

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

To be held on

24 July 2023

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 July 2023
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 Robyn Gulline formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised that the meeting will be recorded to maintain a video archive, which will be available on the Horsham Rural City Council website as soon as practicable.

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 26 June 2023 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.

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CLOSE



SUNIL BHALLA

Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

9.1 PA2200431 – LOT 247 0 LINDNERS ROAD, QUANTONG

Author's Name:	Joel Hastings	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Statutory Planning and Building	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	PA2200431

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

Delegate Report (**Appendix 9.1A**)

Applicants Planning Report (**Appendix 9.1B**)

Purpose

To determine Planning Permit application PA2200431 for the Use and Development of a Waste Treatment Facility (Processing of brine waste, a food manufacturing by-product and construction of two evaporative ponds).

Summary

The planning application proposes the Use and Development of a Waste Treatment Facility (Processing of brine waste, a food manufacturing by-product and construction of two evaporative ponds) and was received on 7 July 2022 (**Appendix 9.1B**).

A full planning assessment against the Horsham Planning Scheme considering the relevant policy, objections and views of the referral authorities in accordance with section 60 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The proposal for a Waste Treatment Facility in Quantong has raised issues regarding the amenity, environmental impact, purpose of the Farming Zone, orderly planning of settlements and has received significant opposition from the local community.

The location of industrial uses within the Farming Zone has the potential to affect the amenity and future planning of the Quantong settlement and the current location is considered inappropriate for a Waste Treatment Facility and is inconsistent with the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Recommendation

That Council having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to **refuse** to Grant a Permit under the provisions of the Horsham Planning Scheme in respect of the land known and described as **Lot 247C 0 Lindners Road Quantong VIC 3400**, for the **Use and Development of a Waste Treatment Facility (Processing of brine waste, a food manufacturing by-product and construction to two evaporative ponds)** in accordance with the endorsed plans.

For the following reasons:

- The proposal is inconsistent with the objectives and policies of the Horsham Planning Scheme
- The proposal will permanently remove agricultural land from production
- There is significant potential for environmental and amenity impacts on the neighbouring properties
- The location is inconsistent with surrounding rural residential land use
- The use of the land for waste treatment facility may limit future review and application of rural zones.

REPORT

Background

Refer to Delegate Report assessment against the requirements of the Horsham Planning Scheme and Planning and Environment Act 1987 (**Appendix 9.1A**).

Options to Consider

Option 1 – Refuse the application on the ground that it does not comply with the planning scheme provisions and will result in an unacceptable risk to the Quantong community and hinder settlement planning. (This option is recommended by officers as it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the relevant controls, objectives and policies of the planning scheme).

Option 2 – Resolve to Issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit (refusing the application may result in the objectors lodging an application for review of Council's decision with VCAT).

Option 3 - Defer a decision on the application (this option is not recommended by officers as it is considered that all required information is available to form a position on the application).

Sustainability Implications

The proposal is not consistent with sustainability for the use and development of farming land and settlement planning.

Community Engagement

As required under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 notice of the application was given to adjoining owners/occupiers. 18 submissions have been received and the parties have had an opportunity to discuss their concerns with council.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

The report has been prepared in collaboration by Council Officers within the Planning Department and has sought the advice of referral authorities including Infrastructure, EPA and WCMA.

Financial Implications

The decision on the application is unlikely to have any direct financial implications for council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The Delegate report provides assessment against relevant plans and policies.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

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

Risk Implications

The decision may be overturned by appeal to Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Conclusion

Planning Permit application PA2200431 has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Horsham Planning Scheme and Council is requested to make a decision on the application on the basis of Clause 65:

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- *The matters set out in section 60 of the Act.*
- *Any significant effects the environment, including the contamination of land, may have on the use or development.*
- *The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.*
- *The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.*
- *Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.*
- *The orderly planning of the area.*
- *The effect on the environment, human health and amenity of the area.*
- *The proximity of the land to any public land.*
- *Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.*
- *Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.*
- *The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.*
- *Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.*
- *The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.*
- *The adequacy of loading and unloading facilities and any associated amenity, traffic flow and road safety impacts.*
- *The impact the use or development will have on the current and future development and operation of the transport system.*

9.2 FLOOD AMENDMENT POST-EXHIBITION

Author's Name:	Kirsten Miller & Stephanie Harder	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Strategic Planner & Coordinator Strategic Planning & Heritage	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Strategic Planning	File Number:	F24/A05/000016

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reason: Declared conflicts of interest for Map 9 and Map 13 as officers own respective properties are within these locations.

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Submissions Response Table (Redacted) (Appendix 9.2A)

Purpose

To consider all submissions received to Amendment C81hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme.

Summary

On 28 February 2022 Council resolved to support the public exhibition of Amendment C81hors. It was Authorised by the Minister for Planning on 14 October 2022 and exhibited from 17 November 2022 to 20 December 2022 (with some late submissions accepted). Mapping errors on Amendment Maps 23 and 24 were identified during the exhibition period. The two maps did not display the proposed overlay changes and in light of this error, Council extended the exhibition period for land owners located within Maps 23 and 24 to 20 January 2023. 4,508 notices were mailed to affected owners and occupiers.

Amendment C81hors implements the following six flood studies:

- *Horsham and Wartook Valley Flood Investigation (Water Technology, 2019)*
- *Mount William Creek Flood Investigation (BMT WBM, 2014)*
- *Natimuk Flood Investigation (Water Technology, 2013)*
- *Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek Flow Modelling Study Report (Water Technology, 2010)*
- *Warracknabeal and Brim Flood Intelligence Report (Water Technology, 2016)*
- *Lower Wimmera Flood Investigations (Water Technology, 2017)*

The Amendment affects 2,816 properties across the municipality. In summary, the Amendment:

- Revises the mapping extent of the Floodway Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) within the respective six flood study areas
- Replaces the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 9 (stormwater management area) (DDO9) with the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1 (SBO1)
- Amends and introduces new overlay schedules
- Deletes Schedule 4 to the Design and Development Overlay (flood fringe development) (DDO4)
- Rezones land from the Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)

A total of 46 submissions were received. Of these, seven have been resolved and withdrawn, six are resolved and awaiting formal withdrawal, 31 remain unresolved and two supported the Amendment.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and consider all submissions received to Amendment C81hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme, including the two late submissions.
2. Having considered all submissions to Amendment C81hors, approve to:
 - a. Request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Planning Panel under Part 2 8B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to review all submissions to Amendment C81hors; and
 - b. Refer all submissions to the Independent Planning Panel to be appointed by the Minister for Planning including addendums to existing submissions whilst continuing to resolve or improve submitter issues up until the Panel Hearing.

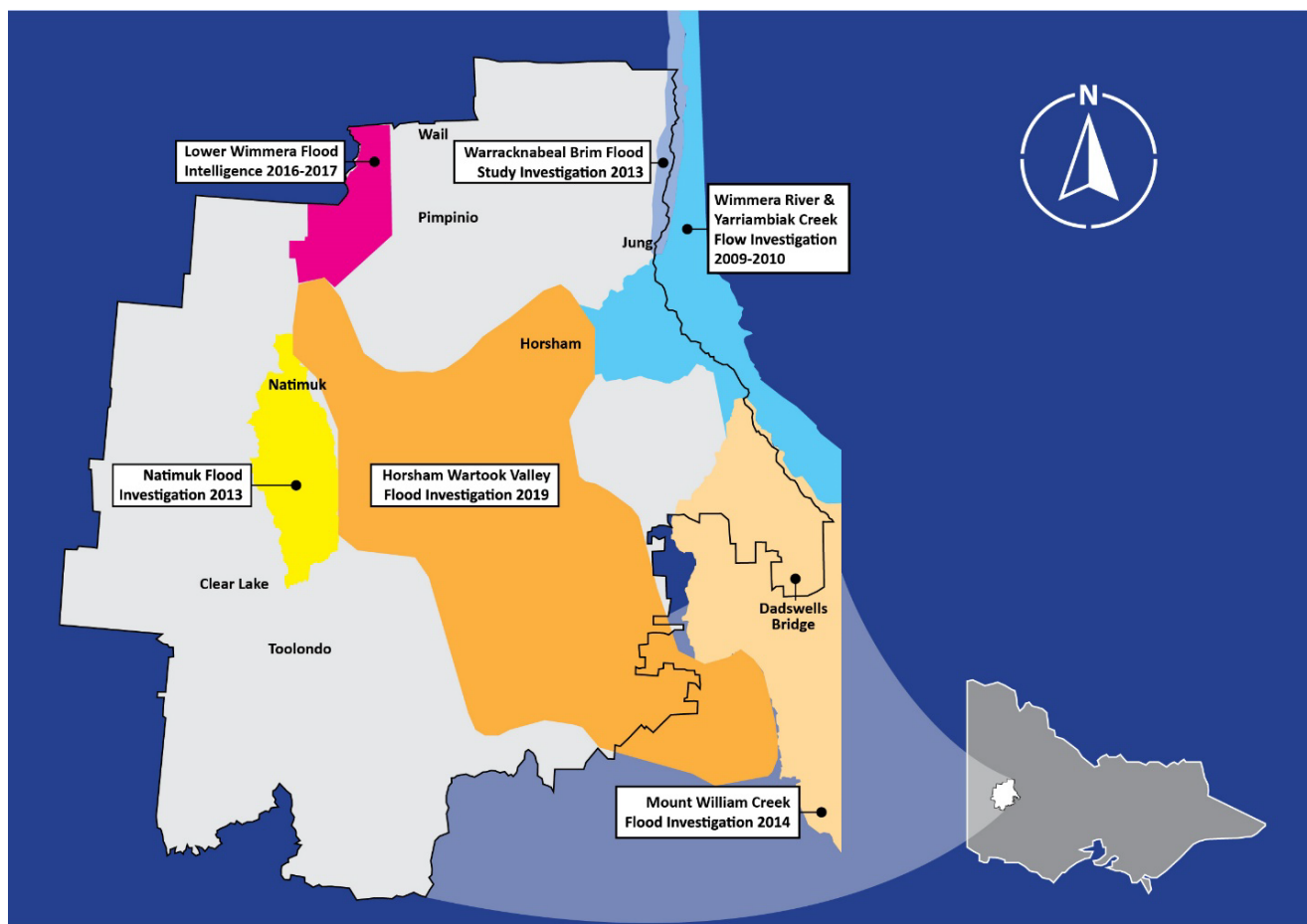
REPORT

Background

Amendment C81hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme was prepared by Council officers and planning consultant, Transect Planning. The Amendment implements six flood studies prepared by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (Wimmera CMA) through the Horsham Planning Scheme.

It is highly critical that planning decisions are based on all available information. Given that flood extent mapping has been undertaken as part of the preparation of these studies by the Wimmera CMA (as the Floodplain Management Authority), Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that available flood extent mapping is translated into planning controls and applied in a transparent manner. The *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (2016)* at Policy 11a identifies Planning Scheme Amendments as a required output for all flood studies.

The usual controls to identify land affected by a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event* are the Floodway Overlay (FO), the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and the Special Building Overlay (SBO). The overlays will ensure that buildings and works constructed in areas identified as flood prone are built to a standard that considers future flooding.



Six flood studies that cover Horsham LGA extent

*Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) means the likelihood of a flood event of a given size or larger happening within a period of one year. A 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event means you have a 1-in-100 chance that a flood of that size (or larger) could occur in any one year. The 1% AEP, also known as the 1-in-100 year flood, does not mean that if it floods one year, it will not flood for the next 99 years. Neither does it mean that if no flooding has occurred for 99 years that it will result in a flood the following year. For example, some parts of Australia have received two 1-in-100 year floods in one year.

Preparation of the Amendment

Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare (and then exhibit) the Amendment on 28 February 2022.

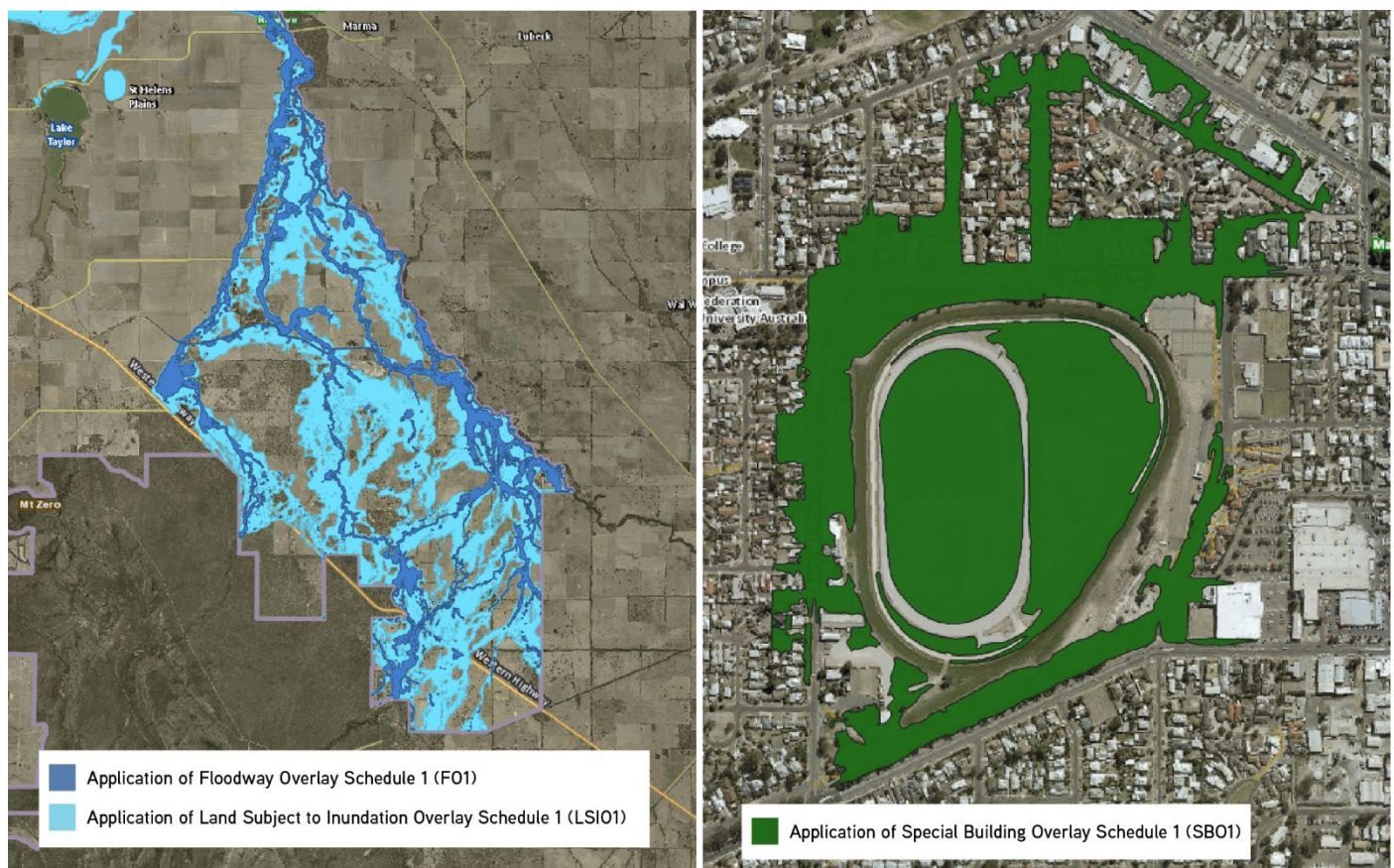
The Amendment applies or amend the existing extent the Floodway Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) on land subject to flooding in a 1% AEP flood event within the study area boundaries of the six flood studies.

The Amendment also applies the Special Building Overlay Schedule 1 (SBO1) to land subject to stormwater flooding. The SBO1 replaces Design and Development Overlay Schedule 9 (Stormwater Management Area). Schedule 4 to the Design and Development Overlay (Flood Fringe Development) is deleted on the basis that it is redundant.

A small zoning change is to occur by replacing the Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) by the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) and Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ).

The Amendment updates Clause 02.03-3 (Environmental risks and amenity), deletes Clause 13.03-1L (Floodplain management - Horsham) and includes the six flood studies as Reference Documents within the Horsham Planning Scheme.

The GIS mapping for the Amendment was complex and the official amendment maps took Council officers several months to resolve and prepare.



Excerpts of the proposed Floodway Overlay (FO1) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO1) in Dadswells Bridge, and Special Building Overlay (SBO1) in Horsham town centre.

Exhibition of the Amendment

The Amendment was exhibited for one month from 17 November to 20 December using the following combination of statutory and non-statutory notifications:

- Direction notification (letters and pamphlets) to affected property owners and occupiers (approximately 4,508 letters), prescribed Ministers and authorities and key stakeholder agencies.
- Public notices in the Wimmera Mail Times on 18 November 2022 and 16 December 2022, The Horsham Times on 18 November 2022 and 16 December 2022, and the Government Gazette on 17 November 2022.
- The Amendment documents were made available for viewing and download (website/officers and DTP website).
- A FAQs pamphlet made available on Council's website.
- An interactive map showing the extent of the new overlays was also available on Council's website.
- A number of enquiries resulted in further information being provided in response to land owner queries, either by email or telephone.
- Drop in sessions held in Horsham (1 December 2022), Dadswells Bridge (6 December 2022) and Natimuk (7 December 2022) attended by Council, the Wimmera CMA and Water Technology.

For the wider community, the Amendment was also advertised on Council's *Have Your Say* webpage advising that Council was taking submissions in relation to the Amendment. Council officers took over 50 public calls and met with approximately 20 community members who visited Council Offices to discuss in more detail the content of the letters received.

Discussion

Submissions received

A total of 46 submissions were received, including two submissions which were received outside the advertised exhibition period (Submissions 44 + 46).

Review of submissions

A rigorous review of the submissions received to the Amendment has been undertaken by officers both from Council and the Wimmera CMA as well as Water Technology and Transect Planning.

An information session was held at the Civic Centre on 21 March 2023 with 13 submitters in attendance. Multiple Council and Wimmera CMA officers attended as well as Water Technology and Transect Planning. The purpose of the information session was to provide an overview of the flood mapping methodology, the statutory and consultative processes and to provide an opportunity for submitters to ask questions and discuss common concerns with the Amendment.

11 one-on-one meetings with submitters were also held on the 22 March 2023. An additional one-on-one meeting was held on 11 April 2023 due to a submitter's unavailability.

Council, the Wimmera CMA and Water Technology undertook further technical review in instances where submitters have questioned the application of flood controls on their property due to:

- Accuracy of the modelling
- Where flooding has occurred in the past
- Where the extent of the flood control is minor

Seven site visits were conducted on 13 April 2023 to determine whether the exhibited flood mapping extent was accurate, and if any changes to flood mapping should be considered. Two additional site visits occurred on 13 June 2023.

Following site inspections with two submitters, it was agreed that a survey of the City Gardens Estate comprising 43 properties within the boundaries of Madden Street, Market Lane and Rushbrook Close occur. The survey was undertaken on 5 May 2023 to inform a technical review of the flood modelling and assist in the possible resolution of some submissions.

Appendix 9.2A provides a more detailed explanation of the assessment applied in reviewing all submissions and where considered appropriate a proposed change to help resolve the submission.

Key issues raised in submissions

16 common issues have been identified in relation to the 46 submissions received, the categorization of which assisted in the review and analysis of the submissions. A summary of these issues and a general Council officer response is provided in the table below. Please note that many of the submissions raised more than one issue.

Table 1. Summary of submissions by issue with general response

No	Issue	Submitter No	Response
1	Flood controls unnecessary as land not likely to flood due to land topography/landform	2, 4, 6, 7, 42	Modelling is consistent with historic flood levels across Horsham. The proposed flood controls are based on the best available information, best practice modelling and techniques, developed over many years by experts in this field. The use of computer modelling is acknowledged as the only practical method to reliably map the extent of changes to the flood shape across the municipality.
2	Impact on future development of land	3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 30, 34, 35, 40, 42	The introduction of the flood controls does not prohibit the future development of land. However, future development proposals are required to meet the requirements of the flood controls, such as constructing above the designated flood level. Any future development should be designed so it does not adversely impact adjoining properties.
3	Introduction of flood controls will allow development in flood prone areas which should not be permitted	13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, 37, 38	The purpose of the three main flood controls (Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Special Building Overlay) is to define what is considered an acceptable threshold for managing risk. Council has applied the different flood controls based on the threshold of managing risk identified in the Wimmera CMA flood investigation reports. Generally, for Greenfield development the Wimmera CMA requires development outside the floodplain unless it can be demonstrated that no impact on neighbouring properties will occur through detailed flood modelling. The Wimmera CMA uses the <i>Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas (2019)</i> which details conditions for certain land use and development in flood prone areas.
4	Question why LSIO depth is 500mm in Horsham and 350mm elsewhere in Victoria	13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29	The LSIO applies to riverine and coastal flooding and represents the area of land flooded by the 1% AEP flood. 500mm is the adopted approach to determine LSIO within the Wimmera. The FO is used for flooding above 500mm where the depth and velocity of water presents a risk to life and property.
5	Insurance implications	13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41	Insurance companies will base their premiums on their own assessment of risk. Insurance is not a relevant planning matter that Council or Planning Panels Victoria is able to take into account when deciding whether to apply a flood control.

			The Wimmera CMA can provide written advice to confirm the extent of flood mapping on site and enable discussions with insurance providers in regards to premiums. Written advice can be requested upon lodgement of an online flood advice form https://wcma.vic.gov.au/advice-and-services/flood-advice/ or by calling the Wimmera CMA on 5382 1544.
6	Accuracy of modelling questionable and / or incorrect	13, 17, 29, 31, 33, 38, 39, 40, 43	It cannot be assumed that flooding will not occur simply because there is no recollection of previous flooding on a particular property. The flood controls are based upon the 1% AEP Average Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood extent, which means the flood level each year has a 1% chance of occurring (this was previously referred to as a 1-in-100-year flood). This is a standard used across the industry for flood planning and management. In many cases, the 1% AEP event may only result in flooding and inundation for a short period of time, but it is capable of causing damage. The lived experiences outlined in submissions only includes smaller floods, it cannot be used to directly compare to the modelled 1% AEP.
7	Improvement to drainage infrastructure required to mitigate flooding impacts	10, 13, 14, 38	Council acknowledges that improvements can be made to the stormwater and drainage infrastructure in older urban flood prone areas. However, this is beyond the scope of the Amendment, which is implementing only one aspect being the land use planning aspect of the flood studies. Land use planning is a cost effective way to reduce future impacts of flooding particularly by ensuring floor levels of new or replacement dwellings are above the flood level. By requiring a planning permit it also allows some consideration of flood issues prior to approving significant buildings and works (such as dwellings). The matter of stormwater and drainage is the responsibility of Horsham Rural City Council who have a program of maintenance and upgrades. It is noted that the <i>Horsham and Wartook Valley Flood Investigation 2019</i> includes urban flood modelling which will be used to develop a Drainage Strategy. Properties where this issue was raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 Rennison Street • 3 Olga Avenue • 7 Rushbrook Close • 3 and 5 Sloss Street
8	Lack of community consultation/need for one-on-one meetings	13, 33, 39	Council has given public notice of the Amendment in accordance with the legislative requirements. In addition, Council held an information session in December 2022 and continues to communicate with submitters. Consultation was undertaken during the preparation of the flood studies. The Wimmera CMA wrote to property owners who were affected and offered one on one meetings.
9	State Government's <i>Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas</i> not followed	16, 20, 22, 26, 27, 33, 36, 37, 38, 41	Council has prepared the Amendment in accordance with State Government's <i>Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas</i> and <i>Planning Practice Note 12 Applying the Flood Provisions in Planning Schemes</i> . As noted above, the flood overlays are not designed to prohibit all development in flood prone areas but to manage the flood risk. Modelling and works are undertaken for major developments to ensure no major impacts occur for flood levels and adjacent land.
10	Stormwater retention principles cannot be achieved in LSIO1	24, 25	Stormwater retention is not a purpose of the LSIO. Its purpose is to ensure that development retains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, responds to the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level if flow velocity. Stormwater retention can be achieved in the LSIO; however, it is prohibited within FO.
11	Land immediately adjacent to a flood plain should have a minimum building flood level of 500mm	29	A planning control that seeks to have a minimum building height above the flood control must be included in a flood zone and/or overlay. The State Government's <i>Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas</i> state that floodplain management authorities apply a range of freeboard, typically 300mm to 600mm, depending on their assessment of flood behaviour.

	above the 1% flood		It is noted that the Victorian Building Regulations prescribe a minimum of 300 mm freeboard (excluding out buildings less than 20m ²).
12	Financial, social and asset devaluation ramifications	32, 36	It is Council's policy to implement changes to flood modelling prepared by the Wimmera CMA. Direct financial impacts and impacts on property values are not a relevant planning matter that Council or Planning Panels Victoria is able to take into account. Social impacts must be considered in a broader context. The Amendment should have a positive social benefit on the basis that flood damage can disrupt communities and in extreme cases, cause extensive and costly damage to public and private assets, agricultural loss, personal hardship and loss of life.
13	Removal of flood storage has required the introduction of flood controls	33	The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) planning provisions consider the impact of development on the floodplain to ensure it does not obstruct floodwater, stormwater or drainage water and does not affect or reduce flood storage, or increase flood levels and flow velocities. https://planningschemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Horsham/ordinance/44.04
14	Undeveloped residential zoned land should have a FO	37, 41	Land in Greenfield areas must address potential flood impacts. Due to the land being undeveloped, it is often possible to incorporate flood mitigation measures through stormwater retention systems and local drainage schemes. A Floodway Overlay could still apply if it is considered that there is an on-going risk. Development is allowed on LSIO land under the <i>Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas</i> . The <i>Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected</i> include conditions for development in the floodplain which the Wimmera CMA applied when providing a recommendation to Council.
15	HRCC must stop development which does not accord with <i>Infrastructure Design Manual</i>	13, 22, 24, 25, 38, 41	The Wimmera CMA uses the Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas to condition development in the LSIO. This is consistent with the <i>Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy 2016</i> . https://www.water.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/409570/Guidelines for Development in Flood finalAA.pdf
16	Vegetation in river	39	The <i>Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy</i> addresses this matter. If a land owner believes that vegetation is causing flooding, the land owner can commission a flood study to technically assess the issue and present the findings to the Wimmera. If it demonstrates that vegetation is causing flooding the land owner can apply to the Wimmera CMA for a works on waterways permit to remove the vegetation. No study has been conducted demonstrating any such impacts in the Wimmera.

Note: Not the table does not include all issues raised, but specific responses and negotiations that have occurred with individual landholders.

Response to submissions

A summary of each submission received is presented in a Submissions Response Table (**Appendix 9.2A**). The Submissions Response Table offers a detailed response to the submission including a recommendation to retain, modify or remove the flood controls (if appropriate).

Ten changes are recommended on the basis of further review of the submission, submitter meetings, site visits and/or property surveys. These changes will form the basis of the Council submission to the Independent Planning Panel.

The recommended changes to the exhibited Amendment for properties located within the LSIO and FO at this point in time include:

- **Map 6, 173 Hughes Road, Quantong**

Water Technology reviewed the modelling using survey data from Midbrook Engineering and has advised that the FO1 and LSIO1 should be removed from an existing building pad.

- **Map 6, Lot 1, Berry Lane, Natimuk**

During the submitter meeting held on 22 March 2023, Water Technology agreed that the FO1 layer should be removed from the area of land where a wastewater storage plant is located.

- **Map 6, 378 Lake Road, Natimuk**

At a site inspection held on 13 June 2023, Water Technology conducted a review of the modelling. It was agreed that the section of LSIO1 and FO1 should be removed from the property.

- **Map 7, 333 Natimuk Hamilton Road**

Following discussions held the submitter on 25 March 2023, Water Technology conducted a review of the modelling. It agrees that the FO1 and LSIO1 layers should be removed from the area of land where the disused dam is located.

- **Map 8, 503 Three Bridges Road, Horsham**

During the site inspection held on 13 April 2023 Water Technology reviewed the modelling and has agreed remove the LSIO1 and FO1 extents from inside the levy bank to exclude the dwelling.

- **Map 11, 55 Baillie Street, Horsham**

Following discussions held between the submitter, Water Technology and Council on 6 December 2022, a review of the modelling has been completed and it agrees that the FO layer should be removed from the backyard.

- **Map 13, 14 Wotonga Drive, Horsham**

Water Technology conducted a review of the modelling. It agrees that the section of LSIO1 should be removed from the corner of the property.

- **Map 13, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 Eastgate Drive, Horsham 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 Market Lane, Horsham, 14 Madden Street, Horsham, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 Rushbrook Close, Horsham.**

Following a review of the survey results, Water Technology agrees that the section of LSIO should be removed from the dwelling floor area for the listed properties within Eastgate Drive, Market Lane, Madden Street and Rushbrook Close.

- **Map 13 5 Sloss Street, Horsham**

During the site inspection held on 13 April 2023, Water Technology reviewed the modelling and agrees that the FO1 should be removed from the property.

- **Map 21 3912 Henty Highway McKenzie Creek**

During the submitter meeting held on 22 March 2023, Water Technology conducted a review of the modelling. It agrees that the FO1 layer should be removed from the area of land where the quarry hole is located.

These changes have been reviewed and endorsed by the Wimmera CMA and Water Technology. Submitter names have not been included in **Appendix 9.2A**. All submissions are public documents under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and can be made available upon request.

Next steps

The next step in the Amendment process is to seek an independent Planning Panel.

Making all requested changes to the Amendment as detailed in the submissions is not supported for the reasons set out in **Appendix 9.2A**. A number of changes, however, are recommended to be made to the Amendment, where a clear and evidence based rationale for removing or changing a flood control can be demonstrated.

Council must forward submissions an Independent Planning Panel, if it does not agree to make Amendment changes in accordance with all submissions. Land owners will be provided with an updated response letter to their submission.

Council must make a formal request to the Minister for Planning to appoint a Panel, after which Planning Panels Victoria will advise of the hearing dates.

Following the Panel Hearing, the Panel will provide a report and recommendations to Council and to the Minister for Planning. On receipt of the Panel report, a Council Report will be prepared for Council to consider the Panel's recommended changes.



As the Planning Authority

As the Planning Authority for this Amendment, Council must consider all submissions made to the Amendment and may consider late submissions in accordance with Section 22 (14) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Furthermore, under Section 23 (15) (16) of the Act, following consideration of submissions, Council as the Planning Authority must:

- a. Change the Amendment in the manner requested; or
- b. Refer submissions to an Independent Planning Panel; or
- c. Abandon the Amendment or part of the Amendment.

Options to Consider

That Council:

1. Receives and considers all submissions received to Amendment C81hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme, including the two late submissions.
2. Having considered all submissions to Amendment C81hors, approves to:
 - a. Request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Planning Panel under Section 8b of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to review all submissions to Amendment C81hors; and
 - b. Refer all submissions to the Independent Planning Panel to be appointed by the Minister for Planning including addendums to existing submissions whilst continuing to resolve or improve submitter issues up until the Panel Hearing.

Or

1. Receives and considers all submissions received to Amendment C81hors to the Horsham Planning Scheme, including the two late submissions.
2. Having considered all submissions to Amendment C81hors does not approve to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Planning Panel and abandons the Amendment.

Sustainability Implications

The Amendment will help manage the environmental hazard posed by riverine and stormwater flooding.

The Amendment has positive economic and social benefits by identifying areas where planning permit assessment can reduce the risk of the harm from riverine and storm water flooding and damage due to a storm surge.

Community Engagement

As noted above, there has been extensive engagement with the community on the Amendment.

Submitters will be notified of the next stage of the Amendment process following Council's consideration of this report.

Once a Planning Panel is appointed, submitters will be notified of the Panel's appointment, including the hearing dates and proceeding guidelines. When a Panel Hearing is conducted, the submitters will be given the opportunity to present to the Planning Panel.

The Panel will provide a report to Council with its findings and recommendations, and Council is required to release the Panel Report within 10 business days after receipt, as required under Section 26 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The Panel Recommendations will be subject to a future report to Council for formal consideration.

Innovation and Continue Improvement

The Amendment helps to ensure that Council through its planning scheme is improving its response to a potential significant risk issue to life and property that may be caused by flooding. The expansion of exemptions from the need to obtain a permit within the FO and LSIO will ensure that landowners are not unnecessarily inconvenienced.

Collaboration

This project has involved important collaboration between Council, Wimmera CMA and DEECA (formerly DELWP). Some collaboration with adjoining municipalities is required to address mapping issues. It will be important that collaboration with the Wimmera CMA and DEECA continue as the Amendment progresses.

Financial Implications

Funding of \$60,000 has been provided by Department of Transport and Planning to assist in the implementation of the Amendment. Funding for this project has been budgeted in the following manner:

- A GIS consultant was previously engaged to compile and 'clean-up' the flood extent GIS files to ensure they were fit for the planning scheme Amendment.
- A planning consultant is currently engaged to lead the Amendment preparation and process up until the Amendment's approval / gazettal.
- Engagement of expert witness from Water Technology to explain to the Panel the flood study methodologies, modelling and changes made to mapping following consideration of submissions.
- Panel costs have been allowed for in Council's Amendment budget.

The grant does not cover expected Planning Panel costs. There is a budget allocation included in the 2023-24 budget to prepare for and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendments. This budget will be used for Planning Panel costs that exceed the grant funding.

It is not expected that this future Planning Scheme Amendment will impose any unreasonable costs on Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Clause 13.03-1S of the State section of the Planning Policy Framework includes a number of objectives and strategies on floodplain management. This clause refers to *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* (2016)

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Clause 13.03-1L of the Local section of the PPF includes a section of flood management in Horsham. This policy was introduced following the completion of the *Horsham Flood Study* (Water Technology, February 2003).

In addition, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has prepared the following flood plans:

- *Horsham Rural City Council Flood Response Plan*
- *East Horsham Flood Intelligence Report*
- *Natimuk Flood Intelligence Report Risk Implications*

Risk implications

There is a risk if Council as the Planning Authority does not act on the flood mapping it has available. Council could be made liable if flooding occurs in the future and damages property developed subsequent to the flood studies. Council can reduce this risk by acting on the scientific based data it has available and applying the appropriate planning overlays as proposed by this Amendment. It is considered that Council has a duty of care to act and identify flooding and properly control development in flood prone areas.

The proposed overlays will help reduce risk of property damage as a result of riverine and Stormwater flooding by requiring a planning permit for new dwellings and other buildings and works. In particular, it will enable both Council (as the Responsible Authority) and the Wimmera CMA (as the Floodplain Management Authority) to ensure building floor levels are set above the predicted flood levels and hence minimise economic and personal hardship if flooding is to occur.

The 2016 *Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy* stresses the importance of using planning controls to help avoid or minimise flood risks. Planning Authorities are required to use available planning controls to manage risks.

Conclusion

The Amendment proposes to introduce/or revise the application of flood controls across the municipality. In total, 46 submissions were received, and each submission has undergone a rigorous and thorough assessment, supported by both the Wimmera CMA, Water Technology and Transect Planning. It is recommended that the Amendment (together with the suggested changes as set out in **Appendix 9.2A**) be progressed to the next step in the planning scheme Amendment process and that the submissions be referred to an Independent Planning Panel for further consideration.

9.3 2023 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Author's Name:	Kim Hargreaves	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Corporate Services	File Number:	F14/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 Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 (**Appendix 9.3A**)

Horsham Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey 2023 Tailored Question (**Appendix 9.3B**)

Purpose

To receive and note the results of the 2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Summary

- The main objective of the survey is to assess the performance of Council across a range of measures, and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery.
- The survey provides insight into the community's views on:
 - Councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
 - Value for money in services and infrastructure
 - Community consultation and engagement
 - Decisions made in the interest of the community
 - Customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
 - Overall council direction.
- Results have declined since 2022 across all measures in line with the trend observed statewide.
- An action plan will be developed to address concerns raised by community.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the 2023 Horsham Rural City Council Community Satisfaction survey results.

REPORT

Background

Horsham Rural City Council has once again participated in the Local Government's annual community satisfaction survey conducted by JWS Research. The survey is now in its twenty-fourth year, and is coordinated by the Department of Government Services (DGS) on behalf of Victorian Councils.

The survey is conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, which is a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years, and seeks to target the surveys to the gender and age profile of the community. The survey is undertaken from publicly available phone records, including up to 40% mobile phone numbers, to cater to the diversity of residents in the Council, particularly young people.

The 2023 report represents the second year the HRCC survey has been conducted on a quarterly basis. A total of 400 residents and ratepayers were randomly selected for phone interview with 100 interviewed in each of the following periods - June/July 2023, August/September 2023, November/December 2023, and February/March 2024.

The survey complies community feedback on councils in five key performance areas and includes comparisons to Council's results in previous years. The involvement of the majority of other Councils within the State also provides meaningful comparison data between Councils. Horsham has been classified as a Regional Centre Council according to the classification list of Metropolitan, Interface, Regional Centres, Large Rural and Small Rural. The Regional Centres group includes Ballarat, Greater Bendigo, Greater Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

The main objective of the survey is to assess the performance of Council across a range of measures, and to seek insight into ways to provide improved or more effective service delivery. Wherever appropriate, results for Horsham Rural City Council for the 2023 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils classified as a Regional Centre, and on a state-wide basis.

Discussion

A summary of HRCC's performance when compared to the previous year's results, comparable councils (i.e. the Regional Centres) and State-wide averages, show that Council has experienced a decline in all indicators since 2022. Results are also lower than both the Regional Centres and State-wide averages (refer Figure 1) however it should be noted that there has been a reduction in community satisfaction observed across the state.

The primary drivers for the reduction in community satisfaction across the state relate to the impacts associated with the cost of living pressures, the significant increase in the rate cap as set by the Minister for Local Government based on the forecast Consumer Price Index (CPI) and advice from the Essential Services Commission (ESC) and changes to waste management as a result of the introduction of the state government's 4-bin waste and recycling system.

A summary of the trends observed since 2014 for Horsham Rural City Council in each of the core measures is also provided (refer Figure 2). Unfortunately, perceptions of Council's overall performance

have declined significantly, reverting to the low point recorded in 2020. This decline in overall performance in 2023 reflects the pattern across both the Regional Centres group and State-wide average but is worse than those observable declines. Performance on all service areas for 2023 also decreased significantly to levels lower than those recorded in 2020.

The full 2023 survey report provides analysis for each of the Core Measures, the demographics of participants, and articulates focus areas for the next 12 months. Given the detail contained in the full survey results, a briefing was provided by JWS Research to Council on 3 July 2023.

Figure 1: Summary of HRCC Performance against core measures









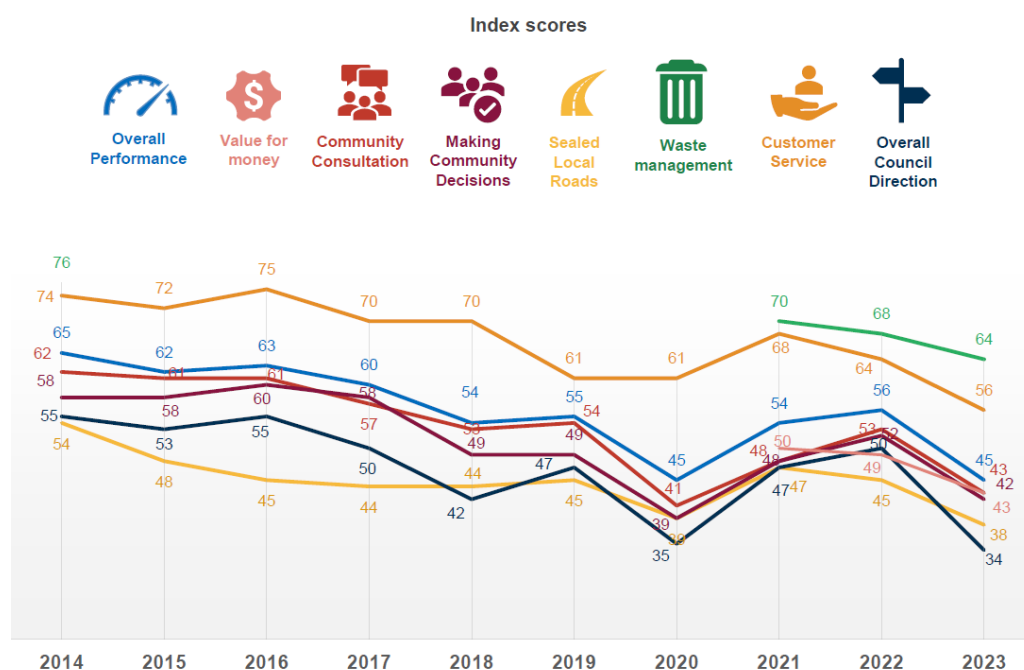
Services	Horsham 2023	Horsham 2022	Regional Centres 2023	State-wide 2023	Highest score	Lowest score
 Overall performance	45	56	56	56	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Value for money	43	49	50	49	Aged 65+ years	Rural Area residents
 Overall council direction	34	50	47	46	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Customer service	56	64	68	67	Other residents, Aged 50-64 years	Aged 18-34 years, Men
 Waste management	64	68	67	66	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Consultation & engagement	43	53	50	52	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Community decisions	42	52	50	51	Other residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Sealed local roads	38	45	49	48	Other residents	Rural Area residents, Aged 50-64 years

Figure 2: Summary of HRCC core measures over time



A separate question was again asked in relation to sealed local roads to identify which local roads were an issue. Of the responses provided, many are roads managed by Regional Roads Victoria. As noted in relation to the poor results in 2020, there is a need to educate the community as to which roads are the responsibility of Council and which are the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria. This should form part of a broader action plan to address concerns raised in the 2023 survey.

Options to Consider

The majority of Victorian Councils participate in the Community Satisfaction Survey which enables meaningful comparisons to be made with other Regional Centres and state-wide trends and results more generally. Council could elect to do its own separate survey however the value of being compared to other groups of councils within the standard questions would be lost. Council could also opt not to note the survey results however there are risks associated with doing so.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

The summary report is provided as an attachment to this report and will be placed on Council's website after Council has formally received it. Some 400 community members have also participated in the survey.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council will prepare an action plan to address the concerns raised by the community as part of its commitment to continuous improvement.

Financial Implications

The cost of participation in the survey forms part of the annual Council Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The Community Satisfaction survey is a collaborative survey coordinated and conducted by JWS Research under the guidance of Local Government Victoria.

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 4

Strategies 4.1. Continuously improve communication and engagement with the community through effective consultation
4.4 Achieve high standards of organisational performance

Risk Implications

The results indicate that there is a further reputation risk to Council if the poor performance, as identified in the report, is not addressed.

Conclusion

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for 2023 has been completed and the survey report is presented to the Council for noting.

9.4 2023 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Author's Name:	Kim Hargreaves	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Director Corporate Services	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	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

2023 Councillor Code of Conduct (**Appendix 9.4A**)

Purpose

To adopt the revised Councillor Code of Conduct.

Summary

- Under section 139 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Council is required to develop a Councillor Code of Conduct within four months of the election. Council met this obligation by adopting the current Code on 22 January 2021.
- The Act provides that Council may review or amend the Councillor Code of Conduct at any time.
- The Municipal Monitor suggested that a review of the Code be undertaken to provide greater clarity to key aspects of the Councillor Code of Conduct. Two sections of the 2021 Code have subsequently been consolidated into one section in the 2023 version to provide that clarity.
- The revised Councillor Code of Conduct has been developed in-conjunction with Councillors, and has been reviewed by Maddocks Lawyers who developed the Wyndham City Council version upon which the 2021 HRCC Code was based.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the 2023 Councillor Code of Conduct (**Appendix 9.4A**).

REPORT

Background

Section 139 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Council must develop a Councillor Code of Conduct. The purpose of which is to include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by Councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as Councillors, including prohibiting discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) and vilification.

As per requirements at (s139(3)), the Council's Councillor Code of Conduct:

- Includes the Standards of Conduct prescribed by the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* (Regulations) expected to be observed by Councillors; and
- Includes any other provisions prescribed by the regulations for the purpose of this section; and
- Must include provisions addressing any matters prescribed by the regulations for the purpose of this section; and
- May include any other matters which the Council considers appropriate, other than any other Standards of Conduct.

Council were required to have reviewed and adopted the Councillor Code of Conduct within the period of four months after a general election (s139 (4)). Council met this obligation by adopting the current Code on 22 February 2021.

Discussion

The Act provides that a Council may review or amend the Councillor Code of Conduct at any other time, but it must be by a formal resolution of Council. A review of the current Code was undertaken in consultation with Councillors at the suggestion of the Municipal Monitor.

The *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* establishes the Standards of Conduct which are in turn included in the Councillor Code of Conduct. Ensuring the document reflects these standards and clearly and accurately articulates the responsibilities for Councillors is therefore essential given the commitment Councillors make as part of their Oath or Affirmation of Office:

I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.

I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 2020 and any other Act to the best of my skill and judgement.

The Code should also enable Councillors to comprehend how the standards of conduct fit within the overall Councillor Conduct framework, given the respective implications of a breach of the standards of conduct and potential sanctioning by an arbiter. It is critical for all Councillors to be familiar with the standards of conduct and the distinction between those standards and the rest of the Councillor Code of Conduct. Councillors have discussed the revised Code of Conduct at a number of briefings and all feedback received was considered and the final version developed based on those discussions. The draft presented has also been subject to independent legal review.

Options to Consider

Council can decide not to adopt the 2023 Councillor Code of Conduct however it has been updated to provide greater clarity in relation to key aspects of the Code as requested.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

The Councillor Code of Conduct is a legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* that includes the standards of conduct prescribed by the regulations expected to be observed by Councillors. Nil Community Engagement is required as it is essentially an operational document giving effect to the requirements of the Act and associated Regulations.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council applies the principles of continuous improvement in all aspects of its function. The review of the Code represents commitment to such continuous improvement.

Financial Implications

There have been legal fees associated with the review of the updated document.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan: Theme 5 – Leadership

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

Risk Implications

There are risks associated with non-compliance of the Code given the purpose of the document is to include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by Councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as Councillors (s139(2)). The revised document provides greater clarity in relation to those expectations and associated processes for resolution where any dispute arises so should assist in the reducing the risk of non-compliance.

Conclusion

The revised Councillor Code of Conduct provides greater clarity and certainty in relation to the expectations of Councillors, reflects the discussion with Councillors, and has addressed the suggestions made by the Municipal Monitor.

9.5 ROBINS ROAD UPGRADE

Author's Name:	Krishna Shrestha	Director:	John Martin
Author's Title:	A/Director Infrastructure	Directorate:	Infrastructure
Department:	Strategic Asset Management	File Number:	F02/01/000001

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

Road safety assessment report (**Appendix 9.5A**)

Purposes

To consider a response to the community petition requesting the gravelling of a section of Robins Rd, Wail.

Summary

- A section of Robins Road, Wail measuring 900 metres is currently a formed only, earthen road, i.e. not gravelled and hence not suited to wet conditions.
- Alternative access is available to the landholders property in accordance with the Council's policy, via the southern section of Robins Rd.
- Council received a petition requesting the extension of gravel on Robins Road up to Wail-Kalkee Road.
- An independent assessment has evaluated that there is minimal risk associated with extending the gravel road on Robins Road to the short-stacking intersection, i.e. at the Western Highway / Railway Line intersection further south along Robins Rd.
- Further, there is some argument for this extension to be done so that the landholder does not drive long trucks through the intersection with the railway line on Reynolds Rd to the south of their property.
- It is proposed to upgrade the 900 metre section of Robins Road to be a gravelled road and observe the traffic flow on this road for a period of one year.
- If there are no issues at the intersection of Reynold's Road and the Western Highway, the hierarchy of this section of Robins Road can be reclassified as a "Rural Access Road."

Recommendations

That Council endorse the gravelling of a 900 metre section of Robins Road, starting from the already gravelled area and extending north up to the intersection with Wail-Kalkee Road.

REPORT

Background

Hierarchy and Rural road network plan

Council's transport infrastructure asset management plan categorises roads into four main types: link roads, collector roads, access roads, and minor roads. These classifications establish construction and maintenance standards that ultimately define the service levels provided.

Given that the Council manages a road network of over 3000 kilometres with diverse asset utilisation, this hierarchy ensures that available funds for road renewal, maintenance, and upgrades are allocated in a way that maximises value for the network. It strikes a balance between addressing needs, considering affordability, and taking into account community sentiment.

In early 2022, Council finalised its Rural Road Network Plan, to address potential issues in the rural road network. This included extensive community consultation. This plan updated the hierarchy, service levels, and identified additional routes such as tourism routes, heavy vehicle routes, and farm machinery routes.

Robins Road

Referring to Figure 1, Robins Road extends from Wail Dooen Road to Reynolds Road. The northern section of Robins Road is currently a formed-only road, but it still provides year-round access to the property through its southern end. This fulfils Council's commitment to ensuring that all residents have access to the property regardless of weather conditions. Additionally, the road undergoes regular inspections, resheeting, and maintenance as part of Council's road management plan and asset management plan.



Fig 1: Robins Road and associated connecting road

Petition

Council was presented with a petition urging the upgrade of the unpaved (un-gravelled) portion of Robins Road. The petition highlighted a safety concern due to the necessity for all trucks to use the intersection of Western Highway and Wail-Kalkee Road during wet weather. Sheetting this section of Robins Road would provide an alternative route for certain trucks, particularly local last-mile trucks traveling from the Western Highway to Wail-Kalkee Road. This alternative route would alleviate the safety issue and offer improved accessibility.

Assessment

Council gathered relevant information, including traffic counts on Wail Kalkee Road and observations of the short-stacking issue at the intersection of Reynolds Road and the Western Highway, associated with the presence of the railway line. This information was then presented to an independent assessor, who provided the following assessment:

- It is unlikely that traffic from Katyl Road, Wail Kalkee Road, or Wail-Dooen Road would choose to exit onto the narrow 4 metre wide gravel road. It is recommended that permits are not given for these through traffic to utilise Robins Road.
- Graveling the northern section of Robins Road would be beneficial for local traffic in the catchment bounded by Hennessy's Road, Robins Road, and Wail-Dooen Road, as it would help reduce the use of the Reynolds Road-Western Highway intersection. Until appropriate treatments are implemented at this intersection to address the short stacking issue, it is advisable to avoid using the railway intersection.
- The Reynolds Road-Western Highway intersection exhibits significant short stacking issues. Measures should be implemented to restrict its usage only to local traffic for first or last mile access, rather than allowing through traffic.
- Council should actively advocate for upgrades to address the short stacking issues at the aforementioned intersections, as well as the Western Highway-Wail-Kalkee Road intersection.
- After graveling, the Council should assess truck volumes on Robins Road, conduct a risk assessment, and make necessary adjustments to ensure safe access.
- If the intersections are used solely for first and last mile access, the risk associated with short stacking is minimal. The risk can be further mitigated by implementing BAR/BAL (Basic Right Turn/Basic Left Turn) treatments at the highway intersection.
- Overall, the potential safety impact of upgrading the northern section of Robins Road is considered minimal, given the very low traffic volumes and traffic generation potential in that area.

Discussion

Council oversees a gravel road network spanning over 965 kilometres. As part of its commitment to the community, the Council ensures that every gravel road maintains a minimum gravel depth of 40 mm at all times. This commitment guarantees that the community has adequate access to essential services. Additionally, each gravel road undergoes proper grading every other year, in line with the agreed service level established with the community. Reactive maintenance tasks are also carried out within the agreed timeframe outlined in the Road Management Plan.

It is crucial to limit the expansion of the gravel road network to avoid compromising its overall quality. Maintaining high-quality gravel roads is essential for the community's satisfaction. Nevertheless, Council recognises the importance of adopting a flexible approach in addressing community concerns and issues. Responsibly resolving these concerns is a priority, while ensuring the integrity and functionality of the gravel road network. The cost for this work is depicted in the table below.

Table 1: Whole of lifecycle cost associated with Robin's Road extension

Item	Cost	Comment
Gravelling	\$22000	Initial capital
Recurrent additional cost for resheet	\$2200/year	120 mm resheet- expected life 10 years
Routine maintenance grading additional cost	\$600/year	Grading cost \$1200/year; the grading frequency is every 2 years.

The safety risk associated with this matter is not substantial, and it does not have a significant impact on the overall budget.

Options to Consider

Option A: Proceed with the sheeting of the 900-metre section of Robins Road, considering that the assessed impact on both safety and the budget is insignificant. Closely monitor the impact of this change over a period of one year.

Option B: Maintain the current status given that there is adequate all-weather road access to the adjoining land holder.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

This report is in response to a community petition. The landholder at the centre of this petition was engaged in the assessment process.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

There is an opportunity for collaboration with RRV (Regional Roads Victoria) to upgrade the short stacking intersection. In this collaboration, Council's role would primarily involve advocacy and support in driving the necessary improvements.

Financial Implications

As illustrated in the provided Table 1, adopting this change would involve an initial capital outlay of \$22,000 and an annual commitment of \$2,800. However, these additional costs can be effectively managed by reviewing priorities in the 2023-24 budget for gravel road resheeting.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

Council's Asset Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

Risk Implications

There is a potential risk of Western Highway traffic using this route as a shortcut to Wail Kalkee Road, leading to the risk of short stacking and rear-end collisions, especially when trucks are waiting for trains. To manage this risk, the NHVR (National Heavy Vehicle Regulator) permit approval process can be utilised. If unauthorised traffic is observed, which can be assessed through the use of traffic count devices, the decision can be reversed prior to this trial period. However, it is important to note that the likelihood of this situation occurring is very low.

Conclusion

Gravelling of the northern section of Robins Road does not pose significant safety concerns. Therefore, it is recommended to proceed with the upgrade of Robins Road.

9.6 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations and Advocacy	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance IM	File Number:	F19/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Advocacy Priorities (**Appendix 9.6A**)

Investment Ready Priorities (**Appendix 9.6B**)

Purpose

To adopt the Horsham Rural City Council's Advocacy Priorities and Investment Ready Priorities documents.

Summary

- The Strategic Advocacy Prospectus adopted in 2021 has played an important role in Council's advocacy work to attract government funding.
- A 2023 version of the Advocacy Priority prospectus has now been developed.
- The 2023 document has retained and updated current projects, removed completed projects, and added new priorities as per the Council Plan 2021-2025 and reflected in the Annual Action Plan 2023-2024.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopt the HRCC Advocacy Priorities as detailed in **Appendix 9.6A**.
2. Adopt the HRCC Investment Ready Priorities as detailed in **Appendix 9.6B**.

REPORT

Background

In May 2021, Council adopted an Advocacy Priority prospectus that highlighted current and aspirational projects considered high priorities for our community. This prospective has been used consistently over the last two years to advocate for State and Federal Governments for funding of major projects.

The Advocacy Priorities prospectus was due for review, noting that some original projects have now been funded and completed and new ones developed

Discussion

A review of the existing prospectus was undertaken to:

- Update the branding to reflect Council's new logo and branding;
- Remove projects that have been funded and completed;
- Amend projects where updates are relevant; and
- Include new projects that are now part of Council's future capital works program or future advocacy priorities.

To supplement the revised Advocacy Priorities prospectus (**Appendix 9.6A**), a shortened version that focuses on seven high priority, investment ready projects has been extracted. This Investment Ready Priorities document is provided in **Appendix 9.6B**.

The format of these two documents allows them to be continually updated as more project details become available i.e. changes in project status or budget.

Options to Consider

Council can choose not to adopt either the 2023 Advocacy Priorities or the Investment Ready Priorities documents. Given the age and therefore relevance of several aspects of the current document however it is the preferred option that both documents be adopted.

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

The priority projects detailed in the prospectus reflect the Council's long term capital works priorities and the Annual Action Plan 2023-2024. Community engagement is also undertaken to inform the Annual Action Plan. The documents were presented to the Executive Management Team on 4 July 2023 and at the Council Briefing on 10 July 2023.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not applicable

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications of the Advocacy Priorities prospectus. Its purpose is to seek external funding for future projects.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

- Theme 1 – Community
Communicate and engage effectively with our community to understand their needs and advocate on their behalf
- Theme 2 – Liveability
2. A destination to live, work, explore and invest
- Theme 3 – Sustainability
2. A sustainable economy where local business, agriculture, tourism and other diverse industries thrive
4. A region that attracts new investment, technologies and opportunities
- Theme 4 – Accessibility
Improved and connected transport services and networks in and around the region

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The new Advocacy Priorities and associated Investment Priorities prospectus provides a mechanism by which Council can seek future investment in major projects and government support of key community priorities.

9.7 ROAD, FEATURE AND LOCALITY NAMING POLICY

Author's Name:	Andrea Coxon	Director:	Kim Hargreaves
Author's Title:	Governance Officer	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Department:	Governance	File Number:	F19/A10/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy (**Appendix 9.7A**)

Purpose

To adopt the *Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy* (formerly the Street, Road, Places Naming Policy).

Summary

- *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016* underwent a comprehensive review and is superseded by *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022*.
- Renamed the policy in accordance with the Naming Rules terminology.
- The *Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy* has been developed to support Council in implementing the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria and to clarify the responsibilities in the process for applicants, developers, and Council.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy (**Appendix 9.7A**).

REPORT

Background

- Horsham Rural City Council as a Naming Authority under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (the Act) is required to resolve on all geographic place names in the municipality, with the exception of geographic places of regional, state and national significance.
- Council are responsible for submitting naming proposals that comply with the Naming Rules to the Registrar of Geographic Names.
- The Naming Rules are guidelines provided for under section 5 of the Act, with these rules applying when naming a road, feature or locality.
- The Registrar of Geographic Names and the Minister responsible under the Act have the authority to endorse and enter a name in VICNAMES.
- Under the Act there is a legislative requirement for Geographic Names Victoria to review the *Naming rules for places in Victoria* at least once every 5 years. The review process incorporates feedback from stakeholders and reflected community interests as far as reasonable within the scope of the document and within the policies and procedures of Geographic Names Victoria (GNV).
- The most recent review generated 2,200 comments from 480 submissions received.
- In consultation with the Naming Rules Review Committee (NRRC), Municipal Council Reference Group (MCRG) and the Traditional Owner Reference Group (TORG) the *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022* was adopted and superseded the 2016 version.
- An information session for Council Officers on the Naming rules for places in Victoria 2022 was hosted by Geographic Names Victoria in May 2023.

Discussion

Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services in Victoria. The Naming Rules are based on national standards and policies, they provide a strong basis for regulated and unambiguous naming procedures across the state.

This Policy has been revised in accordance with *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022* to assist with the determination of approval of names, encapsulate legislative requirements and incorporate community consultation.

The Naming Rules place significant emphasis on the use of Traditional Owner language names, and names that promote gender equality. This emphasis of the use of Traditional Owner language and gender equality is reflected in the revised policy; and in particular, in the Naming Priorities in the policy.

The updated policy has four priorities that will guide the naming, while also incorporating flexibility to respond to situations where broader considerations are required.

1. Recognition and use of Traditional Owner language, providing an opportunity to connect a name to place and is subject to agreement from the relevant Traditional Owner Group.
2. Gender equality (inclusive of all backgrounds and genders)
3. Diversity (commemorating an event, person or place, noting that first names may be used)
4. Heritage (preserving cultural and environmental heritage)

The most significant amendments to the Policy are:

1. Revising the terminology in the policy to correspond with the naming rules, for example Geographic Names Victoria is the new name of the Office of Geographic Names, “naming” covers the term “renaming”;
2. Setting Council’s Naming Priorities and themes which are shown in section 4.1 and 4.2 of the policy
3. Clarifying the responsibilities for developers in the naming of roads in new plans of subdivision and the priorities in the policy are complied with in naming these roads;
4. Council’s authority to proceed with renaming of an offensive or derogatory name;
5. Encouraging the use of more female names, easier recognition through the use of first names
6. Recognising and supporting the applicable goals in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework (VAAF)
 - a. VAAF Goals
 - i. Goal 18 Aboriginal land, water and cultural rights are realised.
 - ii. Goal 19 Aboriginal culture and language are supported and celebrated.
 - b. VAAF Objectives
 - i. 18.1 Increase the recognition and enjoyment of Aboriginal land, water and cultural heritage rights.
 - ii. 19.1 Support the preservation, promotion and practice of culture and language.

The Naming Rules:

Some minor administrative and formatting changes to the Naming Rules include new diagrams, examples to provide relevance and clarity including letters, signage and scenarios, information simplified or added to provide further clarity, correspondence to community/organisations updated to include modern technology and legislation and regulations updated to the most up to date version.

Some of the more significant changes to the Naming Rules include:

Change	Description
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) information added	A summary of UNGEGN and its importance is provided. This section has been added to highlight how Victoria's naming rules adhere to the UNGEGN principles.
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) information added	Added to highlight how the naming rules help to achieve the SDGs. A summary of the UN SDGs and how the naming rules align to the goals is provided on the land.vic. site.
Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework (VAAF) information about framework added	Information on how the naming rules align to the framework.
Naming features in new residential or commercial subdivisions	To allow fast track of naming of features in residential or commercial subdivisions
Seeking the Registrar of Geographic Names in-principle support	A new section for naming authorities to seek in principle support if unsure whether a name is compliant. This will be done through VES. Includes summary of what information is required in VES
New Principle	Principle G – Gender equality. This is a new principle outlining that gender parity should be considered when naming.
First names allowed	This change allows for more names and also allows for easier recognition of female names.
Traditional Owners, Traditional Owner Group (s) and RAPs	Updated to outline that Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and Traditional Owner Group(s) can develop a naming proposal and/or act as a naming authority to have language recorded in VICNAMES
Information a naming authority must lodge with GNV	Removed requirement of providing details of consultation with emergency services and public service providers

Objections	The requirement around petitions must include the Name and address of objector, valid objections (name not compliant, offensive)
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Note: the above list is not exclusive, more details can be found at <https://www.land.vic.gov.au/place-naming>

Options to Consider

Council can opt to retain the Street, Road, Places Naming Policy but it should be noted that the current policy is based on the *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016* so does not meet current requirements.

It is recommended that the Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy be adopted and the current Street, Road, Places Naming Policy be rescinded to ensure Council meets the requirements of the *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022*.

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Nil

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Updates to the website page for naming places to improve the user experience and help the community make informed decisions with new resources.

Collaboration

This policy was revised with input from Geographic Names Victoria and informed by the Naming Rules.

Financial Implications

This policy review has been developed within the framework of projected resources and budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Naming Rules for Places in Victoria – Statutory Requirements for Naming Roads, Features and Localities 2022 (the Naming Rules).

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2022 - 2023 Annual Action Plan

5.3.5 Review Council's Place Naming policy and procedure to align with the updated Place Names Guidelines issued by the Surveyor General.

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 Community and Theme 5 Leadership

Risk Implications

Nil

Conclusion

The *Road, Feature and Locality Naming Policy* has been developed to support Council in implementing the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria and to clarify the responsibilities in the process for applicants, developers, and Council. It provides Council with a standardised and consistent approach to recognise and preserve the cultural diversity and heritage of the municipality.

9.8 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT – 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 2023

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

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Audit and Risk Committee's Biannual Report to Council (**Appendix 9.8A**)

Purpose

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

Summary

- Audit and Risk Committee meetings – 90% attendance rate by independent members and Councillor Representatives.
- Two Committee meetings held during the reporting period - 16 March and 8 June 2023
- Thirteen policies and procedures adopted or reviewed across the two meetings (seven and six respectively).
- New independent member appointed.
- Council's overall progress in respect of a wide number of matters, indicating significant progress and achievement.
- The report also highlights some of the key activities completed which are legislative or policy requirements of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Recommendation

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

REPORT

Background

This report is prepared in accordance with the Horsham Rural City Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter (section 3.15) and fulfils the obligations under Section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The biannual report covers the period January to June 2023 (including the Committee meetings held on 16 March and 8 June 2023). The minutes of the March meeting were tabled at the subsequent Council Meeting and have therefore previously been provided to Council. A separate report is tabled for the June minutes.

Discussion

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

Options to Consider

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

Sustainability Implications

Not applicable

Community Engagement

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

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

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

Financial Implications

Operations of Council's Audit and Risk Committee is covered within the 2022-2023 operational budget allocation.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Nil

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 – Leadership

Strategies:

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

Risk Implications

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

Conclusion

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

9.9 TOURISM EVENTS AND FESTIVALS PROMOTIONAL SPONSORSHIP POLICY REVIEW

Author's Name:	Annie Mintern	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Coordinator Investment and Business Development	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Investment Attraction and Growth	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

Tourism Events and Festivals Promotional Sponsorship Policy (**Appendix 9.9A**)

Purpose

To approve the rescission of the Tourism Events and Festivals Promotional Sponsorship Policy (**Appendix 9.9A**).

Summary

- The Tourism Events and Festivals Promotional Sponsorship Policy was approved by Council in 2006
- This policy was developed by the Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC)
- The TAC was dissolved in 2020
- The existing TAC budget has been used for Tourism, Events and Festival promotion through Council's Business and Tourism team since 2020

Recommendation

That Council approve the rescission of the Tourism Events and Festivals Promotional Sponsorship Policy (**Appendix 9.9A**).

REPORT

Background

In the early 2000's a committee was established and known as the Tourism Promotions Group.

In 2007 the committee was renamed Horsham Rural City Council Tourism Advisory Committee which became a Section 86 Committee of Council.

In 2017-2018 Council made changes to a number of committees, with the outcome that the Tourism Advisory Committee was no longer a Section 86 Committee of Council. The Tourism Advisory Committee was then dissolved in 2020.

The Tourism Advisory Committee – (TAC) Tourism Events and Festival Funding Application (TEFFA) was in operation for many years supporting events to undertake out of region marketing. In the past there was a strong demand from this grant fund, however over a number of years until the committee was dissolved as there was a decline in applications.

For example spend in TEFFA dollars:

2003 – 2004	\$32,104
2010 – 2011	\$15,430
2019 – 2020	\$2,900

The TEFFA fund was for a specific purpose of Council matching community funding to undertake out of region marketing activities. As these activities were no longer in demand from event organisers and there were alternative event funding sources (HRCC Community Grants), the budget was absorbed into the Business and Tourism Team budget to allow Council to continue to promote tourism, events and festivals within the region.

Discussion

The development of the Destination Horsham Investment Attraction and Growth Strategy in 2022 has identified a need for more tourism opportunities in our region which requires budget to ensure Council can promote events and festivals, along with other opportunities to increase and enhance our tourism offerings.

State funding received for COVID recovery has allowed Council to establish and deliver several highly successful events during 2021 and 2022. Participation numbers and feedback from these events has identified a need for ongoing budget to ensure these community events can continue. Activation of our CAD is also highly beneficial to our economy and the longevity of our businesses in the town centre.

Activation of our riverfront is also key tourism attraction and is a priority action within the Council Plan, Annual Action Plan and Investment Attraction Strategy. Ongoing funding is required to ensure delivery of these priorities.

Options to Consider

Nil

Sustainability Implications

Nil

Community Engagement

Community engagement has occurred throughout the development of the Investment Attraction Strategy.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The current allocation of funding ensures we can continue to promote our region and provide events to attract tourism.

Collaboration

Not applicable

Financial Implications

There is an allocation of \$68,500 for Promotions and Major Events: Events, Festivals Support Scheme in the 2023-2024 budget. This provides funding support for events like Water Skiing in January, Marketing Campaigns such as One Hour Out, any promotional photography and anything else relating to the development of tourism product. There is also funding for the Christmas events held in the CBD in the lead up to Christmas.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies:

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 1 – Community

Theme 2 – Liveability

Theme 3 – Sustainability

Destination Horsham - Investment Attraction Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022 onwards

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

There has been a demonstrated need for public events, particularly during and post COVID-19. Tourism is increasing and will continue to do so in the coming years. The promotion of tourism in our region is a key objective for Horsham Rural City Council and we need to deliver the items in the Council Plan and Investment Attraction Implementation Plan. There is however no need for the Tourism Events and Festivals Promotional Sponsorship Policy to continue to be in place.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

9.10 INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND GROWTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Author's Name:	Fiona Gormann	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Manager Investment Attraction and Growth	Directorate:	Communities and Place
Department:	Communities and Place	File Number:	F15/A06/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason:

Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason:

Nil

Appendix

Spend Map Report May 2023 (**Appendix 9.10A**)

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

REPORT

Background

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

Discussion

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

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

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

Year 1 - 2022-2023

Year 2 - 2023-2024

Year 3 - 2024-2025

Year 4 - 2024-2025

Year 5+ 2025+

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

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured by	Progress
2.10 (ongoing)	Undertake regular meetings between the Wimmera Development Association and Investment Attraction Department to inform and discuss economic development opportunities	10 forums held per year	Meeting held in March between WDA and HRCC Investment and Business Development Team 10/10 meetings held at 12/5/23 Target Achieved
(2 years)	Prepare and implement the recommendations from the Aerodrome Masterplan	Aerodrome Masterplan development	Summary findings from a community and industry forum presented in May. Further development of the draft plan is underway.
3.2.2 (2 years)	Implement the infrastructure works required for the next stage of development at the WAL Hub and both Burnt Creek and Enterprise Industrial Estates to ensure sites are market ready	Next stage developed for each of the industrial areas and ready for sale	Burnt Creek design works for Stage 2-4 progressing. Burnt Creek Business case completed. Enterprise Estate proposed subdivision application being prepared.
5+years	Investigate with stakeholders on the potential for Burnt Creek to become a green industrial area through vegetation offsets and carbon sequestration	Investigation outcomes reported to Council	Consultant appointed to undertake a 10yr Off-set Reserve Management Plan. Plan development to commence in Spring

Officers Reports

5+years	Investigate opportunities for industries at the WAL Hub	One Industrial lot sold annually Target Reached	SED consultants presented their recommendations to EMT during May.
3.5.1 (2 years)	Prepare submission of the EES for the Avonbank mining project to ensure that the licence reflects world best practice	Statutory Planning to prepare submission for consideration by council	Council submitted a submission to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee in regards to the Avonbank Mineral Sands Project EES
2.1.2 (ongoing)	Design, promote, participate and support municipal activities and events as scheduled including NAIDOC, Volunteers, International Women's Day and Seniors Week	Events reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	<p>This is an ongoing process, all lodged event forms are internally processed with initial tasks issued to ensure as successful delivery of the event.</p> <p>Furthermore, all events lodged are also registered and promoted on the Australian Tourism Database Warehouse site. This listing process is undertaken by the VIC staff</p> <p>The new visithorsham website further promotes activities within the region. This website is design to inspire the visitor to explore and discover our region.</p>
2.6.1 (ongoing)	Promote recreational activities in our natural environment to increase destination tourism and visitation	Activities reported on in the Investment Attraction and Growth monthly Council Report	The Apex Pedal Boat Shed has been approved by the Minister for use, awaiting facility upgrades (23-24 budget year) before putting out a joint expression of interest for the lease of the paddle boats and building.
(ongoing)	Ensure constant communication through e-mails and business newsletters with tourism operators and local businesses regarding what is happening in the region	A minimum of 10 business newsletters distributed annually 4 business forums are held annually	1 business newsletter was sent in May The newsletter received 388 opens and 22 clicks.
(ongoing)	Attract businesses to lease vacant shops in the Horsham city centre through the Wimmera Business Centre	Vacant shops reduced from 24 shops to 20 in the first year and maintained at or below 18 shops for the succeeding years	See table below

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Destination Victoria Conference 2023.

The annual conference brings together Victoria's Tourism, Events and Hospitality industries, providing evidence insights on economic, consumer and demographic trends that will impact tourism in Victoria.

Council's Business Team Annie Mintern and Gloria McRae attended the two day conference. The program provided information on a sustainable growth for the Victorian visitor economy, along with a number of networking sessions.

There were many keynote speakers delivering current trends messaging, for example:

Huzan Fraser India Representative, who works closely with inbound tour operator establishing Victoria as a must do destination on any itinerary to Australia.

Celia Ho Manager of South East Asia who oversees key markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia into Australia.

Laurent Thevenet, from Publicis Groupe APAC and MEA spoke on the ChatGPT and AI device and what these technology innovations means to the tourism marketing.

Jeroen Wimar CEO of the 2026 Commonwealth Games, briefed attendees on the value the games will deliver state wide and within the four regional hubs Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland. Including a briefing relating to the cultural programming of events. In closing, the conference attendees were entertained by Missy Higgins singer/ songwriter.



Annie Mintern and Gloria McRae networking with Sports Marketing Australia reps, Craig Gibson Managing Director and Jason Sleeman Director, in securing future events for our region.



Representing our region at the conference, Annie Mintern, Mark Sleeman, Mark Fletcher, Gloria McRae and Georgia Bennett



Occupied Businesses:

Street and Number of Businesses	April FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	May FY 22/23 Businesses Occupied	May FY 22/23 Businesses Vacant	May FY 22/23 Percentage Businesses Occupied
Darlot St – 43 car wash and businesses operating from a house included	38	39	4	90%
Firebrace St - 99	93	95	4	96%
Hamilton St - 17	17	17	0	100%
Wilson St – 34	28	28	6	82%
Pynsent St – 28 Cinema included	23	24	4	85%
Roberts Ave – 27 Coles included	26	25	2	93%
McLachlan St – 24 CFA and GWM included	22	22	2	91%
Total 272 Post February 2022 there were 262 shops identified in the study area	247/272	250/272	22	91%

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

Business Day Out Ballarat



On Wednesday 31 May, Annie and Olivia attended Commerce Ballarat's Business Day Out. The theme of the day was 'Get Comfortable Being Uncomfortable'.

The keynote speaker for the day was Nedd Brockman, the 24 year old sparky who ran from Perth to Bondi in 46 days last year. Nedd detailed the challenges faced throughout this run and shared his determination with the businesses in attendance. A range of speakers spoke

throughout the day including:

- Matt Nunn - Founder of Nunn Media
- Sara Quon - CEO of Sovereign Hill
- Claire Vrieze – Mental Health Consultant for Commerce Ballarat.

Spendmapp Report for May - Refer to **Appendix 9.10A**

Business Visitations for the Month of May 2023

Month Visitation	Retail Services	Hospitality and Accommodation	Event notifications and contacts	Over all contacts for the month
February	13	8	15	36
March	35	6	12	53
April	20	13	10	43
May	15	8	4	27
Total	83	35	41	159

STATUTORY PLANNING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council Priorities	Action	Goal Measured By	Progress
1.3.5 & 1.3.6 (1 year)	Develop and implement the Horsham North Local Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horsham North Local Area Plan adopted by Council 	Council adopted the Horsham North Local Area Plan in May 2023.
(1 year)	Develop a style guide to ensure consistency in street furniture, lighting, understorey plants, signage and parking.	Style Guide endorsed by EMT Target Achieved	The style guide completed and provided to the CAD CRG in May.
1.5.3 (2 years)	Identify and recognise areas and places of cultural and historical significance that maintain connection to places, land and culture and engage early	Report Presented to Council	Council and DTP met with BGLC community representatives on Country as part of the preparation of the Alternative Truck Route Feasibility Study.
(4 years)	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Horsham Cinema	Management plan endorsed by Council	The project awarded to Conservation Studio.

Officers Reports

2.10.2 (2 to 3 years)	Develop and implement a Housing Affordability and Diversity Strategy	Strategy developed and implemented through a planning scheme amendment	Tender will close 2 June.
2.10.3 (2 years)	Prepare and implement the Horsham South Structure Plan (Stage 2)	Plan adopted by Council	Council officers are reviewing a future urban structure (land use plan) as prepared by Mesh consultants.

Local Government Heritage Forum

A Council Planner attended the highly anticipated Local Government Heritage Forum held on Friday 19 May, at the Melbourne Museum Theatre.

The Heritage Council of Victoria, however, usually holds the Forum on an annual basis due to COVID19 it has not occurred for three years. The Forum provides an opportunity for local government strategic and statutory planners and heritage advisers to hear from experts on local heritage matters. It also provides an opportunity for networking and information sharing on how we can work together to preserve and celebrate our local heritage.

The forum ran for one day, with a range of heritage professionals speaking on heritage issues including new initiatives, current Planning Panel experiences and highlighting best practice methods for the protection and management of heritage across State and Local Government within Victoria.

It was important for our team to be involved in these conversations as heritage is a crucial element of Council's work. Being able to attend the forum provided an opportunity to gain additional knowledge to assist in the preparation for our upcoming Heritage Amendment.

Planning Applications Determined

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

Type	MAY 2023		MAY 2022	
	No.	*Value \$	No.	*Value \$
Miscellaneous Domestic	4	578,800	5	2,298,468
Industrial/Commercial	1	70,000	2	13,300,000
Subdivisions	4 (22 lots)		3 (9 lots)	
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	9	648,800	10	15,598,468

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

Total number of planning permits issued in the Horsham Rural City Council area from 1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023 is 122 compared to 126 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Planning permits issued for subdivision have permitted 312 new lots from 1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023 compared to 144 in the same period in 2021-2022.

Building Services

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

Permits issued by Horsham Rural City Council for this Municipality

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	1	779,200	2	1,268,900
Alterations to Dwellings	-	-	-	-
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	2	42,983	6	126,499
Removal/Demolish	1	18,601	-	-
Industrial/Commercial	1	26,125	1	733,245
Signs	-	-	-	-
Total	5	866,909	9	2,128,644

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

Type	2023		2022	
	No.	Value \$	No.	Value \$
Dwellings	6	2,729,701	8(*9)	6,221,984
Alterations to Dwellings	5	680,160	3	131,900
Dwelling resittings	-	-	-	-
Misc Domestic (Carports, Garages etc)	5	169,007	10	505,253
Removal/Demolish	-	-	1	20,000
Industrial/Commercial	5	628,661	6	2,313,492
Signs	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	21	4,207,529	28	9,192,629

A total of **39** Building Permits have been issued by the Horsham Rural City Council at a total value of **\$3,693,597** from **1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023** compared to **77** Building Permits at a total value of **\$7,277,366** in 2021-2022.

Private Building Surveyors have issued **218** Building Permits at a total value of **\$48,871,065** from **1 July 2022 to 31 May 2023** compared to **280** at a total value of **\$75,168,936** in 2021-2022.

Options to Consider

Not applicable – no decision required

Sustainability Implications

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

Community Engagement

Report has been prepared in consultation with range of agencies and will be made publicly available to Wimmera Development Association, West Vic Business, and Grampians Tourism and on Council's website.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Report provides overview of activity and assists with continuous improvement.

Collaboration

Report has been prepared in collaboration with Council officers across Planning, Building and Business Development and Tourism Support.

Financial Implications

Nil

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not applicable – no direct relationship or requirements

Council Plans, Strategies and Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme Three - Sustainability - Horsham Rural City Council will actively lead in sustainable growth and development of the community and the economy.

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

Risk Implications

Not applicable – no decision required

Conclusion

The monthly Investment Attraction and Growth Department report provides the opportunity to give Council and the community an insight into the projects being undertaken to grow our municipality and Horsham as a regional city.

9.11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Author's Name:	Sunil Bhalla	Director:	Not applicable
Author's Title:	Chief Executive Officer	Directorate:	Not applicable
Department:	Chief Executive Office	File Number:	F06/A01/000001

Officer Conflict of Interest

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Status

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for July 2023.

Summary

The Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance and matters which may not be subject of Council reports or briefings.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for July 2023.

REPORT

Background

At the 24 June 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council, it was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer provide an operational report to Council.

Discussion

Key items of interest for the report period are summarised below.

A. Advocacy/Funding Announcements

Joint State-Local Government CEO Forum: CEOs, Municipal Association of Victoria and Local Government Victoria attended the forum held on 5 July 2023. Discussions were held on the Business Acceleration Fund, supporting councils to on-board reforms; support for local government to address crime and a LGV update.

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Meeting (WSMRP): The CEO attended a WSMRP and Grampians Health meeting on 6 July 2023 (virtually). Discussions included an update on the WSM Commonwealth Games Legacies.

Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting: The CEOs from Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Buloke, Hindmarsh and Northern Grampians met on Thursday 19 July 2023. Barengi Gadjin Land Council attended the meeting to discuss the recognition and settlement agreement engagement strategy. The CEOs also received an update on WSM Development activities.

Grampians Tourism (GT) Board Meeting: The CEO attended the GT board meeting held on 29 June 2023. Key topics discussed included the current Visitor Economy Partnership options.

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Meeting: The Chief Executive Officer attended the (virtual) Regional Cities Victoria meeting on Thursday 20 July 2023. Key topic of discussion included an update on current regional and rural projects and funding opportunities by Dept. of Jobs Skills, Industry and Regions, and advocacy for Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

Funding Opportunities:

Children's Week 2023 – Mini Makers	\$1,780.00
Roadside Pests and Weeds 2023/2024	\$85,000.00

B. Community Engagement

Community Conversations: Councillors and Senior Officers met with the Taylors Lake community at the Taylors Lake Hall on Monday 17 July 2023. The meeting was an opportunity for the community to raise local issues and questions for Council.

C. Projects and Events

Riverfront Opening: The CEO, Mayor and Councillors attended the official opening of the Wimmera Riverfront Activation Stage 1 Project and the Waterplay Park on Thursday 29 June by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP and Jacinta Ermacora, State Member for Western Victoria.

D. Staff Matters

Wimmera Libraries: As of July 1, Wimmera Regional Library Corporation dissolved, and the team from Wimmera Regional Library Corporation have joined Council under the new name, Wimmera Libraries.

Financial Implications

Not applicable

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2021-2025 Council Plan

Theme 5 - Leadership

Consultation/Communication

Not applicable

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Conclusion

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Operational Report for July 2023.

10. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Robyn Gulline (Mayor)

Committee Representation	
04/07/23	Joined Regional Cities (RCV) Mayors meeting with Minister for Local Government, Melissa Horne re Regional Cities electoral boundary review (virtual)
Other Council Activities	
29/06/23	Hosted PM Anthony Albanese at official opening of Stage 1 City to River and Nature and Water Play Park
30/06/23	Triple H radio interview with Di Trotter
30/06/23	3WM/MixxFM radio interview at Nature and Water Play Park
30/06/23	Responded to toast to Visitors and Kindred Organisations at Rotary Club of Horsham Changeover
01/07/23	Responded to toast to Visitors and Kindred Organisations at Rotary Club of Horsham East Changeover
03/07/23	NAIDOC Week
17/07/23	Community Conversation – Taylors Lake Hall
18/07/23	Victorian Government Commonwealth Games Briefing - Regional Councils (Non-hub) (virtual)
19/07/23	ABC Wimmera radio interview

Cr Penny Flynn (Deputy Mayor)

Other Council Activities	
Date	Description
27/06/23	Councillor Workshop – Horsham Golf Club
29/06/23	Official Opening of Riverfront Activation Project and Waterplay Park – Wimmera River
15/07/23	Junior Football and Netball – Coughlin Park
16/07/23	CWA Christmas in July – CWA Hall

Cr David Bowe

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
12/07/2023	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting- via Microsoft Teams
Other Council Activities	
27/06/2023	Councillor Workshop with Leading Teams –Horsham Golf Club
29/06/2023	Official Opening of Riverfront Activation Project and Waterplay Park
03/07/2023	NAIDOC Week - Opening Ceremony at Goolum Goolum
03/07/2023	NAIDOC Week – Art Exhibition Opening – Horsham Town Hall
03/07/2023	Council Briefing Meeting– Council Chambers
10/07/2023	Council Briefing Meeting– Council Chambers
13/07/2023	Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) & Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Global Executive Panel: Addressing Climate Action while in a State of Permacrisis
17/07/2023	Taylors Lake Community Conversations – Taylors Lake Community Hall
18/07/2023	Council Briefing Meeting– Council Chambers

Cr Claudia Haenel

Committee Representation	
Date	Description
30/06/23	Western Highway Action Committee meeting – Beaufort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Council approaches and collective advocacy for Western Highway
12/07/23	CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee meeting
Other Council Activities	
29/06/23	Prime Minister Hon. Anthony Albanese Official Opening of Riverfront Activation Project and Waterplay Park
03/07/23	NAIDOC opening Goolum Goolum & Horsham Town Hall
03/07/23	Council briefing
05/07/23	An Asia-Pacific NATO: Fanning the Flames of War – free webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of SHAPE's mission to expose the perils of confrontation in the nuclear age and explore pathways to a safer, just and sustainable future, this webinar explored the rising militarism in the Asia Pacific region, and the threat it poses to regional and global security. Importantly the webinar went beyond analysis. It offered creative ideas on what can be done to avert a major disaster and move the Asia-Pacific region from confrontation to cooperative coexistence.
06/07/23	Chat with Cr Claudia – Horsham RSL
13/07/23	Chat with Cr Claudia – Horsham RSL
13/07/23	VLGA & LGiU Global Executive Panel: Addressing Climate Action while in a State of Permacrisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effects of changing climate conditions and weather effects are having a significant impact on local government. Managing both community expectations to take effective actions to mitigate the risks posed by changing climate conditions, while efficiently managing financial pressures in turbulent economic times, is a reality for councils around the globe. Understanding risk and perceptions of risk around climate change through a local government lens. Approaching climate action while being in a permacrisis Preparing for and managing risks while under financial pressures How local government can address housing and regeneration needs while minimising carbon emissions Professor John Thwaites, Chair - Climateworks and Chair - Monash Sustainable Development Institute Dr Jessica Stella, Great Barrier Reef Authority Angela Scott, CE, Aberdeen City Council, Scotland Joan Martin, CE, Louth County Council, Ireland
17/07/23	Community Conversations - Taylors Lake Hall
18/07/23	Council Briefing (To hear submissions re Waste Treatment Facility Quantong)
20/07/23	Chat with Cr Claudia – Horsham RSL
20/07/23	Leadership Workshop with Cr Claudia – Horsham RSL
24/07/23	Council meeting

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 3 July 2023 at 5:01pm
- Council Briefing Meeting held on 10 July 2023 at 5:00pm
- Community Conversations held at Taylors Lake Hall on 17 July 2023 at 5:30pm
- Council Briefing Meeting to hear submissions on Waste Treatment Facility Quantong held on at 5:00pm on 18 July 2023

Refer to **Appendix 13.1A**

13.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Nil

13.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

13.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange Board Meeting held on 18 May 2023
- Older Persons Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2023

Refer to **Appendix 13.4A**

Recommendation

That Council receive and note agenda items:

- 13.1 Informal Meetings of Councillors – Record of Meetings
- 13.2 Sealing of Documents
- 13.3 Inward Correspondence
- 13.4 Council Committee Minutes.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION