
MINUTES of the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chambers and livestreamed at www.hrcc.vic.gov.au at 5.30pm on 28 August 2023.

PRESENT

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

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, 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.

The Mayor advised that Cr Ian Ross will be participating in the meeting by electronic means. The Mayor asked Cr Ross to confirm that he could see and hear other members in attendance and be able to speak. This was confirmed by Cr Ross.

4. APOLOGIES**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That the apology from Cr Claudia Haenel be received.

CARRIED

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 24 July 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 24 July 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.

Sunil Bhalla, CEO declared a Conflict of Interest (Material) for Item No. 9.5 (Approval of Chief Executive Officer's Annual Leave and Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer). Mr Bhalla provided a completed Conflict of Interest Declaration Form. Mr Bhalla left the room at 5:57pm and returned at 6:00pm and was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place declared a Conflict of Interest (Material) for Item No. 9.5 (Approval of Chief Executive Officer's Annual Leave and Appointment of Acting Chief Executive Officer). Mr O'Brien left the room at 5:57pm and returned at 6:00pm and was absent while the matter was being discussed and considered.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM NEVILLE MCINTYRE OF MCKENZIE CREEK

Question 1

Ratepayers are continually told that the Grahams Bridge Road is a priority road to be fixed to accommodate slow moving wide farm machinery. This is especially important now with the large number of trucks using the Henty Highway. The section between Exells and Eagles Road is impassable for private vehicles, even high rise 4wd vehicles bottom out on these rutts. At the expo Councillors and staff did not think this road was a priority. Why is this still not a priority road?

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

Grahams Bridge Road is identified in Council's Rural Road Network Plan as a Proposed Farm Machinery Route. The intention of that status is to make the road an all-weather surface with sufficient vegetation clearance for large vehicles. More than 30 routes across the municipality have been identified for this upgrade, which is aimed at facilitating the movement of machinery in all weather conditions, and to reduce the need for large machines on main roads.

A proposal is currently in preparation for these Farm Machinery Route upgrades, as an input to the 2024-25 budget process. As funding becomes available, there will be further consultation to assist in identifying the priority routes for upgrades.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM ANGELA MUNN OF HORSHAM

Question 1

The officer reports- council priority 1.3.6 - on page 24 notes that the draft plan for the Horsham North Local Area plan is currently being finalised and then council will seek community feedback. How is it reasonable to call this genuine community consultation?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

1.3.6 in the Investment Attraction and Growth Department report relates to the implementing landscaping recommendations from Horsham North Local Area Plan for the Horsham Rail Corridor Project. There are a number of constraints in relation to the future development of the rail corridor therefore a draft plan is being developed based on these constraints and then this plan will be made available for community feedback.

Question 2

How many parking infringements were issued in each of (a) 2021 calendar year; (b) 2022 calendar year and (c) year to date total for 2023?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

<u>Year</u>	<u>Infringements</u>
2021	860
2022	374
2023	722 (YTD)

The total number of infringements over 2021 and 2022 calendar years have been impacted by COVID due to lockdowns, free parking, as well as a number of the previous meters not working therefore enforcement not being able to occur. With the new meters and the supporting technology including increased number of metered areas, the result has been an increase in infringements particularly in July/August after an initial 3 month grace period.

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CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 POLICY REVIEW - UPDATED RATES AND CHARGES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY AND RATES AND CHARGES DEBT COLLECTION POLICY

Author's Name:	Andrea Coxon	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance	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

Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Rates and Charges Debt Collection Policy (**Appendix 9.1B**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy, and Rates and Charges Debt Collection Policy, and rescind the COVID-19 Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Administrative Policy.

Summary

- Administrative changes have been made to both policies in accordance with *Local Government Legislative Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022*.
- A specific COVID-19 Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Administrative Policy is no longer required with all financial hardship applications able to be managed through the overarching Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**).
2. Adopt the revised Rates and Charges Debt Collection Policy (**Appendix 9.1B**).
3. Rescind the COVID-19 Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Administrative Policy.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Bob Redden, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy (**Appendix 9.1A**).
2. Adopt the revised Rates and Charges Debt Collection Policy (**Appendix 9.1B**).
3. Rescind the COVID-19 Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Administrative Policy.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy is important for Council to determine how outstanding rates will be managed in a sensitive and respectful manner where members of the community are experiencing financial hardship. It is supplemented by a Rates and Charges Debt Collection Policy that provides a charter for the efficient and effective collection of outstanding rates and charges owed to the municipality.

Since the last review of the policies, the *Local Government Legislative Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022* has received Royal Assent in August 2022. This Act makes changes to the arrangements for unpaid rates and charges, consideration of ratepayers facing financial hardship, service rates and charges, and special rates and charges. The Act also introduces a new public benefit criteria for councils to offer rate rebates and concessions.

Discussion

Council's existing financial hardship and associated policies have been reviewed as a result of the changes arising from the *Local Government Legislative Amendment (Rating Reform and Other Matters) Act 2022*. The intention of the Act is that it will:

- Support people who are struggling to pay their rates
- Address key recommendations from the Local Government Rating System Review and the Ombudsman's Investigation into how local councils respond to ratepayers in financial hardship
- Improve how councils deal with people in financial hardship and incentivise working with ratepayers early and proactively as part of their core business.
- It will also implement a fairer rating system by formalising payment plans will formalise payment plans as an alternative way for ratepayers to pay their outstanding rates and charges. This will allow for more flexible arrangements to be negotiated and agreed upon by Council and the ratepayer, especially in circumstances of financial hardship.
- The Act limits councils' use of Magistrate's Court orders for recovering unpaid rates to situations where rates or charges have not been paid for twenty-four months or longer.
- The Act also provides the Minister with the power to issue Ministerial Guidelines on how councils deal with ratepayers experiencing financial hardship which will:
 - define financial hardship
 - require early engagement with people who are struggling to pay their rates
 - set out how to undertake debt collection appropriately.

Council's relevant documents have been reviewed with the specific amendments noted below.

Document	Background	Specific amendments this review
Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy	Last reviewed and updated in June 2021 in order to reflect recommendations from the Ombudsman's review into council's management of financial hardship across the state.	Reviewed to ensure compliance/relevance with the <i>Local Government Legislative Amendment (Rating Reform and Other Matters) Act 2022</i> Administrative updates only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Co-ordinator position title • More information added in Purpose and Scope for clarity • Amend to 172 in section 4.3.4 • Section 4.3.4, approval to waive rates to be determined by Council via confidential report
Rates and Charges Debt Collection	Last reviewed and updated in June 2021 to improve its operation and adjust for the new <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	Reviewed to ensure compliance/relevance with the <i>Local Government Legislative Amendment (Rating Reform and Other Matters) Act 2022</i> Administrative changes only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Co-ordinator position title in sections 4.5 & 6, • Insert 1989 in sections 4.3 & 4.8. • Amend to 172 in section 4.3
COVID-19 Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy	Administrative Policy introduced in Aug 2020 during Covid19 pandemic	This policy was deemed temporary when implemented. All provisions are available in the Rates and Charges Financial Hardship Policy so it is recommended that this policy now be rescinded. EMT have now rescinded this administrative policy.

Options to Consider

Council could decide not to adopt the two revised policies however this option is not recommended. The intention of any policy review is to ensure Council policies are aligned to relevant legislative provisions and/or related regulatory updates. Specifics of the intention of the new Amendment Act are provided in the report so Councillors are aware of the Government's intention in relation to the changes that now apply to the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Managing the waiving of any rate payments is an important matter for Council and one that is not entered in to except in cases of extreme hardship. Granting waivers without adequate due diligence has the potential to impact on Councils rate revenue, something mitigated by this and its related policy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022*

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

This policy aligns to the principles and direction provided in Council's Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2024, the revised version of which was adopted by Council at its June 2023 meeting.

Risk Implications

There is the risk of reputational damage if Council does not manage financial hardship in a responsible and sensitive manner. There is also the potential for financial loss to Council if it does not effectively and efficiently manage financial hardship. These policies ensure Council has the appropriate framework in which to manage such situations.

Conclusion

Management of Council's rates collection can be challenging, but the policies in place ensure that Council meets its own needs to collect revenue while ensuring that any ratepayers experiencing financial hardship are afforded with opportunities to meet their financial obligations while acknowledging their current circumstances.

9.2 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2023

Author's Name:	Sarah McIvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Project Officer – Corporate Reporting	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F18/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Quarterly Performance Report: April - June 2023 (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 4, 1 April to 30 June 2023

Summary

- The Quarterly Performance Report is a key component of our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency and accountability back to Council and the community.
- The Quarterly Performance Report brings together a range of reports including:
 - Quarterly Finance Report
 - Progress against Annual Action Plan deliverable
 - Service Performance Indicators
 - Councillor Expenses
 - Progress against Major Projects and Capital Works
 - Customer Service Performance
 - Consolidated data on Community Engagement

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 4, 1 April to 30 June 2023 (**Appendix 9.2A**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 4, 1 April to 30 June 2023 (**Appendix 9.2A**).

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. It now also encompasses a report on Council's community engagement activities for the quarter, which will be continued and developed further in future quarterly reports.

To further support our reporting, Council has a Financial and Performance Reporting Framework in place that provides guidance on 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; and
- 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 Council's continual improvement process, this report provides Councillors and the community with updates on progress against the Annual Action Plan 2022-2023 and other key strategic items. The report also provides Local Government Performance Reporting (LGPRF) data which is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. LGPRF data is listed as "Service Performance Indicators" within the report.

A report on community engagement has been added to this report and provides an overview of Council's community consultation on a wide array of projects and initiatives over the course of the financial year.

Options to Consider

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

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 is prepared through cross-departmental consultation within Council. Following EMT endorsement, it will progress to Council Briefing before formal endorsement at a Council Meeting.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Ongoing refinements are made to ensure the report provides clear and concise reporting on key strategic items.

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 provides that *"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 report for Council and the community to assess Council's performance against a number of key measures.

9.3 FOOTPATH UPGRADE PLAN

Author's Name:	Krishna Shrestha	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	Manager Strategic Asset Management	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Strategic Asset Management	File Number:	F02/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

Map of Horsham Roads that have no footpath on either side (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Map of Natimuk Roads with no footpath on either side (**Appendix 9.3B**)

Purpose

To present a plan to upgrade footpaths in Horsham and Natimuk in streets where there are currently none.

Summary

- Council's current commitment to the level of service entails providing a footpath on at least one side for streets where the dwelling density exceeds 3 per hectare.
- Across the municipality there are 183 km of footpaths, serving as vital infrastructure for pedestrian access and recreational activities.
- Recently, Council has undertaken a project to establish at least one side of footpath in all streets in Horsham North, receiving positive feedback from the community.
- To ensure the provision of at least one side of footpath for all residents in Horsham and Natimuk, 5,800 m of additional footpaths are required.
- The estimated cost for these works is \$840,000, which is recommended to be funded from general revenue over the next 5 years.

Recommendation

That Council include provision of funding for upgrading missing footpaths across Horsham and Natimuk in the Long Term Capital Expenditure Plan, in accordance with the plans in **Appendix 9.3A** and **Appendix 9.3B**, to be completed over the next five years.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council include provision of funding for upgrading missing footpaths across Horsham and Natimuk in the Long Term Capital Expenditure Plan, in accordance with the plans in **Appendix 9.3A** and **Appendix 9.3B**, to be completed over the next five years.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council's Asset Plan in 2021-2031 establishes service levels for Council's infrastructure, including identifying when creation, maintenance, renewal or upgrades of assets are needed.

Currently, Council's footpath network spans 183 km, providing essential pedestrian access throughout the municipality. However, there are still areas in urban streets where no footpaths are available on either side of the street.

Discussion

The footpath network is categorised into three main types:

- 1) Link footpaths (F1) - alongside Link Roads.
- 2) Collector footpaths (F2) - alongside Collector Roads.
- 3) Access footpaths (F3) - alongside access roads.

The presence of footpaths on access roads depends on the dwelling density, and the desired service level, as per the asset management plan, is as follows:

- Footpaths on both sides, at least 1.5 m wide, if there are more than 10 dwellings per hectare.
- At least one side footpath if there are 3-10 dwellings per hectare.
- No footpath if there are fewer than 3 dwellings per hectare.

A comprehensive review of all footpaths has been conducted based on these criteria. Consequently, an additional 5800 metres of additional footpaths is required, to achieve the desired service level.

The locations of these required footpaths are shown in **Appendix 9.3A** for Horsham and **Appendix 9.3B** for Natimuk.

They can also be located on the following link to Council's community mapping tool:

[https://horsham.pozi.com/#/x\[142.19078\]/y\[-36.72404\]/z\[14\]/filter\[foot\]/layers\[roadswithnofootpathupdateddetails\]/tab\[layers\]/](https://horsham.pozi.com/#/x[142.19078]/y[-36.72404]/z[14]/filter[foot]/layers[roadswithnofootpathupdateddetails]/tab[layers]/)

Since most courts are relatively short in length, the traffic volume on these streets is not significant. As a result, out of the 5800 metres of footpaths that need to be constructed, 1400 metres located in courts can be considered a lower priority.

Excluding the footpath requirement in court areas, the estimated cost for constructing 4400 metres of footpaths would be approximately \$840,000. To fund this expense, it is proposed to introduce a capital works item in long term capital expenditure plan, spreading the cost over a period of 5 years.

Options to Consider

If Council decides not to fund this plan, it would result in not meeting the agreed service level committed to the community. However, Council has the option to complete the project over a longer or shorter time frame. For instance, an annual investment of \$280,000 would complete the project in 3 years, whereas an annual expenditure of \$105,000 would take 8 years to finish the project.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

During the development of the Asset Plan, the Council actively involved the community in the process. The central aspect of this plan was the level of service, which outlined the criteria governing the construction of new footpaths, along with similar criteria for various other asset classes.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The proposed plan for additional new footpaths is a significant step towards bridging the gap between our commitments and the current situation, demonstrating our commitment to continuous improvement. Furthermore, Council has successfully developed a sophisticated maintenance system that has resulted in nearly 100% compliance with the 183 km footpath maintenance and renewal program.

Collaboration

Nil

Financial Implications

Implementation of the proposed plan will come with a total cost of \$840,000 over a 5 year period.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

This report relates to Council's current Asset Plan 2021-31 and aims to deliver on the adopted service level for provision of footpaths.

Risk Implications

Implementation of this plan will assist in achieving requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Conclusion

Adoption of the proposed scope of these footpath upgrades into the Long Term Capital Works Plan will facilitate Council in achieving its objectives for the level of service commitment for footpaths. It reflects a continuation of the works already undertaken in the Horsham North area.

9.4 CORRECTIONS AMENDMENT POST EXHIBITION

Author's Name:	Joel Hastings	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Statutory Planning and Building Services	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F32/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 adopt Amendment C82hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme in accordance with section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Summary

Amendment C82hors is an administrative amendment that proposes to correct mapping errors and anomalies in the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Horsham Rural City has the responsibility for administer and enforcement the planning scheme and it is incumbent on Council to resolve these errors so that its planning scheme is accurate, up-to-date, relevant and meets the requirements of the state government.

In summary:

The amendment will:

- Amend zoning and mapping errors that have resulted in private ownership of land within a Public Land Zone.
- Amend zoning and mapping errors that currently have two or three zones applying to a parcel of land.
- Deletion of redundant overlays.
- Ensure Heritage Overlays are mapped to the correct property and/or parcel of land.

The next step is the adoption of the amendment and request of the Minister for Planning to approve the amendment.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt Amendment C82hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme and;
2. Submit the adopted Amendment together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting final approval.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council:

1. Adopt Amendment C82hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme and;
2. Submit the adopted Amendment together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting final approval.

CARRIED

Background

Mapping errors within the Horsham Planning Scheme were identified in a Planning Scheme Review (2010) and have become further evident through the operation of the Horsham Planning Scheme in the past 20 years. The Amendment is administrative in nature and has been prepared to correct these errors to ensure the Planning Scheme can be used efficiently. The following is an example of this with PPRZ overlapping GRZ1, which is an error.



The amendment process has been:

- Authorised by the Minister for Planning subject to conditions on 29 March 2023.
- Public exhibition of Amendment C82hors between Tuesday 23 May 2023 until Tuesday 27 June 2023.
- During the exhibition period of the amendment, three (3) official submissions were received. Two (2) submissions objecting to the amendment and one (1) in support.
- The two (2) objecting submissions have since been resolved.

Authorisation of the Amendment

Ministerial Exemption from public exhibition under 20(2) of the Planning and Environment Act was sought under officer delegation and was partially granted due to the procedural nature of the amendment and exhibition was confined to direct stakeholders.

Exhibition of the Amendment

The Amendment was exhibited for one month from 23 May to 27 June 2023 using the following combination of statutory and non-statutory notifications:

-
- Direction notification (letters) to affected property owners and occupiers (approximately 125 letters), prescribed Ministers and authorities and key stakeholder agencies.
 - The Amendment documents were made available for viewing and download (website/officers and DTP website).
 - An interactive map showing the extent of the new overlays was also available on Council's website.
 - A number of enquiries resulted in further information being provided in response to land owner queries after receiving the letter, either by email or telephone.

The views of all landowners and occupiers is known.

Discussion

Consideration of Submissions

A total of three (3) submissions were received.

Submission 1: No objection to the proposed amendment

The submitter provided support to the amendment by stating they have no objection.

Submission 2: Raised the following objection and concerns:

Objects to applying Heritage Overlay (HO18) to the property boundary at 1A Sudholz Street, Natimuk as only the Former School has heritage value. The submitter also proposes that the 'Internal Alteration Control' be removed from the property.

Submission Response:

The property at 1A Sudholz Street, Natimuk and subsequent mapping changes to the Heritage Overlay (HO18) has since been removed from Amendment c82hors (corrections amendment). This will ensure the proposed changes to the remaining properties as part of Amendment c82hors are not unnecessarily delayed and can proceed. The matter will aim to be resolved in a future Heritage amendment that is more suited to the objection and concerns raised.

Submission 3: EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency wished the following points to be clarified.

- Ministerial Direction 1 does not take into consideration existing zoning but rather what is being proposed. It appears that the reason the properties are not potentially contaminated is because they are currently used for sensitive uses, rather than due to the former/historical land uses and other information gathered as per PPN30. This should be clarified.
- The property at 54 Lake Road, Natimuk is not listed in the Explanatory Report among the properties identified as not potentially contaminated. Therefore, it is unclear what determination Council have made with respect to this property. This should be resolved.
- A site history report is not included in the background document.

Submission Response:

After receiving the background document (site history report), the EPA withdrew their objection to Amendment c82hors as their concerns were resolved.

Options to Consider

Council has the ability the following options regarding Planning Scheme Amendment:

1. Adopt the amendment and submit to the Minister for Planning
2. Abandon the amendment and notify the Minister for Planning together with a statement of reasons.
3. Modify the amendment

Council has a legislative responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the Horsham planning scheme and option 1 is recommended.

Sustainability Implications

There are no sustainability implications as a result of this amendment.

Community Engagement

As noted above, the landowners were provided notice of the Amendment and their views are known. The Council website also provided information about the amendment including all amendment documentation, reports and maps.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Amendment helps to ensure that Council through its planning scheme is improving its response to any potential errors. Removing Public Land Zones from privately owned properties will ensure that landowners are not unnecessarily inconvenienced.

Collaboration

This project has involved important collaboration between Council, EPA, CFA and DEECA (formerly DELWP). It will be important that collaboration with DEECA continue as the Amendment progresses.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council as a result of this amendment other than standard officer time and lodgment fees.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The amendment is a procedural matter and is consistent with ensuring the Horsham Planning scheme is consistent with the State Land-Use Policy Framework.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 2 – Liveability and Theme 3 Sustainability

Risk implications

There are no notable risks associated with implementing the recommendation contained in this report.

Conclusion

The Amendment proposes to correct mapping errors and anomalies to ensure the Horsham Planning Scheme is relevant, up-to-date, of a high quality and meets the State Government's requirements.

Following the notice to 125 land holders two (2) objecting submissions, both were resolved and one (1) removed from the amendment process.

As there are no submissions remaining, it is recommended that Council adopt Amendment C82hors (corrections amendment) and proceed to submit the adopted amendment to the Minister for Planning requesting final approval.

Sunil Bhalla and Kevin O'Brien left the meeting at 5.57pm

9.5 APPROVAL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ANNUAL LEAVE AND APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Author's Name:	Kim Hargreaves	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Director Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F14/A05/000003

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To approve Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sunil Bhalla's request for annual leave and to approve Acting CEO arrangements.

Summary

S11(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* allows a Council to delegate to the CEO the power to appoint an Acting CEO for a period not exceeding 28 days.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Sunil Bhalla has requested annual leave from 29 September 2023 to 5 November 2023 inclusive. As this period of leave exceeds 28 days a resolution of Council is required to both approve the leave and Acting CEO arrangements.

The noted leave also includes weekends, as there may be a requirement for CEO duties to extend beyond the working week.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approve CEO Sunil Bhalla's leave request from 29 September 2023 to 5 November 2023.
2. Appoint Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place as Acting CEO from 29 September 2023 to 5 November 2023 (inclusive).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Bob Redden, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Approve CEO Sunil Bhalla's leave request from 29 September 2023 to 5 November 2023.
2. Appoint Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place as Acting CEO from 29 September 2023 to 5 November 2023 (inclusive).

CARRIED

Sunil Bhalla and Kevin O'Brien returned to the meeting at 6.00pm

REPORT**Background**

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, s.44 and s.45 and Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy s. 4.12.1:

Council must not delegate the power to appoint the CEO, whether on a permanent or acting basis, however it may delegate to the CEO the power to appoint an Acting CEO for a period not exceeding 28 days s.11(3) of the LGAct 2020.

Discussion

Council's CEO, Sunil Bhalla has requested a period of annual leave which exceeds the 28 days. Weekends have been included in these dates. Given the proposed duration of leave there is a requirement for Council to approve both the CEO's leave and the Acting CEO appointment.

It is proposed to appoint Mr Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place as Acting CEO from 29 September 2023 to 5 November 2023 inclusive.

Options to Consider

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Leave coverage, including any CEO leave is covered in the 2023-2024 operating budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local Government Act 2020.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 – Leadership

Risk Implications

Considerable risk for Council if no Acting CEO is appointed.

Conclusion

Council to approve leave for CEO Sunil Bhalla and Acting CEO arrangements.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**9.6 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 June 2023 (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Ag Industry Output Report 2022 (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Ag Industry Employment Report 2022 (**Appendix 9.6C**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for June 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 June 2023.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe**

That Council receive and note Item No's:

9.6 Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for June 2023

9.7 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for August 2023

CARRIED

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 June 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+

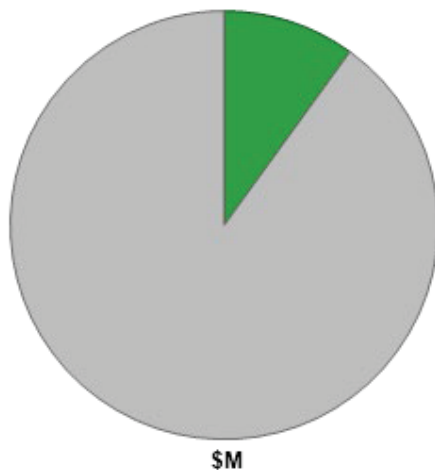
The teams will focus on delivering actions with in the current financial year whilst carrying out the necessary planning to ensure targets are meet in sequential years.

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Agricultural Industry Data

The Agricultural Industry Sector in Horsham Rural City Council provided the second highest output according to the 2022 Census data and was the fourth highest employer.

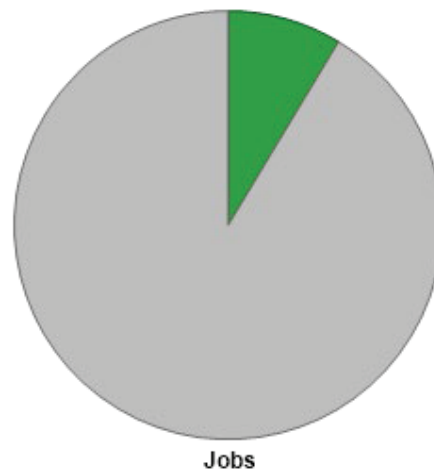
Output - Horsham (RC) (2022 Release 2)



● Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing \$303.780
● Balance \$2,737.772

REMPPLAN

Employment - Horsham (RC) (2022 Release 2)



● Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing 886
● Balance 9,385

REMPPLAN

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
1.3.6 (2 year)	Implement landscaping recommendations from Horsham North Local Area Plan for the Horsham Rail Corridor Project	Ensure amenities and landscaping to support the Silo Project are delivered	Draft landscaping plan currently being finalised and then we will seek community feedback.
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 June between WDA and HRCC Investment & Business Development Team 11 meetings held at 23/6/23
3.2.2 (2 years)	Implement the infrastructure works required for the next stage of development at the WAL Hub and both Burnt Creek and Enterprise Industrial Estates to ensure sites are market ready	Next stage developed for each of the industrial areas and ready for sale	Council approved an allocation in the 2023/24 budget to finalise the design work for Stages 2-4 and to Construct Stage 2 at Burnt Creek Industrial Estate. Enterprise Estate proposed subdivision commenced planning/ Culture Heritage Assessment completed
3.5.1 (2 years)	Prepare submission of the EES for the Avonbank mining project to ensure that the licence reflects world best practice	Statutory Planning to prepare submission for consideration by council	Avonbank Mineral Sands Project EES on Exhibition closed on 26 May 2023. Council lodged a submission to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee in June
3.6 (ongoing)	Widely promote the advantages of establishing solar and wind farms in the Horsham region	Website updated and investment prospectus developed	The Business Development team are meeting with ESCO Pacific (Horsham Solar Farm) in July.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.6.1 (ongoing)	Promote recreational activities in our natural environment to increase destination tourism and visitation	Activities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	The promotion of recreational activities has been included in the new Horsham Visitor Guide. Focus relating to fishing, 4WD and walks.
3.1.3 (2 years)	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	The Natimuk Economic and Social Plan Advisory Committee was appointed in June. First meeting will be held in July. Several actions from the plan are included in the 23/24 budget.

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
(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 business newsletter was sent in June The newsletter received 400 opens and 63 clicks.
(yearly)	Update and audit the Council Website Business Page	The annual audit identified no outdated information	Updates to the Wimmera Business Centre webpage are underway to include a meeting room booking link and enquiry 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.	A medical business will occupy an office in the main building in July. A remedial therapy and massage therapist has commenced leasing an office in the main building and a new psychiatry business operator has also leased and office as a start-up business. 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

Grampians Tourism Update

It has been announced that Melbourne will host the **2024 Australian Tourism Exchange** at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 19 to 23 May 2024. This is a critical event for Australia's Tourism Industry and hosting it in Melbourne will put Victoria on a global stage by connecting Victorian businesses with tourism buyers and media partners from around the world. It is anticipated at least 50 per cent of the buyers will travel to regional Victoria as part of their itinerary, adding further economic benefit to local regions.

Future Forums

Grampians Tourism will continue to deliver industry forums in this new financial year, based on the feedback and value they bring in terms of networking opportunities, learning more from our keynote speakers and showcasing our operators' product.

Urban List - Featured the Grampians

Grampians is featured in *The Urban List's Perfect Plate*, a content initiative that highlights the culinary offer and beauty of regional Victoria to inspire consumers to stay longer, increase their spend with our local businesses.

Grampians Winter Road Trip

In Grampians Tourism latest consumer blog they are encouraging visitors to experience the Western Grampians. Starting with a restful night's sleep at Horsham Holiday Park the ideal home away from home for anyone road trip adventures to take off. Or for those seeking a more luxurious escape, the beautiful Meringa Spring resort overlooking Wartook Valley is a magnificent way to soak in the serenity.

Business Visitations for the Month of June 2023

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event notifications and 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
Total	111	39	46	196

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	May FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	June FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	June FY 22/23 Businesses Vacant	June FY 22/23 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	39	41	2	95%
Firebrace St - 99	95	91	8	91%
Hamilton St - 17	17	15	2	88%
Wilson St – 34	28	28	6	82%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	24	22	6	79%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	25	26	1	96%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	22	22	2	91%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	250/272	245/272	27	90%

(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 June 2023 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	JUNE 2023		JUNE 2022	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	2	2,999,000	1	510,000
Industrial/Commercial	4	4,184,000	4	264,237
Subdivisions	1 (26 lots)	4,700,000	1 (4 lots)	-
Other	-	-	1	2,300
Total	7	11,883,000	7	776,537

(*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 30 June 2023 is 129 compared to 133 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 338 new lots from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 compared to 148 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of **June 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	-	-	1	1,213,882
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resitings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	-	-	3	110,980
Removal/Demolish	3	108,080	2	13,400
Industrial/Commercial	1	250,000	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	4	358,080	6	1,338,262

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

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	4	1,583,702	6	2,428,449
Alterations to Dwellings	1	40,480	3	92,674
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	7	241,752	10	390,382
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	2	571,773	2	211,488
Signs	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	14	2,437,707	21	3,122,993

A total of **43** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$4,051,677** from **1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023** compared to 83 Building Permits at a total value of **\$8,615,628** in 2021-2022.

Private Building Surveyors have issued 232 Building Permits at a total value of **\$51,308,772** from **1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023** compared to **301** at a total value of **\$78,291,929** in 2021-2022.

Strategic Planning

Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Theatre (Cinema)

Conservation Studio was the successful consultant appointed for the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Horsham Theatre.

Conservation Studio undertook an inspection of the theatre on 15 and 16 June to assist them in assessing the heritage fabric and condition of the building.

Community consultation is intended to take place in late July to assist Conservation Studio in understanding the social significance (community value) of the building for Horsham residents.

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.5 & 1.3.6 (1 year)	Develop and implement the Horsham North Local Area Plan	Horsham North Local Area Plan adopted by Council	Plan adopted by Council
(4 years)	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Cinema	Management plan endorsed by Council	Consultant appointed and site visit undertaken.
2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	Tenders are being assessed.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Refining a draft future urban structure.

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.

9.7 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 receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for August 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 August 2023.

Refer to Item No. 9.6 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

Rural Council's Corporate Collaboration (RCCC) Board Meeting: The RCCC board met on Thursday 27 July 2023 at the Dimboola Library. Items discussed included a review of project and change management plans, implementation program update and the status of procurement activities.

Joint State-Local Government CEO Forum: CEOs, Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Victoria attended the forum held on 2 August 2023. MAV's new CEO Ms Kelly Grigsy was introduced to the group. Discussions were held on the powers of the Municipal Building Surveyor and Operation Sandon by IBAC deputy Commissioner David Wolf.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Meeting (WSMRP): The CEO attended a WSMRP meeting on 3 August 2023 at the Grains Innovation Park. Discussions included an update from RDV on the Commonwealth Games announcement and \$2 billion Regional and Rural Package, Victorian Government funding announcements and Sustainable Childcare for Rural Kids project update.

MAV Good Governance Seminar: The CEO attended the MAV Good Governance – Integrity agencies update online seminar on 3 August 2023. The seminar provided an update on key issues being addressed by the integrity agencies.

Quarterly Wimmera Regional Mayors/CEOs Meeting: The Mayors and CEOs from Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Buloke, Hindmarsh and Northern Grampians met on Thursday 10 August 2023. Key topics of the discussion included an update on the Recognition and Settlement Agreement by Dean Cowie from Land Justice.

MAV CEO Update: CEO's received an update on Sector Planning Reform Advocacy on Friday 11 August 2023.

Grampians Tourism (GT) General Meeting: The CEO attended the GT meeting held on 17 August 2023.

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Meeting: The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer attended the Regional Cities Victoria annual function at the Parliament House on 17 August and the RCV meeting on 18 August 2023 in Melbourne. Guest speakers included the Hon Harriet Shing who spoke on the State Government's approach to regional growth and investment and Mr John Pesutto, Leader of the Opposition who spoke on supporting sustainable growth in regional areas and the continued need for regional infrastructure investment. Other discussions included RCV advocacy in relation to the \$2 billion regional investments package recently announced.

Funding Opportunities:

Children's Week 2023 Mini Makers	Children's Week 2023	\$1,000
Roadside Pests and Weeds 2023/2024	Roadside Pests and Weeds 2023	\$85,000
City Oval Community Pavilion /Change Rooms	Growing Regions Fund Round 1	\$4,805,000
Baillie Street Safety Design Project	LG Grant Program-Analysis	\$22,600
Natimuk Road Safety Infrastructure Project	LG Grant Program-Infrastructure	\$100,000

B. Community Engagement

Horsham Rural City Talks Expo: Residents had an opportunity to help shape Horsham Rural City Council's long-term strategic planning at a three-day public engagement event.

The Horsham Rural City Talks Expo was held at Horsham Town Hall on Thursday August 10, Friday August 11 and Saturday August 12.

The Expo allowed Council's external committees, user groups and the general public to influence the development of key documents such as the Council Plan, Annual Action Plan and its Budget.

People's contributions to the expo will also inform the planning and design of major projects for the municipality in the future.

C. Projects and Events

Street Trees: Council will be planting 850 trees as part of a plan to ensure every house has a tree on its nature strip. Crews have been planting in Sunnyside and the area of Horsham North between Kalkee Road and Dimboola Road this month.

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 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for August 2023.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline, Mayor

Committee Representation	
31/07/2023	RCV meeting with Victorian Nationals at Parliament House
07/08/2023	Chair Aboriginal Community Roundtable
17/08/2023	RCV Networking Function at Parliament House
18/08/2023	RCV Annual Forum in Melbourne
22/08/2023	Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Board meeting (virtual)
Other Council Activities	
25/07/2023	ABC Wimmera radio interview
26/07/2023	Murra Warra Wind Farm Community Grant presentation
28/07/2023	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter (phone)
02/08/2023	ACE Radio interview with Emma Elsom
03/08/2023	Holy Trinity Lutheran College Year 5 students to discuss Local Government democracy
06/08/2023	Installation of new Lutheran Pastor Hans Peethala and welcome his family to Horsham
08/08/2023	Welcomed 6 new Australians at Citizenship ceremony
09/08/2023	Chaired and was guest speaker at Wimmera Australians in Retirements AGM
10/08/2023	Quarterly Wimmera Mayors and CEO meeting
10/08/2023	MAV Renewables Roundtable (virtual)
10-12/08/2023	Horsham Talks Strategic Expo 2023
11/08/2023	Live radio interview with Ace Radio to promote Horsham Talks Strategic Expo 2023
11/08/2023	Horsham City Netball Association Grand Final – presentation of medals
22/08/2023	Local Councils Planning Reforms Consultation with Samantha Ratnam and Sarah Mansfield
23/08/2023	Horsham Cemetery Trust - New Davis Drive Entrance Official Opening
23/08/2023	Chair Natimuk Community meeting
24/08/2023	4 th Horsham Scout Group Award Presentations

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
28/07/2023	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group – Online
9/08/2023	MAV Wimmera Southern Mallee Central Highlands Regional Meeting – Online
9/08/2023	ALGWA Vic Finance Subcommittee Meeting – Online
Other Council Activities	
27/07/2023	ALGWA Vic Julie in July – Online
8/08/2023	Citizenship Ceremony – Council Chamber
11/08/2023	Horsham City Netball Association Under 11 and 13 Grand Finals – Central Park
12/08/2023	Strategic Expo 2023 – Horsham Town Hall

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
21/08/2023	CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee Meeting
Other Council Activities	
28/07/2023	Everyone needs a home and a community – Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Housing Summit – online
03/08/2023	Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Good Governance Seminar – Integrity agencies update – online
07/08/2023	Council Briefing – Council Chambers
11/08/2023	Horsham Talks Expo 2023 – Horsham Town Hall, attended 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm -4.30pm
12/08/2023	Horsham Talks Expo 2023 – Horsham Town Hall, attended 10am –1pm
14/08/2023	Council Briefing – Council Chambers

Cr Bob Redden

Other Council Activities	
04/08/2023	Rail Freight Alliance Melbourne
08/08/2023	Citizenship Ceremony
10/08/2023	Scheduled Discussion with Sunil Bhalla
11/08/2023	HRCC Expo Town Hall
12/08/21023	HRCC expo Town Hall

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
21/08/2023	CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee Meeting
25/08/2023	Western Highway Committee Meeting, Moorabool Council Chambers Ballan
Other Council Activities	
26/07/2023	<p>In Conversation with Minister for Women, Hon. Katy Gallagher – Women for Election free webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personalised look into women standing for election to federal government based on the experiences of our Australian Minister for Women and Finance, Hon. Katy Gallagher. • The support of the federal government in gender parity and how that translates to all women who are active in their communities and wanting to make a difference. • Implementation of the Jenkins report and tracking progress of all recommendations in the Parliament of Australia can be found here: Progress of recommendations – Parliament of Australia (aph.gov.au)
27/07/2023	Chat with Cr. Claudia Horsham RSL
27/07/2023	<p>Julie in July. ALGWA Vic - Online Forum</p> <p>Be inspired. From councillor, mayor to state government appointments, we hear how this journey took place.</p> <p>Julie Eisenbise was a councillor at Manningham City Council, (1997-2005), serving as Mayor in 2001-02, and was a member of the Municipal Association of Victoria Board (2001-04). She has extensive experience in the education and science field spanning 30 years, including the role of Executive Director, Global Business and Engagement at RMIT University which oversaw the international and local business development of the University. More recently Julie served as a Commissioner on the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission from 2013 to 2021.</p> <p>Currently Julie is Chair of the Electoral Review Advisory Panel</p>
28/07/2023	<p>Everyone needs a home and a community – MAV housing summit webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressures of the housing crisis and how it impacts councils
02/08/2023	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
03/08/2023	Chat with Cr. Claudia - RSL
09/08/2023	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
10/08/2023	Chat with Cr. Claudia - RSL
10/08/2023	Strategic Expo 2023 – Horsham Town Hall
11/08/2023	Strategic Expo 2023 – Horsham Town Hall
12/08/2023	Strategic Expo 2023 – Horsham Town Hall
14/08/2023	<p>Launch of Rural Care Week discussions 2023 – Horsham RSL – Rural Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Janetzki presented the revolutionary MicroPro post and fencing • Glenn Fitzgerald Senior Research Scientist & Associate Professor spoke about Agriculture Victoria's Horsham SmartFarm latest news
15/08/2023	<p>Rural Care Week discussions – Horsham RSL – Rural Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick White from Rural Financial Counselling Service informed about budgets and farm/small business financial guidance assistance • Mark Jasper from Rabobank spoke out the rural financial outlooks • Bev Miatke spoke about the Christian Emergency Food Centre services

Horsham Rural City Council**Council Meeting**

16/08/2023	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
16/08/2023	From the Battlefield to the Boardroom Leadership Workshop – Horsham RSL
16/08/2023	Rural Care Week discussions – Horsham RSL – Rural Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Walter discussed Horsham Healthy minds and benefits to community • Mal Coutts Rural Outreach discussed the importance of trust and dialogue • Kyle Tyrrell former Australian Army officer guest speaker on his military experience in his current role empowering leaders
17/08/2023	Chat with Cr. Claudia
17/08/2023	Rural Care Week discussions – Horsham RSL – Rural Climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dale Grey Seasonal Agronomist Agriculture Victoria zoomed in from Agriculture Victoria to inform on the climate forecasts for crops • Mark Gunning CFA Horsham District 17 informed about extreme weather events and how to prepare and be safe • Dom Uljanic Forest Fire Management Victoria, Wimmera Field Management Team presented on bush fire, the current climate data and how to plan and stay safe for the upcoming fire season.
18/08/2023	Rural Care Week discussions – Horsham RSL – Rural social connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Flanagan and Ray Duffield discussed Probus • Noel Janetzki presented on Shed Happens • Frank Tuppin and Glenn Kimberley spoke on Uniting Wimmera • Helen Torey presented on CWA Horsham • Christ Sutton discussed Salvos Horsham services
23/08/2023	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
24/08/2023	Chat with Cr. Claudia – Horsham RSL
28/08/2023	Council meeting – Council Chambers

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

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 7 & 14 August 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 Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Les Power**

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 197

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 28 August 2023.

“That a Strategic Parking Meter Review be completed within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution; and to include but not be limited to the following:

1. That a Parking Committee be re-established and be inclusive of two Councillors,
2. Review the parking zones,
3. Consider more all day parks,
4. That parking exemptions be allowed for people on duty doing charity work,
5. Review the economic viability of meters, and consider the removal of meters,
6. Consider waiving the fines for the last two months.”

Background:

The feedback received from the community is that the new system is not working well. We are at risk of significant reputational damage if we do not modify our current Parking Plan. Our Parking Committee was dismissed, and I believe the current system was implemented without appropriate community consultation. Many businesses have concerns of reduced turnover due to the changed shopper experience. These issues need addressing with strong empathetic leadership.

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

Cr Ian Ross

CIVIC CENTRE
HORSHAM 3400
23 August 2023

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr _____

That a Strategic Parking Meter Review be completed within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution; and to include but not be limited to the following:

1. That a Parking Committee be re-established and be inclusive of two Councillors,
2. Review the parking zones,
3. Consider more all day parks,
4. That parking exemptions be allowed for people on duty doing charity work,
5. Review the economic viability of meters, and consider the removal of meters,
6. Consider waiving the fines for the last two months.

Motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.17pm, the meeting closed to the public.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

That the meeting move into open Council.

CARRIED

The time being 6.23pm, the meeting opened to the public.

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

That the resolution from Item 15.1, 15.2 & 15.3(2) be brought into open Council.

CARRIED

15.1 FLOOD RECOVERY ROAD WORKS PACKAGE 10 CONTRACT 23-044**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Ian Ross**

That Council accept the tender submitted by Grampians Excavations Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$400,195 ex GST for the Flood Recovery Road Works Package 10 under Contract 23-044.

CARRIED

15.2 FLOOD RECOVERY ROAD WORKS PACKAGE 13 CONTRACT 24-002**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Ian Ross**

That Council accept the tender submitted by Millers Civil Pty Ltd for the lump sum amount of \$262,146 ex GST for the Flood Recovery Road Works Package 13 under Contract 24-002.

CARRIED

15.3 CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE REPORT: AUGUST 2023**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council:

2. Appoint Amanda Stevens as Independent Chair of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for a further 3 years until October 2026.

CARRIED

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 6.25pm

DocuSigned by:



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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson