

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on
24 November 2025
At 5.30pm

In the
Council Chamber, Civic Centre
18 Roberts Avenue, HORSHAM



**COUNCILLORS are respectfully requested to attend the Council Meeting
of the Horsham Rural City Council to be held on 24 November 2025
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm**

Order of Business

PRESENT

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

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 Brian Klowss formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Acting 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.

4. APOLOGIES

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

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 27 October 2025 be adopted.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest

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

Members of Staff

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

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION	6
9. OFFICERS REPORTS	6
9.1 Q1 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025.....	6
9.2 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026	10
9.3 PETITION – FOOTPATH REQUEST WILLIAMS RD HORSHAM	13
9.4 HORSHAM MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES STRATEGY	17
9.5 THE WESLEY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT	21
9.6 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029.....	29
9.7 UPDATES TO SPORT AND RECREATION GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	34
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION.....	39
9.8 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT.....	39
10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	47
11. URGENT BUSINESS.....	49
12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	50
13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS.....	51
13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS.....	51
13.2 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES	51
14. NOTICE OF MOTION.....	52
15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS
15.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS.....
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) - Personal Information</i>	
15.2 CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE REPORT: OCTOBER 2025
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(f) - Personal Information</i>	
16. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS.....
16.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS.....
<i>Defined as confidential information in accordance with Local Government Act 2020 - Section 3(1)(h) - Confidential Meeting Information</i>	

CLOSE



GAIL GATT
Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 Q1 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Directorate:	Corporate Services
File Number:	F18/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Q1 Quarterly Performance Report to September 2025 (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Purpose

To present Council with the Q1 Quarterly Performance Report to 30 September 2025.

Summary

- The Quarterly Performance Report is a key component of our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency and accountability to Council and the community.
- The format of the report was expanded over the previous financial year as part of Council's continuous improvement.
- This report provides financial figures which include the adopted budget, anticipated forecast and year to date actuals that will build on a quarter-by-quarter basis.
- Indicators and Initiatives will also be reported on a progressive quarterly basis.
- It should be noted that this report represents the last report against the 2021-2025 Council Plan as this Plan was still effective at the time of the report.
- Future reporting will be amended to align with the recently adopted 2025-2029 Council Plan.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Q1 Quarterly Performance Report to 30 September 2025.

REPORT

Background

The Quarterly Performance Report encapsulates a quarterly budget report, progress against the 2021-2025 Council Plan, the tracking of any major initiatives, and key data relating to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

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

Council has undertaken to review Performance Reporting (including financial performance) to the community with the intention of including information which exceeds minimum requirements, increases readability and piques community interest. Information is presented in a clear and transparent manner, with each quarterly report building on the previous quarter's information to provide a "story" of progress rather than a "snapshot" at a point in time.

This report represents the first report for the financial year but is also the last report against the 2021-2025 Plan. Changes to address reporting against the 2025-2029 Plan will be incorporated in the remaining quarterly reports for 2025-2026.

Discussion

The quarterly report has been prepared with the following sections of information:

1. Chief Executive Officer's Overview
2. Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework
3. Initiatives
4. Performance Indicators
5. Financial Performance by Council Plan Theme
6. Reconciliation of Financial Performance by Council Plan Theme to Comprehensive Income Statement
7. Comprehensive Income Statement
8. Balance Sheet
9. Statement of Capital Works
10. Statement of Human Resources
11. Councillor Allowances and Expenses

The CEO's Overview is a high-level summary of activities since the last Quarterly report.

The Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework section provides the reader with an explanation of the high-level requirements of the Act and Regulations for reporting to the community.

Section 4 & 5 detail the initiatives and indicators for the year – as adopted in the budget. These are reported on in a cumulative way to provide the reader with a building story of the progress so far rather than the traditional "snapshot" view of the current status.

Section 5 demonstrates expenditure and revenue at the service provision level under each of the Council Plan themes. These figures include the adopted budget, the current forecast (projected year end figure) and year to date performance.

Section 6 provides an important translation between reporting to the community by the service groupings they are familiar with compared to how the information is presented in an accounting context.

Sections 7 to 10 are the financial statements (accounting presentation). Data includes the adopted budget, forecast (projected year end figure) and year to date by quarter. Detailed notes are also provided to add value for the reader of the report.

Section 11 satisfies legislative and policy requirements providing information on a quarterly basis around councillor allowances and expenses.

Options to Consider

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is a mandatory system of performance reporting for all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector. The framework is made up of measures from a range of service areas, including roads, planning, animal management and waste and is complemented by a Governance and Management checklist.

The *Local Government Act 2020* (s97) also requires that the Chief Executive Officer ensures that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public. This quarterly budget report must include a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; and an explanation of any material variations; and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Council can opt not to receive and note the quarterly report but should note the legislative and other requirements requiring the report to be presented.

Sustainability Implications

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

Community Engagement

The Quarterly Performance report is prepared through cross-departmental consultation within Council. Following executive management team's endorsement, it progresses to a Council Briefing before formal endorsement at a Council Meeting. The report is then available to the public via Council's website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

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

Collaboration

Not applicable.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications of the report itself however the Quarter 4 Report provides detailed information on the financial position of Council and performance against budgets and various targets. These figures are preliminary with the final audited financial statements being included in the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan – all aspects (noting this is the last time the report will align to this plan as it has been superseded by the 2025-2029 Council Plan adopted in October 2025).

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

The Quarterly Performance Report provides a regular and succinct report for Council and the community to assess Council's performance against key measures. It also fulfils Council's legislative and other regulatory responsibilities.

9.2 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026

Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Directorate:	Corporate Services
File Number:	F19/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

Nil

Purpose

To adopt Council meeting dates for Horsham Rural City Council meetings for the 2026 calendar year.

Summary

Setting the Council Meeting Timetable 12 months in advance helps facilitate good planning.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the following meeting dates for 2026 for the Horsham Rural City Council meetings to be held at 5.30pm at the Civic Centre Horsham and livestreamed:
 - Tuesday 27 January 2026 (Noting the Australia Day Public Holiday is on Monday 26 January 2026)
 - Monday 23 February 2026
 - Monday 23 March 2026
 - Monday 27 April 2026
 - Monday 25 May 2026
 - Monday 22 June 2026
 - Monday 27 July 2026
 - Monday 24 August 2026
 - Monday 28 September 2026
 - Monday 26 October 2026
 - Thursday 12 November 2026* (proposed date of Statutory Meeting to elect the Mayor)
 - Monday 23 November 2026
 - Monday 14 December 2026 (meeting held earlier due to Christmas)
2. Advertise the adopted 2026 Council meeting dates on the Horsham Rural City Council website and by other means as required by Council's Governance Rules 2023.

REPORT

Background

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2023 - *Division 1 – Notices of Meetings and Delivery of Agendas*, Council is required to give public notice of its meeting dates as follows:

Rule 10: Subject to Rule 12, Council must from time to time fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings.

Rule 11: Council may change the date, time and place of any Council meeting which has been fixed by it and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public.

Rule 13.4: Reasonable notice of each Council meeting must be provided to the public. Council may do this:

13.4.1. for meetings which it has fixed by preparing a schedule of meetings annually, twice yearly or from time to time, and arranging publication of such schedule in a newspaper generally circulating in the municipal district either at various times throughout the year, or prior to each such Council meeting; and

13.4.2. for any meeting by giving notice on its website and:

(a) in each of its Customer Service Centres; and/or

(b) in at least one newspaper generally circulating in the municipal district

Discussion

Annually Council establishes the Council meeting dates for the following calendar year, with most meeting dates scheduled to occur on the fourth Monday of each month. The proposed dates for 2026 are presented for consideration noting that the fourth Monday of January again falls on the Australia Day Public Holiday. The January 2026 Council Meeting will therefore be held on Tuesday 28 January 2025 instead.

The 2026 schedule also proposes a date for the Statutory Meeting for the election of the Mayor, with this meeting proposed for Thursday 12 November 2026. Consideration of the following provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* is required in relation to setting the date and is dependent on the term of appointment agreed by Council:

If the Mayor is elected for a 1 year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by the Council that is as close to the end of the 1 year term as is reasonably practicable. (s26(4))

If the Mayor is to be elected for a 2 year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day to be determined by the Council that is as close to the end of the 2 year term as is reasonably practicable. (s26(5))

Establishing these dates well in advance of the Council meetings enables the community, Councillors, and Council officers to plan effectively and engage with the democratic process throughout the year. Where required, Councillors can change the date, time and place as provided for in Rule 11. Unscheduled or special meetings can also be scheduled as required by Council if the provisions of Rule 12 are met.

Options to Consider

Option 1 - As outlined above, the Governance Rules require that Council must from time to time fix the date, time and place of Council meetings. HRCC has commonly met this requirement by preparing an annual schedule of meetings for the calendar year and making this schedule publicly available.

Option 2 - Council has the discretion not to endorse an annual schedule of meetings if they would prefer to fix the date, time and place of meetings by some other means or at various stages in the year.

It is recommended that Council retain the approach outlined at Option 1 for 2026 noting this provides the community with more than reasonable notice of the meeting dates. As outlined above, adopting this option does not prevent Councillors from seeking to amend Council meeting dates during the calendar year as required.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

The community are informed of the Council meeting dates in accordance with the requirements of the Governance Rules outlined above. In addition to these requirements, Council also posts social media content in advance of each meeting to advise the community that the Council meeting agenda is available.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

No applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial consequences arising from the scheduling of the Council meeting dates.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Local Government Act 2020

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2025-2029 Council Plan

Theme – Leadership: A trusted and capable Council that leads with integrity and responsibility

12. Make transparent and evidence-based decisions

Risk Implications

Meeting dates that are planned in advance support good governance and good democratic processes. The promotion of these dates also ensures our community is aware of when the meetings occur and the agenda items for discussion at each meeting.

Conclusion

Council meeting dates have been proposed for 2026 in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the agreed processes included in Council's Governance Rules 2023.

9.3 PETITION – FOOTPATH REQUEST WILLIAMS RD HORSHAM

Director:	John Martin
Directorate:	Infrastructure
File Number:	F14/A09/000001

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

Residents' Petition for Footpath (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Purpose

To consider a proposal for a new footpath in a section of Williams Rd Horsham arising from a community petition.

Summary

- A petition, signed by 16 petitioners, was tabled at the 25 August 2025 Council meeting, seeking a footpath connection along Williams Rd to service Weldon Power Court.
- Staff representatives met with the residents on 4 October 2025 gaining further understanding of the request.
- Consideration of the petition and the community views has led to the proposal to construct a gravel surface path along the section of Williams Rd from Cameron Rd Bus Stop to Burnt Creek, and between the Burnt Ck trail and the crossover at 80A Williams Rd.
- It is proposed that this path addition be included in the 2026-27 capital works budget.

Recommendation

That Council approve the inclusion of construction of a new walking path along a section of Williams Rd, Horsham, at an estimated cost of \$20,000 in the 2026-27 capital works program.

REPORT

Background

A proposal for a footpath along a section of Williams Rd had initially been a customer request in February 2025. The assessment at that time led to a determination that the footpath request was not within Council's normal service standards, primarily because Weldon Power Court is zoned Rural Living, in contrast to the adjoining General Residential zoned land further west along Williams Rd.

There were also issues identified given the proximity of Williams Rd, which is an arterial road managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

After receiving a negative response to the standard customer request, the initial requesting customer gathered up local support leading to the petition that was tabled at the 25 August 2025 Council meeting.

The petition has led to further investigation and engagement with the residents to inform this new consideration of the request.

Discussion

Subsequent to the petition being tabled in Council, a meeting of residents was held with several staff. Key issues raised at that meeting included:

- There is a real concern for the safety of local children who are more likely to be struck by Williams Rd traffic if no path alternative is available.
- This risk is higher while construction of the solar farm is occurring given the higher traffic numbers at present.
- There are grandparents and residents on mobility scooters and one who uses a wheelchair who would also benefit from construction of new paths.
- There is no longer a bus stop at Weldon Power Court, which reduces local residents' mobility and independence.
- Residents advised that they are not seeking a high-quality concrete path. They just need something to link them to the Horsham urban path network.
- Recreational cyclists and pedestrians also frequent the area and would benefit from the works. This was a justification from the residents for why they should not contribute to the construction costs as part of a shared contribution scheme.
- Residents would like a pedestrian bridge parallel to the Burnt Ck road bridge on Williams Rd but understand this is a much larger commitment.

While the zoning of the land as Rural Living does not generally lead to paths being included, the urban path network has expanded to include this general area, including the Latus Track on the north side of Williams Road and paths along Burnt Ck on the south side of Williams Road. This path network sees consistent levels of use, beyond just the local residents, by many Horsham residents, typically for fitness purposes.

The concerns about pedestrian safety are also valid. The formation on the edge of the road has a cross slope due to it being the table drain, and hence this is unsuitable for many pedestrians, and the road itself is too busy for pedestrians.

Note that it would normally be a developer's responsibility to include a path as part of a subdivision. However, on the basis that:

- The development has been complete for decades,
- That the area is within the former City of Horsham area, and would be reasonably expected to have been developed as a residential area.
- That the path proposed is a relatively cheap gravel surface path:

Then, it is recommended to proceed with installation of a gravel surface path between the Cameron Rd bus stop area, and 80A Williams Rd, using the intervening section of path adjoining Burnt Ck to complete a path connection. This is shown in the diagram below.

Figure 1: Proposed extent of new path Williams Rd (in red). Existing path adjacent to Burnt Ck shown in blue.



Options to Consider

Consideration was also given to a concrete footpath. The estimated cost for a concrete path would be \$60,000. This is not considered warranted as currently other paths in the area, e.g. adjoining Burnt Ck are gravel surface, and the residents have expressed their satisfaction with this level of surface.

Lighting was also requested however that was considered a lower priority, and can be reviewed after the initial path implementation.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

This proposal has arisen from a community request, followed by a petition. A meeting was held with residents to ensure their views were well understood.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable.

Collaboration

Council is required to collaborate with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding use of the road reserve along Williams Road. As indicated, DTP has offered in-principle support for the proposal.

Financial Implications

It is proposed that provision for this path would be included in the 2026-27 capex budget. The estimated cost of \$20,000 (allowing for contingency) would be funded by offsetting the same amount from proposed footpath renewals budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

While the upgrade of a path in this area is proposed in the Bicycle Plan 2024-34, it is not identified as a high priority in that plan.

This proposal aligns with the following commitments under the Accessibility theme in the Council Plan 2025-29, as follows:

- 9. Improve transport networks within our community and beyond*
- 10. Improve access to quality services, public space and facilities*

Risk Implications

A walking path along the southern side of Williams Road would reduce the risk to pedestrians using this section of road.

Conclusion

It is proposed that a section of Williams Rd have a gravel path constructed in response to a community petition.

9.4 HORSHAM MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES STRATEGY

Director:	Brett Luxford
Directorate:	Communities & Place
File Number:	F20/A05/000001

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 Municipal Community Facilities Strategy: Responses to Key Themes and Issues August 2025

(Appendix 9.4A)

Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy Engagement Report September 2025 (Appendix 9.4B)

Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy (Appendix 9.4C)

Gender Impact Assessment - Community Facilities February 2025 (Appendix 9.4D)

Purpose

To present the Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy 2025–2035 to Council for endorsement, following the completion of public engagement.

Summary

The Strategy:

- Included a comprehensive 3 phased engagement program ensuring that the Strategy reflected community feedback
- provides a strategic blueprint for community facility planning over the next ten years;
- sets out a vision and five guiding principles for inclusive, accessible, and sustainable community facilities;
- responds to key issues such as under-utilisation of facilities, inconsistent management, and ageing infrastructure;
- outlines strategic priorities focused on equitable distribution, transparent governance, improved communication, and strengthened partnerships; and
- aligns with Council’s broader strategic objectives, relevant legislation, and planning frameworks.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy 2025–2035 (Appendix 9.4A).

REPORT

Background

The Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy 2025-2035 has been developed in response to the need for a coordinated and strategic approach to planning and delivering community facilities. The Local Government Act 2020, requires that Council planning considers long-term sustainability and community outcomes. Embedding consistent decision-making and strategic planning processes supports the establishment of a more connected, efficient, and resilient network of community facilities. The Strategy was developed with community and stakeholder input and integrates with Council's existing policies and plans.

Discussion

The Strategy's vision is that community facilities be fit for purpose and reflect the needs of community groups now and in the future. Five guiding principles were identified as both a foundation for decision making and as outcomes of processes where community facilities are well-maintained, effectively managed and equitably shared.

1. A Fair Approach
2. Inclusive and Welcoming
3. Shared and Thriving Facilities
4. Universal Design and Access
5. Strategic Planning and Decision Making

Engagement outcomes reinforced support for these principles and identified:

- The importance of inclusive and accessible design;
- A need for clearer communication about governance, booking processes, and fee structures;
- Requests for additional data on facility usage and distribution (addressed by adding a facility map);
- Recognition of underperforming or ageing infrastructure requiring renewal;
- Site-specific feedback for facilities such as Haven Memorial Hall, Dudley W. Cornell Reserve, and Crown Land-managed sites; and
- The need to integrate sustainability and climate resilience considerations in strategic documents.

The Strategy and the internal Implementation Plan provide guidance for the equitable distribution of facilities, improved governance, better promotion and activation of underused spaces, and stronger community partnerships. Implementation will be staged based on Council priorities and available resources.

Options to Consider

Council may:

1. Endorse the Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy 2025–2035
2. Request further amendments before endorsement
3. Not endorse the Strategy

The recommendation is that Council endorse the Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy 2025–2035, as it provides a clear, evidence-based framework to guide the future planning, provision, and management of community facilities and responds directly to community needs and priorities.

Sustainability Implications

The Strategy promotes economic, social, and environmental sustainability by planning for multi-use, universally accessible, and energy-efficient facilities, within available HRCC resourcing and reflecting the HRCC Long Term capex Plan. It also supports resilience to climate change and enhances community wellbeing.

Community Engagement

For details regarding community engagement, please see:

- **Appendix 9.4B** - Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy Engagement Report September 2025
- **Appendix 9.4A** - Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy Responses to Key Themes and Issues August 2025

Horsham Rural City Council delivered a comprehensive engagement program to inform the Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy, ensuring it reflects the current and future needs of the community. Conducted in partnership with CoFutures and guided by Council's Community Engagement Policy and IAP2 Core Values, the process involved timely, transparent, and constructive consultation.

The engagement was delivered in three distinct phases, each building on the insights of the previous stage. Phase 1 focused on gathering baseline data about facility usage and fitness for purpose, establishing a strong evidence base to guide discussions. Phase 2 involved workshops and site visits, which provided opportunities for stakeholders to explore key ideas such as co-location, innovative management models, and future priorities in more detail. Phase 3 centred on the public exhibition of the draft strategy, allowing the broader community to review, provide feedback, and confirm the direction of the final strategy. Together, these phases ensured the process was inclusive, transparent, and shaped by both evidence and community input.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Strategy introduces a principles-based framework and transparent decision-making process, enabling consistent, evidence-based planning and improved governance across Council owned and/or managed community facilities.

Collaboration

Development of the Strategy involved collaboration between Council departments and engagement with community organisations, facility user groups, and other stakeholders. Internal review of the Strategy and Implementation Plan received strong organisational and community support.

Financial Implications

Implementation of the Strategy will guide future investment. While no direct financial allocation is attached to the Strategy, the Strategy supports evidence-based decisions for budget planning and funding applications. The Strategy compliments, supports and reinforces the work currently underway to develop a Municipal Property Strategy.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active 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

Horsham Council Plan 2021-2025

Theme 1: Community

An inclusive, accessible, connected and safe community

Theme 2: Liveability

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

Theme 4: Accessibility

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

Council plans and strategies relevant to the development of the Strategy include:

- Horsham Open Space Strategy 2019
- Horsham South Structure Plan 2020
- Horsham North Local Area Plan 2023
- Central Activity District (CAD) Revitalisation Plan 2023
- Social Infrastructure Plan 2020

Risk Implications

Not endorsing the Strategy may lead to inefficiencies, inequitable outcomes, missed funding opportunities, and the ongoing underutilisation of facilities. It would also risk Council not adequately fulfilling its responsibilities in the effective management of community assets.

Conclusion

The Horsham Municipal Community Facilities Strategy 2025–2035 is an evidence-informed, community-driven plan that provides a clear and practical framework for delivering an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable network of community facilities. Engagement outcomes have strengthened the Strategy, ensuring it reflects the priorities and aspirations of the Horsham community.

9.5 THE WESLEY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Acting Director:	Brett Luxford
Directorate:	Communities and Place
File Number:	n/a

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

Update QS Cost Plan Wesley PAC 25092025 (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Costed Exclusions Front of House/Furniture - Nov 2025 (**Appendix 9.5B**)

Costed Exclusions Technical Equipment- Nov 2025 (**Appendix 9.5C**)

Costed Exclusions IT - Nov 2025 (**Appendix 9.5D**)

High level terms hand over of Asset to HRCC (**Appendix 9.5E**)

Detailed design drawings (**Appendix 9.5F**)

Purpose

To provide an update to Council on the full and current costings for the delivery of the Wesley redevelopment project and consider funding options.

Summary

- Previous support provided for *The Wesley Redevelopment Project*
- Outcome of *The Wesley Redevelopment Project* Fundraising Campaign
- Request from Wesley PACC Committee.
- Provision of updated QS for the redevelopment costs
- Provision of costings for QS exclusions to complete the project.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes that *The Wesley Redevelopment Project* fundraising campaign has raised \$423,667 of funds for the project, including a contribution of \$226,000 from their own funds.
2. Refers a funding allocation of **\$2.28 M** (based on the updated QS and fit out costs) to the budget process for 2026-27 financial year for the delivery of *The Wesley Redevelopment Project*.
3. Consider funding for The Wesley Redevelopment Project from a range of sources including but not limited to loans, grants, philanthropic organisations and Council cash
4. Finalises the transfer of the asset (the building) from the Wesley PACC prior to the development of *The Wesley Redevelopment Project* commencing

REPORT

Background

The Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre (WPACC) committee has, for the past 8 years, in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC), led the redevelopment project following the closure of the building in 2017 due to noncompliance, following a Fire Safety and ESM Audit.

In 2018 HRCC commissioned a Performing Arts Centre Demand Assessment to determine need and demand for the facility, which was substantiated. In 2019, HRCC resolved to support the Wesley Committee, to plan for the redevelopment. In 2020, WPACC sold its Music Academy and flat to fund required remedial works. Between 2021- 2024, the Committee commissioned and paid for planning, preparatory and remedial works to stabilise the building, develop detailed drawings, costings and to develop a business case.

At the 27 June 2022 Council meeting, the following was resolved in relation to *The Wesley Project*:

- Note the progress of planning works undertaken in relation to the proposed redevelopment of Wesley PACC.
- Support the redevelopment of Wesley PACC as proposed in the discussion section of this report i.e. flat floor design.
- Allocate up to \$224,000 in the 2023-2024 budget towards the redevelopment of the facility.
- Provide support to the Wesley PACC to undertake a community fundraising campaign to raise funding for the project to enable matching funding for any grants submissions.
- Support the Wesley PACC Committee to seek out grant opportunities to obtain the balance of funds required.
- Note that once works are complete, Council will own and operate the facility with annual operating costs estimated to be \$70-\$100,000.
- Note that future budget allowances will need to be made for renewal of this asset.

HRCC committed \$224,000 towards the redevelopment of Wesley.

The WPACC works towards raising funds to be eligible for grants. Noting that once the redevelopment is completed, the building will be transferred to ownership and ongoing management to HRCC.

In late 2023 the WPACC forms a volunteer Fundraising Committee and launches its campaign in April 2024. Any donation is tax deductible. Philanthropic trusts are targeted. In July 2024, an Economic Assessment /Business Case of the Wesley Redevelopment was prepared. The fundraising campaign runs for 12 months, with donations received from the Handbury Foundation (\$30,000), the Wesley Committee (\$226,000) and individual donations from the public totalling \$167,667.

In Feb 2023 an initial QS valued the cost of the project at approx. \$1.6M (excluding HRCC's Project Management fees (7%) and risk allowances). An updated QS was provided in June 2024, which valued the project at \$1.94 M. This QS was used as the basis for making applications to the State Government for additional funding. This QS was the basis for seeking a further updated QS in Sept 2025. QS costs are generally valid for 12 months and are subject to escalation.

At the 24 June 2024 Council meeting, the following was resolved: That Council:

1. Make an application to the Regional Tourism Investment Fund (RTIF) for *The Wesley Redevelopment Project* by underwriting *The Wesley Redevelopment Project* fundraising campaign

target of \$550,000, so that all funds can be secured for the Regional Tourism Fund Grant application.

2. Allocate a maximum of \$714,000 to The Wesley Redevelopment Project through funding allocations in the 2024-2025 budget (\$224k already budgeted in 2023-2024) and 2025-2026 budget (\$490k).

The application to the RTIF was made and submitted. In March 2025, notification that the application to the Regional Tourism Investment Fund was not successful. The Committee continued to raise funds, including a Schimmel Piano Fundraising event held at the Horsham Regional Art Gallery in March 2025.

On 5 May 2025, the Wesley PACC Committee presented to Council an update of the Wesley Fundraising campaign, outlining the delivery of their voluntary obligations, their project advocacy, commitments and project advancements, including:

- A summary of the extensive community fundraising campaign undertaken (\$423,000).
- Detailing the public awareness and goodwill developed towards the project,
- The submission of two competitive, but unsuccessful grant applications for external funds
- Supporting the development of the Business Case
- Commissioning detailed design drawings and QS

The Committee formally concluded their volunteer campaign seeking support from Council to further advance the project, having exhausted their volunteer effort and energy.

In July 2025 the Wesley Committee met with the CEO Gail Gatt (apology from Mayor Ross), which discussed the requirements for an updated QS and the approximate time taken from commencement to completion of the project. The Horsham Solar Park Community Benefits Fund was also discussed.

In Sept 2025 an updated QS was commissioned. The scope of works was the same as the previous QS sourced in Feb 2023 and updated in June 2024. The updated QS Cost Plan for Wesley totals **\$2,322,165** ex GST. The updated QS is found in Appendix 1. A summary of the Cost Plan is:

Building Works	\$1,737,435
External Works and Services	\$ 131,730
Contingencies, Escalation and Allowances	\$ 291,000
<u>Fees, FFE, ITC and Other Client items</u>	<u>\$ 162,000</u>
Total End Cost	\$2,322,165

The building area is 579m² and the net construction cost including external works and services is approximately \$3,228 per square metre. This includes contingencies and cost escalation through to September 2027. It is important to note that there are operational exclusions listed but not costed in the QS. These items include:

- Staging
(Adjustable stages, Lights, Sound, Control desk, Stage Curtains & Blackout Curtains)
- Furniture & Equipment
(Chairs/seating, Tables, Crockery & Cutlery, Glassware & Water Jugs, Hot water units, Kitchenette Fit-out Microwave, Bar fridge)
- Information Technology (IT), Audio Visual (AV) & Communications
(Video display/screen, Video conferencing facility, Wi fi and connections)
- Building Management System (BMS) for mechanical services & security

In October 2025 Council staff identified and costed the operational items. These Front of House, Technical and IT operational cost are itemised in Appendix 2-4. In summary these itemised costs account for the exclusion in the QS and amount to the following totals:

• Front of House/ furnishings costs:	\$ 65,320
• Technical/ sound/ costs:	\$238, 740
• <u>Approx IT/AV costs:</u>	<u>\$ 80,000</u>
Total cost of exclusions:	\$ 384,060

Therefore, the total cost of the project, less GST, as Nov 2025:

QS costs:	\$2,322,165
<u>Exclusions costed & factored</u>	<u>\$ 384,060</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$ 2,706,225

Less Wesley contributions and fundraising	\$ 423,667
Project Balance	\$2,282,558

Discussion

Since June 2025, Council has been discussing its commitment to its major capital projects, its' long-term capital and financial plans and its Advocacy projects. Various discussions have taken place at Briefing regarding the Wesley project, the opportunities, risks and benefits.

Discussions with the Wesley Committee have also progressed regarding high-level principles and an agreement to hand over the asset to Council, post renovation. In July 2025, the Wesley Committee met to discuss the transfer of ownership of the Wesley PACC to Horsham Rural City Council. The following Motion from the Wesley PACC committee meeting held on 15 July 2025 was passed.

Motion:

That the Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre (Wesley PACC) Committee agrees to the transfer of ownership of the Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre subject to:

1. Agreement by Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) and Wesley PACC Committee on the terms of agreement on the transfer of ownership of the Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre.
2. That HRCC passes a motion at a formal meeting to secure the necessary funding for the commencement and completion of the renovation project for the Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre.
3. That the HRCC commits through a motion at a meeting to the Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre renovation project by calling for tenders once the 2026-2027 budget is passed.

In addition to the ownership of the facility, Council staff have been considering and undertaking preliminary operational planning in relation to scheduling, resourcing and staff, all of which will be undertaken and delivered with existing staffing resources.

The original demand study, undertaken in 2017, noted that the operational cost to Council will be approximately \$70- \$100K to run a program at the Wesley. The Stafford Business Case undertaken in 2024, mapped out a program of utilisation based on programming knowledge of Council staff and picking up on latent demand, not currently able to be filled by the spaces available at the HTH.

Before *The Wesley* PACC closed there were approx. 6000 users of the facility. It is estimated that this will grow to approx. 8000 attendees with 156 hires held annually. Events may include local touring performances, small conferences and civil ceremonies, weddings, funerals, forums, meetings, symposiums, workshops, consultations, music recitals, Eisteddfod, youth events and film nights.

At present the Horsham Town Hall cannot meet 15% of its' enquiries. The economic benefit of events held at The Wesley is estimated to bring an additional \$300k to the local economy. (Stafford Business case 2024)

A small internal working group has been established to progress the project once there is a clear decision from Council, regarding the future renovation and utilisation of the facility. The working group have reviewed the current plans, made small adjustments to improve function and have identified cost savings. A site visit has been undertaken at the Horsham Gold Club to ensure proposed catering and conference set ups are in line with local need and demand. Technical and front of house equipment has been realistically factored into the total costs, not covered by the updated QS.

Even through the proactive campaigning to raise funds has finished by the Committee. Council staff are continuing to promote the opportunity to make donations through the tax-deductible fundraising account either through cash donations or direct account transfers. This opportunity will remain open throughout the potential build and possibly well into the fit out and activation of the space.

If the project progresses, representation of the Wesley Committee will form part of the Project Control Group. Staff have been keeping the Committee updated and informed of the progress of this report and Council's budget process including the development of the Council Plan.

Options to Consider

Council may choose to:

Option 1: Not commit the balance of funds required to fund *The Wesley* Redevelopment Project.

Option 2: Commit to the balance of funds so that *The Wesley Redevelopment Project* can proceed.

Option 2 is recommended:

The Wesley PACC has now been closed for over 8 years. It is critical that the redevelopment works are completed, as costs continue to escalate. Significant grant and philanthropic opportunities have been explored and are not likely to transact. A dedicated fundraising campaign has come to its conclusion but will remain open for incidental donations. Opportunities for small allocation from grant maybe available to the committee and the project once the project has a clear commitment.

It is therefore recommended Council contribute the balance of funds required so the project can be completed in the 2026-27 financial year.

Sustainability Implications

Material use will be sympathetic to the historic nature of the building.

The sustainable operational model has been factored into the redevelopment of the building since the project's inception. The business case (previously provided to Council) provides more detail in relation to the proposed Council operation of this facility.

Community Engagement

When the Performing Arts Centre Demand Assessment report in 2018 there was extensive community engagement was undertaken. A community survey was open from 4 September 2018 to 30 September 2018. In total, there were 289 responses received. In addition to the data, there were over 1,700 individual comments across all the questions. The primary outcome from the consultation interviews was that interviewees identified that they felt that Wesley PACC is a unique venue that offers a point of difference. The Wesley has a role to play, however, there was concern as to on-going costs and affordability.

There was also an identified need for a smaller space, for primary school usage and providing suitable facilities for smaller music performances. It was noted by interviewees that many members of the community feel that *The Wesley* was a foundation for the performing arts in Horsham and that the usage and programming of Wesley was a major contributor to the initiative to redevelop the Town Hall. Due to higher cost overheads regarding the use Horsham Town Hall usage of Wesley PACC for several smaller community groups will be more cost effective.

The yearlong fundraising campaign also galvanised significant interest and support for the Wesley redevelopment project. Each private donation is a vote of support for the project.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The creation of a flat floor space is considered innovative as it adds to the diversity of provision by providing a unique space that can service a range of uses, including for performances, small conferences, wedding, funerals, film showing product launches, ceremonies and presentations, family gathering and small business functions.

In addition, the space will be completely and fully accessible and suitable for a community that has a large and growing aged population.

Collaboration

The progression of this project has seen a strong collaboration between the volunteer Wesley Performing Art and Culture Committee, its Fundraising Committee, the HRCC's Projects Office and the Horsham Town Hall team.

Over the course of the yearlong fundraising campaign, donations were received at the HTH Box office, regular fortnightly meetings were held at the Council offices as well as hosting promotions and events at the HTH to support the campaign.

Financial Implications

Funds have been allocated in the HRCC 4-year capital works program for the project as follows:

	HRCC	Grant	Contributions	
2026/27	310,000	500,000	190,000	1,000,000
2027/28	310,000	500,000	190,000	1,000,000
Total	620,000	1,000,000	380,000	2,000,000

If the recommendations in this report are supported, the break-up of contribution to the project would be as follows:

Contribution	
Sept 2025 Cost Plan	\$2,322,165
Nov 2025 Exclusions costed elements (IT, Tech, Furniture)	\$ 384,060

TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$ 2,706,225
Wesley PACC Committee & community Fundraising (less)	\$ 423,667
Total contribution from HRCC	\$2,282,558*

*Based on the updated QS Cost Plan for Wesley PAC Sept 2025 (Appendix 1) and costed fit out estimation: Furniture, furnishings and equipment, IT, AV and communications equipment. (Appendix 2,3,4).

It is proposed that Council's contribution be sourced as a loan, as this is an inter-generational project that will provide benefits to the community beyond the four-year budget horizon. Options for offsetting the cost of this loan, including property sales, will be considered separately, and may take some time to materialise, hence the recommended use of a loan to enable the works to proceed in the short-term

It is estimated that the cost to operate *The Wesley PACC* when re-opened would be in the range of \$70-100k. Council would need to allow for this in 2027-28 budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

2021 Creative State

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2018 Performing Arts Demand Assessment Report

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 Community: Initiatives and Priorities

- Support and empower localised community groups in their goals and plans
- Enhance the inclusivity, accessibility and safety of our places and spaces
- Promote and support the municipality's key tourism, events, and local and cultural offerings

Theme 2: Liveability: Initiatives and Priorities

- Promote opportunities for life long social interactions and enjoyment
- Create engaging spaces and places for social connection and wellbeing to build community resilience
- Encourage participation, diversity and growth in sports, events, arts, and culture

2024 Horsham Rural City Council Tourism Destination Local Area Action Plan

Risk Implications

The Wesley PACC Committee has completed a dedicated fundraising campaign, \$423,667 has been raised as of 1 August 2025. Donors need to have surety when donating funds that the project will go ahead. There is a reputational issue for the committee.

The Wesley PACC committee has sought legal advice regarding the possible transfer of the Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre to HRCC. Their advice was that a binding legal agreement of the transfer requires an initial high-level term of agreement being reached between the Wesley PACC and HRCC followed by a final more detailed agreement.

The Wesley PACC passed a motion unanimously at its 29 July meeting to outline the initial terms that the committee requires for the transfer of ownership. If HRCC decides to move forward on the project the High-Level Terms of Agreement can then be finalised, and a legally binding agreement be drawn up on the transfer of ownership.

Conclusion

The primary outcome of the Horsham Performing Arts Future Services Demand Assessment has identified that there is a role for *The Wesley* in that it fills a gap in the existing provision of cultural facilities by providing a small intimate space that is very highly regarded by the community.

9.6 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029

Director:	Brett Luxford
Directorate:	Communities & Place
File Number:	F25/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 DAMP Consultation Community Feedback (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026- 2029 (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Purpose

To provide a copy of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-2029 and recommend that this document be approved by Council and submitted to the Government by 4 December 2025 as per legislation.

Summary

- Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, every Council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every 4 years.
- The draft DAMP 2026-2029 was developed as a result of community and stakeholder input and in accordance with the necessary regulatory and legislative requirements.
- Further engagement on the Draft DAMP was conducted between 23 September and 23 October 2025. The communication outreach included:
 - Public Notices- Feedback and pop up sessions were advertised on: September 24, October 1, October 15 and October 22, 2025.
 - eNews on September 25, October 3, October 10, October 17
 - Facebook September 24, October 1, October 10, October 16, October 22- combined post reach: 2,764
 - In person engagement was conducted at the Horsham Plaza on Saturday 4 October, Sunday 5 October, Saturday 18 October and Sunday 19 October 2025 between 10 and 4pm each shift. Engaged with approximately 40 residents over this 4 day in person engagement. Both paper copies of the Draft DAMP and flyers with QR codes available to cater for customer's needs. 30 paper copies were provided during the engagement as the preferred access to the document.
 - Have your say responses Draft DAMP website page- 346 total visits, 160 people downloaded the draft DAMP, 26 people viewed the existing DAMP. 280 aware and 153 informed.
 - Paper copies of the Draft DAMP along with feedback forms were available at Council foyer and at customer service for the entirety of the engagement period.
- The DAMP outlines the Council's services, programs and policies established to address the administration of the Act and what management strategies are in place to address dog and cat issues within the community.

Recommendation

That Council approve the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 and submit to the Government on or before the due date of 4 December 2025 as per legislation.

REPORT

Background

The Domestic Animal Management Plan is a statutory document and is due every four years, the amended document is due for submission on 4 December 2025. This plan has been developed in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. The plan has a series of regulatory and legislative requirements that need to be incorporated into the plan along with evidence of community input and consultation. Phase one of the community consultation process has involved approximately 143 participants. Phase two of the community consultation process has involved approximately 346 total visits to the DAMP council website, 160 people downloaded the Draft DAMP, 160 people downloaded the existing DAMP and 3 formal submissions received.

Discussion

There are 10 key issues that need to be addressed as part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029. These issues have a series of actions for Council to undertake over the next four-year period as follows:

1. Training of Authorised Officers
2. Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation.
3. Programs to address over population rates and euthanasia rates
4. Registration and identification
5. Nuisance
6. Dog attacks
7. Dangerous, menacing, and restricted breed dogs
8. Domestic animal businesses
9. Other matters
10. Annual review of the plan and annual reporting

The feedback received from the community are in line with the Draft DAMP initiatives, no changes will be made to the Draft DAMP.

Options to Consider

1. Approve the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026- 2029.
2. Not approve the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

- Further engagement on the Draft DAMP was conducted between 23 September and 23 October 2025. The communication outreach included:
 - Public Notices- Feedback and pop up sessions were advertised on: September 24, October 1, October 15 and October 22, 2025.
 - eNews on September 25, October 3, October 10, October 17
 - Facebook September 24, October 1, October 10, October 16, October 22- combined post reach: 2,764

- Draft DAMP presented in Councils foyer- where both hard copies of the Draft DAMP and flyers with QR codes were available throughout the engagement to cater for the community requirements.
- During the initial survey engagement process, feedback was obtained that the community would like to see out of business hours engagement conducted. Council listened to this feedback and arranged weekend engagement to cater for the communities needs.
- In person engagement was conducted at the Horsham Plaza on Saturday 4 October, Sunday 5 October, Saturday 18 October and Sunday 19 October 2025 between 10 and 4pm each shift. Engaged with approximately 40 residents over this 4 day in person engagement. Both paper copies of the Draft DAMP and flyers with QR codes available to cater for customer's needs. 30 paper copies were provided during this engagement as their preferred access to the document.
- Have your say responses Draft DAMP website page- 346 total visits, 160 people downloaded the draft DAMP, 26 people viewed the existing DAMP. 280 aware and 153 informed.
- 3 formal submissions were received by council. Some actions identified within the submissions are already underway. We note the submissions but believe the content of the DAMP are sufficient to address the concerns. As such no changes will be made to the Domestic Animal Management Plan apart from the graph amended on page 22.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

In accordance with Section 68A (3) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council is required to:

- a) Review the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) annually and amend the plan as necessary to reflect changes in policy, operations, or community needs.
- b) Provide a copy of the plan to the Secretary of Agriculture Victoria by 4 December 2025, including any amendments made during the life of the plan.
- c) Publish an evaluation of the implementation of the plan in Council's Annual Report, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Collaboration

Collaboration with the community and key stakeholders was conducted between 23 September and 23 October 2025.

Financial Implications

Staffing is within the existing resource allocation.

Other financial obligations from the DAMP to implement strategies include:

- a- Microchip and registration days- \$45.00 per resident. Increase annual registrations yearly. Eg- if 20 people paid \$45.00 Total \$900, the annual revenue to council from the 20 registrations would be approximately \$3360 if not desexed, \$1120 if desexed in annual registrations. Cost to council with the government registration levy and cost of microchip \$352.20 profit of \$547.80 in the first instance. Council feedback through report to EMT and Council briefing will be conducted in January 2026.
- b- Dogs on leash paint stencil \$350.00
- c- Paint for the stencil approximately \$150
- d- Hi Visibility Vests with "Community Safety Officer" on the back, Council Logo and Authorised officer on the left chest area. \$30 each
- e- 2 x existing bike service approximately \$100-\$200 depending on what the old bikes require.
- f- 4 x new helmets \$60 each
- g- If bike patrols are successful and budget allows look at purchase of 2 x Ebikes at approximately \$1400 each.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

- This plan is consistent with the Horsham Rural City Council Plan 2025-29
www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/document-resources/hrcc-council-plan-2025-29.pdf
- This plan is linked with the Horsham 2041 Community Vision
www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/our-council/community-information/hrcc-community-vision.pdf
- This plan is linked to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan
www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/emergency-management/documents/hrcc_memp_version_1.1_december_2015_1.pdf
- This plan is linked to the Animal Emergency Management Sub-Plan

Risk Implications

Officer safety while performing duties, bike patrols to utilise PPE- Body Cameras, Mepacs- personal safety alarms and working two up. Being aware of the surrounding.

Conclusion

Approval of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 is sought to submit to the Government on or before 4 December 2025 as per legislation.

9.7 UPDATES TO SPORT AND RECREATION GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Director:	Brett Luxford
Directorate:	Communities & Place
File Number:	F20/A01/000002

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

Sport & Recreation Grant Funding Opportunities -Previous Council Report (**Appendix 9.7A**)

Purpose

To provide an update on quotes received for Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) funding program- Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) for the Haven lighting project.

Summary

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 27 October 2025 Council passed a resolution supporting applications for funding to the Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) and the County Footy and Netball program. Applications for these grant funding streams opened on 2 September and 24 September respectively. The closing dates for these rounds are 2 Dec 2025 and 28 Feb 2026 respectively.

Point 1 of the resolution of Council on the 27 October 2025 related to an application through the LSIF for the Haven Lighting Project. At the time of the report to that meeting it was estimated that the total cost of the project was \$450,000 (\$200,000 grant, \$200,000 Council contribution).

Further detailed design have been undertaken to meet the requirements of the funding application and indicative prices sought for the project. This has resulted in an increase from the initial assessment for the project from \$450,000 (ex GST) to \$592,925 (ex GST).

This report provides an update to Council on the projects for the LSIF and CFNP with an update on costings for the LSIF Haven Lighting Project now received.

Recommendation

That Council approve:

- A. The funding application for the Haven Tennis Courts Lighting Project under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund LED Lighting Stream, seeking the maximum grant of \$250,000, to be lodged by 2 December 2025.
- B. The allocation of the required co-funding cash contribution in the 2026/2027 budget, being \$342,925, noting the total project budget of \$592,925 (plus GST) as detailed in this report.

REPORT

Background

Since the launch of the LSIF and CFNP Council has received the following briefings about possible projects and options. In mid-September 2025 Council were presented with an informal range of options to consider for the LSIF. Officers reviewed Council's suggestions, referenced the funding criteria, the Long-Term Capital commitments and project readiness and put forward a formal report for Council consideration on the 13 October 2025, providing a range of options across the various funding streams. Council selected projects and staff have progressed the projects selected by Council.

Successful projects under either programs will need to commence construction from 1 July 2026 and Council's co-funding contribution will be required in the 2026/2027 capital works budget. The ratios for investment for regional and rural councils, which HRCC is classified as, is for every \$1 contributed, \$3 are available from the state govt. Co-funding must be confirmed by Council resolution at the time of lodging the grant application. The status of the 3 applications are:

- A. Haven Tennis Courts Lighting (LSIF) LED Lighting Stream
Commitment co-funding of approximately \$200,000 in the 2026/2027 budget. With a proposed total project budget \$450K. Approved by Council at 27 October 2025 meeting.
Lighting plan for 12 courts at Haven to support regional tennis has now been completed.
Quotes from a professional lighting design company has been sourced and second quote from a trusted local electrical contractor have been received. As previously reported, this is a mandatory part of the application. Both quotes exceed the approximate costings presented at the 27 October 2025 meeting. More detail is provided below with options to consider a revised resolution.
- B. Horsham Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study (LSIF) Planning Stream
Commitment co-funding of \$40K in the 2026/2027 budget. Total project budget \$80K
This project is progressing and will be submitted by the 2 Dec 2025
- C. Camerons Oval Lighting Project (Country Football Netball Program (CFNP)
Commitment co-funding of \$200K in the 2026/2027 budget. Total project budget approx. \$450K
This project will commence once the LSIF is submitted. Lighting plans and costing will need to be sourced. This application is due on 28 Feb 2026.
- D. Facility Plan for Cameron's Oval
HRCC self-funded planning project to be submitted through the Council's budget process. This process will meet internal deadlines for consideration in next years' budget.

Discussion

Commitments made at the Council meeting and briefing were based on indicative costs for both lighting infrastructure projects, provided by local contractors and previous planning and costing work completed for the Wimmera Regional Multi sport planning project developed for Haven.

Neither site (Haven nor Laharum) had detailed lighting plans and it was noted in the 27 October Report that this work would be required and is mandatory for the submission of the grant. Internal funds have been used to cover the cost of the Lighting plan and cost plan. (Approx \$12k for the Haven project). The up to date and costed lighting plan for the application is now complete for Haven, however it is above the indicative costings provided to Council.

As per the briefing to Council on Mon 13 October 2025, and the subsequent report to Council on Mon 27 Oct 2025. The 'co-contribution will be confirmed when the site-specific lighting plan and detailed cost estimate are available. The co-contribution to be included in the 2026/2027 Capital Works budget.' (p3 para1 Appendix A)

Staff have sourced a detailed Lighting plan and costings from two sources to meet the lighting requirements for Regional Tennis and the 12 courts at the Haven Recreation Reserve. The quotes have been sourced from:

- a. A recognised and recommended sports lighting specialist
- b. Local electrical contractor

Both quotes were well over the original Haven project costings. Staff have requested revisions on costings and queried quotes. A second round of quotes have been subsequently provided, with figures provided below (less GST):

EXPENDITURE (less GST)	Sports Lighting Specialist	Local Electrical contractor	Comments
Construction costs			
Lighting Installation (12 courts)	\$ 485,781	\$ 660,000	Capital lighting costs
Book-a-court automated venue system	\$ 8,492	\$ 8,491	To automate lighting
Upgrade of Power	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	Provided by CHS Group
Peripheral safety lighting from carpark	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	Internal costing
Sub-total	\$ 506,773	\$ 680,992	
Project Management - 7%	\$ 35,474	\$ 47,669	SRV guidelines
Contingency - 10%	\$ 50,677	\$ 68,099	SRV guidelines
Total expenditure budget (cash)	\$ 592,925	\$ 796,760	

Notes to the quotes:

The 'Book court automated booking system' will allow for the courts to be booked and accessed via a mobile booking system. This will ensure that the lights are only on for the period they are booked and that players and coaches can have surety of their bookings.

The site has been assessed by a local lighting contractor and some minor power supply upgrades will be required.

The safety lighting is to ensure that people accessing the courts or leaving the courts after dark have safe and clear sight lines to their carpark and amenities and that we don't create entrapment or security concerns when people are using the courts.

Comparing the two up to date quotes, and looking at the most cost-effective quote, and assuming Council still wishes to proceed with the application, an amended resolution is needed to support and endorse the application. The difference in costs will be:

Revised and up to date costs	\$592,925
<u>Proposed initial costs</u>	<u>\$450,000</u>
Variation in commitment	\$142,925

The total cost to Council for the 26-27 FY (if funding is successful) will be \$342,925 for the total project cost of \$592,925, noting that the maximum SRV contribution is \$250,000

Options to Consider

Council may choose to:

1. Proceed with the application to LSIF funding program for the Haven Lighting project and commit an additional \$142,925 to the project, (noting \$200K has been nominally committed) resulting in a total project commitment of **\$342,925**, based on the current quotes and to allocate this future budget provision in 2026/2027
2. Not proceed with the application for the Haven Lighting project
3. Defer the project to a future SRV application, noting there is no guarantee around the future grant priorities.

Recommend: Option 1

Staff have considered the option to reduce the scope or alter the funding to fit the nominated commitment. Scope changes and variations to reduce the project cost will result in not meeting the regional tennis lighting standards for this precinct.

There is also not enough time to get a rescope and costed lighting plan out and back before the 2 Dec, when the application is due.

Sustainability Implications

All infrastructure projects have sustainability aspects as this is a planning consideration for all Council projects. The LED lighting projects has strong sustainability and efficiency benefits.

Community Engagement

The Haven lighting project has had extensive community engagement as part of the recently completed planning project for Haven Recreation Reserve. There will be additional engagement planned for four landowners located near or around the Haven precinct. Letters have been prepared but will not be issued until clarity is provided on the projects' progression. Council officers have continued to discuss projects and options with SRV, to ensure alignment to funding guidelines.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

N/A

Collaboration

The development of this report and recommendations for Council have involved a cross-functional collaboration of Council Officer from the Recreation and Open Space team, the Facilities Management team, the Project Office and the Grants Officer.

Financial Implications

A Council resolution confirming future Council funding is a mandatory document required for each application. The initial costings provided to Council were stated as 'conservative estimates at this stage, and the final budget requirement may vary slightly'.

The justification and explanation of the budget variation is included in this report.

Any changes to the commitments will need to be provided for in the 2026-27 budget, which is currently under development.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Active Victoria 2022-2026

Fair Access Policy Roadmap

Get Active Victoria - Lighting Facilities for Active Recreation

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council Plan 2021-2025

Strategy – Quality opportunities and facilities that meet the health and wellbeing needs and interests of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Initiative – Encourage participation, diversity and growth in sports, events, arts and culture

Risk Implications

Council approval of applications requires a financial commitment.

Funding rounds through SRV are updated annually, are highly competitive and these are the only state-based funding for recreational asset improvements.

Commitment to the costs of planning in council budgets is key to ensure that priority projects are costed and accounted for prior to making applications for funding. It also provides greater surety around the commitment for Council well ahead of time. There has been no provision for scoping and planning for priority projects made in this current years' budget.

Conclusion

Sport and Recreation Victoria provide two annual funding rounds for local government across the state. The Local Sports Infrastructure Fund will close on 2 December 2025. The Country Football Netball Program will close on 28 February 2026.

This report provides Council with up-to-date costing and options for the Haven Lighting project, under the LSIF now that accurate costings have been received.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.8 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director:	Brett Luxford
Directorate:	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 monthly report - September (**Appendix 9.8A**)

2025 Q3 Economic Snapshot Report (data is from bank card transactions and may not capture all Ag Industry) (**Appendix 9.8B**)

Purpose

To receive and note the Investment Attraction and Growth Department Quarterly Report for the period: July - September 2025.

Summary

The Investment Attraction and Growth Department Quarterly 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 Quarterly Report for the period: July - September 2025.

REPORT

Background

An Investment Attraction and Growth Department Report is tabled Quarterly at an 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 months of July - September 2025 are articulated in the information and tables, as follow.

The teams will focus on delivering actions within 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	July - Sept 25
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	The Investment Attraction team attended an Economic Development activation forum with RDV, WSM Development and LGA representatives from across the region to collaborate on large scale projects within the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.
3.5 (ongoing)	Advocate for mining in our region to meet world's best practice	Website updated and investment prospectus developed	A letter was submitted to the Minister relating to the Avonbank Mining Licence and a submission was made to DTP on Draft C82 Avonbank PSA
3.6 (ongoing)	Widely promote the advantages of establishing solar and wind farms in the Horsham region	Website updated and investment prospectus developed	A meeting was held with SEC Horsham Solar Park in July as a means for them to provide a progress update to Council staff.
3.6 (1-2 years)	Council support and advocate for renewable energy projects of all scales	Begin discussions with smaller townships for community scale solar	Baywa.re briefed Council regarding the Wimmera Plains wind farm progress.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	July - Sept 25
2.1.2	Design, promote, participate and support municipal activities and events as scheduled including NAIDOC, Volunteers, International Women's Day & Seniors Week	Events reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Council assisted in the organisation of a Suicide and Mental Health Awareness walk during September with a large amount of attendees making their way from Roberts Ave to the Soundshell to remember those who have lost their lives due to suicide.
2.6.1	Promote recreational activities in our natural environment to increase destination tourism and visitation	Activities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	Sports Marketing Australia inspected our accommodation and events venues during July as they undertook a capacity and capability assessment. They have now commenced the development of an Events Prospectus which will be a useful tool in attracting events to our region.
2.8.1	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	A second 'Winter Warmer' event took place in August with huge success. A sunny winters day made for lots of attendees.
3.1.3	Develop and implement the Natimuk Social and Economic Plan and Dadswell's Bridge Community Action Plan	Plan Developed & Progress report to Council	Planning is underway for the development of a Natimuk Dog Park.

BUSINESS AND TOURISM NEWS

Business Events Victoria

Business Events Victoria (BEV) operates as a collective group of conference venues, accommodation providers, tour operators, local councils and regional tourism organisations. BEV has an industry approach to promote and market business events for regional Victoria, as a premier destination for corporate events and conferences, aiming to grow the region's business events sector.

In early August 2025, BEV tendered an expression of interest to its members to host a regional familiarisation for corporate organisations. Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, Tourism Recovery Officer Serena Eldridge coordinated a successful joint bid on behalf of Horsham Rural City Council and Northern Grampians Shire Council who also expressed interest. The joint familiarisation tour will be held on 20 and 21 November 2025 and will highlight our great venue facilities and attractions that form part of our regional assets.

SPENDMAPP

Quarterly Economic Snapshot July-Sept provided as an attachment

VTIC Tourism Summit and Top Towns Awards



Members of the Business and Tourism team, along with Councillor Brian Klowss and Natimuk resident Pat Ford attended the Awards ceremony for the Top Tourism Town awards hosted at the Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) in Shepparton. A great night was had by all and although we didn't come away with a win, it has been a huge achievement to get to the finalist stage of the awards

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism - AI advantage Workshop

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) successfully hosted a practical AI workshop for our Grampians and Wimmera Mallee tourism operators on Wednesday, August 27.

Councillor Cam McDonald attended the engaging session, led by Stephen Toms from AI Growth Academy, which was specifically tailored to the needs of our local businesses. Stephen demonstrated effective strategies, showing operators how to work smarter with AI and achieve better results.

Workshop covered areas such as:

- Set up AI tools trained for your business
- Create prompt packs for guest comms, social media
- Build time saving templates for emails, newsletters, and recurring content
- Learn how to sharpen your outputs and repurpose smarter
- Walk away with real, ready-to-use content



Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	June 2025 Businesses Occupied	September 2025 Businesses Occupied	September 2025 Businesses Vacant	September 2025 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	41	42	1	98%
Firebrace St - 97	89	90	7	92%
Hamilton St - 17	16	17	0	100%
Wilson St – 34	29	30	4	88%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	27	28	0	100%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	24	24	3	88%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA & GWM included	23	23	1	96%
Total 270	249/270	254/270	16	94%

(Businesses are determined by whether they are 1. A premises, 2. Have customers 3. Exchange money; i.e Centre Link and the Cinema are included, and the Public Library is excluded). There are four known shops that are not suitable for occupancy as they require major renovations or are being used as a secondary business not requiring a retail front. These shops are reflected in the vacant shop numbers and unfortunately reduce the percentage of occupied businesses.

STATUTORY PLANNING

Planning Applications Determined

Below are the number of Planning Permits issued for the months of **July to September 2025** and a comparison with the same period last year.

Type	JUL TO SEPT 2025		JUL TO SEPT 2024	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	6	4,925,902	2	761,491
Industrial/Commercial	7	2,779,142	9	10,250,000
Subdivisions	7 (16 Lots)	720,000	6 (14 lots)	85,000
Other	1	350,000	0	0
Total	21	8,775,044	17	11,096,491

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 is 21 compared to 16 in the same period in 2024.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 16 new lots from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 compared to 14 in the same period in 2024.

Building Services

Below are the number of building permits issued for the months of **July to September 2025** and a comparison with the same period last year.

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	JULY TO SEPT 2025		JULY TO SEPT 2024	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	766,500	0	0
Alterations to Dwellings	0	0	0	0
Dwelling resittings	0	0	0	0
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	5	175,493	5	103,218
Removal/Demolish	1	28,941	4	74,173
Industrial/Commercial	0	0	2	123,400
Signs	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	7	970,934	11	300,791

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

Type	2025		2024	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	11	5,883,243	9	5,946,914
Alterations to Dwellings	11	788,189	10	1,057,417
Dwelling resittings	0	0	2	74,305
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	14	671,564	21	845,706
Removal/Demolish	6	205,143	3	45,900
Industrial/Commercial	17	25,152,337	12	5,212,846
Signs	1	157,250	0	0
Sub Total	60	32,857,726	57	13,183,088

A total of **7** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$9,709,34** from **1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025** compared to **11** Building Permits at a total value of **\$300,791** in 2024.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **60** Building Permits at a total value of **\$32,857,726** from **1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025** compared to **57** at a total value of **\$13,183,088** in 2024.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	July - Sept 25
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	Exhibition of C85 Horsham Heritage Study Amendment to undertaken November to December 2025.
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	Draft Strategy community consultation completed undertaken September to October 2025.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Council undertook tour of Horsham South and Haven to understand issues of development coordination, infrastructure, community facilities and transport.



PLAN *for* VICTORIA

Implementing *Plan for Victoria*

into the Planning Policy Framework

September 2025



VC283 – Plan for Victoria

The state government introduced Amendment VC283 to the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes on 2nd September 2025. It has updated the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) to give effect to Plan for Victoria's key policies and housing capacity targets.

The five key changes to the PPF:

- Introducing housing capacity targets (*see new Clause 16.01 Residential Development*)
- Introducing a 30% tree canopy target in urban areas

Officers Reports

- Repeal of *Plan Melbourne* and Victoria's eight regional growth plans, to be replaced with the whole *Plan for Victoria*
- Including an Acknowledgement of Country under the purpose of the PPF
- Including the People Panel's vision for Victoria

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria>

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 Wimmera Mallee 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

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 Quarterly 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 Brian Klowss, Acting Mayor

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
19/10/25	WIM Resource Mining meeting
20/10/25	Working Group meeting: Dyurrite Cultural Landscape Management Plan Amendment
23/10/25	Rural Councils Victoria AGM
24/10/25	BGLC/Local Government Forum 2
29/10/25	WIM Resource meeting
30/10/25	WM News interview
30/10/25	Wimmera Regional CEOs and Mayors meeting
30/10/25	CEO ERC meeting
31/10/25	Nati Frinj Biennale event
6/11/25	Wimmera Southern Mallee By 5 Initiative
7/11/25	Rail Freight Alliance meeting
10/11/25	By-pass discussion
11/11/25	Remembrance Day Service
13/11/25	Natimuk Economic & Social Plan PAC
19/11/25	Meeting with Michaela Settle MP
20/11/25	SEC project & community fund update
21/11/25	HRLE Meeting
21/11/25	RFA Forum
21/11/25	Western Highway Action Committee meeting

Cr Cam McDonald

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
6/10/25	Council Briefing
10/10/25	1pm – 4pm Attended GWMT Tourism industry forum at Hamilton Oval 6.30pm Attended Community Bushfire readiness forum at Laharum Oval
13/10/25	Council Briefing
14/10/25	Teams meeting with Dr Anne Webster MP
20/10/25	Meeting with West Vic business Stacy Taig Council Briefing
22/10/25	All day tour of ILUKA MINE SITES at Ouyen, report supplied to council. Attended Brimpaen CFA meeting
27/10/25	Council Meeting

Cr Dean O'Loughlin

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
	Nil
Other Council Activities	
30/10/25	CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee Meeting
10/11/25	Council Briefing Meeting
12/11/25	General discussion: Cr O'Loughlin CEO
13/11/25	VLGA 2025 Annual General Meeting
20/11/25	Draft Aboriginal Commitment and Action Plan

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13.1 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

- Council Briefing Meeting held on 10 and 17 November 2025.

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Nil

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings of Councillors – Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Council Committee Minutes.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION