
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 27 February 2023.

PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services; Kevin O'Brien, 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, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

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

4. APOLOGIES

Nil

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Cr Bob Redden requested leave of absence for the 27 March 2023 Council Meeting.

Council Resolution

Moved Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

That Cr Bob Redden be granted leave of absence for the 27 March 2023 Council Meeting.

CARRIED

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 30 January 2023 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

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 30 January 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.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM BRIAN BASHAM OF HORSHAM

Question 1

What was the total cost to HRCC for the appointment of the Monitor, including payment, and all reimbursed expenses including accommodation, travel, meals and any other expenses?

Response by Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services

Total cost to HRCC for appointment of the Monitor including all expenses and **net** of GST: \$65,779.87.

Question 2:

What will be not completed in the 2022-2023 budget as a result of the Monitor's payment and reimbursed expenses?

Response by Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services

No impact on 2022-2023 budget. Funded from unspent cash from the 2021-2022 financial year.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM DI BELL OF HORSHAM

Question 1

As Council's values include openness and transparency, can HRCC please publish a summary in the media and on the website, of all service requests lodged between January 1 and December 31 2022, and if there have been multiple requests on any single matter. Can this report also please give a summary of how many were resolved.

Response by Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services

Council is indeed committed to openness and transparency and therefore provides a summary of all service requests received on a quarterly basis. The number of requests responded to within the specified time period is also included in that reporting. Further, Council also provides details of the number of complaints received and processed in any given quarter as well. All of this information can be found in the quarterly reports located under the Council Publications page on Councils' website.

Question 2

Re the Annual Action Plan. Having been on Council I am aware that most of the budget work for 2023-2024 will have been completed by now. Can CEO Mr Bhalla please explain how has the budget been completed without the Action Plan being first completed, when the budget is needed to do the work required in the Plan?

Response by Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services

The assumption that most of the budget work for 2023-2024 has been completed by now is incorrect. Budget planning is a complex process that requires multiple iterations of budget development and review. As per previous years, the final budget development process is not completed until adoption of the Final Budget at the June Council Meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM ANNA HAWKINS OF HORSHAM**Question 1**

How many CCTV cameras are there in Horsham CAD?

Response by Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services

There are currently 36 CCTV camera devices in Horsham's Central Activity District (CAD) that are Council-owned and operated. The Public Safety CCTV System is monitored by Victoria Police under an MOU with Council.

Question 2

How many of these cameras are currently fully operational?

Response by Kim Hargreaves, Director Corporate Services

Of those cameras, 26 are fully functioning at today's date with a scheduled review for maintenance and repair in place.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM ANGELA MUNN OF HORSHAM**Question 1**

A lack of lighting on the Dooen Road path towards the railway line has been acknowledged by council as being an issue. Council proposed for works to address this safety concern to be included in the Horsham North Footpath Upgrade program in the 2022-23 Capital Works Program. This has not yet occurred. As we are now on the cusp of the final quarter of this financial year, can you please advise of when this work will be completed?

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

These works are going ahead. Quotes for the works are being obtained. The work will be undertaken very shortly, this financial year.

Question 2

I note a proposed upgrade to the footpath in Anderson Street, on the southern side, from number 22 Anderson Street back toward the railway end of the street. There is zero residential housing there. Conversely, on the northern side, the entire street is infilled with residential housing. It also has no curbing or footpath from about the same place.

Why then, would the upgrade not be applied to the northern side of the street where people live?

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

Our intention is exactly as stated in the question, the footpath will be on the north side where the residences are. We could have referred to 25 Anderson St in the budget, where this project is listed, not 22, to make this clearer. 22 Anderson St is the location from which the road is not sealed.

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CLOSE


SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9.1 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Author's Name:	Kim Hargreaves	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F14/A03/000003

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Draft Annual Action Plan (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To present the draft Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 to Council in order to make it available to the Community for feedback.

Summary

- The Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted by Council at the meeting held on 25 October 2021.
- Following extensive community engagement and feedback, the adopted Council Plan included the requirement for the development of an Annual Action Plan to detail how the initiatives and priorities identified in the Council Plan will be implemented.
- The draft Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 will be presented for community feedback upon Council's recommendation.
- Given the limited changes in this plan compared to the 2022-2023 plan, it is proposed that the plan be made available to the community for a period of two weeks to capture feedback.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the draft Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 and make it available to the public from 1 to 15 March 2023 to enable the community to provide feedback.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive and note the draft Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 and make it available to the public from 1 to 31 March 2023 to enable the community to provide feedback.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Following a comprehensive community engagement process in 2021 both the Council Vision and the Council Plan 2021-2025 were adopted by Council. Development of an Annual Action Plan was then undertaken to identify the key activities that would be implemented to achieve the priorities and initiatives outlined in the Council Plan.

Discussion

Broad consultation was undertaken with Councillors, Executive, Managers, Co-ordinators and staff to develop actions that aligned to the priorities and initiatives in the Council Plan, including measures and expected timeframes.

The initial Annual Action Plan was constructed following feedback from Councillors at several briefings in late 2021 and early 2022. This year represents the second iteration of the Annual Action Plan and will provide an opportunity to review and capture appropriate changes or additions to actions and agreed delivery timeframes.

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

The Annual Action Plan relates to all elements of Council's operations so will impact all sustainability, environmental, climate, social and economic matters.

Community Engagement

Council developed the Community Vision and Council Plan using deliberative processes with a Community Panel in 2021. Community feedback was sought and considered in the development of the Council Plan which included the Health and Wellbeing plan. The initiatives and priorities listed in the Council Plan fall under the five long-term strategic objectives and themes of Community, Liveability, Sustainability, Accessibility and Leadership.

The draft Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 represents the second iteration of the plan and outlines how Council will deliver the Council Plan to the community. It will be made available via Council's *Have Your Say* page for the period 1-15 March 2023 to enable the community to provide feedback to further inform the Plan.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The work undertaken to develop the Council Plan 2021-2025 represented a significant change from previous years and led to better connection between the community priorities and their implementation by the organisation. The addition of an Annual Action Plan to steer the implementation of the Council Plan, and provide regular reporting to the community, represented a new innovation for Council. As anticipated at adoption, the plan will naturally evolve over time as our strategic planning processes become more embedded within the organisation.

Collaboration

The Annual Action Plan was developed from the Council Plan and created in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including input from the Council and Council officers.

Financial Implications

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

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2021-2025 – all strategic objectives

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The draft Annual Action Plan 2023-2024 outlines how Council officers will implement the next phase of the Council Plan 2021-2025. Feedback from the community on the 2023-2024 plan will be sought and considered.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.2 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022 QUARTERS

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

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Quarterly Performance Report – July to September and October to December 2022 (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Purpose

To present the Quarterly Performance Report for the quarters 1 July to 30 September and 1 October to 31 December 2022.

Summary

- The Quarterly Performance Report is part of the continual improvement process of reporting back to Council and the community.
- Since the adoption of an Annual Action Plan there has been a significant change to the manner by which Council staff report progress. To best highlight the progress made against the Annual Action Plan, this report is presented as a comparative report showing the respective progress for each of the two quarters between 1 July and 31 December 2022.
- The Quarterly Performance Report brings together a range of reports including:
 - Quarterly Finance Report
 - Progress against Annual Action Plan deliverables
 - Service Performance Indicators
 - Progress against Major Projects and Capital Works
 - Councillor Expenses.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for the quarters 1 July to 30 September and 1 October to 31 December 2022 (**Appendix 9.2A**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 9.2 Quarterly Performance Report – July to September and October to December 2022 Quarters.
- 9.3 Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report
- 9.4 CEO Operational Report

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

The Quarterly Performance Report encapsulates a quarterly budget report, progress against the Annual Action Plan, the tracking of any major initiatives, Council Expenses and key data relating to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

To further support our reporting, Council has a Financial and Performance Reporting Framework in place that provides some guidance on Council's reporting processes. It states the following:

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

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

Central to Council's Quarterly Reporting Framework, are the following objectives:

- Council is committed to providing accurate, correct and quality information to the community relating to its performance
- Council is committed to providing high quality relevant internal and external reporting, in a timely manner
- Council is committed to providing regular targeted reporting to Management, its Audit and Risk Committee, Councillors and the community
- Council is committed to sound governance through the alignment of performance reporting with its strategic direction
- Performance reporting is integral to better understanding of how Council is performing in its delivery of key strategies and operations from the Council Plan.

Discussion

As a part of the continual improvement process, this report provides Council and the community with updates on progress against the Annual Action Plan 2022-2023 and other key strategic items.

The format has evolved significantly given the adoption of an Annual Action Plan with the focus now on the reporting of progress against those action items. The report also provides Local Government Performance Reporting data which is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. This information is listed as "Service Performance Indicators" within the report.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable other than any reporting included in the report on council's environmental and sustainability goals.

Community Engagement

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

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

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

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

This report is prepared using existing staff resources.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan – all aspects

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The Quarterly Performance Report provides a regular and succinct quarterly report for Council and the community to assess how Council is performing both financially and against its Annual Action Plan.

9.3 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT 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

SpendMapp Report December 2022 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Dadswells Bridge PIA Article (**Appendix 9.3B**)

Purpose

To present the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for December 2022.

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 December 2022.

Refer to Item 9.2 for Council Resolution.

REPORT

Background

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

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 December 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 with in the current financial year whilst carrying out the necessary planning to ensure targets are meet in sequential years.

Reports are presented approximately six weeks after the conclusion of each month, this enables data and statistical information to be captured within the reporting period.

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.10 (ongoing)	Undertake regular meetings between the Wimmera Development Association and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities	10 forums held per year	Meeting held in December between WDA and HRCC Investment & Business Development Team 5/10 meetings held at 9/12/22
2.8.1 (2 years)	Support the Development of Mt Zero Resort	Planning Permit decision	Referrals received from CFA and WCMA. Permit on track to being signed off mid-January.
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	A consultant will be appointed early in the new year to commence developing the masterplan.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

GRAMPIANS TOURISM – December News

Grampians Tourism had an inception meeting with our local and state government partners as they work towards a new Grampians Destination Management Plan plus four Local Area Action Plans for our regions. This work will provide direction for the development of our visitor economy and ensure the Grampians remains both compelling for visitors and sustainable for our local communities.

Next Industry Forum

Next Industry Forum for Grampians Tourism, will be held at Grampians Retreat in Dunkeld on Thursday 16 February and bring together our local government and industry partners from across the region. The afternoon session will focus on sustainable tourism and feature a range of guest speakers including an operator case study.

Wine Tourism & Cellar Door Grant

Wine Tourism and Cellar Door Grant provides funding to wine producers who add value by encouraging visitors to wine regions via their cellar door operations. Eligible producers can access an annual grant of up to \$100,000 for their rebateable domestic cellar door sales. Click below to find out more and to read through the eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions. Applications close on Tuesday 31 January at 5pm. [Grants | Wine Australia](#)

Live the Grampians Way

The December mid-month report has shown the following outcomes as at 19 December 2022:

- 86 Candidates viewed the Shift Regional website across all four councils.
- To date 17 Horsham employers have registered with Shift Regional, the business team is continually building on business registrations.

The last three months candidate's views were:

October - 92
November - 113
December - 86

Grampians site Shift Regional results:

December report indicates the top three employers seeking candidates are:

- Agriculture
- Allied Health
- Building Construction

Horsham Jobs Dashboard – view below link, it indicated that seven people applied for jobs.

<https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/6f7408f4-c2b0-4145-8e9d-ea4ccf00f44c/page/jxZPC>

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Meeting

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	Two Christmas Extravaganza events were held on 2 and 16 December. Activities included a tree lighting ceremony, market stalls, food trucks, face painting, scavenger hunt, wood turners, hot choc bar, pantomime performance of Snow White, roaming advent calendar, window display comp and more. Great feedback has been received from businesses and the community.
3.1.3 (2 years)	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	Terms of reference for a Project Advisory Committee have been drafted.
(ongoing)	Host seasonal workshop sessions with Grampians Tourism and Wimmera Mallee Tourism to organise and update our businesses and tourism operators about relevant information for the region	2 industry workshops have been hosted	Grampians Tourism hosted an industry workshop in Halls Gap on 8 December 2022.
(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	1 newsletter was sent in December. The newsletter received 370 opens and 4 clicks.
3.4 (2 years)	Provision, maintenance, or upgrade of outdoor spaces and parklet facilities	Increased foot traffic and further activation to support outdoor dining	Two charging pods have been installed on the corner of Roberts Ave and Ward St. These are being regularly used by the community.
(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	The December report indicated the following: 86 Candidates viewed the Shift Regional website across all four councils. To date 17 Horsham employers have registered with Shift Regional, the business team is continually building on business registrations.

Business Visitations for the Month of December 2022

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event interaction contacts	Event Notifications	Over all contacts for the month
January	4	3	10	5	22
February	4	6	19	10	39
March	5	41	11	4	61
April	12	8	8	6	34
May	19	4	9	11	43
June	3	25	4	3	35
July	9	30	2	2	43
August	4	3	10	8	25
September	26	2	14	12	54
October	60	30	12	14	116
November	45	12	20	9	86
December	40	10	7	3	60
Total	231	174	126	87	618

Spendmapp

December Report attached

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	November FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	December FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	December FY 22/23 Businesses Vacant	December FY 22/23 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	40	40	3	93%
Firebrace St - 99	93	93	6	94%
Hamilton St - 17	17	17	0	100%
Wilson St – 34	28	28	6	82%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	25	25	3	89%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	26	26	1	96%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	21	21	3	87%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	250/272	250/272	22	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.

STATUTORY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Planning Applications Determined

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

Type	DECEMBER 2022		DECEMBER 2021	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	1	14,263	7	2,052,200
Industrial/Commercial	1	30,000	4	190,000
Subdivisions	6 (15 lots)	3,850,000	-	-
Other	-	-	1	10,000
Total	8	3,894,263	12	2,252,200

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 is 73 compared to 74 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 154 new lots from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 compared to 41 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Building Services

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

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	DECEMBER 2022		DECEMBER 2021	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-	-		
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-		
Dwelling resitings	-	-		
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	1	30,021	2	40,210
Removal/Demolish	-	-	1	14,850
Industrial/Commercial	1	64,000		
Signs	-	-		
Total	2	94,021	3	55,060

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

Type	DECEMBER 2022		DECEMBER 2021	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	7	2,243,888	5	1,692,823
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	3	66,830
Dwelling resitings	-	-	1	65,367
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	9	185,662	11	331,409
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	1	548,548	5	7,240,228
Signs	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	17	2,978,098	25	9,396,657

A total of **18** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$1,968,436** from **1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022** compared to **48** Building Permits at a total value of **\$2,449,605** for the same period in 2021-2022.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **123** Building Permits at a total value of **\$29,319,980** from **1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022** compared to **149** at a total value of **\$37,707,261**. For the same period in 2021-2022.

Strategic Planning

Corrections Amendment

Mapping and Ordinance errors within the Horsham Planning Scheme were identified in *the 2010 Planning Scheme Review* and have become further evident through the operation of the Horsham Planning Scheme over the past ten years. The proposed amendment applies to approximately 170 parcels of land throughout the municipality. The Amendment is necessary to ensure the Horsham Planning Scheme is relevant, up-to-date, of a high quality and standard and meets the State Government's requirements. Some examples of the anomalies and errors include:

- Land being within two or three zones
- Privately owned land in a Public Land Zone
- The Heritage Overlay not being correctly applied to heritage listed properties
- Redundant Overlays
- Zones incorrectly applied

The proposed Amendment is being prepared to correct these errors to ensure the Planning Scheme can be used efficiently and effectively.

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.5 & 1.3.6 (1 year)	Develop and implement the Horsham North Local Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horsham North Local Area Plan adopted by Council • Progress report on implementation plan 	Strategic Planning officers are currently preparing the <i>Engagement Summary Report</i> .
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Technical background reports underway. Preparing to send an update to land owners.

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 Development Association, 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.

9.4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	File Number:	F06/A01/000001

Officer 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 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for February 2023.

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 February 2023.

Refer to Item 9.2 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

Joint State/Local Government CEO Meeting: The CEO attended virtually on Wednesday 1 February 2023. Presenters included Hon Melissa Horne MP, Department of Transport Executive Director Alex Green, School Crossing Supervisor Program discussions, and Local Government Victoria update.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Meeting (WSMRP): The CEO attended a WSMRP meeting on 2 February 2023 at the Grains Innovation Park. The group received updates from Regional Development Victoria and G-Net.

Rural Council's Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Board Meeting: The RCCC board met on Thursday 2 February 2023 and reviewed the progress of the project, including the change management plan and procurement activities for additional modules funded by the state government.

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Meeting: The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer attended the Regional Cities Victoria meeting on Thursday 16 February 2023. Key topics of discussion included State Budget submission, Commonwealth Games legacy, and the RCV election. Presentations included Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Property Council, the Hon Senator Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Emergency Management; Head of NBN Emily Peel update on NBN network across Victoria.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The CEO's from Horsham, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera and Buloke met on Thursday 23 February 2023. The group received an update from WDA Executive Director and discussed other current regional issues.

Funding Opportunities:

Nil

B. Community Engagement

Grampians Health AGM: The CEO and Mayor attended the Grampians Health AGM on Wednesday 22 February 2023 in Stawell.

C. Projects and Events

Community Development Grants: Applications for Horsham Rural City Council's Community Grants Program are open for not-for-profit groups to deliver projects that directly benefit residents.

Clubs and organisations can apply for a share of the funding via the HRCC website from 1 February until 28 February. The grants have been highly successful over the past 12 months with dozens of local projects worth \$210,211 allocated funding.

Hamilton Street Bridge: Work is progressing on the Hamilton Street bridge, with foundations now being installed on the west side of the river. Once installed, concrete caps will be poured on which the main bridge structure will sit.

Fabrication of the main structural elements is progressing well off-site. These will be brought to site and assembled from late-March. After installation of these elements, the remaining works will include landscaping, connecting paths and lighting.

Art Installation: The latest art installation in the heart of Horsham is now underway. Artist Jack Rowland has completed a new mural on the laneway wall of Cafe Jas in Roberts Avenue – the first of three artworks to be completed in central Horsham in the coming months. It's all part of a Horsham Rural City Council 'off-street laneway network' project funded via the Victorian Government's COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation program.

Rowland holds a BFA (Painting) from RMIT University, Melbourne. He has been exhibiting nationally and internationally including James Makin Gallery, Anna Pappas Gallery, Linden New Art, Rubicon ARI, Blindside Gallery, Flinders Lane Gallery and Kunstraum Tapir (Berlin). He is one of three HRCC-commissioned artists currently working under leading street art company Juddy Roller.

Another artist Steve Cross will paint the Roberts Avenue arcade between the businesses of Gypsy Willow and Imelda's while Jimmy Dvate will install artwork on the Ward Street facing wall of Horsham Newsagency at 38-42 Pynsent Street.

D. Staff Matters

Retirement of Heather Proctor: This week we said farewell to Heather Proctor, our Finance Manager who retired after 33 years of service to Horsham Rural City Council, and its predecessor Shire of Wimmera. Heather started as Administrative Officer with the Shire of Wimmera in 1990. Following Council amalgamations in 1995 when Shire of Wimmera combined with the City of Horsham and Shire of Arapiles to become Horsham Rural City Council, Heather was appointed as the Reporting Manager. Heather became the Finance Manager in 2005, the role she held until her last day on 24 February 2023. We thank Heather for her commitment and extensive contribution to Council over a long period of time and wish her all the best for her retirement.

Australasian Management Challenge: A team of six staff members has been registered to participate in the Australasian Management Challenge. The Australasian Management Challenge is a development program that provides real life problem solving experiences and produces outcomes that translate into relevant, tangible and enduring benefits for people, teams and organisations. The annual challenge brings Council teams together from across Australia & New Zealand. It has been described by LGPro (Local Government Professionals) as "the most cost effective, enduring and targeted professional development program available for your council's emerging leaders".

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 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for February 2023.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

Committee Representation	
6/2/23	Chaired Aboriginal Roundtable
16/2/23	Regional Cities Victoria meeting in Melbourne with CEO
Other Council Activities	
31/1/23	ABC Wimmera radio interview
2/2/23	Hosted Senator Bridget McKenzie and Emma Kealy MP for a tour of Council's key advocacy projects
3/2/23	Maroona-Portland Rail project update with CEO and Director of Infrastructure (virtual)
7/2/23	Discussion with David Walker, Local Government Inspectorate and CEO
8/2/23	Western Renewable Link: Community and Business Forum (virtual)
10/2/23	Ovarian Cancer Morning Tea at Black Pepper
10/2/23	Radio interview with Emma Elsom from 3WM
14/2/23	Former City of Horsham Mayor and Cr Bob Kirsopp's funeral
17/2/23	Darwin Defenders Commemoration Service
22/2/23	Hosted Regional Mayors meeting
22/2/23	Grampians Health AGM in Stawell

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
22/2/23	ALGWA – Finance Sub Committee – Online
Other Council Activities	
21/2/23	Councillor Workshop – Horsham Golf Club

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
8/2/23	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting – online via Zoom
17/2/23	Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Meeting – Horsham Library
Other Council Activities	
6/2/23	Council Briefing Meeting– Council Chambers
13/2/23	Council Briefing Meeting– Council Chambers
14/2/23	Funeral of Former Mayor & Councillor Bob Kirsopp – Uniting Church, Horsham
20/2/23	Council Briefing Meeting– Council Chambers
21/2/23	Councillor Workshop with Leading Teams –Horsham Golf Club

Cr Bob Redden

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
17/2/23	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting online
Other Council Activities	
6/2/23	Council Briefing Meeting online
8/2/23	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting online
13/2/23	Council Briefing Meeting online
20/2/23	Council Briefing Meeting – Council Chambers

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Les Power**

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 6 February 2023 at 5.00pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2023 at 5.00pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023 at 5.00pm

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

Mr Sunil Bhalla, CEO stated that the Council Briefing meeting notes of 6 and 13 February 2023 have a few minor alterations to be made which will be made available with the Council Minutes.

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Older Persons Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2022.

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 Ian Ross, 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 6.08pm, the meeting closed to the public.

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

That the meeting move into open Council.

CARRIED

The time being 6.25pm, the meeting opened to the public.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

That the resolutions from Items 15.1 (City Oval Netball Court Construction Contract 23-017) and 15.2 (City Oval Hocking St Reconstruction Contract 23-011) be brought into open Council.

CARRIED

15.1 CITY OVAL NETBALL COURT CONSTRUCTION – CONTRACT 23-017**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council accept the tender submitted by Locks Constructions for the lump sum of \$880,000 ex GST for the Horsham City Oval Netball Court Construction under Contract 23-017.

CARRIED

15.2 CITY OVAL – HOCKING STREET RECONSTRUCTION CONTRACT 23-011**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

That Council accept the tender submitted by MF & JL Willmore Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$566,970 ex GST for the reconstruction of Hocking St, Horsham under Contract 23-011.

CARRIED

CLOSE

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

DocuSigned by:



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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline

Chairperson