

## Roadside drainage a priority

Horsham Rural City Council is working hard to repair the municipality's roads following consecutive wet winters and last year's spring flood.

Key to road maintenance in rural areas is the upkeep of roadside drains and culverts – which prevents water from laying over roads or inundating nearby crops.

Council has a crew dedicated to rural roadside drainage maintenance which includes cleaning and shaping drains and cleaning or replacing culverts.

Since last year HRCC's crews have rectified more than 300 drainage defects on rural roads. But there are many more roads that require drainage work.

Infrastructure Director John Martin said while maintenance happened year-round, it usually took a heavy rain event to reveal where the worst problems were.

"We make decisions about where repairs are made first by assessing the severity of the problems the defective drain is causing. We also refer to the priorities in our Road Management Plan," Mr Martin said.

"Council acknowledge the community's frustration in relation to the damaged road network and has been working on repairing as many of our roads as possible.

"We have all of our graders working every



day they possibly can, weather permitting. Our drainage crew is also working at full capacity.

"We know that there is plenty more work to do right across the municipality," he said.

HRCC maintains only drains located within a Council road reserve. This includes channels and table drains at the side of the road pavement and culverts crossing beneath the road pavement.

Council is not responsible for culverts that allow vehicle access to private land. Each landholder is responsible for providing,

maintaining, and replacing these culverts.

Regional Roads Victoria is responsible for maintaining highways and major roads.

Council has allocated \$6.8 million to roads in its 2023-24 Budget, with more than \$5.5 million assigned for rural roads.

### REPORT A DRAIN-AGE ISSUE

To request repairs to a HRCC-managed road, visit [hrcc.vic.gov.au/service-request](http://hrcc.vic.gov.au/service-request).



### TENDERS AND RFQ

#### Q06/2024 DETAILED DESIGN OF 2 RECREATION PARKS FROM CONCEPT DESIGNS

Detailed design and construction drawings for Sunnyside and Skate Park precincts

**Closes 12noon, Friday 1 September**

#### Q23-032 NETBALL PAVILION CONSTRUCTION

Construction of a netball pavilion and associated infrastructure and landscaping at Horsham City Oval

**Closes 12noon, Monday 11 September**

#### 24-004 LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT- THE STATION YOUTH CENTRE

Undertake works at the front sections of the Council facility known as "The Station", 14-16 Pynsent St Horsham

**Closes 12noon, Tuesday 12 September**

All tender, EOI and RFQ details at [hrcc.vic.gov.au](http://hrcc.vic.gov.au)



## PUBLIC TOILETS TO BE UPGRADED



Four public toilets in Horsham are set to be upgraded over the coming weeks.

Facilities at the Botanic Gardens, Weir Park, Baker Street (former Visitor Information Centre) and the Woolworths car-park will be refurbished inside and out.

Horsham's D.L.W McMaster Property Maintenance has been awarded the contract with works including plumbing, electrical, building and painting.

New fittings will include stainless-steel toilets, cubicles, hand dryers as well as painting and flooring renovations.

Works will be done in stages and the project will be fully completed by mid November.

The toilets will be unavailable at certain times during the works, with signage in place.

Chief Executive Officer Sunil Bhalla said clean, safe and accessible public toilets

played a major role in the liveability of the city for residents and visitors.

"All of these facilities were showing their age and the community told us that upgrades were needed," he said.

"Council aims to maintain our public facilities in good order so they can be used by our community and visitors for years to come.

"The facility will be lighter, brighter and more modern and the upgrade replaces aged equipment with more robust fittings."

The \$236,000 project has been funded under HRCC's Capital Works Program.

Council is considering future options for public toilets in Roberts Avenue and at Horsham City Rowing Club.

More information regarding those facilities will be available as part of next year's budget process.

## Children's Book Week competition



Wimmera Libraries is hosting a Children's Book Week competition open to primary school children.

This competition allows children to be creative, and express their love and passion for their favourite book character.

Participants can either write to Wimmera Libraries explaining who their favourite book character is or illustrate their favourite book character doing something they love to do.

There are three categories that children can enter into:

- Prep and younger
- Grade 1 to 3
- Grade 4 to 6.

Entrants should include their name, school grade or age and contact number on the back of their entry.

Submit your entries via email: [info@wimmeralibraries.com.au](mailto:info@wimmeralibraries.com.au) or bring them to the Horsham Library, 28 McLachlan Street. The competition closes Saturday 26 August 2023.

Winners will be announced on the Wimmera Libraries Facebook page on Friday 1 September 2023.

### BOOK WEEK STORY TIME

Horsham Library will host a Book Week Storytime event on Friday at 10.30am.

Pre-school children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character.

**Next Council Meeting:** Monday 28 August 2023 - 5.30pm

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