
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 5.35pm on 29 January 2024.

PRESENT

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

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 Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the apology from Cr Ian Ross 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 18 December 2023 be adopted.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Bob Redden, 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 18 December 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**Declarations of Interest**

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

Members of Staff

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

Nil

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PUBLIC QUESTION FROM NOEL JANETZKI OF HORSHAM

Question 1

At the last meeting I questioned the bypass in Horsham and HRCC are supporting the safety event at Nhill next month. The biggest safety issues for me is to keep the big units out of Horsham which can save 20 minutes each way. Why is Council supporting a safety event in Nhill?

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

Horsham Council was a long-standing participant of Wimmera Road Safe, a regional organisation aimed at helping to improve road safety. This group ceased several years ago, but our commitment to road safety remains.

During 2023, Council was successful in securing grant funding to promote heavy vehicle road safety in the area. This event is proceeding in partnership with Victoria Police, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and other stakeholders, including the Department of Transport and Planning which was the source of the grant funding.

In collaboration with these partners, it has been determined that the most effective location for this event to be held is at the Nhill Trailer Exchange. This is highly relevant to our municipality as most of the trucks that Mr Janetzki is concerned about also pass through Nhill.

Thank you for asking this question to help promote this event even further!

Question 2

Re new industrial subdivision. This is bringing more large vehicles into the city. What ever happened to the sites out at Dooen?

Response from John Martin, Director Infrastructure

It is true that there is further industrial development occurring in the Kenny Road area. Many of the lots in that area are relatively small, and well suited to businesses that operate within the Horsham urban area. There will always be a need in particular for smaller trucks to service the internal needs of our growing City.

Council has established and promotes the use of the Wimmera Agricultural and Logistics (WAL) Hub and its Burnt Creek industrial estates as sites that are suited more to larger operations that tend to involve long distance haulage and larger trucks, of the type that Mr Janetzki is concerned about.

Council has recently developed a new stage of lots at WAL Hub and is currently completing the design for further lots at Burnt Creek for this purpose.

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

Re agenda item 9.2. After reading this agenda item, I am concerned with what I could not see. The Horsham North Urban Plan meetings did endorse parkland, along the railway corridor. This definitely included land near the end of Albert St and Mill St, and also in the current unbuilt land in Anderson Street which was reiterated at the recent rail corridor consultation to remain as, and be zoned as, parkland. That was at least as important as wanting the project to progress. Despite that, it was marked as future housing on the rail corridor consultation.

As it can't be determined from the information presented, can you please confirm these parcels of land will remain in the public realm as parkland.

Response from Kevin O'Brien, Director Communities and Place

The future development of the land referred to in your question (land near the end of Albert St and Mill St, for housing or open space) is subject to purchase from Vic Track. It cannot be determined at this stage what its future use is as there are too many unknowns in relation to level of contamination of this land and readiness of Vic Track to offer the land. The current housing study being undertaken by Council will determine if additional residential zoned land is needed to meet housing demand. It will also determine what the open space requirements will be as well if rezoning is recommended. This will further inform the development of the railway corridor as per the landscape plan where future use has not been decided and also Anderson Street which is currently zoned residential and commercial.

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CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA
Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 LOCAL SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND CO CONTRIBUTION

Author's Name:	Dale Schmid	Director:	Carolynne Hamdorf
Author's Title:	Recreation & Open Space Planning Officer	Directorate:	Communities & Place
Department:	Arts, Culture & Recreation	File Number:	F10/A01/000006

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To provide Council with details regarding the Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) application to Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) for the development of Horsham Municipal Active Recreation and Sport Strategy.

Summary

- The development of an Active Recreation and Sport Strategy is an important piece of work that will support Council to make informed decisions and prioritise actions to improve activity rates and health outcomes within the municipality.
- Previous projects and strategies have largely focused on the development of enabling infrastructure, whereas the Horsham Municipal Active Recreation and Sport Strategy seeks to enhance programming opportunities and leverage positive partnerships with a range of key stakeholders to better activate these spaces and facilities.
- HRCC's confirmation of *Council funding commitment letter* for the LSIF application did not commit HRCC funds but rather proposed an allocation of \$43,648 be included in the draft 2024-2025 budget. A funding commitment, preferably by a Council resolution, is a mandatory requirement of the LSIF application and without this the applications likelihood of success is low. A confirmed funding commitment would also signal to Sport and Recreation Victoria that HRCC appropriately values proper planning to achieve positive community outcomes.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the requirement for the development of a Horsham Municipal Active Recreation and Sport Strategy.
2. Endorse the funding commitment to Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund application of \$43,648 and refer this amount to the 2024-2025 Budget.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Bowe, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Note the requirement for the development of a Horsham Municipal Active Recreation and Sport Strategy.
2. Endorse the funding commitment to Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund application of \$43,648 and refer this amount to the 2024-2025 Budget.

CARRIED

Cr Claudia Haenel abstained from voting.

REPORT

Background

Currently, Council is without a strategic framework to guide the planning, prioritisation and strategic investment into active recreation and community sport since the previous Sport and Recreation Strategy (2013-2018) ended. This includes both programming and participation opportunities that support being physically active and socially connected. Previous Council Plans and Strategies have considered the built infrastructure to enable active recreation and sport:

- Wimmera Regional Multi Sport Study
- Horsham Sports Facility Demand Study

In November 2022, Council endorsed the Wimmera Regional Multi-Sport Feasibility Study (WRMSFS) and as funding becomes available, will implement the recommendations of the study. The Study provides a framework of actions to increase access to and infrastructure supporting a range of organised sports.

The Study focused on sports with high participation numbers (demand analysis) and evaluated the feasibility of providing regional and municipal level infrastructure. The Study did not investigate emerging or niche sports, the creation of a network of active recreation opportunities, or collaboration with other agencies to activate existing spaces.

The development of an Active Recreation and Sport Strategy will encourage the 35.5% of Horsham adults who are currently sedentary or insufficiently active and the 81% Horsham children and young people who do not participate in at least one hour of physical activity a day to be more active and healthy. The strategy will also support people who are already physically active to continue regular activity in a range of settings that reflect changing interests and abilities through the life stages.

Discussion

The development of the strategy will inform priorities and decision making for improvements to the provision of active recreation and sport opportunities in the Horsham Municipality for the period 2024 - 2034. The strategy will provide both a strategic framework, ensuring equitable and transparent decision making, and the practical implementation of infrastructure and improvements to public spaces benefiting the broader community.

Opportunities for formal partnerships will be identified and will include options to support local organisations and groups to deliver programming and participation opportunities. A current gap in Council planning resides with programming and participation; how Council can support community groups and clubs as well as local residents and visitors improve physical activity rates and health outcomes.

The strategy will provide a framework to improve physical activity rates within the municipality leading to more people, being more active and more connected, more often.

There is also a pre-requisite for any SRV funded infrastructure project, to articulate the applicant's commitment to programming and participation outcomes. SRV staff have provided advice to HRCC staff that infrastructure projects that do not demonstrate increased and diverse programming and participation outcomes will be less competitive for SRV funding.

In addition, a mandatory condition of the LSIF grant, is to provide a Council resolution confirming funding. The preference from LGAs is for a resolution stating the commitment of specified funds to the project. HRCC's LSIF application submitted in mid Dec 2023 included a letter from the CEO, however, this did not include a Council resolution confirming that funding for the project if the application is successful.

To ensure the current LSIF application is competitive and ultimately successful, it is recommended that the Council resolution be sought and if approved, submitted to SRV, noting the timing of the Council budget cycle and the release of the LSIF round late in the calendar year.

Options to Consider

The following options are available:

1. Note this report and do not provide the funding body (SRV) with appropriate surety.
2. Council's funding commitment to this project to be considered by way of resolution and submitted to SRV.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The development of the Active Recreation and Sport Strategy will include a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan developed in accordance with IAP2 principles and Council's Community Engagement process. The Consultant will be required to develop the plan in consultation with Council's Community Relations and Advocacy Team and with the Project Manager. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be endorsed by the Project Control Group.

Letters of Support for this project have been provided by the following groups:

- Victoria Walks, Bicycle Network, Tennis Victoria, Hockey Victoria, Cricket Victoria, Football Federation Victoria, Basketball Victoria, Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Strategy will be regularly reviewed at defined intervals and be based on current best practice and state and national benchmarking.

Collaboration

A Project Control Group will be established with members from each of HRCC's Directorates. Key stakeholders and partners will be engaged, including but not limited to:

- Grampians Health and other health networks
- Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly
- Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Corporation
- Local businesses
- State Sporting Associations
- Active recreation networks
- Community Inclusion (Disability inclusion and support)
- Local sport clubs and associations

Financial Implications

HRCC is seeking \$40,000 through the LSIF to engage a consultant to develop the strategy. The total project cost is estimated at \$83,648, requiring a \$43,648 co-contribution from HRCC. If successful, project management of the project, the contractor, reference groups & engagement will be provided internally.

Regional, State and National Plans and PoliciesActive Victoria 2022-2026

Strategic Framework:

- Establishing thriving places and communities that are safe, fair and inclusive.
- Invest in infrastructure that enables active recreation.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1: Community

An inclusive, accessible, connected and safe community

Theme 2: Liveability

1. A destination to live, work, explore and visit.
4. Diverse and connected open spaces.
5. Quality opportunities and facilities that meet the health and wellbeing needs and interests of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Theme 4: Accessibility

Improved and connected transport services and networks in and around the region.

2. An integrated, strategic and needs based approach to investing in our places and spaces.

Council plans and strategies relevant to the development of Horsham Municipal Active Recreation and Sport Strategy include:

- Wimmera Regional Multi Sport Study (Benefits of active recreation pp31-35)
- Horsham Sports Facility Demand Study (pp3-9)
- Horsham Open Space Strategy (pp6-8)

Risk Implications

A funding commitment is a compulsory criterion for the LSIF. If HRCC's funding commitment is not articulated as a Council resolution there is a risk that Sport and Recreation Victoria dismiss the application. Sport and Recreation Victoria and LSIF funding streams and priorities change and there is no guarantee a Planning stream will be included in the next round of funding.

Conclusion

HRCC's current Confirmation of Council funding commitment proposes that the required Council contribution of \$43,648 be included in the draft 2024-2025 budget. A confirmed Council funding commitment is a mandatory criterion of the LSIF. The preference from LGAs is to include a Council Resolution stating the approved funds allocated to the project.

9.2 HORSHAM RAIL CORRIDOR LANDSCAPE PLAN

Author's Name:	Sue Sheridan	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Senior Project Manager – Strategic Projects	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F19/A15/000001

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

Draft Horsham Rail Corridor Landscape Plan (Overarching) (**Appendix 9.2A**)

Draft Horsham Rail Corridor Landscape Plan (Detailed) (**Appendix 9.2B**)

Rail Corridor Landscape Engagement Plan January 2024 (**Appendix 9.2C**)

Purpose

To inform Council of the Rail Corridor Landscape Plan and the Community Engagement process undertaken and recommend approval of the final Horsham Rail Corridor Landscape Plan.

Summary

- The Horsham North Local Area Plan (HNLAP) outlined the aims of the Rail Corridor Landscape Planning process, stating further planning and design was required to ensure safe and attractive spaces are created that facilitate pedestrian and cycling connectivity across and along the rail corridor.
- The HNLAP recommended improved pedestrian and cycling connectivity and safety across and along the rail corridor including the provision of an additional underpass.
- Community feedback was sought over 2 weeks with a number of changes incorporated into the landscape plan.
- Funding for a third underpass will continue to be investigated as part of the Rail Corridor Landscape Plan.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the community feedback as included in the Rail Corridor Landscape Engagement Plan Jan 2024 (**Appendix 9.2C**).
2. Endorse the Rail Corridor Landscape Plan (**Appendix 9.2A & 9.2B**)
3. Refer the development of the rail corridor to future long-term capital works program and investigate funding opportunities.
4. Advocate for funding from State Government for the new underpass.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Les Power

That Council:

1. Note the community feedback as included in the Rail Corridor Landscape Engagement Plan January 2024 (**Appendix 9.2C**).
2. Endorse the Rail Corridor Landscape Plan (**Appendix 9.2A & 9.2B**)
3. Refer the development of the rail corridor to future long-term capital works program and investigate funding opportunities.
4. Advocate for funding from State Government for the new underpass.

CARRIED

REPORT

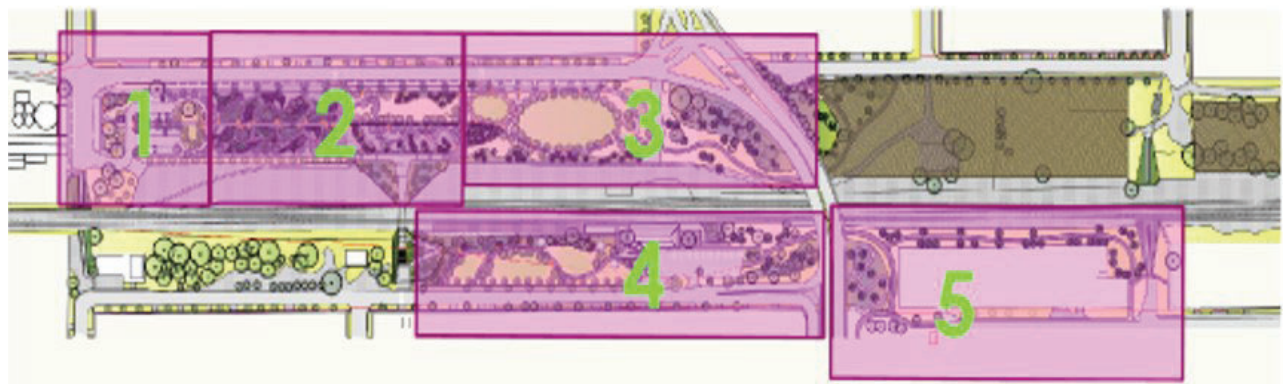
Background

Council resolved to adopt the HNLAP in May 2023, which sets out a long-term vision for this area for the next 10 to 20 years. It aims to address local planning and urban design issues, capitalising on local opportunities. A Local Area Plan provides strategic directions for sustainable change and locally focused outcomes.

The purpose of the HNLAP is to provide strategic guidance on the future land use planning, urban improvements and change within Horsham North. The Local Area Plan sets out a general framework of desired outcomes, goals, strategies and actions relating to land use, built form, public realm, access, open space and transport matters.

The HNLAP recommended further investigation and then redevelopment of the rail corridor, ensuring the constraints are appropriately understood and future possible land uses and activities are properly evaluated.

Land identified as the 'rail corridor' is considered all of the land currently owned by VicTrack. The rail corridor comprises of four quadrants.



Each quadrant offers significant opportunities to benefit the community through:

- Activation through appropriate mix of recreational, public use, residential and/or commercial use
- Increased pedestrian and cyclist connectivity
- Increased public open space, landscaping and activation
- Increased public safety through appropriately designed public spaces
- Increased character and amenity through the transition of land use activity away from commercial and industrial use.

Council continues to work on the key action list from the HNLAP for the Rail Corridor, including:

- Continue discussions with VicTrack regarding the long-term use and acquisition of the available sections (lots) within the Rail Corridor, owned by VicTrack
- Ensure that the rail corridor is suitably remediated for future public use
- Integrate the design of all interfaces with local streets and footpaths (including Mill Street and Railway Avenue)
- Undertake a landscape plan for the entirety of the Rail Corridor (VicTrack land) in order to further undertake detailed design of the four sections of land to maximise their open space, pedestrian/cyclist and public transport connectivity opportunities (dependent on contamination, remediation and land required for train operations)
- Liaise with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding the establishment of a new underpass

- Continue to advocate for the re-establishment of regional passenger rail services
- Engage a landscape design professional to undertake landscape plans for each of the four sections of the VicTrack land, ensuring that public access and connectivity are the number one priority
- Look to international examples (such as the “High Line” in New York City) and local examples (such as the Level Crossing Removal Project) as a precedent for the conversion of former rail corridors into attractive and popular public spaces.

Discussion

The Rail Corridor is consistently the number one issue raised by the community due to its’ unmistakable presence as you enter Horsham North via the Kalkee Road Bridge. People are presented with an unattractive, industrial expanse of land, which is further compounded by additional industrial blocks to the north. It also creates a physical divide between Horsham North and the rest of the township.

Whilst the rail corridor has been raised as a significant issue, it also presents many opportunities, as highlighted by community feedback and for it to become a place of community focus, respite and pride.

Connectivity can be significantly improved along both sides of the rail corridor, allowing freedom of movement and potentially avoiding the use of Kalkee Road as a crossing point. The public currently have three options to cross the railway line. There are the two pedestrian underpasses, one at Wawunna Road and the second at Albert Street / McPherson Street, both of which are uninviting, poorly designed and placed and non-DDA compliant. The third option is the Kalkee Road Bridge, which only has a narrow footpath on the eastern side of the bridge. In addition, some choose to enter the rail corridor and cross it wherever it is most convenient. This presents a significant community safety risk, as freight trains come through regularly.

Horsham Rural City Council’s *Urban Transport Plan* sets out a number of objectives to improve connectivity and access across the urban area of Horsham. Connectivity, accessibility and DDA compliance are identified as key issues to address and identifies the need for a new underpass under the rail line for pedestrian and cycle access. Consultants, GHD have been engaged to develop options and prepare a concept design for a new underpass.

The new underpass is proposed to be located within the existing railway corridor between both Mill Street to the north and Railway Avenue to the south. Located 180m to the east is the existing Horsham railway station and 220m to the west is the new created Silo Art mural. Adjacent to the project to the south of Railway Avenue is David Street which provides direct access to the Horsham CBD located approximately 500m away.

The Rail Corridor Landscape Plan and new DDA compliant underpass will provide a safe corridor for cyclists and pedestrians and facilitate convenient access for all commuters.

The Rail Corridor Landscape Plan sought feedback from the community which was constructive and overall very positive. A thorough evaluation of the feedback from the public has informed the potential use and activities within the Rail Corridor.

Options to Consider

The following options available are to note the public feedback, costs and plans developed for the Rail Corridor in line with recommendations from the HNLAP and either:

1. Make provision for future investment in the project in accordance with other Council capital projects in the LTCP.
2. Make provision for future investment in the project in accordance with other Council capital projects in the LTCP and proactively seek external funding to support to implementation of the project.
3. Do not progress the project at this point in time.

Sustainability Implications

The purpose of the Horsham North Local Area Plan was to set out a clear direction and strategic framework for Council and the community in addressing identified issues and responding to the identified opportunities that will make Horsham North more liveable and sustainable into the future. It does this by setting out a Vision, 10 Goals and underpinning Strategies relating to land use, built form, public realm, access to open space and transport matters.

The Rail Corridor Landscape plan has taken into account the ongoing maintenance of the area and kept to a minimum, the types of plantings and materials used for longevity.

Community Engagement

The Rail Corridor Landscape Plan provided designs of landscaping options within the rail corridor area. It took into consideration parking, connecting paths, plantings, art and the future provision of a bus terminal (should it be required). Connecting paths to David Street, the Horsham Railway Station, Wawunna Road and Kalkee Road were essential considerations in making the potential new underpass accessible and safe for all uses.

The Rail Corridor Landscape Plan was presented to the community over a 2-week period in November 2023. Seeking feedback by way of a survey and face to face sessions. The public feedback has been reviewed and included in the final versions of the plans **(Appendix 9.2A,B&C)**.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Planning for the improvement of open space and local area traffic management has become a priority for Council in relation to Horsham North, in addition to current operational works taking place. There has been an ongoing street tree planting program which will continue across parts of Horsham North and this landscape plan is designed to improve a large open space which has for many years been neglected.

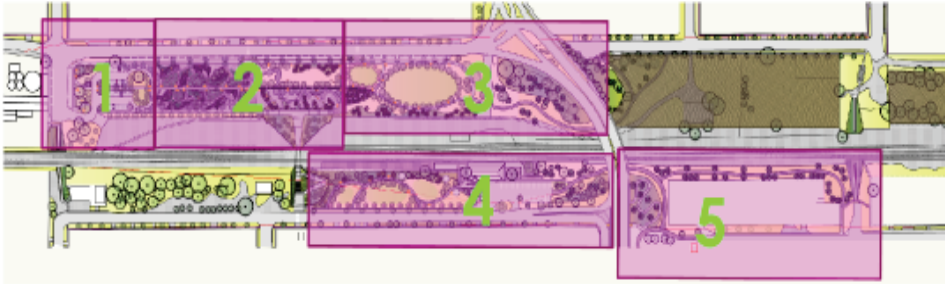
Collaboration

The Department of Transport has provided high level guidance from the investigation phase of the underpass through to sign off and have provided approval of the underpass location and style.

VicTrack and the Department of Transport has provided advice on the Rail Corridor Landscape Concept Plan regarding the content, layout, and language around decontamination of the site.

Financial Implications

High level Quantity Surveyor (QS) cost estimates for the Rail Corridor site have been developed to give Council an understanding of the size and scale of the project and estimated costs.

Probable costs for the Landscape planProject Title: **Horsham Rail Corridor - Landscape Concept Plan**Project Number: **226**Date: **02.11.2023**Revision: **Concept Rev F FINAL****Preliminary Opinion of Probable Cost - Overall**

Area	Total (inc GST)
1 North-west Carpark	\$686,144.80
2 North-west landscape	\$1,570,107.00
3 North-west openspace	\$1,210,286.00
4 South-west Station area	\$838,310.00
5 South-east Connection	\$393,118.00
OVERALL TOTAL (inc GST)	\$4,697,965.80

General Notes

1. This Schedule is to be read in conjunction with the Landscape Master Plans Revision E
2. All items listed are nominated products only.
3. Estimated cost includes all work, including plant, labour, permits (as required), installation and materials to undertake and complete the works
4. The following schedule may not be fully inclusive as further design is completed, further refinement of the costing may be expected
5. Amelioration works as required following Environmental Management Plan/ Risk Assessment findings TBC following investigation
6. Costing for underpass not included in landscape costs

Note: Current pricing has been used are subject to change of the final design.
The costs shown above provides the ability to stage the delivery of each site shown in 5 areas.

Probably Costs for the Underpass

GHD engaged a quantity surveyor to prepare a preliminary cost estimate for the proposed underpass. The estimate is \$7,756,000 with Council relying on a significant amount of external funding for the underpass from a combination of external (State and Federal funding sources).

There will also need to be internal, HRCC funding required for both the underpass and the landscaping components.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 - Community

Strategies – An inclusive, accessible, connected and safe community

Theme 4 – Accessibility

Strategy – Improved and connected transport services and networks in and around the region.

Strategy – An integrated, strategic and needs based approach to investing in our places and spaces.

Initiative – Ensure a safe and connected transport network including active transport.

Initiative – Planning for places and spaces to provide connectedness and social inclusion.

The Rail Corridor redevelopment also builds on previous work that has already occurred within HRCC through the development of:

- Horsham North Local Area Plan 2023
- Open Space Strategy 2019

Risk Implications

The Horsham community and Council have committed significant time, energy and resources to resolving the issue of the Rail Corridor and the access restrictions between the north and south over many years.

This additional planning and design work provides a concept design and probable costs that address safety, access and amenity issues raised in the HNLAP. Appetite to invest in additional studies is very low, and it is now time to progress the recommendations and reap the benefits of improving the liveability for residents of the Horsham North.

Council has significant capital commitments and projects slated in the mid to long term. How these projects are prioritised and sustainably developed in line with our community's expectations, off set with external funding will be a key challenge for this project.

Conclusion

The HNLAP outlined the aims of the Rail Corridor Landscape Planning process requiring the planning and design required to ensure safe and attractive spaces are created that facilitate pedestrian and cycling connectivity across and along the rail corridor. This work is now complete and options to pursue additional funding and implementation of this project in line with other Council priorities can proceed.

9.3 DONATIONS POLICY REVIEW

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Coordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Community Relations and Advocacy	File Number:	F20/A01/000016

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

Donations Policy (Appendix 9.3A)

Purpose

To seek adoption of the amended Donations Policy.

Summary

- A review of the Donations Policy is undertaken annually.
- The key change recommended is to provide scope for Council to receive corporate donations or sponsorship to support and enhance Council services to the community.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the amended Donations Policy (Appendix 9.3A).

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr Claudia Haenel

That Council adopt the amended Donations Policy (Appendix 9.3A).

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

The Donations Policy is reviewed and updated annually as part of the budget process. It provides the framework for the delivery of Council's annual community donations program. It outlines the eligibility criteria, application and payment process.

In 2018 ESCO Pacific Pty Ltd approached Council to deliver the community benefits component that would be required as part of ESCO's development of a Solar Farm in the Riverside area. It was indicated that this would provide annual sponsorship of \$20,000 to \$40,000 per annum to boost Council's Community Grants Program.

On 5 February 2018, Council resolved to allow ESCO Pacific Pty Ltd to provide partner funding for the annual Community Development Grants Program. Council also adopted the draft MOU presented to that Council meeting as the framework for the delivery of the new partnership. (Due to the length of time involved with Esco's development, a new MOU will be required when the new Solar Farm becomes operational).

Council also resolved to develop a Sponsorship Policy to facilitate future corporate sponsorship and co-funding of the Community Development Grants Program and other possible Council/Community projects.

Discussion

Corporate sponsorship or donations is a strategy currently used in local government as a way of leveraging Council funds with corporate support to provide greater benefits for our community. The proposed partnership with ESCO provided the first opportunity for Council to partner with private industry to increase funding of community projects or enhance Council projects for the community.

The amendments to the Donations policy provide for the option for Council to consider future donations or corporate sponsorship on a case-by-case basis for the betterment of our community. Section 4 of the policy outlines the principles. The key principle is that any donation must support Theme 1 of the Council Plan to "Develop the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community". Any actual or perceived Conflict of Interest will be considered as part of the recommendation to approve or reject a corporate donation/sponsorship.

As per the proposed provisions of the updated policy, any donations/sponsorship must not compromise Council's reputation, image, probity or ability to fulfil its functions and responsibilities. Council retains the right to decline a donation or sponsorship agreement with any external party, in respect to particular products/services for which Council considers inappropriate, inopportune or if costs outweigh the benefits.

Council will not, under any circumstances, enter into a donation/sponsorship agreement with external parties who:

- Conflict with Council's principles of equity, access, participation, rights and accessibility for all community groups.
- Pose a conflict with the broader policies and practices of Council or may be perceived in conflict.
- Undertakes any illegal or unethical activity that negatively impacts the community and/or natural environment.

Where Council receives offers of corporate donations/sponsorship to support Council's programs, such offers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If approved, a Memorandum of Understanding for use of the funds will be developed and approved by Council in line with the MOU adopted in February 2018.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to accept the inclusion of corporate donations/sponsorship within the existing donations policy or reject the proposed amendments.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Community donations are listed in the Annual Report each year.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The proposed changes to the Donations policy represent continuous improvement and maximising of corporate support for the betterment of our community.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

The amended policy provides an avenue to enable Council to accept external funds from corporate entities that support the Community Development Grants Program and other possible Council/Community projects.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan (including the Health and Wellbeing Plan)

Risk Implications

Having formal structures in place to manage the offer and receipt of corporate donations/sponsorship ensure that Council can address any risks related to such an offer and address issues relating to conflict of interest process and broader risk mitigation. Where an actual or perceived risk is identified as part of the review process, the donation/sponsorship will not proceed.

Conclusion

The annual review of the donations program is an opportunity for Council to improve the way Council accesses donations and supports community groups. The inclusion of a process to manage corporate donations/sponsorships as part of that policy provides greater transparency and accountability. It also fulfils Council's commitment to develop a Sponsorship Policy to facilitate future corporate sponsorship and co-funding of the Community Development Grants Program and other possible Council/Community projects.

9.4 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Author's Name:	Kim Hargreaves	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F06/A12/000001

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

Summary of Committees and Councillor Representation (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Purpose

To nominate Councillor representatives to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and other Committees requiring Councillor involvement.

Summary

- The Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association require formal advice of the Councillors appointed following a resolution of Council.
- There are a number of external committees that require annual appointments to be made for representation by Mayor and Councillors.
- Council has one Regulatory Committee – the Audit and Risk Committee - that requires annual appointments to be made for representation by Mayor and one other Councillor.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Nominate Mayor Gulline as Council's representative for 2024 to the Municipal Association of Victoria and Cr Bowe as substitute representative.
2. Nominate Cr Haenel as Council's representative for 2024 to the Victorian Local Governance Association with Cr Flynn as substitute.
3. Receive and note the Committee appointments as follows:
 - North-West Municipal Association – Mayor Gulline and Cr Bowe as substitute
 - Audit and Risk Committee – Mayor Gulline and Cr Flynn with Cr Power and Cr Ross as first and second substitute respectively
 - Rail Freight Alliance – Cr Redden with Cr Haenel as substitute
 - Western Highway Action Committee – Cr Ross with Cr Power as substitute
 - Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group – Cr Bowe with Cr Redden as substitute
 - Wimmera Southern Mallee Development– Mayor Gulline

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

That Council:

1. Nominate Mayor Gulline as Council's representative for 2024 to the Municipal Association of Victoria and Cr Bowe as substitute representative.
2. Nominate Cr Haenel as Council's representative for 2024 to the Victorian Local Governance Association with Cr Flynn as substitute.
3. Receive and note the Committee appointments as follows:
 - North-West Municipal Association – Mayor Gulline and Cr Bowe as substitute
 - Audit and Risk Committee – Mayor Gulline and Cr Flynn with Cr Power and Cr Ross as first and second substitute respectively
 - Rail Freight Alliance – Cr Redden with Cr Haenel as substitute
 - Western Highway Action Committee – Cr Ross with Cr Power as substitute
 - Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group – Cr Bowe with Cr Redden as substitute
 - Wimmera Southern Mallee Development– Mayor Gulline.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

There are various Committees that require representation or involvement by Councillors. With the removal of the position of Deputy Mayor, as decided by Council in November 2023, the representation on Committees will be by Mayor and/or substitute Councillor as appropriate. Councillor's discussed the respective representation at briefings in December 2023 and January 2024.

Following a resolution of Council to confirm representatives, formal advice of the Councillors appointed to represent Horsham Rural City Council at the Municipal Association of Victoria and Victorian Local Governance Association is required.

Discussion

Following the review of Committees with Council representation, Council has proposed the appointment of the following Councillors to the respective Committees:

- Municipal Association of Victoria – Mayor Gulline with Cr Bowe as substitute
- North-West Municipal Association – Mayor Gulline with Cr Bowe as substitute
- Audit and Risk Committee – Mayor Gulline and Cr Flynn with Cr Power and Cr Ross as first and second substitute respectively
- Rail Freight Alliance – Cr Redden with Cr Haenel as substitute
- Western Highway Action Committee – Cr Ross with Cr Power as substitute
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group – Cr Bowe with Cr Redden as substitute
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Development – Mayor Gulline

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Council's involvement on these Committees is part of the overall process through which Council engages with some specific sectors of the community.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Collaboration with other Councils in the region occurs by virtue of membership on these Committees. For example the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development is a collaboration between five regional Councils - Hindmarsh Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council. Western Highway Action Committee is a collaboration of 10 Councils from Melton to the South Australian border.

Financial Implications

Provision for Councillor participation on Committees has been made within the existing Council budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 – Leadership

Risk Implications

The Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association require formal advice of the Councillors appointed to represent Horsham Rural City Council following a resolution of Council. There is consequently a risk to Council associated with a failure to nominate councillor representation. The *Local Government Act 2020* (s53) also requires that Council establish and Audit and Risk Committee which includes members who are Councillors of the Council, specifically the Mayor and one other Councillor.

Conclusion

The 2024 Councillors appointments to the nominated Committees, including nominations to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association, have been prepared for consideration and endorsement by Council. Following endorsement the respective Committees will be notified of their 2024 Councillor representatives.

9.5 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE'S BIANNUAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Andrea Coxon	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F18/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

Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Report to Council (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Purpose

To present the Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Report for the period July to December 2023.

Summary

- Audit and Risk Committee meetings – 100% attendance rate by independent members and Councillor Representatives.
- Two Committee meetings held during the reporting period – 20 September and 7 December 2023
- Ten policies and procedures adopted or reviewed across the two meetings (six and four respectively).
- Council's overall progress in respect of a wide number of matters, indicating significant progress and achievement.
- The report also highlights some of the key activities completed which are legislative or policy requirements of the ARC.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Biannual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period July to December 2023.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Les Power, Seconded Cr David Bowe

That Council receive and note the Biannual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period July to December 2023.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

This report is prepared in accordance with the Horsham Rural City Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2022 (section 3.15) and fulfils the obligations under Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The biannual report covers the period July to December 2023 (including the Committee meetings held on 20 September and 7 December 2023). The minutes of the September meeting were tabled at the subsequent Council Meeting and have therefore previously been provided to Council. A separate report will be tabled for the December minutes in line with the requirements of the Charter.

Discussion

This report provides a summary of the work the Committee performed to discharge its responsibilities and includes a summary of management's progress in addressing the results of internal and external audit reports. For the topics covered in the period under review, the report includes an overall assessment of management's risks, controls, and compliance processes, including consideration of a wide range of reports that indicated Council's continued monitoring of developments.

Options to Consider

There are no options to consider as the report is required as per legislation.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Council's Audit and Risk Committee is comprised of Councillors and independent members. Consultation and communication is undertaken with Internal Auditors and external (Victorian Auditor-General's Office – VAGO) Auditors.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council applies the principles of continuous improvement in the operation of the Audit and Risk Committee with a strong process of regular review and evaluation of the committee's operations. From this regular review and evaluation, processes and practices are changed as required to deliver improved and effective outcomes.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Operations of Council's Audit and Risk Committee is covered within the 2023-24 operational budget allocation.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 – Leadership

Strategies:

1. Good governance, through leadership and connection with community
2. Good management for financial sustainability
4. Accountable and transparent decision making

Risk Implications

An Audit and Risk Committee is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* therefore not having a properly functioning or constituted committee would be a breach of the requirements of the Act. The Committee has an important role in monitoring Council's financial governance and risks and the Committee therefore helps mitigate Council's risk of fraud and corruption.

Conclusion

The Audit and Risk Committee is a legislated requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Other obligations are placed on the Committee by the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2022. This report meets our obligations under the Act that requires Council's Audit and Risk Committee to prepare a Biannual Audit and Risk Report.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**9.6 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Carolynne Hamdorf
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Acting 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 November 2023 (data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry) (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

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

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

CARRIED

REPORT**Background**

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

Discussion

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

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

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

Year 1 - 2022-2023

Year 2 - 2023-2024

Year 3 - 2024-2025

Year 4 - 2024-2025

Year 5+ 2025+

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

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
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	Meeting held in November between WSM Development and HRCC Investment & Business Development Team 4/10 meetings held at 10/11/23
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	Stage two Master Plan and Detailed Designs work has commenced with the consultants visiting the site in November and conducting an Industry survey to assess the potential for a passenger service for workforce.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
2.8.1 (ongoing)	Support the delivery of tourism opportunities on the Wimmera River, Mt Arapiles and lakes in our region	Tourism opportunities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Filming in partnership with the Australian Fishing Network took place in November and will go to air on 7 Mate early in 2024. The segment aims to promote our local waterways.
3.1.3 (2 years)	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan and Dadswells Bridge Community Action Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	The Natimuk PAC has identified a potential site for a new bus shelter and additional seating. The Natimuk Economic and Social Plan webpage has also been updated to inform the community about what is being discussed at our meetings.
(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 on the 14 Nov. It received 381 opens and 9 clicks.
(ongoing)	Attract businesses to lease vacant shops in the Horsham city centre through the Wimmera Business Centre	Vacant shops reduced from 24 shops to 20 in the first year and maintained at or below 18 shops for the succeeding years	See table below

Council's Business and Tourism Development Team have been working closely with Sports Marketing Australia (SMA), who are Australia's leading events placement organisation. SMA places events into partnering LGAs to boost communities and secure hosting rights to generate regional exposure and economic benefits. There are a number of major events which have been planned for January, February and March 2024.

Squash Victoria Junior Silver Tournament

Council has secured a three-year agreement to host in January 2024, 2025 and 2026. This event forms part of the Australian Junior Squash Tour (AJST). This series of junior squash events conducted in Australia are eligible for an Australian Junior Ranking.

Event will see participants from across Victoria and Interstate play out to secure ranking points.

Squash Victoria, will be delivering three major components to this event:

1. Battle of the Borders Victoria verses South Australia, Saturday 20 January
2. Junior Open Section Tournament Championship round, Sunday 21 January
3. Junior Open Champion Clinic on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January

Tennis Victoria Pat Cash Cup

Council has secured a three-year agreement to host in February 2024, 2025 and 2026. Council has entered into an agreement with Tennis Victoria Inter Regional Event hosting the “Pat Cash Cup” for a further three years.

Earlier this year, the Pat Cash Cup event attracted over 200 players plus officials, including team managers and coaches, and an additional 500 plus out of region family and friends to the event. Tennis Victoria reported the tournament was an outstanding success and looks forward to future events in Horsham.

Motorcycling Australia – Pro MX National

The Motorcycling Australia Pro MX National is to be held on the first weekend in April 2024. Council have been successful in entering into an agreement with Motorcycling Australia Limited, to host Round 2 of the 2024 Australian Motocross Championship Series (Pro MX) National. Pro MX events are the premium level of competition for the sport of Motocross in Australia and elite level riders from all over the country compete in the various rounds of the Australian Motocross Championship Series.

Horsham will see an influx of motorcycle enthusiasts, support teams, event staff, officials and media personnel, including TV crew (generating national media coverage with a significant broadcast reach). It is also anticipated the event will have a draw card of over 2,000 plus spectators. Council continues to work closely with the local Horsham Motorcycle Club to securing a successful delivery.

This is a significant outcome not only for the Horsham Motorcycle Club but for the wider Horsham municipality with national regional exposure and the overall benefit of the impact on the economic value the event will bring to the region.

GRAMPIANS TOURISM NEWS

Industry Forum to be held on 7 December at Pomonal Estate, to round out the year of Industry Strengthening programs. Guest speaker Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, and Minister for the Environment and Outdoor Recreation about the Victorian Government's support for our region.

Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	October FY 23/24 Businesses Occupied	November FY 23/24 Businesses Occupied	November FY 23/24 Businesses Vacant	November FY 23/24 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	41	2	95%
Firebrace St - 99	90	90	9	90%
Hamilton St - 17	15	16	1	94%
Wilson St – 34	29	28	6	82%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	25	25	3	89%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	25	24	3	98%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	24	24	0	100%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	249/272	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.

SPENDMAPP

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

The 10.98% increase in Visitor Local Spend in comparison to the same time last year suggests a relatively healthy growth in visitor economy and activity.

The highest nighttime economy spend occurred on Saturday November 11. This weekend saw multiple events in our region including the Horsham Junior Basketball tournament.

M = Million	October FY 23/24	November FY 23/24	% Change Previous Month	% Change Previous Year
Resident Local Spend	\$24.0 M	\$25.3M	5.12% increase	1.14% increase
Visitor Local Spend	\$13.1 M	\$14.1 M	7.63% increase	10.98% increase
Total Local Spend	\$37.1 M	\$39.4 M	6.20% increase	4.46% increase
Resident Escape Spend	\$10.5 M	\$9.9 M	6.06% decrease	9.69% increase
Resident Online Spend	\$13.5 M	\$13.3 M	1.50% decrease	1.05% increase

Business Visitations for the Month of November 2023

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality & Accommodation	Event contacts	Over all contacts for the month
February	13	8	15	36
March	35	6	12	53
April	20	13	10	43
May	15	8	4	27
June	28	4	5	37
July	71	17	15	103
August	62	33	7	102
September	34	15	9	58
October	19	16	10	45
November	50	30	20	100
Total	347	150	107	604

STATUTORY PLANNING**C82 Corrections Amendment**

The C82 Correction Amendment has been approved by the Minister for Planning. It corrects mapping errors and anomalies within the Horsham Planning Scheme, including rezoning to reflect public and private land ownership and resolving land in two zones, and realignment of heritage overlays to match statements of significance.

Planning Applications Determined

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

Type	NOVEMBER 2023		NOVEMBER 2022	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	3	589,000	1	75,000
Industrial/Commercial	5	2,641,000	3	1,607,100
Subdivisions	1 (2 lots)	2	3 (16 lots)	
Other				
Total	8	3,230,000	7	2,357,100

(*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 30 November 2023 is 34 compared to 65 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 48 new lots from 1 July 2023 to 30 November 2023 compared to 139 in the same period in 2022-2023.

Building Services

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

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	-	-	2	71,968
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	-	-	-	-
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	2	71,968

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

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	320,498	4	1,660,146
Alterations to Dwellings	4	355,967	4	160,000
Dwelling resittings	-	-	3	94,407
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	8	1,140,386	10	414,263
Removal/Demolish	-	-	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	3	6,430,457	8	858,634
Signs	-	-	-	-
_Sub Total	16	8,247,308	26	3,187,450

A total of **15** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$2,948,653** from **1 July 2023 to 30 November 2023** compared to **16** Building Permits at a total value of **\$1,874,415** for the same period in 2022-2023.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **87** Building Permits at a total value of **\$37,224,743** from **1 July 2023 to 30 November 2023** compared to **106** at a total value of **\$26,341,882** For the same period in 2022-2023.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
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 fee proposal is being considered for an external consultancy to deliver this work.
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	Letters have been sent to landowners whose properties have been identified by the study, to advise that their property is locally significant.
2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy and complete an amendment to the planning scheme	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	SGS Economics and Planning have been appointed and have commenced technical work on this project.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	The Future Urban Structure has been released for public consultation until early February.
(2 years)	Complete a Planning Scheme Review as a vehicle for specifying desired outcomes across the municipality	Planning Scheme Review Completed and suggested changes implemented	The Planning Scheme Review report is under internal review and nearing completion.

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

The report has been prepared in consultation with a 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 Three - Sustainability - Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

Strategy 2: A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive.

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.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline

Committee Representation	
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
19/12/23	ABC Wimmera radio interview
19/12/23	Mayoral Forum with Minister Horne (virtual)
19/12/23	Anne Webster and Emma Kealy End of Year function
21/12/23	WSM Mayors and CEO's Quarterly Forum
22/12/23	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
14/01/24	Opened "Summer Brushes 2024" at Longerenong College
20/01/24	Opened "Battle of the Borders" Squash Tournament
21/01/24	Opened "Horsham Silver" Junior Squash Tournament
26/01/24	Australia Day and Citizenship ceremony at Sawyer Park
26/01/24	Australia Day ceremony at Natimuk

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
14/01/24	Summer Series Event – Riverfront Pop Up Meeting place, attended from 2pm until 4.30pm
22/01/24	Council Briefing meeting – Council Chambers

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
22/01/24	Council briefing
24/01/24	Coffee with Cr. Claudia
26/01/24	Australia Day - Dadswells Bridge
29/01/24	Council meeting

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Les Power

That the Councillor Reports and Acknowledgements be received.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS**

- Council Briefing meeting held on Monday 22 January 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 Les Power, Seconded Cr Claudia Haenel**

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

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

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

CARRIED

The time being 7.05pm, the meeting closed to the public.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

That the meeting move into open Council.

CARRIED

The time being 7.11pm, the meeting opened to the public.

Council Resolution**MOVED Cr Claudia Haenel, Seconded Cr Bob Redden**

That council resolution 15.2 (Investment Attraction Incentive – Horsham Golf Club Master Planning) be brought into open council.

CARRIED

15.2 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION INCENTIVE – HORSHAM GOLF CLUB MASTER PLANNING**Council Resolution****MOVED Cr Bob Redden, Seconded Cr Les Power**

That Council:

1. Note that the Horsham Golf Club is a preferred business of Council which delivers considerable economic and social benefits to the community.
2. Enact the Investment Attraction Policy and financially support the Horsham Golf Club for the amount of \$9,900.00 including GST towards the cost of a masterplan development for the site.

CARRIED

CLOSE

After dealing with Confidential Matters, the meeting closed at 7.12pm.

DocuSigned by:



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The Mayor, Cr Robyn Gulline
Chairperson