

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 22 April 2024.

PRESENT

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor), Cr David Bowe, Cr Penny Flynn, 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, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

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

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

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

Chairman, Cr Robyn Gulline read the following statement:

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

4. APOLOGIES

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Ian Ross

That the apology from Cr Claudia Haenel be approved.

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 25 March 2024 be adopted.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Penny Flynn, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the minutes emanating from the Council Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 25 March 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest

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

Members of Staff

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

Cr Penny Flynn asked to have recorded in the minutes that she does not have a Conflict of Interest at item 9.1 (Planning Scheme Review 2024) and 9.4 (Horsham Rural City Urban Renewal Project).

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM JILL TAYLOR OF HORSHAM

Question 1

What will be the impact the Avonbank mine at Dooen will have on the eco system, notably to the magpies that currently live in the area? How many trees will be cut down and what immediate provisions have been to provide new accommodation, shelter and water to ensure the survival of these birds?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The proposed Avonbank mine is subject to State Government approval and has required the preparation of an Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

A full EES has been prepared by Wim Resource and reviewed by an independent panel, with a decision pending from the Minister for Planning.

The EES is publicly available and includes Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment that may address the issues raised. - <https://www.avonbankproject.com.au/>

If more information is required, it is suggested that contact is made with DEECA who have responsibility for Flora and Fauna protection in Victoria.

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM FLETCHER MILLS OF KALKEE

Question 1

Why did Council sign a memorandum of understanding with the Mine before consultation with potentially affected landowners and businesses?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is for parties to develop processes to support working cooperatively and collaboratively, to maximize mutually beneficial community and economic outcomes, and ensure best environmental practice from the development and operation of the Avonbank Mineral Sands Project within the Rural City of Horsham.

The MoU did not preclude Council making a submission on behalf of the community on the social, environmental and economic impact of the Project. Council has done so. It is through the EES process that Council has made commentary on the various impacts of the mine in its submission to the panel. This is where Council has represented community concerns.

As part of the EES panel process key council staff were part of a tour with the EES Panel and met with local landowners impacted by the Mine development on site and gained a thorough understanding of their issues.

Question 2

Has Council done any research regarding mining or dangerous elements including radioactive Thorium and the potential liability as piles of this toxic dust will sit in the open blowing everywhere?

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities & Place

Council obtained independent advice to help it form a view that the assessment of radiation impacts appears to be thorough and that the impacts of radiation on people and the environment are generally well below (within) accepted dose limits. Having said that, Council is mindful that operations of the mine must strictly adhere to the framework established in the EES documents to ensure that this remains the case. In this regard, Council has identified the following areas where there is some uncertainty:

- Management of tailings returned to the mine pits. While initially moist, the tailings are intended to dry out prior to placement of overburden. As the material dries it has the potential to generate more dust. Council has asked the question in its EES submission: How has this been taken into account in the calculations of dust and radiation exposure?
- A key assumption is that the HMC stockpiles remain moist, and that therefore the generation of dust, and the associated conveyance of radioactive material is negligible. The reports do not appear to assess the risk of the impacts of the stockpiles drying out nor sufficient measures to manage this risk. Again, Council has asked the panel to consider this matter.

Council has a reservation that the lack of presence of some key agencies within the region will lead to a lower than optimum level of supervision by regulators, and a reliance solely on reporting by the mine operator. Council seeks to be an ongoing stakeholder in a reference group (or similar) for review of compliance reporting of the Project to help ensure that the measures emanating from this EES process are effective in managing the impacts of the Project on the environment and our community.

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CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA

Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW 2024

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Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F24/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

The Planning Scheme Review 2024 (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To seek Council adoption of the Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024 (the review) **Appendix 9.1A** and to resolve to commence a planning scheme amendment (Amendment), by:

1. Preparing the Amendment in accordance with Ministerial Direction 11 on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
2. Seeking Authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence Exhibition under section 17, 18, 19 of *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Summary

- A review of the local content of the Horsham Planning Scheme has been undertaken. This review ensures Council is meeting its legislative requirements, and that the planning scheme remains relevant, cohesive and aligns with State and Local Government policy directions.
- A key output of the review included a Strategic Planning workplan that will support gaps in our planning scheme and key priorities to address land use planning matters important to our region.
- The review also identified necessary changes throughout the local content which will need to be implemented through a formal planning scheme amendment process.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024 and forward to the Minister for Planning as required by section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
2. Resolve to commence a planning scheme amendment to update and implement the Horsham Planning Scheme in accordance with the findings of the Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Bob Redden, Seconded Cr Ian Ross**

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024 and forward to the Minister for Planning as required by section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
2. Resolve to commence a planning scheme amendment to update and implement the Horsham Planning Scheme in accordance with the findings of the Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Legislative and policy context

The *Horsham Planning Scheme* is a statutory document under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. It sets out objectives, policies and provisions for the use, development, and protection of land within the municipality.

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires a planning authority (in this case the Rural City of Horsham) to review its planning scheme no later than one year after each date by which it is required to approve a Council Plan under Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The review must therefore be completed and submitted to the Minister for Planning without delay. The purpose of the review is to ensure the continued effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme.

Council Plan

The current Council Plan was adopted by Council on the 20 October 2021. The plan includes the Community Vision and outlines what Council seeks to achieve in its term of office in line with the vision and that is consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

One of the roles of the planning scheme review process is to ensure alignment between the Council Plan and planning scheme.

How the review has been undertaken

The Council Plan was adopted in October 2021, following this in November 2021, Council sought and was successful in obtaining an application through the Regional Planning Hub to carry out a Planning Scheme Review. The resources received from the Regional Planning Hub provided Council with the assistance needed to:

1. Prepare the Planning Scheme Review report.

The report looks at state policy directions and local content and identifies the changes needed.

The objective of the review was to ensure that the Horsham Planning Scheme remains relevant, meets community needs, and aligns with State and Local Government policy. Future and current strategic work has been outlined in the review.

Project status**Planning Scheme Amendment****Discussion**Key Findings

Overall, the review has found that the Horsham Planning Scheme is operating effectively, but there are many opportunities to improve the drafting of individual controls to sharpen them and make them more effective. A lot of this work will not require a high level of resource and will be able to be done through ongoing 'housekeeping' amendments.

An independent consultant engaged to undertake the review has identified that "Council has achieved a great deal in the last three years in the strategic planning space, including the completion of the City to River Masterplan, the commencement of the Horsham South Structure Plan, Urban Renewal Project, Corrections Amendment, and Flood Amendment (implementation of six flood studies). Work is also underway to address housing and settlement issues, review the Open Space Strategy and progress the 2014 Heritage Study".

The review found that work responding to many of the key themes for our region are now complete or are currently underway through Council's current strategic planning work plan, such as the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy and the Heritage Planning Scheme Amendment.

The review has identified a number of strategies that have been prepared by Council and require review and implementation into the Horsham Planning Scheme, as well as various changes that are required to be made to the Horsham Planning Scheme (Scheme) to meet State and Local Government policies, and to meet the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes. These changes are administrative and do not change the overall intent of the Planning Scheme.

Some of the changes identified in the review include factual changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), to conform with recent Australian Bureau of Statistics Data (ABS), economic data and the current Council Plan 2021-2025. The review also identifies an audit of local and regional strategies, policies and plans that have occurred since the last Planning Scheme Review occurred in 2010.

Review methodology

This review was funded by Regional and Rural Hubs at the Department of Transport and Planning. The Hub has developed “A good practice guide to planning scheme reviews” which sets out a four stage process for reviewing planning schemes and was used for the Horsham Planning Scheme Review. The review process evaluates the scheme to:

- Identify major issues facing the municipality.
- Demonstrate how the planning scheme implements state policy.
- Assess the performance of the planning scheme against the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Document the work that has been completed or carried out since the last review of the Scheme and any additional work required to strengthen the direction of the Scheme.
- Assess the performance of the planning scheme by reviewing planning permit data, VCAT decisions and planning panel reports.
- Outline the consultation process undertaken and any outcomes of this.
- Make recommendations from the review including:
 - Suggested changes to the local objectives and strategies of the local content
 - Suggested changes to the Victoria Planning Provision (VPP) tools (such as zones, overlays, or local policy) to achieve the strategies and ensure the objectives and outcomes are being met.
 - New strategic work needed for future policy development or changes to the provisions of the Scheme.
 - Suggested changes to improve the schemes operation and planning processes.
 - Identifying any planning application or other data that may need to be collected to inform the next review.

Review inputs

Extensive background work has been undertaken to inform the review. The key inputs informing the review include:

- Feedback from council officers who implement the Planning Scheme through statutory processes under Council’s delegation.
- An audit (using templates provided in “A good practice guide to planning scheme reviews”) of each local provision in the Horsham Planning Scheme to assess whether it complies with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
- Audit of the previous *Planning Scheme Review from 2010* and identification of tasks that have not yet been completed and are still important.
- Review of policy and legislative reforms, including major planning scheme amendments (State and Local).
- Review of recently completed work by Council, and identification of policy contained in them that should be translated into the planning scheme.
- Audit of all planning scheme provisions including zones, overlays, and particular provisions.
- A review of Planning Panel Reports and VCAT decisions that have policy implications.

