 September 2023.

C. Projects and Events

Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge Opening: The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mayor and Councillors attended the official opening of the Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge on Tuesday 3 October by Senator Jana Stewart.

Citizenship Ceremony: Council welcomed 8 new citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday 4 October 2023. Countries of origin included The Philippines, Nepal and India.

NuSeed 10 Year Anniversary Event: The Mayor and Acting CEO attended the NuSeed 10 Year anniversary Event on Wednesday 11 October.

D. Staff Matters

Nil

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 - Leadership

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

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

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Acting Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for October 2023.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

Committee Representation	
02/10/23	Aboriginal Community Roundtable
13/10/23	MAV State Council meeting in Melbourne
Other Council Activities	
26/09/23	ABC Wimmera radio interview
26/09/23	Daughters of the West Graduation Ceremony
27/09/23	Natimuk Community Meeting
29/09/23	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
03/10/23	Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge Official Opening by Senator Jana Stewart
03/10/23	Pimpinio Fellowship Evening
04/10/23	Officially open the U3A Community Expo
04/10/23	Welcomed 8 new Australians at Citizenship Ceremony
04/10/23	Civic Construction Foundation Regional Forum
06/10/23	Uke Can Sing Seniors Concert at Horsham Neighbourhood House
06/10/23	Music Bingo fundraiser for Horsham Rural City Band at RSL
07/10/23	Arapiles Cycling Event – Natimuk
08/10/23	Horsham and District Orchid Society Orchid Show at Maydale Pavillion
08/10/23	Horsham Croquet Club – Come and Try day
11/10/23	Nuseed 10 th birthday of Horsham Innovation Centre
12/10/23	MAV Annual Conference and Gala Dinner in Melbourne

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
22/09/23	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group
11/10/23	ALGWA Vic Finance Subcommittee Meeting
19/10/23	Regional Cities Meeting

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

Other Council Activities	
02/10/23	Aboriginal Community Round Table Meeting
03/10/23	Official Opening of the Hamilton Street Bridge
03/10/23	Citizenship Ceremony
12/10/23	MAV Annual Conference
12/10/23	MAV Gala Dinner
13/10/23	MAV State Council Meeting
14/10/23	Opening of Horsham Spring Garden Festival
14/10/23	2023 Art Fair
14/10/23	Horsham Arts Council Production
15/10/23	100 th Anniversary Sailors Home Hall
17/10/23	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission
18/10/23	Centre for Participation AGM

Cr David Bowe

Other Council Activities	
04/10/23	Community Clubs Expo – Horsham Town Hall, attended from 10am-12noon
06/10/23	Uke Can Sing Along as part of Seniors Festival 2023 - Horsham Neighbourhood House, attended from 2.30pm-4pm
07/10/23	Horsham & District Spring Orchid Show- Maydale Pavilion, Horsham Show grounds, attended from 11.30am – 1.30pm
09/10/23	Council Briefing – Council Chambers
14/10/23	Horsham Spring Festival - Horsham Botanic Gardens, attended from 1pm-5pm
14/10/23	Rotary Club of Horsham East Art Fair – Horsham Town Hall attended from 10.50 am-11.20am
17/10/23	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission– Council Chambers
18/10/23	Gambling Harm Awareness Week - Gambling regulation in Victoria with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) – online
20/10/23	Effective Leadership in Housing - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - Tackling Victoria's Housing Crisis Webinar Series, (First of the three)- Strategies & Tools for Local Governments - online

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Other Council Activities	
27/09/23	CEO 6 monthly meeting
29/09/23	Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) survey review webinar
03/10/23	Hamilton Street Pedestrian Bridge Official Opening by Senator Stewart
04/10/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
04/10/23	Citizenship Ceremony
05/10/23	Chat with Cr. Claudia
11/10/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
12/10/23	<p>Sister Cities Conference Wyndham City Council Sister Cities Australia in partnership with Wyndham City Council 2023 National Conference Wyndham Civic Centre 45 Princes Street Werribee "Sister Cities – Linking the World Together".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Government, the State Government, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Home Affairs, the Consular Corps, the Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race – which is part of the Melbourne/Osaka sister city relationship, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, case studies of various relationships which are currently active as well as the recent establishment of a new relationship, and our international guest Taylor Marston Youth Director of Global Cities New Zealand. <p>"The Benefits of Sister City Relationships" the Hon John Brumby AO Chancellor of La Trobe University and Former Premier of Victoria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International relations and sister cities; the cultural aspects of sister cities; past, present and future of sister cities; youth involvement in sister cities; the role of the Consular Corps in sister city relationships; the twinning of parliaments; state to state relations; sister school relationships; success stories; the establishment of a new relationship and much more. If your Council has, has had, or is looking to establish a new sister city relationship, this Conference was a must. Thank you to the generosity of Wyndham City Council; this Conference was presented free of charge to Councillors, Consular Corps representatives, departmental officers, cultural and community groups, schools and interested individuals. There was also the presentation of the Sister Cities Australia National Awards at the Mayoral Luncheon held during the Conference.
17/10/23	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission meeting- HRCC Chambers
17/10/23	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
18/10/23	Alliance for Gambling Reform webinar - Gambling Harm Awareness Week - Gambling regulation in Victoria with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ron Ben-David, Deputy Chair of the Commission, VGCCC - why the VGCCC has changed has changed so much over the last year. • Scott May, Deputy CEO, VGCCC - Scott will speak to what difference those changes are making in the work of the VGCCC and how councils can be involved. • Tanya Fletcher, Head of Strategic Inquiries Unit, VGCCC – Tanya talks about how the Unit will function as a further example of recent changes at the VGCCC, and the importance of councils and the community in the success of the Unit. • With an introduction from Alliance for Gambling Reform CEO Carol Bennett • Given recent announcements in Victoria, losses to EGMs topping \$3 billion for the first time, as well as the growing focus on online gambling, we thought this was a good time to engage with councils who would like to know how they can build their capacity to lead and educate their community, and partner with other Victorian Alliance Leadership Councils to promote reform that reduces the rapidly escalating harm from all types of gambling in our communities. • Whether your community is growing more worried about gambling advertising and the various ways gambling is normalised to young people, or battling harm from EGM losses, or concerned about vulnerability to applications for venues or additional machines, getting involved with the Alliance will support both officers and councillors to respond to this public health issue that needs continued collective grass roots advocacy to shift the deep-rooted hold this industry has on decision makers • The VGCCC: New name, new paradigm - <i>Gambling regulation in Victoria after more than a year under a new model</i>. With more than 12 months of operation, the VGCCC has seen a changed approach to gambling regulation in Victoria. What does the future hold for gambling operators and how can councils work with the regulator to identify opportunities for regulatory responses, as well as reform? The VGCCC will outline how councils can (and should) play a role on behalf of their communities.
19/10/23	<p>VLGA Connect Live Panel - Children's Week Special: Child-Friendly Cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are integral to the fabric of our communities, but their ability to shape the communities in which they live is limited by the opportunities afforded to them by adults. This webinar will look at the importance of children participation, voice and representation in decision making processes and ways in which we can engage and empower children from all backgrounds to become active citizens • Host Chris Eddy will be joined by a panel of speakers to discuss how local government can work to amplify children's voices in matters that impact them • Meena Singh - Commissioner Aboriginal Children and Young People • Lauren Thomas - Senior Project Lead for Child Youth Participation Engagement - Australian Childhood Foundation Natalia Krysiak - Architect, Urban Designer and Play Consultant Cities for Play Founder

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

20/10/23	<p>VLGA Connect with Chris Eddy & Kathryn Arndt - Tackling Victoria's Housing Crisis Webinar Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • navigate recent state government announcements and the complex housing issues in their communities, featuring subject matter experts on land use and housing, short term accommodation regulations and community engagement. • provides information and best practices, facilitate discussion and answer questions to help local governments better address housing issues in our communities. • an overview of Victoria's housing crisis, the development process, barriers to more housing development and help Councillors and officials navigate their role in addressing the housing crisis • Dr Allison Stewart, Deputy CEO, Infrastructure Victoria • Melinda Jacobson, Senior Facilitator, MosaicLab • Simon Newport, CEO, Homes Victoria
23/10/23	Council Meeting

Cr Bob Redden

Other Council Activities	
27/09/23	CEO Council Meeting
03/10/23	Official Opening Hamilton St Pedestrian Bridge
04/10/23	Attend Seniors Festival Town Hall
04/10/23	HRCC Citizenship Ceremony
09/10/23	Council Briefing, Emergency management Fire Risk,
11/10/23	Art Fair Horsham East Rotary, Town Hall
12/10/23	Art Fair Horsham East Rotary, Town Hall
13/10/23	Shane Boland exhibition, Art Gallery
14/10/23	Botanic Garden Spring Festival
17/10/23	VLGA grants meeting, HRCC
18/10/23	Report on Gambling, Rebecca Peterson

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, 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 Monday 9 October 2023 at 5:00pm.

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

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 Les Power, 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

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 199

Given by Cr Ian Ross

TAKE NOTICE that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham on Monday 23 October 2023.

“That HRCC allow free parking for the Christian Community Food Centre and Legacy House”.

Background:

For many years Council had negotiated with charitable organisations that while on duty parking was free; this needs to continue.

Refer to **Appendix 14.1A** for copy of Notice of Motion.

Cr Ian Ross

CIVIC CENTRE
HORSHAM 3400
18 October 2023

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Claudia Haenel

That HRCC allow free parking for the Christian Community Food Centre and Legacy House.

MOTION LOST

Cr Claudia Haenel called for a Division of Council

For the Motion:

Cr Claudia Haenel
Cr Ian Ross

Against the Motion:

Cr Robyn Gulline
Cr Bob Redden
Cr David Bowe
Cr Penny Flynn
Cr Les Power

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.52pm, the meeting closed to the public.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

That the meeting move into open Council.

CARRIED

The time being 7.04pm, the meeting opened to the public.

Council Resolution

Moved Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

That Item No. 2 from resolution 15.1 be brought into open Council.

CARRIED

15.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

2. Confirm appointment of Mark Knights as the Independent Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a one year term.

CARRIED

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 7.05pm

DocuSigned by:

Robyn Gulline

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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline

Chairperson