Review Findings

The review sets out four types of recommendations:

- 1 Changes that should be made to the planning scheme now to ensure compliance with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes, alignment with the Council Plan, and introduce recently completed strategic work that has been adopted by Council.
- 2 A list of further strategic work that should be undertaken over the next four years to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning scheme (see next section of this report).
- 3 Suggested process improvements to improve the performance of the planning scheme.
- 4 Advocacy actions that should be taken up with the Victorian Government or statutory authorities to progress planning issues that are outside the scope of what Council can achieve. This includes:
 - a. Request that state government and GWMWater review and update the planning controls for Water Supply Areas and Irrigation Areas.
 - b. Request the State Government update flood mapping in the planning scheme to reflect the most up to date data.
 - c. Request the State Government implement the recommendations of the South West Landscape assessment into the planning scheme.
 - d. Advocate to the State Government to develop fit for purpose development contributions mechanisms for rural and regional councils.

Overall, the review has found that the Scheme is operating well, however there is opportunity for improvement, particularly in relation to settlement planning. Council is addressing this currently with the preparation of the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy.

Top priorities for Council – further strategic work

The review has identified the following top priorities for Council over the next four years:

- Implementation of existing strategies and projects currently in progress including Horsham South Structure Plan, Urban Renewal Plan, Greening Greater Horsham, Wartook Valley Strategy, and the Heritage Study.
- Preparing the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability strategy (Housing Strategy) which addresses character issues and supports a more diverse housing mix, while accommodating the projected growth to HRCC. This should be used to apply the residential zone schedules appropriately.
- Developing a settlement hierarchy and settlement boundaries through a Rural Land Use Strategy, to provide direction on the level of change expected in each settlement and prevent residential development in the Farming Zone by directing it to existing settlements.
- Updating existing heritage place citations, implementing heritage studies that have been completed and undertaking a heritage places gap assessment.
- Improving the drafting of existing schedules in the planning scheme to clarify objectives, strategies, and requirements.

The aim is to create more user friendly and specific ordinance to better guide applicants and decision making.

Next Steps

1. Request authorisation to undertake exhibition of the amendment from the Minister for Planning
2. Upon authorisation, exhibit the Amendment.
3. Following exhibition, Council will be presented with the submissions and recommendations for how to proceed.
4. Consider the further strategic work program through the budget process.
5. Undertake advocacy actions identified.

Options to Consider

Option 1 (as recommended by this report). That Council adopt the *Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024* and resolve to commence a Planning Scheme Amendment to update and implement the Horsham Planning Scheme in accordance with the findings of the *Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024*.

Other options

Council could resolve to not adopt the Horsham Planning Scheme Review 2024 or resolve not to commence the planning scheme amendment.

Implications

Option 1 is recommended by this report.

Adoption of the review is required to provide certainty for the development industry, community, and Council about the future strategic work program.

A resolution to commence the Planning Scheme Amendment process is required so that a formal planning scheme amendment process can be prepared.

Other options are not recommended because these options would:

- Prevent the review from being formalised, all councils are required to undertake a review of their planning schemes as a requirement under Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- Without Council support, Council cannot seek authorisation to prepare and exhibit a Planning Scheme Amendment.

There are no other options.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

Community engagement will be undertaken as part of the formal Planning Scheme Amendment process, where an engagement plan will be developed to ensure the community will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Planning Scheme Review. Community consultation is part of the public exhibition process for an amendment, which is required under *the Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The community also have an opportunity to input into the Council budget process which will set the priority for further strategic work that has been identified against other priorities of the Council.

In addition to this, further community engagement will be undertaken as part of the future strategic work identified in the key findings section of this report as the projects are funded and rolled out.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Implementation of the review into the Horsham Planning Scheme, through undertaking an Amendment helps to ensure that Council is performing well and ensures that the Horsham Planning Scheme is operational and complies with current policy and practices.

Collaboration

Council collaborated with the Department of Transport and Planning Rural and Regional Planning Hub and land use planning consultants to prepare the review and prepare for an Amendment. The Rural and Regional Planning Hub is a program which is part of DTP that is available to assist regional planners by providing support and resources.

An internal working group of Council officers was established to oversee the finalisation of the review.

Financial Implications

Any additional costs required to carry out a Planning Scheme Amendment or actions identified through the review will be considered as part of future Council budget processes.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The following regional, state, or national plans or policies are applicable to the project:

- Horsham Planning Scheme
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- Country Plan: Growing what is good (Barengi Gadjin Land Council, 2017)
- Victorian Housing Statement (State Government Victoria, 2023)
- Wimmer Southern Mallee Growth Plan (State Government Victoria, 2014)

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

The following Council plans, policies and strategies were reviewed as part of the Planning Scheme Review, to determine whether there were necessary updates to the Planning Scheme, or further strategic planning work required. They are:

- Horsham Council Plan, 2021-2025 (HRCC, 2021)
- Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan (HRCC, 2022)
- Greening Greater Horsham: A Municipal Tree Strategy 2021-2031 (Urban Forest Consulting, 2021)
- Horsham Rural City Open Space Strategy (SBP, 2019)
- Horsham Urban Transport Plan (HRCC, 2020)
- City to River Vision and Masterplan (Urban Enterprise, 2020)
- Wartook Valley Strategy, (HRCC, 2017)
- Horsham CAD Revitalisation Plan (HRCC, 2022)
- Horsham North Local Area Plan (HRCC, 2023)
- Electronic Gaming Machine Policy (HRCC, 2012)
- Horsham Central Activity District Strategy (Essential Economics, 2013)
- Horsham Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2013-16 (Driscoll Engineering Services, 2012)
- Horsham & District Early Years Plan (HRCC, 2019-2023)

Risk Implications

A regular review of the Horsham Planning Scheme is a legislated requirement but also provides an opportunity to ensure that it remains relevant in terms of protecting Council values and responding to risks.

Conclusion

Council is required to review the Horsham Planning Scheme every four years. Monitoring, auditing, and reporting of the Planning Scheme is a mandatory requirement under the *Planning and Environmental Act 1987*. The review has been prepared to meet this mandatory obligation. Once adopted by Council, this report will constitute the formal 'Planning Scheme Review' of the Horsham Planning Scheme as required under Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. A planning scheme amendment will be required to implement the findings and recommendations of the review. Further strategic work that has been identified in the review will be subject to Council budgeting processes to prioritise and resource.

9.2 HORSHAM AND NATIMUK HOUSING DIVERSITY AND AFFORDABILITY STRATEGY

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Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F06/A13/000001

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

Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy: Background Report, prepared by SGS Economics and Planning, March 2023 (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy: Discussion Paper, prepared by SGS Economics and Planning, March 2023 (**Appendix 9.2B**)

Purpose

To present the key findings to date for the *Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy*, as well as the next steps for public consultation.

Summary

- This report describes the key findings of the background work undertaken to date (**Appendix 9.2A**), which provides information about land supply and information about the built form of our various residential areas;
- A Discussion Paper (**Appendix 9.2B**) has been prepared to seek community input into the strategy at an early stage in the project.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the contents of the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy Background Report and Discussion Paper and make these documents available for community feedback for a period of 8 weeks from 23 April to 16 June 2024.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council receive and note the contents of the Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy Background Report and Discussion Paper and make these documents available for community feedback for a period of 8 weeks from 23 April to 16 June 2024.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Why undertake a Housing Strategy?

The current housing crisis affects all Australians and our region is no exception. Council’s role as a Planning Authority incurs a responsibility to ensure that our *Horsham Planning Scheme* provides adequate residential land supply and facilitates development to ensure existing and future residents have access to safe, comfortable, well-located housing. Housing that is well planned, in proximity to services, workplaces and schools will promote liveability, housing affordability, sustainability and future proof accessibility.

To address the challenges of meeting our region’s housing needs, the *Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy* (HNHDAS) will be a 15+ year plan to manage demand for housing in a manner that respects our cultural heritage values, as well as established neighbourhood character.

The project will provide:

- Population and housing projections to inform estimates of future residential land requirements.
- An assessment of the existing supply of residential land.
- An assessment of suitable locations for future growth and appropriate locations for infill development.
- Identified opportunities to increase the amount and type of affordable housing, including identifying specific sites and types of development, delivery mechanisms and key stakeholders.
- Guidance on accommodating projected growth, including the establishment of a clear settlement hierarchy specifying township roles and long-term township boundaries.

Project status

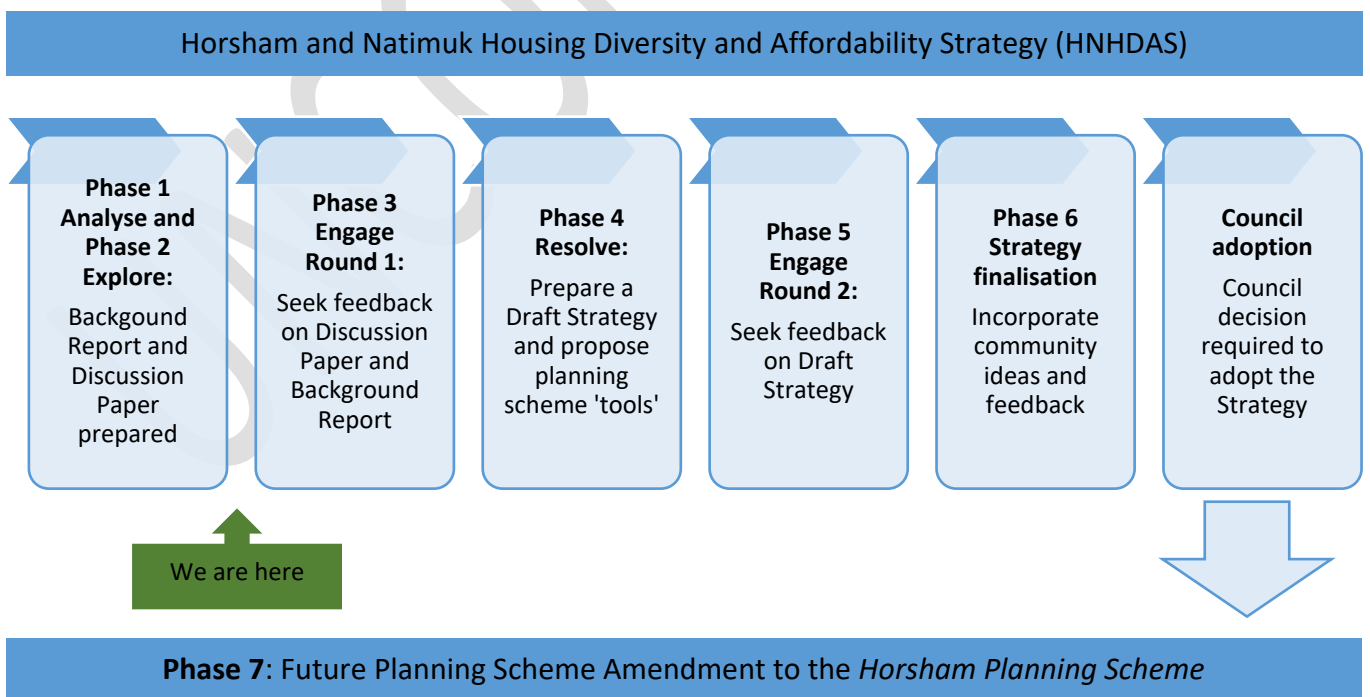


FIGURE 1: DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY

Previous Council resolutions

Date	Council resolution / summary
26 July 2021	<p>Council acknowledged the current planning context, considered grant opportunities and resolved to not rezone land without the necessary strategic work undertaken as outlined in the resolution below. It is important to note that Council does not rezone land, Council undertakes the process subject to approval from the Minister for Planning.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge the ongoing purpose and relevance of the 2013 Horsham Framework for Managing Growth in informing current and future decisions on housing subdivision and development. 2. Acknowledge that an evidence based approach including data forecasting, assessment of emerging trends and a supply and demand analysis is required to understand the changing housing needs of Horsham as it grows and to inform future residential land supply options. 3. Consider the preparation of a Housing Strategy in the 22-23 financial year. 4. Seek external grant opportunities to help fund the Housing Strategy. 5. Does not rezone any land until the recommended strategic planning work has been undertaken, unless an area has been identified as a strategic site and is supported with background investigations, sufficient evidence and strategic justification.
October 2023	Council received a Project Update report which outlined the project plan and noted the report.

DiscussionPhase 1 Analyse – Background Report

Phase 1 was the *Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy: Background Report*, prepared by SGS Economics and Planning, March 2023 (HNHDAS Background Report, **Appendix 9.2A**).

The HNHDAS provides:

- an overview of the policy context and current Council projects, including implications for the project
- Historic populations and housing trends, which demonstrate that Horsham has an ageing population, a higher proportion of lone households and has not experienced higher levels of population growth over recent years as seen in other regional areas as a result of the pandemic.
- A housing profile that indicates a lack of diversity and a decline in housing affordability.
- A housing demand and capacity assessment that includes two scenarios for growth (low and high) that indicates that there is between 30 years (high growth scenario) and 33 years (low growth scenario) of land supply in Horsham (city) alone.
- A description of barriers to housing delivery, such as infrastructure, land withholding, geography and settlement pattern constraints, feasibility and development industry constraints.
- A social and affordable housing needs analysis; and
- A built form analysis of Horsham, Haven and Natimuk.

Phase 2 Explore - Discussion Paper

The purpose of the *Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy: Discussion Paper*, prepared by SGS Economics and Planning, March 2023 (HNHDAS Discussion Paper, **Appendix 9.2B**) is to introduce the project, key project findings to date and seek community feedback and ideas about how to address housing issues.

Importantly, the HNHDAS Discussion Paper sets out the role of a housing strategy as follows:

What the HNHDAS will do:

- Set out a vision for future housing in Horsham Rural City.
- Identify the role each town in the municipality will play in accommodating future growth.
- Identify preferred staging of growth to assist with investment prioritisation.
- Provide policy support for the increased supply of diverse and affordable housing and identify appropriate locations.
- Identify opportunities for Council to advocate to and partner with key stakeholders to achieve objectives of the HNHDAS.

What the HNHDAS won't do:

- Overcome all market barriers to the supply of housing. For example, the feasibility of certain types of housing.
- Compel landowners to sell or develop land identified for housing growth.
- Provide detailed guidance regarding built form outcomes.
- A community engagement plan is currently being developed in consultation with Council's Community Relations and Advocacy Team (CRAT) to identify stakeholders and engagement activities.

Options to Consider

Option 1 (as recommended by this report)

That Council notes the HNHDAS Background Report and Discussion Paper and public release and community consultation.

Implications

There are no negative implications because undertaking community consultation provides an opportunity to seek feedback and ideas, as well as 'test' the findings so far.

Other Option

Council could consider resolving to not commence, or defer the community consultation, however this would have financial and resource implications for the project. It would also delay this key piece of strategic planning.

Sustainability Implications.

The *Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy* will investigate housing diversity, including infill opportunities. Urban consolidation is a critical land use planning approach to creating more sustainable, walkable communities and will result in significant sustainability benefits.

Community Engagement

Community engagement will be undertaken between Tuesday 23 April and Sunday 16 June 2024. It will include (but not be limited to):

- 8 week consultation period to allow for enough opportunities for people interested;
- Information readily available on Council's website;
- Online webinar open to all, that will also be recorded and uploaded onto Council's website;
- Key stakeholder interviews;
- Social media;
- Community drop-in sessions in Horsham, Natimuk and Haven; and
- Opportunities to meet with Council officers to ask questions throughout the consultation period.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration**Project Control Group**

An internal and multidisciplinary Project Control Group was established to oversee the development of this project and collaborate on key issues, as well as to ensure that other Council strategic projects and operations align with the outcomes of the structure plan. As an example, the Commercial and Industrial land supply project is utilising the population projections and key findings included in the HNHDAS Background Report and if the timing permits, implementation of the two projects could be undertaken as a single planning scheme amendment.

Community engagement

Collaboration will be critical to ensuring that the project aligns with government policy and legislation. Key agency stakeholders and housing providers will be identified and consulted with as part of this project. A Community Engagement Plan is being developed to manage this.

Financial Implications

The project has been included in the 2023-2024 Council budget and has received State Government funding of \$70,000.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The following regional, state or national plans or policies are applicable to the project:

- [Australian Government - National Housing Accord 2022](#)
- [Victorian Government - Victoria's Housing Statement: the decade ahead 2024-2034](#)
- [Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan 2014](#)
- [Planning Institute Australia - Planning for the Housing we need: Ten ways planning can support housing affordability and diversity](#)
- Urban Development Program, 2011, Regional Industrial Report Rural City of Horsham, prepared for Department of Planning and Community Development

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

- Council Plan, 2021-2025, prepared by HRCC, 2021
- Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards, prepared by HRCC 2022.
- Horsham Framework for Managing Growth, October 2013, Prepared for HRCC by Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment Pty Ltd
- Open Space Strategy 2019
- Social Infrastructure Framework 2020
- Urban Transport Plan 2020
- Municipal Bicycle and Shared Path Plan 2012 by Driscoll Engineering
- Community Engagement Policy, C04/095

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Horsham and Natimuk Housing Diversity and Affordability Strategy project will provide Council with a framework for managing growth and our regions housing needs.

9.3 HORSHAM REGIONAL MUSEUM

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F06/A19/000001

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

Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study Review (Stage 2) 2024 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

To present the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study review.

Summary

The review of the Proposed Horsham Regional Museum Study Stage 1 (the Study) has identified the Horsham Regional Museum profile, three goals, and seven recommendations. An Implementation Plan will complement the review to provide clear direction to achieve the next stage (Stage 2) of the Horsham Regional Museum.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the findings of the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 1) review.
2. Receive and note the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study review (Stage 2) 2024.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Bob Redden

That Council:

1. Note the findings of the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 1) review.
2. Receive and note the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study review (Stage 2) 2024.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Proposed Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study, Stage 1 (the Study) was undertaken in 2018 and was funded by Council. The Study has been overseen by the Horsham Home of History Group (Group), comprised of Horsham Historical Society, Horsham RSL (RSL Military History and Heritage Group), Council and community representatives.

The Study identified a number of significant heritage collections that are dispersed throughout the greater Horsham region, held by community organisations and by individual community members. Included amongst this, for example, are over 1500 militaria items (some with known national significance) at the Horsham RSL, and an extensive collection of cultural, civil and military items held by the Horsham Historical Society Inc. Individuals, also with very substantial heritage collections, have expressed a desire for an opportunity to share their displays.

The Study revealed an urgent need for improved storage, care and display of items which was acknowledged by each organisation so interested individuals and representatives from these community groups formed the Horsham's Home of History Group (formerly named Horsham Regional Museum Working Group).

The Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study Stage 1 examined a number of outputs. The review of this Study examined the outcomes of the outputs to form the basis of the Horsham Regional Museum (Stage 2) and future recommendations. The outputs are listed below.

- Review existing collections within the municipality.
- Situational analysis - review collections and museums in the wider region i.e. Wimmera and regional Victoria
- Undertake a benchmark analysis of the features of other regional museums in Victoria and Australia
- Undertake a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis for the Museum proposal.
- Develop options for a Horsham Regional Museum that reflect the strength of our regional collections and provide a "point of difference" for the marketplace.
- Develop functional brief for the museum - i.e. this would map out the functional areas required for a museum and floor space.
- Undertake a high-level cost/benefit analysis of the proposal, including analysis of economic benefits to the region in the development of a museum.
- Provide a clear recommendation as to the feasibility of the museum project - and moving forward to Stage 2 (Concept Design and Business Plan).

Discussion

What has changed since the Horsham Regional Museum Stage 1 was completed?

- The Horsham Historical Society have extended their current premises and not looking to relocate into a standalone Horsham Regional Museum.
- In 2023 a Private Military Museum opened in (Market Street Horsham). This Museum contributes to sites that could be visited and marketed through a Museum Trail.
- The Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 2) identified the next steps in development of a Horsham Regional Museum, through the creation of a profile, three goals and seven recommendations as listed below.

The Profile suggests the collections are to be dated between 1840 and 1950. 1840 is when Horsham commenced as a destination and 1950 when the Centenary of Horsham was celebrated, representing its first 100 years.

The Horsham Regional Museum will enable visits to be immersed in the stories of our past by bringing them alive with modern technology.

The primary collection theme is to be Water and Agriculture and include items such as irrigation implements, farming equipment manufactured or sold in Horsham and secondary supplies which catered for the needs of the farming community, for instance those sold in the Langlands log store which was built on the corner of Darlot and Hamilton Streets in 1849.

Darlot followed the First Nations people when he chose Horsham to be a village in the 1840s. The river was first used for survival, the basics of water for drinking and growing food. The use of water from the Wimmera River embedded innovation and enabled the village to grow into a borough, town and regional city. (ref: A Story of Horsham pages 1, 61)

GOALS:

- Goal One: Wimmera Region Museum Trail (Short-term)
- Goal Two: Review the Feasibility Study (Stage 2) (Medium-term)
- Goal Three: Horsham Regional Museum Operational (Long-term)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1: That the Horsham Regional Museum Group (Horsham's Home of History) continue to identify suitable stories to meet the Horsham Regional Museum profile. In Stage 2, these stories' authenticity and appropriateness based on the principles identified in the Horsham Regional Museum profile will be examined. Once authenticity is approved, they will be re-created by the Horsham Regional Museum Group with the assistance of volunteers, choreographer and or a theatre director.

Recommendation 2: That the Horsham Regional Museum Group (Horsham's Home of History) continue to identify suitable collections to meet the Horsham Regional Museum profile. These collections are to be catalogued and appraised in Stage 2 by the Horsham Regional Museum Group with the assistance of volunteers and a museum curator to identify authenticity and appropriateness for a collection based on the principles identified in the Horsham Regional Museum profile.

Recommendation 3: The May & Millar collection to be catalogued in Stage 2 by a volunteer and appraised by a museum curator to identify authenticity and appropriateness for a collection based on the principles identified in the Horsham Museum profile.

Recommendation 4: The Study indicated that if Stage 2 progresses, all locations identified in Stage 1 should be examined. It is suggested that the following sites be thoroughly examined to identify appropriateness and feasibility to establish as a Horsham Regional Museum.

- A greenfield site along the Western Highway
- Leasing an area of farmland and creating a special use zone to enable additional activities such as signage and retail.
- Longerenong College

Recommendation 5: That the Horsham Regional Museum Group support the development of a Museum Trail to promote visitation across the regions and shared marketing opportunities as articulated in the

Study. This will build on the success of the silo art trail which has provided a tourism product for the rural regions across Victoria and in particular the Wimmera and Mallee.

Recommendation 6: That the Horsham Regional Museum Group support the development of the Arapiles Museum and existing precinct, as the first stage in development of a Horsham Regional Museum.

Recommendation 7: Develop an implementation plan to support the group to move forward and undertake the necessary steps for the project to progress to fruition.

Options to Consider

1. Council can choose to note the findings of the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 1) review and to receive and note the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 2).
2. Council can choose not to note the findings of the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 1) review and not to receive and note the Horsham Regional Museum Feasibility Study (Stage 2).

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The Horsham Regional Museum Group have been working in partnership with Council since 2018. There was a period during the COVID pandemic when the group went into remission (2019-2022). The group was re-established and is known as the Horsham's Home of History group with membership also refreshed. It has met regularly over the past year.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Financial costs will depend on the collections identified. This will inform the facilities footprint and design required to house the collection. The site will also impact on the financial cost regarding whether the site is a brownfield or greenfield site or developed with a complementary establishment. A donated site should not be discarded either, as there is always a possibility a site may be donated or shared. The financial costs will be further assessed as part of the implementation plan and as other information comes to light.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 3 - 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.

Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards.

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The review of the Regional Museum Study Stage 1 (the Study) has identified the Horsham Regional Museum profile, three goals, and seven recommendations. An Implementation Plan will complement the review to provide the Horsham's Home of History Group clear direction to achieve the next stage (Stage 2) of the Horsham Regional Museum.

9.4 HORSHAM RURAL CITY URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

Author's Name:	Joel Hastings	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Statutory Planning and Building Services	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	File Number:	F15/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

Horsham City Urban Renewal Project – Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024)
(Appendix 9.4A)

Purpose

To present the Horsham City Urban Renewal Project – Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan and seek Council endorsement to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment including a request for Ministerial authorisation and public exhibition.

Summary

The Horsham Rural City Urban Renewal project forms a key element of planning for the future development of the city.

The Horsham City Urban Renewal Project identifies a number of sites and precincts suitable for urban renewal to encourage residential, commercial, mixed-use development and the *Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024)* (Appendix 9.4A), provides a vision for future development and a roadmap for implementation.

The project has been undertaken over the past eighteen months in consultation with landholders, businesses, authorities, and the community with assistance of professional urban design, planning and economic consultants to ensure the redevelopment options respond to site constraints, landowner intentions and economic modeling for redevelopment.

The adoption of the *Horsham City Urban Renewal Project, Redevelopment Plans and an Implementation Plan* will facilitate the development of these precincts through economic modelling, setting a clear vision, planning controls and design guidelines.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham City Urban Renewal Project – Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024)
2. Request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare and exhibit a Planning Scheme Amendment to the Horsham Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the Horsham City Urban Renewal Project – Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024).

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

That Council:

1. Adopt the Horsham City Urban Renewal Project – Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024)
2. Request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare and exhibit a Planning Scheme Amendment to the Horsham Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the Horsham City Urban Renewal Project – Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council is planning for the long-term future of our regional city being the major provider of retail, community and government services in the Wimmera. Horsham is also undergoing moderate growth associated with a strong agricultural sector and diversification in manufacturing, renewable energy and mining.

A planning response is required to address housing diversity and commercial investment in key strategic sites within the city.

The Horsham City Urban Renewal Project (Project) will build upon the strengths of Horsham as a Regional Centre and facilitate the transformation of the city through:

- Providing a guide for urban renewal of the city to accelerate the delivery of public and private development.
- The provision of housing choice and diversity.
- Ensuring a land supply pipeline to facilitate regional growth.
- Commercial and financial feasibility, as well as master planning to support development outcomes for these strategic sites.
- The development of strategies to overcome commercial and environmental barriers to development.
- The creation of Concept Development Plans.
- Achieving a vibrant mix of commercial and residential activity.
- Developing linkages between the city and the river.
- Providing Urban Design guidance for the precincts.

The Project will assist in facilitating the redevelopment of key sites and provide a model for urban renewal in regional Victoria.

The Urban Renewal Study area encompasses the Council depot site and Selkirk Drive, North of Selkirk Drive and south of Wilson Street and on Firebrace, Madden and Baker Streets. These three investigation areas are depicted in the diagram below.



Figure 1 - Study Area

Project

The Project has been funded by Council and the Victorian Planning Authority and has been delivered by urban planning consultants Urban Fold, Echelon Planning and Urban Enterprise.

As part of the staged project plan of the Horsham City Urban Renewal Project (Project), Council has considered potential development options based on demographic change, commercial and financial assessments, detailed site analysis and stakeholder engagement.

The Project has been delivered in three stages:

1. Planning and Property Report - site investigation and market analysis
2. Options Assessment - consideration of a range of potential development options and scenarios
3. Development Plan – preferred options for future use and development, commercial feasibility, and planning recommendations.

Consultation

Consultation has occurred over the duration of the Project with key stakeholders including one on one meetings with landholders and businesses, group workshops and market advice from the property development sector.

The following consultation has occurred as part of the Project:

- Landowner and Stakeholder interviews - March 2022
- Property Industry engagement - Planning and Property report (June 2022) - provides a strategic overview of the regional context, investigation areas, planning controls and market analysis.
- Options workshop with landowners and businesses (June 2023)
- Neighbourhood community information sessions (October 2023)
- Draft Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan – Have your Say (December to February 2024)

The recent consultation resulted in seven submissions from interested parties.

The issues raised include:

Privacy and overlooking

It is acknowledged that there is potential for overlooking the existing residential neighbourhood to the west with the proposed two-storey development shown on the various redevelopment options.

The current residential zoning allows for up to three storeys and current planning provisions provide protection from overlooking into existing private open space. It should be noted that the current building design is indicative only and the final building form will be dependent upon a future application that will need to consider these impacts.

Transport connectivity.

A key element of the redevelopment options is the connectivity within the areas to activate the precincts and support active transport connectivity to the footpath network and open space corridors connecting residential neighborhoods and Central Activity District (CAD).

The department of transport submission supports this approach and the preparation of Traffic Impact Assessment as part of future development.

Submission 5 is concerned about the impact connectivity will have on existing businesses and does not support any internal roads. It should be acknowledged that the redevelopment plans or any future planning controls do not compel a landowner to redevelop and that these requirements are only triggered by a planning permit application.

The Urban Renewal Plan is intended to inform the future development of the precinct over the next 2- 15 years as Horsham continues to grow as a regional city and it is important ensure it is well coordinated and meets the needs of the community.

Sewer Infrastructure

GWMWater have identified a trunk sewer traversing the Council Depot site as a critical asset. It is noted that whilst the sewer is at a great depth the construction over the asset is not supported and may require realignment. There are a number of constraints that apply to the land within the precinct including existing infrastructure, flooding, potential contamination which will all need to be considered in any future development and are highlighted in the Implementation Plan.

Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan (March 2024)

A number of options have been developed for the investigation area in response to the background work to ensure future development is well integrated into the existing urban neighbourhood.

The options recognise the demand for housing, commercial development, open space and connectivity and seek a design response that is respectful of the character of the precinct that opens the land up for development and public access.

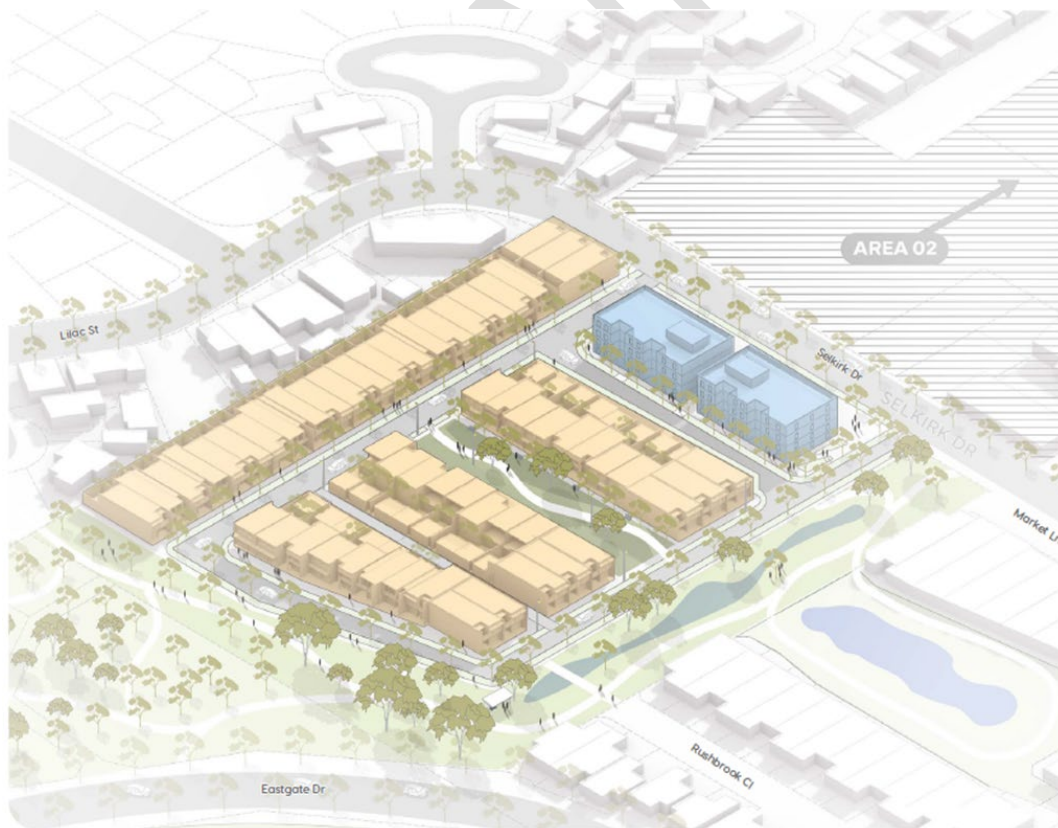


Figure 20 - Investigation Area 1 Option 1 Birds-eye view looking north west

Figure 2 – Council Depot Site (Option 1)

The report acknowledges these sites as key for the urban renewal of Horsham providing for housing close to amenities and services, activating commercial development around Wilson and Firebrace Streets and improving access to public open space connection though to the river.

The report also details the site's context and identifies a range of industrial uses including the Council depot that is no longer compatible with the surround commercial and residential uses and it is anticipated the uses will relocate in the coming years.

Medium density housing has also been identified as a key opportunity, adding to the diversity of housing options in Horsham and is well supported by the market assessment.

Implementation

The report identifies a range of measures for implementation including the planning controls required to achieve this vision for the precinct.

There is no re-zoning proposed but a range of planning overlays are to achieve quality development outcomes and will provide certainty to landholders, developers, residents, and business on future development.

The next steps in the planning process will be the preparation of amendment documentation for submission for Authorisation by the Minister and following further refinement the exhibition of the amendment for public comment.

Accordingly, Council will be presented with any the submissions made to a Planning Scheme Amendment and recommendations for how to proceed to a Panel Hearing or Adoption.

Options to Consider

Council has the following options regarding the report.

1. Adopt the final report and approve the request for authorisation and exhibition
2. Receive the report and request changes prior to adoption
3. Refuse to adopt the final report or approve the request for authorisation and exhibition

Council has identified these sites for redevelopment in the Planning Scheme for many years and the Project forms part of the strategic planning work program. The Project has received funding from the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) to progress urban renewal in Horsham and option 1 is recommended.

Sustainability Implications

There are no direct sustainability implications as a result of progressing the report, however urban renewal is consistent with sustainability principles of encouraging higher density living closer to services and employment.

Community Engagement

As noted above, businesses, landowners and authorities have all been engagement as part of the project and the decision will allow the implementation stage to commence.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The project includes a range of innovative approaches to facilitating development through market analyst and planning controls and may provide a new model for encouraging urban renewal development in regional Victoria.

Collaboration

This project has involved important collaboration between Council, landowners, and businesses, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), Victoria Planning Authority, GWMWater and DEECA (formerly DELWP). It will be important that collaboration with landowners and businesses continues in the preparation of an amendment.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Council as a result of the development of the plan other than standard officer time and project costs which are accounted for in the budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The project was funded by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and is consistent with State Government policy to support growth and development in regions. The proposed policy directions are consistent with the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

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

Risk Implications

Council has a responsibility to plan for the future of the municipality in and in undertaking this strategic planning project and implementing its recommendations will meet the requirements of the Planning and Environment Act.

Some landowners may consider that placing planning controls on their property creates a burden for existing development or potential sale of their property, however there is no obligation on existing businesses until a planning application is lodged.

Conclusion

Horsham City Urban Renewal - Redevelopment Options and Implementation Plan provides a vision for the redevelopment of a key strategic sites and is based on a thorough analysis of the opportunities and constraints on the sites, market analysis and key stakeholder feedback.

The adoption of the report and preparation of a planning scheme amendment will allow for implementation of key recommendations to guide and facilitate the redevelopment of the precincts for the change and future growth of the Horsham city.

9.5 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN YEAR 3: 2024-2025

Author's Name:	Sarah Mclvor	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Acting Governance Co-ordinator	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	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

Annual Action Plan 2024-2025 (Appendix 9.5A)

Purpose

To present the Annual Action Plan – Year 3: 2024-2025 for adoption.

Summary

- The Council Plan 2021-2025 was adopted by Council 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 initiatives and priorities identified in the Council Plan will be implemented.
- The Annual Action Plan 2024-2025 represents the third iteration of the Plan adopted by Council in 2022 and includes initiatives proposed for inclusion in the 2024-2025 budget.
- The Plan, including the initiatives proposed for inclusion in the 2024-2025 budget, was presented for community feedback from 28 February and 26 March 2024 inclusive.
- No submissions were made by members of the community during the engagement period on either the Plan or the proposed initiatives.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Annual Action Plan – Year 3: 2024-2025 (Appendix 9.5A) including confirmation of the priorities identified for inclusion in the 2024-2025 budget.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council adopt the Annual Action Plan – Year 3: 2024-2025 (Appendix 9.5A) including confirmation of the priorities identified for inclusion in the 2024-2025 budget.

CARRIED

Cr Penny Flynn called for a Division of Council

For the Motion:

Cr Robyn Gulline

Cr Bob Redden

Cr Penny Flynn

Cr Les Power

Cr Ian Ross

Against the Motion:

Cr David Bowe

REPORT

Background

Following a comprehensive community engagement process in 2021 both the Council Vision and the Council Plan 2021-2025 were formally adopted. Broad consultation was then 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 over the duration of the Plan.

This resulted in the development of an initial Annual Action Plan to identify the key activities that would be implemented to achieve the priorities and initiatives outlined in the Council Plan. That initial Annual Action Plan 2022-2023 was adopted on 23 May 2022 with Annual Action Plan Year 2: 2023-2024 adopted on 24 April 2023.

Discussion

The 2024-2025 Plan represents the third iteration of the Annual Action Plan and outlines those priorities for delivery in the upcoming financial year, plus those multi-year projects due for completion by June 2025 or December 2025 in line with the conclusion of the Plan.

Within the draft Annual Action Plan provided for community feedback were seven (7) actions marked for consideration. These actions represent initiatives proposed to be undertaken during the financial year to deliver against the Council Plan. Information on these actions was provided to the community in line with the requirements that a budget include a general description of services and initiatives to be funded and to nominate major initiatives identified by the Council as priorities in the Council Plan to be undertaken each financial year as per the requirements under section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Given the significant commitments that already account for most of the annual budget, such as endorsed capital projects, operational costs, and associated expenditure, there is only a small percentage of the overall budget that is available for discretionary spending and therefore able to be informed by input from the community. These seven initiatives, representing projects over and above the actions committed to under the Council Plan, fall within that discretionary spending and therefore represented the basis of the community engagement process to inform the development of the 2024-2025 Budget.

Specifically, the seven proposed initiatives were presented in detail online to enable the community to provide feedback and commentary on each while also being able to make recommendations for amendments. While this formed the consultation for the budget it was also supplemented by a related community engagement period seeking feedback on the Annual Action Plan – Year 3: 2024-2025 that replicated the processes adopted for the first and second iterations of the Plan. Both engagements were made available on Council's *Have your Say* page between 28 February and 26 March 2024 as a means to enable the community to provide feedback to further inform the Plan and the development of the annual budget.

No submissions were made by members of the community during the engagement period on either the AAP or the proposed initiatives. The draft has therefore only been updated to reflect the inclusion of all seven initiatives in the AAP and therefore as initiatives to be reflected in the 2024-2025 Budget.

Options to Consider

Council can opt not to adopt the Annual Action Plan however this would be inconsistent with the approach previously adopted. It would also result in a missed opportunity to inform the development of the budget noting the adoption of the AAP confirms the initiatives to be funded in the 2024-2025 Annual Budget.

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 Annual Action Plan Year 3: 2024-2025, and associated initiatives, were made available for a community engagement period of four weeks. No public submissions were made during the four-week period on either the AAP or the initiatives.

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. This iteration represents a change from the first two in that it not only outlines those priorities for delivery in the upcoming financial year, it also articulates those multi-year projects due for completion by June 2025 or December 2025 in line with the conclusion of the Plan.

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 Annual Action Plan 2024-2025 outlines how Council officers will implement the final phase of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and will also inform the development of the 2024-2025 Annual Budget.

UNCONFIRMED

9.6 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND FRAMEWORK

Author's Name:	Andrea Coxon	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F19/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

Risk Management Policy (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Risk Management Framework (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Purpose

To present Council with the revised Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework as informed by the recommendations from the Risk Management Audit.

Summary

- Inefficiencies were identified in the Risk Management internal audit undertaken on the current documents.
- The updated Risk Management Policy and Framework aim to address and rectify inefficiencies identified in the audit.
- The Audit and Risk Committee endorsed the Risk Management Policy and Framework at their 21 March 2024 meeting and recommend to Council that it be approved.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework (**Appendix 9.6A & 9.6B**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn

That Council adopt the Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework (**Appendix 9.6A & 9.6B**).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Risk Management is not a standalone function that is separate from the day-to-day activities and processes of Council. It is an integral part of all Council processes, including strategic and operational planning, governance, project, performance and change management processes across Council.

Such an organisation-wide approach to risk management is an integral part of good management practice. It is also a continual process that should involve proactive risk identification, assessment, and actioning, with input from all members of staff. As part of the continual process, the Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework were last comprehensively revised in 2021 as part of a scheduled review.

Discussion

Since the adoption of the revised version of the Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework in 2021, RSD Audit has conducted a Risk Management Audit. The overall objective of the audit was to assess and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of internal controls embedded within HRCC risk management processes.

The audit findings identified opportunities for improvement in the following areas:

- Risk identification/review
- Risk registers & risk management software
- Risk Management KPI's
- Risk awareness & training
- Council Policy documents, risk culture and ownership

Given the recommendations from the audit the latest iterations of the documents have focused on development of internal controls and integration, as well as roles and responsibilities. The risk management process includes identification, analysis, evaluation, treatment options and plan and monitoring and review along with the reporting cycle. Risk management key performance indicators have also been developed to measure the effectiveness of performance and assist in ensuring that risk management objectives and targets are met.

Council's policy also aligns with the International Standard ISO 31000 which provides principles and guidelines for risk management that outlines an approach to identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and communicating risks across an organisation.

To complement the updated policy and framework Council is implementing a specialised software in risk management which will provide Council with the following benefits:

- Improved visualisation of data through dashboard reporting
- Simplifies regulatory compliance with internal and external standards
- Standardised reporting across different areas of Council business
- Improved automated reporting for presentation in strategic and operational risks

An important element for the success of Council's risk management policy and framework is the provision of training. Council's education and training programs are designed to ensure that risk management awareness is consistent and thorough through training at induction level for all new staff, risk management awareness refresher training and specific training to key personnel and Councillors. Upon adoption training on the framework, process and specialised software will be delivered to key personnel and role specific training will be provided as/when needed. All new staff will receive training via induction sessions based on their risk management responsibilities.

Options to Consider

Council approval and adoption of the Policy and Framework will provide guidance to people with risk management responsibilities to understand and confidently respond to risks affecting our business objectives and efficiency.

Council may choose not to adopt but in doing so may create an environment where an inconsistent application of the framework is imbedded across Council by not utilising a clearly defined operating model, risk management process and accountabilities.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Preliminary revised documents were presented to Council's Risk Management Committee on 29 November 2023 and the Audit and Risk Committee meeting 7 December 2023 where it was confirmed that the progress made was in line with the expectations to address the audit recommendations.

Final drafts of the Risk Management Policy and Framework were reviewed by the Risk Management Committee on 1 March 2024 and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 21 March 2024. The Audit and Risk Committee endorsed the Risk Management Policy and Framework at that meeting and recommend to Council that it be approved.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The monitoring and review of the policy and framework are in line with Council's commitment to continuous improvement. The implementation of specialised risk management software will also enhance Council's management, monitoring, reviewing and reporting of risk.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

All work undertaken within existing financial resourcing.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 5 – Leadership

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Risk Implications

Risk management is regarded as integral to everyday Council activities. An ineffective risk management framework would prevent Council from effectively identifying, monitoring and mitigating risk.

Conclusion

The updates to the policy and framework aim to establish a consistent and structured approach to risk management. The intent of the policy and framework is to ensure that risk management is embedded in Council's culture and processes, where all employees are responsible for detecting, evaluating and monitoring their risk environments and is presented to Council for adoption.

UNCONFIRMED

9.7 COUNCIL EXPENSES POLICY

Author's Name:	Andrea Coxon	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance and Information	File Number:	F19/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

Council Expenses Policy (**Appendix 9.7A**)

Councillor/Delegated Committee Member Expense Reimbursement Claim Form (**Appendix 9.7B**)

Purpose

To present the revised Council Expenses Policy and Reimbursement Claim form.

Summary

- The aim of the policy is to ensure value for money and transparency in relation to Councillor expenses, being mindful that expenses are met from public funds.
- The policy has been updated to address the RSD Audit recommendations.
- The Council Expenses Policy meets the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- The Audit and Risk Committee have endorsed the revised Council Expenses Policy and associated Councillor/Delegated Committee Member Expense Reimbursement Claim Form and recommend to Council that the documents be approved.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Council Expenses Policy and Councillor/Delegated Committee Member Expense Reimbursement Claim Form (**Appendix 9.7A & 9.7B**).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Bob Redden, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council adopt the Council Expenses Policy and Councillor/Delegated Committee Member Expense Reimbursement Claim Form (**Appendix 9.7A & 9.7B**).

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The current Council Expenses Policy was last adopted by Council 26 April 2021. The policy is a legislated requirement that sets out how Councillors and delegated committee members can legitimately claim expenses they incur in the course of discharging their duties. Council must adopt and implement this policy under section 41 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

A review of Council's policy was conducted by RSD Audit in December 2023 to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* as well as best practice guidance issued by the Local Government Inspectorate.

Discussion

One of the objectives of the Council Expenses Policy is to ensure that only legitimate expenses incurred by Councillors and Delegated Committee members during the course of their duties are reimbursed. This ensures reimbursement is aligned with the requirements of the legislation and ensures value for money.

The updated expenses policy has been benchmarked against other council policies across the State and informed by recommendations provided by RSD Audit, Local Government Inspectorate and Local Government Victoria.

The RSD Audit determined that Council is meeting its legislative requirements under section 39 - Allowances for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors and section 41 - Council expenses policy of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Recommendations from the Local Government Inspectorate and the recent internal audit have identified opportunities for Council to improve the Policy and thereby ensure greater integrity and transparency of Councillor expenses.

Following the presentation of the RSD Audit recommendations to the Audit and Risk Committee in December they requested that a revised policy be developed and returned to the Committee for their consideration in order to make recommendation to Council in line with the recommendations of the Review.

The Policy and associated processes have therefore been updated with the following improvements made:

- Greater clarity in the policy to outline both the process for reimbursements and the type of documentary evidence required.
- Further clarification as to the level of detail required to process claims, including the purpose of the expense, how it relates to the respective role, and an explanation of the benefit to the community
- The roles and responsibilities in the reimbursement process
- How reimbursements will be provided to the claimant
- The date for lodgement of reimbursement claims
- Reimbursement exclusions
- Stationery, facilities and resources provided
- Private vehicle use claims reimbursement rates - noting that this will be at the Australian Taxation Office rate

Further changes include the separation of reimbursement rates for Councillors/Delegated Committee members with these now outlined in the Council Expenses Policy. The Travel Expense Guidelines are now referred to as Staff Travel expense Guidelines to confirm that separation.

The revised Council Expenses Policy and Councillor/Delegated Committee Member Expense Reimbursement Claim Form was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at their March meeting as per their request at the December 2023 meeting. At that March meeting the Audit and Risk Committee resolved to endorse the revised Council Expenses Policy and associated Councillor/Delegated Committee Member Expense Reimbursement Claim Form and recommend to Council that they be approved once some minor revisions were made. Those revisions have now been made and the Policy and associated Claim Form are presented to Council.

Options to Consider

Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires a Council to adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for [Councillors](#) and members of [delegated committees](#).

While it is recommended that Council adopt the proposed revised policy, they may opt to retain the current policy. It should be noted however that the revised policy has been informed by recommendations from the RSD Audit, Local Government Inspectorate and Local Government Victoria and also been benchmarked against other council policies across the State.

Sustainability Implications

The reimbursement of legitimate Councillor and Delegated Committee members expenses ensures that our elected members are supported in undertaking their roles which creates social, economic and social benefits for the municipal community.

Community Engagement

Preliminary revised documents were presented to Council's Risk Management Committee on 1 March 2024 and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 21 March 2024 with a resolution to recommend to Council that the policy and claim form be approved.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Amendments have been proposed to the Council Expense Policy in order to pursue continuous improvement. The amendments ensures public transparency in relation to the reimbursement of Councillor and delegated committee members and the resources and facilities that are made available to them in the performance of their duties.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The annual budget includes provision for the reimbursement of expenses relating to Councillors and Delegated Committee members as defined in this policy.

The establishment of clear, reasonable and equitable rules around the use of public funds by Council is an important means through which to ensure that public money is expended in a way that is compliant with legislation and within Council Budget while also supporting Councillors in their role representing the municipality of Horsham Rural City Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan - Theme 5 – Leadership

Risk Implications

There are risk implications if Council does not have a robust expenses policy that provides transparency and accountability in relation to Councillor expenses. Improvements to the policy will further reduce any such risks and ensure the policy meets the legislative objectives as well as ensure greater transparency in expense claims, while also mitigating the opportunities for fraud and corruption.

Conclusion

This policy ensures that the reimbursement of expenses to Councillors/Delegated Committee members is done in accordance with the Act and meets the Act's principles of public transparency, achieving the best outcomes for the municipality, and ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the Council. The policy is now presented for adoption.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**9.8 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 February 2024 (data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry) **(Appendix 9.8A)**

Purpose

To present the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for February 2024.

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 February 2024.

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

That Council receive and note agenda item:

- 9.8 Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report for February 2024.
- 9.9 Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for April 2024.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

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

Discussion

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

The Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan progress and key achievements for the month of 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+

Ongoing – life of plan

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

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
1.3.6 (2 year)	Implement priorities from Horsham North Local Area Plan for the Horsham Rail Corridor Project	Finalise Rail Corridor landscape plan. Finalise concept design of the Pedestrian underpass.	Rail Corridor Landscape Plan finalised and endorsed by Council in January 2024. Concept design for pedestrian underpass finalised and included in final Rail Corridor Landscape Plan.
2.10 (Ongoing)	Undertake regular meetings between Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities	10 forums held per year.	Meetings held on a regular basis. Outcomes relate to business development opportunities that benefit the region overall. 2/10 meetings held to date in 2024.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Business Visits

Council's Business Team personally visited local operators in the Dadswells Bridge area following the recent Bush Fires. All operators were extremely grateful for the face-to-face visit, knowing that we are here to assist in any way possible moving forward. Additional visits will continue, as we move forward by showing our support.

Grampians Tourism News

It has been a challenging couple of weeks for Grampians Tourism with communities across the Pomonal and Dadswells Bridge impacted by the recent bushfires. Grampians Tourism have commenced advertising within the Grampians region to support recovery by supporting locals, and businesses via radio, newspapers, and social media.

Up and Coming Events

Industry Forum will be Thursday 14th March at Maydale Reserve, Horsham Showgrounds. Our guest speakers will include Ryan Smith, The Access Agency, Fiona Sweetman, Victoria Tourism Industry Council, Andrea Cross, Maydale Reserve and Sunil Bhalla at Horsham Council. Marc Sleeman, Grampians Tourism will present the new Visitor Economy Partnerships with Wimmera Mallee Tourism.

Grampians Grape Escape is a highly anticipated event that brings together locals and visitors, showcasing destination strengths, including our award-winning wine region. Event to be held on 3 to 5 May.

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	January 2023 Businesses Occupied	February 2024 Businesses Occupied	February 2024 Businesses Vacant	February 2024 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	41	2	95%
Firebrace St - 99	90	90	9	91%
Hamilton St - 17	16	16	1	94%
Wilson St – 34	29	29	5	85%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	24	24	4	86%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	24	24	3	89%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	24	24	0	100%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	248/272	248/272	24	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.

Monthly Business Visitations for 2024

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event contacts	Over all contacts for the month
January	8	6	20	34
February	20	13	18	51
Total	28	19	38	85

Spendmapp

Please see below summary of spending for the month of February.

The biggest spending night of the month of February 2024 was Saturday 10 February with Total Local Spend of \$0.3M. This was made up of \$0.2M in Dining and Entertainment spending and \$0.1M spending in all other categories. The CBL Grand Final was on this night which may have contributed to the increase in nighttime spend.

M = Million	February 2024	January 2024	% Change Previous Month	% Change Previous Year
Total Local Spend	\$34.00 M	\$35.00 M	2.9% decrease	4.0% increase
Resident Local Spend	\$22.50 M	\$22.10 M	1.8% increase	2.3% increase
Visitor Local Spend	\$11.60 M	\$12.90 M	10.1% decrease	8.4% increase
Resident Escape Spend	\$9.78 M	\$12.40 M	21.1% decrease	7.7% increase
Resident Online Spend	\$11.90 M	\$12.30 M	3.3% decrease	4.4% increase



Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
2.7.1 (ongoing)	Identify and seek out commercial opportunities to activate the riverfront	Commercial opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	The Council is receiving a lot of interest from mobile food traders to trade at the riverfront café site. Two vendors have now got six month permits.
(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	The Business newsletter was sent to 1,283 business contacts on 22 February 2024 with 410 opens (38.6%) and 31 clicks.
3.4.2 (ongoing)	Work with local business to activate the Horsham city centre (CAD)	Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Design works are underway for the Children's Park and Town Square in Roberts Avenue
(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.	Council is receiving a lot of enquiries for office space and now have a waiting list.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.3	Develop a subdivision design and open space local planning policy.	Policy adopted by Council and Horsham Planning Scheme amended.	Draft Landscape guidelines have been prepared by Council.
1.3.4	Develop an open space contribution rate(s) and a new local Public Open Space Contribution Policy.	Policy adopted by Council and Horsham Planning Scheme amended.	A consultant has commenced background work required for a mandatory public open space development contribution rate for inclusion in the planning scheme.
1.6.4 (2 years)	Implement the Horsham Heritage Study to protect buildings and places of historic cultural heritage to reinforce a 'sense of place' and celebrate Horsham's character and distinctiveness	Horsham Planning Scheme amended	A report seeking a that Council commence a formal planning scheme amendment was presented to Council in February 2024.
(4 years)	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Cinema	Management plan endorsed by Council	Plan has been reviewed by Project Control Group and feedback has been provided to consultant.

STATUTORY PLANNING

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the month of February 2024 and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	FEBRUARY 2024		FEBRUARY 2023	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	3	1,060,000	4	2,072,839
Industrial/Commercial	2	440,000	3	2,241,000
Subdivisions	2 (6 lots)	482,260	3(112 lots)	600,000
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	7	1,982,260	10	4,913,839

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2023 to 29 February 2024 is 52 compared to 99 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 65 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 29 February 2024 compared to 178 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the month of **February 2024** and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	108,326	1	30,000
Removal/Demolish	2	56,273	1	19,800
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	4	164,599	2	49,800

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

Type	2024		2023	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	2	1,170,129	1	418,500
Alterations to Dwellings	4	7,295,410	6	800,434
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	4	173,730	8	277,322
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	3	700,466	2	1,326,868
Signs				
_Sub Total	13	9,339,735	17	2,823,124

A total of **21** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$3,843,752** from **1 July 2023 to 29 February 2024** compared to **25** Building Permits at a total value of **\$2152501** in 2022-2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **128** Building Permits at a total value of **\$62,206,755** from **1 July 2023 to 29 February 2024** compared to **153** at a total value of **\$34,475,213** in 2022-2023.

Options to Consider

Not applicable – no decision required

Sustainability Implications

Report provides overview of the development and business activity across the region with no direct sustainability implications.

Community Engagement

Report has been prepared in consultation with range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSM), 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 3 - 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.

Destination Horsham Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards

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.

9.9 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 April 2024.

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 April 2024.

Refer to Item No. 9.8 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 Monthly CEO Forum: The CEO attended the forum on 3 April 2024 via Teams. Discussions included VAGO results of 2022-2023 audits and insights from the Ministerial Guidelines on service rates and charges.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The CEOs from Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Buloke, Northern Grampians and Hindmarsh had their monthly meeting on Thursday 11 April. The group discussed recent changes to the Fairwork Act, the proposed transmission line infrastructure and impact of major projects in the region.

Renewable Energy/Transmission Infrastructure Projects: The CEO attended a workshop in Warracknabeal on 16 April which included the developers of renewable energy/transmission infrastructure projects and the key state and local agencies in our region. The workshop was the start of conversations with the developers to ensure these projects leave a positive legacy and deliver on community expectations around the benefits.

Regional Cities Victoria Meeting: The Mayor and CEO attended the meeting via Teams on 18 April. Guest speakers included the Victoria Police Association Secretary who addressed the meeting on community safety issues and regional policing insights. Executive Director of Property Council of Australia also attended and addressed the group on the proposed special economic zones, LG housing growth and expanding opportunities for affordable housing. Other discussions included inquiry into LG Sustainability and RCV advocacy priorities.

Grampians Tourism Board Meeting: The Grampians Tourism Board met in Ararat on 19 April 2024. Discussions included impact of recent bushfires to the visitor economy, grant opportunities and strategic planning for next 12 months.

Funding Opportunities:

Central Park Community Play Park Stage 1 Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund \$999,369

B. Community Engagement

Flood Amendment – Horsham Planning Scheme Amendment C81HORS

The Horsham Planning Scheme has been updated to reflect the best available flood hazard mapping and development controls. The Flood Amendment is the result of extensive research encompassing six flood studies conducted by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority. These studies serve as the foundation for the policy and planning controls proposed to be integrated into the Horsham Planning Scheme, aimed at effectively managing development on flood-prone land. Following Councils adoption of the Flood Amendment last year, it was sent to the Minister for Planning and has now been approved and gazetted last week, which effectively updates the Horsham Planning Scheme.

C. Projects and Events

Horsham City Oval Netball Courts: The City Oval netball courts were officially opened on 26 March 2024 by Jacinta Ermacora, Member for Western Victoria. In 2022, Council signed a funding agreement with Sport and Recreation Victoria for an \$800,000 grant to co-fund the redevelopment of netball facilities at the Horsham City Oval. The total project budget is \$3million and includes two new netball courts and a new netball pavilion. The first stage of the project is now complete with the construction of two compliant netball courts, competition lighting and player amenities (courtside shelters). The final stage of the development will see a new netball pavilion featuring change rooms, accessible amenities, umpires facilities, medical room, multipurpose function room and storage which is to commence construction later in 2024.

Summer Series Event: The final Summer Series event was held on Saturday 6 April 2024 in a new evening format. The event was well attended and the lights made the atmosphere even better than our previous events. Live music from Levi Mellington and acoustic duo Chrissy and Rod along with perfect weather made for a hugely successful event.

D. Staff Matters

Vale Tom Burdett: Tom Burdett, who recently passed away, was employed in the Waste Management Services Unit with the City of Horsham and then Horsham Rural City Council for 43 years from 1979 to 2022. He was a conscientious and dedicated employee, and was highly regarded by both organisations and all those who worked with him over his long career. His contributions to the operations team will be fondly remembered. Our condolences are extended to Tom's family at this sad time.

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 April 2024.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline

Committee Representation	
08/04/2024	Chaired Aboriginal Community Roundtable
16/04/2024	Wimmera Southern Mallee Development committee meeting (virtual)
18/04/2024	Regional Cities Victoria meeting (virtual)
Other Council Activities	
26/03/2024	ABC Wimmera Radio interview
26/03/2024	Met with Jacinta Ermacora MLA, CEO and Rail Freight Alliance delegates at WIFT
26/03/2024	Opening of City Oval netball courts by Jacinta Ermacora MLA
26/03/2024	Discussion with Jacinta Ermacora MLA and CEO re HRCC priorities
26/03/2024	Chaired Wesley fundraising committee meeting
04/04/2024	With CEO met Wesley PACC President and Secretary
05/04/2024	Triple H interview with Di Trotter
07/04/2024	Australian ProMX Championship Round 2 at Dooen
09/04/2024	Chaired Wesley fundraising committee meeting
17/4/2024	Attended the Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Forum
18/4/2024	With CEO met Caroline Johnson, new Horsham Police Inspector

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
10/04/2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting - online
Other Council Activities	
02/04/2024	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
08/04/2024	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
15/04/2024	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers
18/04/2024	ANZAC Appeal –Horsham Post Office – 8am-10am
19/04/2024	Managing Difficult Conversations - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - Councillor Professional Development Program - online

Cr Penny Flynn

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
Date	Description
26/03/2024	City Oval Netball Courts Official Opening by Jacinta Ermacora
10/04/2024	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting

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

That the Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing meeting held on Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 5:00pm
- Council Briefing meeting held on Monday 8 April 2024 at 5:00pm
- Council Briefing meeting held on Monday 15 April 2024 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

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

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

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

CARRIED

The time being 6.44pm, the meeting closed to the public.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Ian Ross, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That the meeting move into open Council.

CARRIED

The time being 6.59pm, the meeting opened to the public.

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

That Council resolution Item No. 15.2 (Commingle Transport and Processing) be brought into open Council.

CARRIED

15.2 COMMINGLED TRANSPORT AND PROCESSING**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Penny Flynn**

That Council accept the tender submitted by Wimmera Mallee Waste for the three-year, schedule of rates contract, with two optional terms of a further two years each, for haulage and delivery of commingled recyclables at an estimated annual cost of \$578,232 ex GST for the first year starting 1 July 2024.

CARRIED

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 7:00pm.

The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson