



13 December 2017

To Councillor,
"as addressed"

NOTICE is hereby given that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Hindmarsh Shire Council will be held at the Council Chamber, Nhill on Wednesday 20 December 2017, commencing at **3.00pm**.



Greg Wood
Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community and Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation of Minutes

4. Declaration of Interests

5. Public Question Time

6. Deputations

7. Activity Reports

8. Correspondence

9. Assembly of Councillors

- 9.1 Record of Assembly

10. Planning Permit Reports

- 10.1 Application for planning permit 1573-2017
10.2 Application for planning permit 1570-2017

11. Reports Requiring a Decision

- 11.1 Hindmarsh Shire Council Emergency Animal Welfare Support Sub-Plan for the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Program Partnering Councils
11.2 Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
11.3 Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee
11.4 Municipal Emergency Management Plan
11.5 Municipal Fire Management Plan
11.6 Victorian Auditor General's Office Audit Results 2016/17: Local Government
11.7 Protected Disclosure Policy

12. Special Committees

- 12.1 Dimboola Town Committee
12.2 Rainbow Civic Centre Management Committee

13. Late Reports

No report

14. Other Business

No report

15. Confidential Matters

- 15.1 Australia Day Awards 2018

16. Meeting Close

**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
AND OPENING PRAYER**

Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community

We acknowledge the Shire's Indigenous community as the first owners of this country. We recognise the important ongoing role that indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their elders and people both living and past.

Opening Prayer

*Dear Lord,
We humbly request your blessing upon this Council and welcome your guiding presence among us.*

May our decisions be taken wisely and in good faith, to your glory and the true welfare of the citizens of the Hindmarsh Shire.

2. APOLOGIES

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 December 2017 in the Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

Attachment: 1

**4. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS OR OFFICERS OF ANY DIRECT OR
INDIRECT INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.**

- Direct; or
- Indirect interest
 - a) by close association;
 - b) that is an indirect financial interest;
 - c) because of conflicting duties;
 - d) because of receipt of an applicable gift;
 - e) as a consequence of becoming an interested party; or
 - f) because of an impact on residential amenity.

Declaration of direct or indirect interest must also be advised by Councillors at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations

7. ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: NOVEMBER 2017

Cr ISMAY, Mayor

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 CEO review Nhill
- 01/11/2017 Pre council meeting Nhill
- 01/11/2017 Annual Statutory meeting Civic centre Nhill
- 07/11/2017 EI Disaster Mallee run Rainbow
- 07/11/2017 Tour of Rainbow area with Peter Vanderfeen
- 08/11/2017 Farewell for Anne Champness Horsham
- 14/11/2017 WMSA Meeting Horsham
- 14/11/2017 New Residents BBQ and welcome Rainbow
- 15/11/2017 Mayor/ CEO discussion
- 15/11/2017 Briefing/council meeting
- 16/11/2017 Meeting with Simon Landrigan, community development coordinator regarding various issues
- 20/11/2017 Nhill town committee AGM Nhill
- 21/11/2017 WMT meeting, Serviceton
- 23/11/2017 Meet with Jane Osborne Tourism Vic
- 23/11/2017 Wimmera health care group AGM
- 25/11/2017 John Smith retirement evening Nhill
- 26/11/2017 Inspected Dimboola Skate park development
- 27/11/2017 Rainbow Town Committee meeting
- 29/11/2017 Meet with Graeme Coffee, Regional Arts Vic

Cr LOWE, DEPUTY MAYOR

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 CEO Appraisal, Nhill
- 01/11/2017 Statutory Meeting, Nhill
- 04/11/2017 50th Anniversary of Opening Diapur Hall, Diapur
- 08/11/2017 Farewell Dinner for Anne Champness, Horsham
- 13/11/2017 Nhill Vintage Club meeting, Nhill
- 14/11/2017 New Residents BBQ. Rainbow
- 15/11/2017 Council Briefing and Meeting, Nhill
- 17/11/2017 Last Yanac Oldtime Dance, Yanac
- 22/11/2017 Christmas Entertainment, Hospital, Jeparit
- 25/11/2017 Testimonial Evening for John Smith, Retired WWHS CEO, Nhill
- 30/11/2017 AGM, Civic Centre Committee of Management, Rainbow

Cr GERSCH

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 CEO Appraisal, Nhill
- 01/11/2017 Council Statutory meeting
- 10/11/2017 RCV board meeting
- 11/11/2017 Meeting with LG. Minister Melbourne
- 16/11/2017 Meeting and farewell Taegan Salt
- 16/11/2017 Farewell function Ivan Reichelt
- 20/11/2017 Meeting re caravan park
- 21/11/2017 Meeting with WDA and Rob Hennessy super trustee funding
- 24/11/2017 NWMA meeting
- 25/11/2017 John Smith acknowledgement evening
- 15/11/2017 Council briefing and meeting, Nhill

Cr COLBERT

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 CEO Performance Review, Nhill
Pre Council Meeting
Annual Statutory Meeting
- 15/11/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
Council meeting, Nhill

Cr NELSON

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 CEO Performance Review, Nhill
Pre Council Meeting
Annual Statutory Meeting
- 02/11/2017 Dimboola Library/Civic Hub redevelopment drop in session, Dimboola
- 03/11/2017 Speech Competition judging, Dimboola Primary School
- 08/11/2017 Farewell dinner for Anne Champness, Horsham
- 09/11/2017 Dimboola @ District Financial Services AGM
- 11/11/2017 Remembrance Day service, RSL Dimboola
Dimboola Rowing Regatta, Dimboola
- 14/11/2017 Wimmera Development Association (WDA) meeting, Horsham
WDA Annual Dinner and AGM, Horsham
- 15/11/2017 Author Mark Brandi book launch, Dimboola
Briefing Meeting, Nhill
Council meeting, Nhill
- 23/11/2017 Allambi Elderly Peoples Home AGM
- 25/11/2017 KVB Tidy Towns Awards dinner, Horsham
- 26/11/2017 KVB Tidy Towns breakfast event, Weir Park Horsham
- 28/11/2017 Nhill Dimboola Band AGM, Dimboola
- 30/11/2017 Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN meeting, Horsham

WSMLLEN annual dinner, Horsham

Cr SCHNEIDER

Attended:

- 1/11/2017 CEO Annual Review meeting, Nhill
 - 1/11/2017 Annual Statutory Council meeting, Nhill
 - 6/11/2017 Dimboola Town Committee meeting, Dimboola
 - 11/11/2017 Remembrance Day Service, Dimboola
 - 15/11/2017 Briefing and Council meetings, Nhill
 - 16/11/2017 Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board Sub-committee meeting
Horsham
 - 20/11/2017 Dimboola Memorial Secondary College School Council meeting,
Dimboola
 - 23/11/2017 Allambi Elderly People's Home Annual General meeting, Dimboola
-

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: AUGUST 2017

GREG WOOD, Chief Executive Officer:

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 Pre- Council Meeting Nhill
- 01/11/2017 Council Statutory Meeting , Community Centre, Nhill
- 02/11/2017 Dimboola Library and Civic Hub drop in session, Dimboola
- 06/11/2017 Licensees First Step/New Entrant Training (Liquor Licence), Melbourne
- 08/11/2017 Director Community and Corporate Services Councillor Farewell, Horsham
- 09/11/2017 WSM Regional Partnership meeting, Horsham
- 10/11/2017 Cinema Volunteer, Nhill
- 11/11/2017 Remembrance Day commemoration, Nhill
- 11/11/2017 Dimboola Rowing Regatta, Dimboola
- 14/11/2017 WDA ordinary and annual general meeting, Federation University Horsham
- 15/11/2017 Council meeting and briefing, Nhill
- 16/11/2017 MAV CEO Forum, Melbourne
- 20/11/2017 Meeting with former chair NEYC fundraising committee
- 22/11/2017 Early Years Trial Expression of Interest WWHS, Nhill
- 23/11/2017 White Ribbon Day morning tea, Nhill
- 24/11/2017 North West Municipalities Association, Warracknabeal
- 27/11/2017 MAV Establishing Community Advisory Boards Workshop, Melbourne

SHANE POWER, Director Infrastructure Services:

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 Annual Council Statutory Meeting, Nhill
- 08/11/2017 State Climate Adaption Strategy workshop, Horsham
- 09/11/2017 Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, Nhill
- 13/11/2017 Our Catchment Our Communities roundtable, WMCA, Horsham
- 15/11/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 16/11/2017 Wimmera CEO's meeting, discussion on potential changes to building legislation, Stawell
- 17/11/2017 Parks Victoria meeting, Nhill
- 22/11/2017 RSA course, Melbourne
- 27/11/2017 Discussion with members of NAMPAC, Nhill
- 28/11/2017 Regional MERO meeting, Dimboola
- 30/11/2017 Regional Municipal Emergency Management meeting, Dimboola

MONICA REVELL, Director Corporate and Community Services:

Attended:

- 01/11/2017 Statutory meeting

- 09/11/2017 Hindmarsh Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) Meeting
- 14/11/2017 Customer Service Traineeship Interviews
- 15/11/2017 Briefing and Council Meeting
- 20/11/2017 Meeting with member of community regarding Nhill Integrated Early Years Centre
- 30/11/2017 Meeting with Account Manager for Civica Software
- 30/11/2017 Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Program (WEMRSP) Steering Group Meeting

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: 2

Introduction:

The following correspondence is tabled for noting by Council:

- Anne Champness
 - o *Letter under seal, thanking her for her service to Hindmarsh Shire Council as Director Corporate and Community Services*
- Ivan Reichelt
 - o *Thanking him for his service to Hindmarsh Shire Council and Lowan Shire Council*

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

Attachment: 2

9. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: 3

Introduction:

The attached Assembly of Councillors Record is presented as an attachment to the Council agenda for the information of Councillors and recorded at the Council meeting as required under s80A Local Government Act 1989.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

Attachment: 3

10. PLANNING PERMITS

10.1 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT 1573-17

Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Planning and Development.
File:	Planning – Applications – 1573-17
Assessment:	090005
Attachment:	Site Plan & Elevations – Sheets 1 and 2 prepared by FCH Consulting / B & K Edwards
Applicant:	Teina Lusty - Summertime Pools
Owner:	Bruce Edwards
Subject Land:	Allot 57 Sec B, Parish of Dimboola (50 Swallows Lane, Dimboola)
Proposal:	Installation of swimming pool
Zoning & Overlays:	Farming Zone (FZ), Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO6), Flood Overlay (FO), Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO), Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
Attachments:	Site Plan & Elevations – Sheets 1 and 2 prepared by FCH Consulting / B & K Edwards

Summary:

The subject site is located south west of Nhill Road, Dimboola. The land is developed with a dwelling and associated out buildings. The application seeks to construct a pool which is to be 7.1m x 4.2m with the deepest end being 1.8m. It is to be offset 9m from the dwelling.

Planning approval is required as the land is zoned Farming (FZ) and is within the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO6) as well as Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). These controls identify areas that have the potential to impact on wetlands and waterways and seeks to minimise future adverse impacts. The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) is the statutory referral authority for such applications. When assessing such applications, Council is obliged to adopt any advice from the WCMA.

The application was referred to the WCMA. The authority did not object, subject to a condition being imposed on any approval.

Notification & Referral of Application:

Pursuant to Sections 52 and 55 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act), notice of the application must be given to the community and referred to stipulated authorities.

Community:

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Act, Council is required to give notice of this application to

any person it considers the grant of the permit may cause material detriment. Notice of this application was not given, as the Coordinator Planning and Development is satisfied that the proposal will cause no material detriment.

Authorities:

Pursuant to Section 55 of the Act, notice of this application was sent to the WCMA. The Authority did not object to the application provided a condition was placed on any approval. This is included in the recommendation, and if approved by Council, will be included as a condition of permit.

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Act, notice of this application was not sent to any further authorities due to the nature of what is proposed.

Strategic, Statutory and Procedural Requirements:

The proposal is consistent with the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.

Report to Council:

The Coordinator Planning & Development advises that all obligations of Council (strategic, statutory and procedural) have been addressed and discharged in this planning application.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interest, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Andre Dalton, Coordinator Planning & Development

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves Planning Application 1573-17 for a Planning Permit for buildings and works at Allot 57, Sec B, Parish of Dimboola (50 Swallows Lane, Dimboola). The Planning Permit shall be issued with the following conditions:

1. Endorsed Plan:

The location and design of the development as shown on the endorsed plans shall not be altered or modified, whether or not in order to comply with any statute or statutory rule or local law or any other reason without the consent of the

Responsible Authority.

2. Wimmera Catchment Management Authority:

The pool and associated fencing are to be located outside the area of flooded land (refer to response from WCMA dated 20 November 2017 – figure 1).

3. Permit Lapse/Extension:

The time for commencement of the development is within two years from the date of issue of the permit and the development works are to be completed within two years of the commencement of the permit. An extension of time of the development may be issued if application is made less than six months after the date on which the permit would have lapsed.

NOTE: The 1% AEP flood is not the maximum possible flood. There is always a possibility that a flood larger in height and extent, than the 1% AEP flood, may occur in the future.

Attachment: 4

10.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT 1570-2017

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services
File: Planning – Applications
Assessment: 081620
Attachment: Sheets 1 & 2 Site Plans & Elevations prepared by Eureka
Garages and Sheds

Applicant: Mr Richard Cornwall – TNT Steel Buildings
Owner: Mr John Rayes
Subject Land: Lot 15 PS021117, 2 Anderson Street, Dimboola)
Proposal: Construction of shed.

Zoning & Overlays: General Residential Zone (GRZ1)
Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO6)
Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)
Attachments: Sheets 1 & 2 Site Plans & Elevations prepared by Eureka
Garages and Sheds

Summary:

This application seeks to permit the construction of a 9.0 x 7.5 x 2.7m high storage shed located at 2 Anderson Street, Dimboola.

Proposal Details:

The shed is proposed to be located in the south eastern corner of the subject land. The dimensions of the shed are 9.0m (l) x 7.5m (w) x 2.7m (h), with construction materials not specified. If permit is approved by Council, an appropriate condition will form part of the permit to ensure appropriate construction materials are used. If a planning permit is issued, the applicant will also be required to submit plans showing appropriate construction materials, footings, fixings etc supported by engineering computations as part of an ensuing building permit.

Subject site & locality

The site has a total area of 664.75 square metres and currently contains an existing dwelling. Surrounding development is primarily residential in nature, with land zoned 'Farming', in the vicinity to the north and west. It is the view of Council's Coordinator Planning and Development that the proposal will not detract visually from the amenity of the area.

Public Notification

The application was not required to be publicly notified under the provisions of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme, as it is not considered to be of a scale detrimental to the amenity of the locality.

Referrals

External Referrals/Notices Required by the Planning Scheme:

Section 55 Referrals: Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) – Responded with advice, to be added to the permit as a note, stating: “A 1 % AEP flood is not the maximum possible flood. There is always a possibility that a flood larger in height and extent, than the 1% AEP flood, may occur in the future”.

Section 52 Notices: Not Required

Planning Assessment:

Permit Requirement:

Use:

A planning permit is required pursuant to Clause 44.01-1 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme for Buildings and Works.

A planning permit is not required under the provisions of the General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (GRZ1) or the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 6 (ESO 6), however, Clause 32.08-4 (GRZ) stipulates minimum garden area requirements regardless of the need for a planning permit. This application complies with the garden area requirements. See extract below.

32.08-4 Construction or extension of a dwelling or residential building

27/03/2017
VC110

Minimum garden area requirement

Whether or not a planning permit is required for the construction or extension of a dwelling or residential building on a lot, a lot must provide the minimum garden area at ground level as set out in the following table:

Lot size	Minimum percentage of a lot set aside as garden area
400 - 500 square metres	25%
501 - 650 square metres	30%
Above 650 square metres	35%

Planning Scheme Requirements:

State Planning Policy Framework

Clause 11 – Settlement

Clause 11.07 – Regional Victoria

Clause 11.15 – Wimmera Southern Mallee

Clause 13.02-1 Floodplain Management

Local Planning Policy Framework

Clause 21 – Municipal Strategic Statement

Zoning Provisions

Clause 36.02 – Public Park and Recreation Zone

Overlay Provisions

Clause 42.01 Environmental Significant Overlay 6 (ESO6)

Clause 44.04 Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)

Particular Provisions

Clause 54.04 – Amenity Impacts

General Provisions

Clause 65 – Decision Guidelines

Discussion

The application has been assessed against the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, and it is considered that the proposed use is consistent with relevant policies contained within this section of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme.

Strategic, Statutory and Procedural Requirements:

The proposal is consistent with the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.

Report to Council:

The Coordinator Planning and Development advises that all obligations of Council (strategic, statutory and procedural) have been addressed and discharged in this planning application.

Processing Times:

The application was received on 3 November 2017. The report is being presented to the Council meeting of 20 December 2017 (47 days). The statutory processing time requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 have been satisfied.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Andre Dalton, Coordinator Planning and Development

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves an application to construct a storage shed on Lot 15 PS021117, 2 Anderson Street, Dimboola subject to the following conditions:

1. Endorsed Plans:

The location and design of the development as shown on the endorsed plans shall not be altered or modified, whether or not in order to comply with any statute or statutory rule or local law or any other reason without the consent of the Responsible Authority.

2. Amended Plans

Before the development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application (received by Council on 03 November, 2017) but modified to show:

(a) A schedule of colours and materials (primarily muted tones).

3. *The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.*

4. Permit Lapse/Extension:

The time for commencement of the development is within two years from the date of issue of the permit and the development works are to be completed within two years of the commencement of the permit. An extension of time of the development may be issued if application is made less than three months after the date on which the permit would have lapsed.

Note:

1. A 1 % AEP flood is not the maximum possible flood. There is always a possibility that a flood larger in height and extent, than the 1% AEP flood, may occur in the future.

2. This is not a Building Permit. Please consult a Building Surveyor and ensure that a Building Permit is obtained prior to the commencement of works.

3. A copy of this permit and the endorsed plans must be provided to all builders and contractors who are to work on the site so that they are aware of the conditions to which this approval is subject.

Attachments: 5 & 6

11. REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

11.1 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL EMERGENCY ANIMAL WELFARE SUPPORT SUB-PLAN FOR THE WIMMERA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESOURCE SHARING PROGRAM PARTNERING COUNCILS

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachment: 7

Introduction:

Wimmera Emergency Cluster has recently developed an Emergency Animal Welfare Support Plan as a sub-plan to Hindmarsh Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan. This report presents the Emergency Animal Welfare Support Plan for Council noting.

Discussion:

The Wimmera Emergency Cluster (WEC) has been established under the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Program, and comprises membership of Hindmarsh, Horsham, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shire Councils.

Pursuant to Section 20(1) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, the WEC, in partnership with member Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees, has prepared an Emergency Animal Welfare Support Plan for Hindmarsh Shire Council (and partners).

The Emergency Animal Welfare Support Plan is a sub-plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan. The plan has been developed in consultation with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources Department (DEDJTR) and other agencies and is consistent with the tested Victorian Emergency Welfare Plan (Revision 1).

DEDJTR is the lead agency for livestock and companion animal welfare in emergency situations. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is the primary agency for wildlife. Council has a support role for the welfare of livestock, domestic and wildlife animals during emergencies.

Council's role with regard to animal welfare is classified under three broad categories:-

- Prevention, Mitigation & Risk Reduction
- Relief
- Recovery

In the event of an emergency, Councils role includes:-

- Identification and assessment of affected animals
- Management of displaced animals
- Veterinary treatment and triage
- Humane destruction and disposal
- Logistical coordination of goods and services for animals

Options:

That Council note the Emergency Animal Welfare Support Sub-Plan for the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Program Partnering Councils, as endorsed by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee held on 27 July, 2017.

Link to Council Plan:

- 1.5. Support for the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

Financial Implications:

The Wimmera Emergency Cluster is funded under the Municipal Emergency Resource Program. Hindmarsh Shire Council is allocated \$60k under the program which is used in full as Council's contribution to the Wimmera Emergency Cluster.

Risk Management:

Hindmarsh Shire is home to many domestic animals, livestock and wildlife and large volumes of livestock travel the highways each day, presenting a significant risk to Council. The plan is designed to assist in the coordination of animal welfare support during and after an emergency and will assist with cross boundary events.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Noella Smith, Contracts Administration Officer

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the endorsement by the Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee of the Emergency Animal Welfare Support Sub-Plan at its meeting on 27 July 2017.

Attachment: 7

**11.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachment: 8

Introduction:

The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee held a meeting 9 November 2017. This report presents Council with the minutes of the meeting for noting purposes.

Discussion:

Council is required to establish and coordinate a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC), in accordance with section 21 (3), of the *Emergency Management Act, 1986*.

The purpose of the MEMPC is to plan for and provide advice on risks, emergency response, relief and recovery functions within the municipality of Hindmarsh Shire, and to prepare a Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Membership of the MEMPC includes representatives from Council, emergency services, health and education providers, state agencies, local industry and infrastructure managers.

The MEMPC meets three times a year, with the last meeting being held 9 November, 2017.

Link to Council Plan:

Objective 4.5:

“Support for the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery”.

Financial Implications:

Expenditure associated with staff resources for the administration and coordination of the MEMPC, are included in the adopted 2017/2018 budget.

Risk Management Implications:

A mandate of the MEMPC is to identify risks to the local community, recommend mitigation measures and to plan for response, relief and recovery arrangements for emergencies arising within the municipality.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible Officer and Author – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services.

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible and Author of this report, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

Member agencies of the MEMPC consult with the community in undertaking emergency planning and preparedness. Information during emergencies is disseminated by responsible emergency service agencies and approved media outlets.

Next Steps:

The MEMPC is scheduled to meet next on Thursday 15 March 2018.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible and Author – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer and Author Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Municipal Emergency Management Committee meeting of 9 November 2017.

Attachment: 8

11.3 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachment: 9

Introduction:

The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee held meetings Thursday 15 June, 2017 and Thursday 5 October, 2017. This report presents Council with the minutes of the meetings for noting purposes.

Discussion:

Council is required to establish and coordinate a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC), in accordance with section 21 (3), of the *Emergency Management Act, 1986*. The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMP), is a subcommittee of the MEMPC.

The purpose of the MFMP is to plan for and provide advice on emergency response, relief and recovery functions specific to fire risks and emergencies resulting from fire within the municipality of Hindmarsh Shire. The MFMP also prepares and administers the Hindmarsh Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan.

Membership of the MFMP includes representatives from Council, emergency services and state agencies.

The MFMP meets three times a year, with the last meetings being held Thursday 15 June, 2017 and Thursday 5 October, 2017.

Link to Council Plan:

Objective 4.5:

“Support for the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery”.

Financial Implications:

Expenditure associated with staff resources for the administration and coordination of the MFMP, are included in the adopted 2017/2018 budget.

Risk Management Implications:

A mandate of the MFMP is to identify risk of fire to the local community, recommend mitigation measures and to plan for response, relief and recovery arrangements for emergencies arising from fires within the municipality.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible and Author – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible and Author of this report, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

Member agencies of the MFMPC consult with the community in undertaking emergency planning and preparedness. Information during emergencies is disseminated by responsible emergency service agencies and approved media outlets.

Next Steps:

The MFMPC is scheduled to meet next on Thursday 15 February 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Municipal Fire Management Committee meeting of 15 June 2017 and 5 October 2017.

Attachment: 9

11.4 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services
Attachment: 10

Introduction:

Council is required to prepare and maintain a Municipal Emergency Management Plan pursuant to Section 20(1) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Plan, has been reviewed and amended by the Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and the Wimmera Emergency Management Team (WEMT).

This report seeks to have the Hindmarsh Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Version 2.0, 2017-2020, adopted by Council.

Discussion:

The Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) details the arrangements for the prevention of, the response to, and the recovery from emergencies that could occur in the Shire of Hindmarsh.

The broad objectives of this Plan are to: -

- identify and evaluate hazards and their risks that may affect the municipality
- identify mitigation strategies to manage the likelihood or consequences of emergencies
- promote educational programs that reduce the community's vulnerability and supports its resilience
- managing arrangements for the utilisation and implementation of available municipal resources and other resources
- assisting the community to recover following an emergency
- complementing other local, regional and state government planning arrangements

The MEMP is a multi-agency plan where Council facilitates its development and maintenance with the support of the member agencies of the MEMPC. The Hindmarsh MEMP is consistent with the MEMPs of the partner Councils of the Wimmera Emergency Cluster (WEC), and links into relevant plans at the local, regional and state level.

The State government is currently reviewing legislation, roles and responsibilities in emergency management, including the role in which local government plays in emergencies. State facilitated consultations thus far, have indicated that local government will have a greater focus on relief and recovery. As such, partner Councils of the WEC have agreed to develop a sub plan to the MEMP for relief and recovery arrangements. The revised MEMP reflects this anticipated responsibility of local government.

Link to Council Plan:

Strategic Objective 4.5: Support for the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery

Financial Implications:

The Hindmarsh Shire Council is member of the Wimmera Emergency Management Resources Sharing Program (WEMRSP), partnering with Yarriambiack Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council.

Council receives funding from Local Government Victoria (LGV) through the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP). Council allocates its funding from the MERP to the operation of the WEMRSP, which includes resourcing the Wimmera Emergency Management Team (WEMT), comprising of emergency management professionals.

The WEMRSP under the guidance of the WEMT uses the Council allocated funding to assist with:

- Facilitating the Hindmarsh Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee meetings
- Establishing and maintaining Council Emergency Operation facilities
- Staff training in emergency management
- Maintenance of the Crisisworks program for Council emergency management operations

Risk Management Implications:

The Hindmarsh Municipal Emergency Management Plan and related sub-plans detail the emergency management arrangements available at the local level to manage and mitigate risk to the Hindmarsh municipality and its communities. It describes the arrangements for regional and state support in an emergency event.

Communications Strategy:

The Hindmarsh MEMP has been circulated to members of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for review and input over a period of twelve months. The WEMT engaged with key members to develop the MEMP.

The final draft was presented to the Hindmarsh Municipal Emergency Management Committee on Thursday 9 November, 2017 for endorsement. The Committee endorsed the 2017-2020 Municipal Emergency Management Plan Version 2.0, subject to administrative changes.

The plan is available for viewing by the public on Councils website and through the State Library of Victoria. Once adopted by Council, the plan will become part of a community engagement program to involve community members in local emergency management.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2017-2020, Version 2.0.

Attachment: 10

11.5 MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services
Attachment: 11

Introduction:

Council is required to prepare and maintain a Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) pursuant to Section 55A of the *Country Fire Authority (CFA) Act 1958*, and the *Emergency Management Act 1986*.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Fire Management Plan, has been reviewed and amended by the Hindmarsh Shire Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC), Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMP) and the Wimmera Emergency Management Team (WEMT).

This report seeks to have the Hindmarsh Municipal Fire Management Plan, Version 2.0, 2017-2020, adopted by Council.

Discussion:

The MFMP is a sub-committee of the MEMPC and accordingly, the Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) is a sub-plan of Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMPC).

The Hindmarsh MFMP, is a strategic and operational document that identifies communities and assets at risk through an Environmental Risk Scan. This incorporates Council's existing Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and Municipal Emergency Management Plan. It also uses the Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR) tool to identify assets at risk from bushfire and treatments currently applied to mitigate risk.

The primary objective of the Hindmarsh MFMP, is to ensure the community shares responsibility for implementing the strategies contained within the plan to create a safer municipality in partnership with the Hindmarsh MFMP by:

- Effectively managing and reducing the risk of fire, with a view to protecting life and property with due regard to our natural environment.
- Aligning and integrating existing fire management planning and practices across agencies and the community.

Council adopted version 1.0 of the Municipal Fire Management Plan on 15 May, 2012, with minor variations being made to the Plan in November 2014 (Version 1.1) and October 2015 (Version 1.2). The plan became due for review in 2016.

Version 2.0 of the plan (as tabled) covers bushfire management at the local level in the Hindmarsh municipality.

The Plan was endorsed by the Hindmarsh MFMP at a meeting held on Thursday 5 October 2017 and then forwarded to the Hindmarsh MEMPC meeting held on Thursday 9 November, 2017 where it was also endorsed.

Link to Council Plan:

Strategic Objective 4.5: Support for the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery

Financial Implications:

The Hindmarsh Shire Council is member of the Wimmera Emergency Management Resources Sharing Program (WEMRSP), partnering with Yarriambiack Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council.

Council receives funding from Local Government Victoria (LGV) through the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP). Council allocates its funding from the MERP to the operation of the WEMRSP, which includes resourcing the Wimmera Emergency Management Team (WEMT), comprising of emergency management professionals.

The WEMRSP under the guidance of the WEMT uses the Council allocated funding to assist with:

- Facilitating the Hindmarsh Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee meetings
- Establishing and maintaining Council Emergency Operation facilities
- Staff training in emergency management
- Maintenance of the Crisisworks program for Council emergency management operations

Risk Management Implications:

The Hindmarsh Municipal Fire Management Plan details the bushfire hazard within the municipality and the mitigation strategies in place at the local, regional and state level to mitigate the risks to the community and its assets.

Communications Strategy:

The Hindmarsh MFMP was circulated to members of the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee for review and input over the past twelve months. The WEMT engaged with key members to develop the plan.

The MFMP membership is made up of agency representatives and CFA Group Officers representing their respective areas and communities.

Once adopted by Council the plan will become part of a community engagement program to raise awareness in the community about the bushfire hazard and associated risks. It will also seek their input on the plan.

The plan is available for viewing by the public on Councils website.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible and Author – Shane Power, Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer and Author Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Municipal Fire Management Plan 2017-2020, Version 2.0.

Attachment:11

**11.6 VICTORIAN AUDITOR GENERALS OFFICE AUDIT RESULTS 2016/17:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Attachment: 12 & 13

Introduction:

This report provides Council with an update on the Victorian Auditor General’s Office (VAGO) Local Government Audit results for 2016/17.

Discussion:

Under the provisions of section 16AB of the Audit Act 1994, the Victorian Auditor-Generals Office is required to prepare a report on the results of the Local Government 2016-17 Audits. The report presents the outcomes and observations from the financial audits of 79 local council, 10 regional library corporations and 16 associated entities.

Of the 79 local councils audited 79 received clear audit opinions for financial reports, and 78 received clear audit opinions for the performance statements.

Figure 1: Status of 2016-17 audit opinions.

Status of 2016–17 audit opinions:

Entities	Clear audit opinions	Qualified opinion	Number of opinions issued	Incomplete
Financial report				
Council	79	–	79	–
Regional library corporations	10	–	10	–
Other ^(a)	15	–	15	1
Total	104	–	104	1
Performance statements				
Council	78	1	79	–

(a) MAPS Group Limited has a 30 September balance date—no audit opinion had been issued at the date of this report for the year ending 30 September 2017.

Source: VAGO.

Financial Sustainability

As at 30 June 2017, VAGO assessed the local government sector as having a relatively low financial sustainability risk. The sector as a whole continues to generate positive results, displaying strong liquidity ratios and hold low levels of debt.

The report notes that rural and regional councils have a higher financial sustainability risk than metropolitan councils. This is mainly due to smaller year-to-year revenue increases, steady increases in expenditure, and their relative inability to generate significant own-sourced revenue streams.

Figure 2: Financial sustainability risk indicators by council groupings.

Financial sustainability risk indicators, by cohort, 2016–17

Indicator		Average across councils for year ended 30 June 2017					
		All councils	Metro	Interface	Regional	Large	Small
Financial performance							
Net result	per cent	19.71%	16.90%	33.96%	16.49%	15.67%	15.54%
Adjusted underlying result	per cent	8.50%	12.62%	12.45%	3.52%	6.88%	7.05%
Financial position							
Liquidity	ratio	2.97	2.59	3.64	2.43	2.70	3.48
Internal financing	per cent	166%	169%	191%	147%	161%	161%
Indebtedness	per cent	23.78%	13.93%	24.81%	33.54%	28.75%	17.86%
Asset renewal and maintenance indicators							
Capital replacement	ratio	1.48	1.56	1.84	1.48	1.31	1.21
Renewal gap	ratio	0.99	1.15	0.93	0.91	1.01	0.93

Key: ● High risk ● medium risk; ● low risk.

Source: VAGO.

Figure 3: Financial sustainability risk indicators.

Financial sustainability risk indicators

Indicator	Formula	Description
Net result (%)	Net result / Total revenue	A positive result indicates a surplus, and the larger the percentage, the stronger the result. A negative result indicates a deficit. Operating deficits cannot be sustained in the long term. The net result and total revenue are obtained from the comprehensive operating statement.
Adjusted underlying result ^(a)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	Indicator of the broad objective that an adjusted underlying surplus should be generated in the ordinary course of business. A surplus or increasing surplus suggests an improvement in the operating position.
Liquidity (ratio)	Current assets / Current liabilities	This measures the ability to pay existing liabilities in the next 12 months. A ratio of one or more means there are more cash and liquid assets than short-term liabilities.
Internal financing (%)	Net operating cash flow / Net capital expenditure	This measures the ability of an entity to finance capital works from generated cash flow. The higher the percentage, the greater the ability for the entity to finance capital works from their own funds. Net operating cash flow and net capital expenditure are obtained from the cash flow statement.
Indebtedness (%)	Non-current liabilities / own-sourced revenue	Comparison of non-current liabilities (mainly comprising borrowings) to own-sourced revenue. The higher the percentage, the less the entity is able to cover non-current liabilities from the revenues the entity generates itself. Own-sourced revenue is used, rather than total revenue, because it does not include grants or contributions.

Indicator	Formula	Description
Capital replacement (ratio)	Cash outflows for property, plant and equipment / Depreciation	Comparison of the rate of spending on infrastructure with its depreciation. Ratios higher than 1:1 indicate that spending is faster than the depreciation rate. This is a long-term indicator, as capital expenditure can be deferred in the short term if there are insufficient funds available from operations, and borrowing is not an option. Cash outflows for infrastructure are taken from the cash flow statement. Depreciation is taken from the comprehensive operating statement.
Renewal gap (ratio)	Renewal and upgrade expenditure / depreciation	Comparison of the rate of spending on existing assets through renewing, restoring, and replacing existing assets with depreciation. Ratios higher than 1:1 indicate that spending on existing assets is faster than the depreciation rate. Similar to the investment gap, this is a long-term indicator, as capital expenditure can be deferred in the short term if there are insufficient funds available from operations, and borrowing is not an option. Renewal and upgrade expenditure are taken from the statement of capital works. Depreciation is taken from the comprehensive operating statement.

(a) This is a new financial sustainability risk indicator in this report. The calculation is consistent with councils' performance statements.

Source: VAGO.

Figure 5: Financial sustainability risk indicators – assessment criteria.

Financial sustainability risk indicators—risk assessment criteria

Risk	Net result	Adjusted underlying result	Liquidity	Internal financing	Indebtedness	Capital replacement	Renewal gap
High	Less than negative 10%	Less than 0%	Less than 0.75	Less than 75%	More than 60%	Less than 1.0	Less than 0.5
	Insufficient revenue is being generated to fund operations and asset renewal.	Insufficient surplus being generated to fund operations	Immediate sustainability issues with insufficient current assets to cover liabilities.	Limited cash generated from operations to fund new assets and asset renewal.	Potentially long-term concern over ability to repay debt levels from own-source revenue.	Spending on capital works has not kept pace with consumption of assets.	Spending on existing assets has not kept pace with consumption of these assets.
Medium	Negative 10%–0%	0%–5%	0.75–1.0	75–100%	40–60%	1.0–1.5	0.5–1.0
	A risk of long-term run down to cash reserves and inability to fund asset renewals.	Surplus being generated to fund operations	Need for caution with cash flow, as issues could arise with meeting obligations as they fall due.	May not be generating sufficient cash from operations to fund new assets.	Some concern over the ability to repay debt from own-source revenue.	May indicate spending on asset renewal is insufficient.	May indicate insufficient spending on renewal of existing assets.
Low	More than 0%	More than 5%	More than 1.0	More than 100%	40% or less	More than 1.5	More than 1.0
	Generating surpluses consistently.	Generating strong surpluses to fund operations	No immediate issues with repaying short-term liabilities as they fall due.	Generating enough cash from operations to fund new assets.	No concern over the ability to repay debt from own-source revenue.	Low risk of insufficient spending on asset renewal.	Low risk of insufficient spending on asset base.

Source: VAGO.

Figure 6: Net results (per cent) 2013-2020

Small shire councils, net result 2013–2020

Small shire councils	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
							2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	-2.35%	-1.48%	23.32%	-0.76%	26.72%	9.09%	9.90%	12.93%	1.14%
Ararat Rural City Council	6.99%	4.68%	12.73%	-0.41%	14.43%	7.68%	6.37%	-8.15%	-9.87%
Benalla Rural City Council	7.28%	-1.77%	-6.02%	0.76%	7.85%	1.62%	-4.78%	-4.09%	-5.12%
Borough of Queenscliffe	15.50%	17.92%	5.73%	1.71%	2.45%	8.66%	18.36%	34.75%	2.96%
Buloke Shire Council	11.25%	56.50%	17.70%	-0.38%	23.86%	21.78%	15.48%	10.61%	10.89%
Central Goldfields Shire Council	23.79%	1.06%	3.18%	1.86%	13.84%	8.75%	9.67%	6.11%	7.68%
Gannawarra Shire Council	21.75%	7.55%	17.26%	2.58%	18.69%	13.57%	1.78%	4.26%	10.08%
Heppburn Shire Council	33.90%	0.01%	16.12%	15.77%	10.48%	15.26%	11.45%	8.52%	15.33%
Hindmarsh Shire Council	42.75%	-4.49%	10.70%	-3.57%	20.86%	13.25%	-8.43%	-2.66%	-4.44%
Indigo Shire Council	12.15%	9.57%	14.65%	-5.90%	15.72%	9.04%	0.60%	11.22%	5.18%
Loddon Shire Council	-3.87%	-16.67%	16.74%	-1.25%	13.30%	1.65%	-26.85%	7.70%	-9.81%
Mansfield Shire Council	5.52%	2.67%	14.75%	8.83%	32.10%	12.77%	-0.85%	18.61%	12.20%
Murrindindi Shire Council	15.73%	4.06%	14.05%	2.07%	9.15%	9.01%	-1.64%	-1.05%	-1.02%
Northern Grampians Shire Council	23.80%	-9.45%	15.31%	-14.44%	5.10%	4.06%	8.11%	-9.52%	-5.37%
Pyrenees Shire Council	-20.93%	-43.12%	2.36%	-11.03%	12.65%	-12.01%	-5.31%	-9.44%	-8.29%
Strathbogie Shire Council	7.18%	4.87%	15.70%	-1.22%	16.12%	8.53%	-0.85%	5.13%	3.19%
Towong Shire Council	28.46%	5.69%	32.02%	10.63%	34.62%	22.28%	-0.89%	8.11%	3.17%
West Wimmera Shire Council	11.27%	-10.92%	7.55%	-2.76%	4.05%	1.84%	23.57%	0.99%	-6.79%
Yarriambiack Shire Council	-3.90%	-22.05%	7.62%	-2.44%	13.36%	-1.48%	1.17%	-7.88%	-8.67%
Average	12.44%	0.24%	12.71%	-0.66%	16.64%	8.18%	2.98%	4.63%	0.68%

Source: VAGO.

Figure 7: Adjusted underlying result (per cent) 2015-2020.

Small shire councils, adjusted underlying result 2015–2020

Small shire councils	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
					2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	12.00%	-5.00%	12.00%	6.33%	0.00%	2.00%	0.00%
Ararat Rural City Council	5.00%	-13.97%	3.90%	-1.69%	-6.33%	-8.15%	-9.87%
Benalla Rural City Council	-12.00%	-3.00%	5.00%	-3.33%	-5.00%	-4.00%	-5.00%
Borough of Queenscliffe	-2.00%	-2.00%	2.00%	-0.67%	-8.00%	-7.00%	-3.00%
Buloke Shire Council	5.40%	-3.67%	7.42%	3.05%	-1.82%	-1.56%	-1.06%
Central Goldfields Shire Council	-7.10%	-6.99%	-1.01%	-5.03%	-10.00%	6.11%	7.25%
Gannawarra Shire Council	9.69%	-2.92%	12.56%	6.44%	-5.09%	1.49%	4.24%
Heppburn Shire Council	9.90%	3.00%	7.60%	6.83%	7.60%	4.30%	4.70%
Hindmarsh Shire Council	5.90%	-10.40%	10.80%	2.10%	-2.60%	-5.30%	-11.30%
Indigo Shire Council	8.13%	-10.18%	11.08%	3.01%	-15.20%	-5.82%	-5.82%
Loddon Shire Council	10.82%	-37.73%	2.18%	-8.24%	-36.16%	-2.08%	-36.11%
Mansfield Shire Council	5.00%	-5.00%	15.00%	5.00%	-4.00%	7.00%	2.00%
Murrindindi Shire Council	3.51%	-2.55%	6.25%	2.40%	-2.24%	-1.66%	-1.61%
Northern Grampians Shire Council	14.80%	-21.40%	2.40%	-1.40%	-2.60%	-9.50%	-5.40%
Pyrenees Shire Council	-10.53%	-39.98%	10.47%	-13.35%	-6.35%	-14.51%	-14.27%
Strathbogie Shire Council	10.24%	-16.00%	11.41%	1.88%	-4.78%	4.47%	2.51%
Towong Shire Council	26.57%	8.64%	29.87%	21.69%	-8.81%	4.20%	-0.18%
West Wimmera Shire Council	3.05%	-5.22%	-24.91%	-9.02%	-7.20%	-4.94%	-7.75%
Yarriambiack Shire Council	5.00%	-5.00%	10.00%	3.33%	-12.00%	-13.00%	-14.00%
Average	6.44%	-8.44%	7.06%	1.02%	-8.87%	-2.62%	-4.88%

Source: VAGO.

Figure 8: Liquidity (ratio) 2013-2020

Small shire councils, liquidity 2013–2020

Small shire councils	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
							2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	2.40	1.85	2.89	2.31	2.85	2.46	1.82	1.34	1.47
Ararat Rural City Council	3.40	2.52	3.49	3.84	4.22	3.49	3.52	3.74	3.91
Benalla Rural City Council	1.65	1.22	1.27	1.20	1.57	1.38	1.14	1.14	1.13
Borough of Queenscliffe	2.03	2.39	2.50	2.96	3.06	2.59	2.02	1.23	1.32
Buloke Shire Council	0.57	0.18	1.69	2.49	4.69	1.92	3.98	1.47	3.12
Central Goldfields Shire Council	1.52	1.23	1.31	1.52	1.47	1.41	1.13	1.21	1.22
Gannawarra Shire Council	2.63	2.63	2.99	2.36	3.10	2.74	2.62	2.59	2.55
Hepburn Shire Council	2.50	1.85	2.79	3.20	2.96	2.66	2.18	2.26	2.28
Hindmarsh Shire Council	3.30	2.02	3.56	2.88	4.14	3.18	1.44	1.38	1.06
Indigo Shire Council	2.31	2.17	1.50	1.29	2.19	1.89	1.14	1.05	1.05
Loddon Shire Council	4.54	4.12	5.88	6.41	7.90	5.77	3.84	2.90	2.18
Mansfield Shire Council	2.61	1.50	1.81	1.63	2.15	1.94	2.07	1.72	1.00
Murrindindi Shire Council	3.29	2.75	3.98	3.90	5.38	3.86	3.86	4.15	4.12
Northern Grampians Shire Council	1.90	1.64	1.97	2.12	3.01	2.13	2.38	2.27	2.11
Pyrenees Shire Council	3.57	2.25	2.33	1.97	3.09	2.64	1.64	1.55	1.41
Strathbogie Shire Council	2.12	1.61	1.98	2.04	2.44	2.04	1.38	1.54	1.51
Towong Shire Council	4.74	4.00	6.33	5.61	6.95	5.53	4.86	4.49	4.77
West Wimmera Shire Council	2.72	2.90	3.56	3.21	3.38	3.15	3.36	2.70	2.75
Yarriambiack Shire Council	1.72	0.96	1.29	0.89	1.59	1.29	1.18	1.20	1.21
Average	2.81	2.09	2.80	2.73	3.48	2.74	2.40	2.10	2.11

Source: VAGO.

Figure 9: Internal financing (per cent) 2013-2020

Small shire councils, internal financing 2013–2020

Small shire councils	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
							2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	83%	124%	175%	87%	105%	115%	89%	67%	119%
Ararat Rural City Council	80%	105%	108%	91%	175%	112%	92%	121%	117%
Benalla Rural City Council	49%	75%	119%	98%	153%	99%	92%	108%	103%
Borough of Queenscliffe	106%	109%	160%	56%	183%	123%	89%	84%	52%
Buloke Shire Council	97%	89%	136%	139%	228%	137%	121%	133%	129%
Central Goldfields Shire Council	70%	86%	139%	125%	123%	109%	87%	134%	120%
Gannawarra Shire Council	73%	89%	118%	65%	131%	95%	74%	104%	101%
Hepburn Shire Council	121%	57%	141%	91%	54%	93%	84%	110%	105%
Hindmarsh Shire Council	100%	32%	143%	80%	145%	100%	63%	95%	86%
Indigo Shire Council	110%	90%	85%	85%	197%	113%	80%	99%	108%
Loddon Shire Council	141%	62%	158%	95%	156%	122%	37%	80%	79%
Mansfield Shire Council	50%	56%	103%	91%	178%	96%	73%	92%	77%
Murrindindi Shire Council	178%	149%	218%	115%	124%	157%	124%	144%	102%
Northern Grampians Shire Council	225%	58%	133%	96%	192%	141%	188%	94%	95%
Pyrenees Shire Council	-9%	11%	135%	87%	177%	80%	101%	98%	94%
Strathbogie Shire Council	98%	120%	139%	99%	172%	126%	43%	108%	101%
Towong Shire Council	151%	61%	168%	93%	203%	135%	-18%	-10%	-15%
West Wimmera Shire Council	112%	42%	154%	99%	182%	118%	96%	79%	108%
Yarriambiack Shire Council	43%	68%	147%	80%	183%	104%	108%	105%	101%
Average	89%	78%	141%	93%	161%	114%	86%	87%	84%

Source: VAGO.

Figure 10: Indebtedness (percent) 2013-2020

Small shire councils, indebtedness 2013–2020

Small shire councils	2012–13	2013–14	2014–16	2016–18	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
							2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	31.05%	29.92%	26.10%	22.62%	16.90%	25.32%	17.16%	15.96%	15.36%
Ararat Rural City Council	2.27%	1.42%	12.78%	12.51%	12.01%	8.20%	17.08%	16.75%	16.42%
Benalla Rural City Council	50.00%	47.89%	68.37%	62.03%	57.04%	57.06%	52.99%	53.44%	52.21%
Borough of Queenscliffe	0.49%	0.59%	0.80%	2.09%	1.08%	1.01%	2.39%	5.27%	7.46%
Buloke Shire Council	11.20%	6.03%	62.78%	60.45%	57.10%	39.51%	56.54%	6.82%	6.74%
Central Goldfields Shire Council	31.38%	26.91%	19.90%	25.69%	10.75%	22.93%	18.96%	12.53%	7.00%
Gannawarra Shire Council	16.57%	14.89%	13.46%	12.24%	10.77%	13.58%	11.16%	10.48%	9.79%
Hepburn Shire Council	11.25%	12.43%	16.35%	13.66%	24.91%	15.72%	22.06%	19.61%	17.40%
Hindmarsh Shire Council	1.39%	1.52%	1.24%	2.30%	2.84%	1.86%	1.39%	1.36%	1.33%
Indigo Shire Council	20.86%	22.45%	26.66%	38.01%	35.95%	28.79%	32.31%	31.71%	29.48%
Loddon Shire Council	16.37%	20.34%	16.95%	17.73%	12.52%	16.78%	21.50%	23.84%	25.69%
Mansfield Shire Council	9.81%	23.21%	27.57%	24.14%	20.19%	20.99%	18.31%	16.75%	15.19%
Murrindindi Shire Council	25.04%	22.00%	17.60%	30.79%	29.48%	24.98%	28.82%	27.61%	26.46%
Northern Grampians Shire Council	13.88%	26.48%	17.14%	28.80%	23.43%	21.94%	21.94%	20.24%	18.76%
Pyrenees Shire Council	22.66%	19.84%	5.46%	1.59%	1.47%	10.20%	1.55%	1.56%	1.60%
Strathbogie Shire Council	16.02%	16.26%	15.08%	14.01%	9.57%	14.19%	4.35%	5.24%	4.56%
Towong Shire Council	8.41%	4.07%	5.97%	7.43%	6.66%	6.51%	10.57%	12.32%	28.37%
West Wimmera Shire Council	1.73%	5.44%	4.71%	3.86%	2.29%	3.61%	5.25%	5.12%	5.10%
Yarriambiack Shire Council	8.85%	9.58%	6.21%	4.67%	4.41%	6.74%	5.73%	5.74%	5.57%
Average	16.76%	18.58%	18.22%	20.24%	17.88%	17.88%	18.42%	16.38%	16.60%

Source: VAGO.

Figure 11: Capital replacement (ratio) 2013-2020

Small shire councils, capital replacement 2013–2020

Small shire councils	2012–13	2013–14	2014–16	2016–18	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
							2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	1.13	1.24	1.43	1.40	1.92	1.42	1.90	2.49	0.95
Ararat Rural City Council	1.10	1.42	1.49	1.07	1.01	1.22	1.40	0.65	0.64
Benalla Rural City Council	1.82	1.77	1.79	0.95	1.10	1.49	1.11	0.76	0.73
Borough of Queenscliffe	2.19	2.43	1.64	1.96	1.22	1.89	3.90	6.86	1.48
Buloke Shire Council	1.59	5.79	1.55	0.89	0.92	2.15	1.41	1.10	1.11
Central Goldfields Shire Council	2.41	1.64	1.22	0.99	1.12	1.48	2.01	1.19	1.27
Gannawarra Shire Council	2.33	1.33	1.94	1.73	1.66	1.80	1.55	1.26	1.59
Hepburn Shire Council	3.09	1.71	1.36	1.53	1.87	1.91	1.91	1.30	1.69
Hindmarsh Shire Council	4.06	2.01	1.24	1.14	1.32	1.95	1.16	0.94	1.00
Indigo Shire Council	1.33	1.61	2.51	1.31	1.05	1.56	1.36	1.67	1.16
Loddon Shire Council	0.97	1.24	0.94	1.18	0.90	1.05	0.99	1.57	0.96
Mansfield Shire Council	1.35	3.03	1.84	1.19	1.54	1.79	1.57	2.48	2.33
Murrindindi Shire Council	0.96	1.18	0.79	1.03	1.11	1.01	0.83	0.67	0.89
Northern Grampians Shire Council	0.95	1.25	1.11	0.87	0.71	0.98	0.77	0.77	0.90
Pyrenees Shire Council	1.72	0.79	0.87	0.99	0.95	1.06	0.97	0.82	0.89
Strathbogie Shire Council	1.41	1.41	1.58	1.43	1.24	1.42	2.77	1.33	1.30
Towong Shire Council	1.56	1.81	1.80	1.63	1.45	1.65	1.67	1.51	1.26
West Wimmera Shire Council	1.00	1.03	0.96	1.02	1.00	1.00	2.05	1.31	0.81
Yarriambiack Shire Council	1.51	1.17	1.12	1.33	0.97	1.22	1.08	0.80	0.79
Average	1.71	1.78	1.43	1.26	1.21	1.48	1.80	1.66	1.14

Source: VAGO.

Figure 12: Renewal Gap (ratio) 2013-2020

Small shire councils, renewal gap 2013–2020

Small shire councils	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	Average	Forecast		
							2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Alpine Shire Council	1.10	1.08	0.98	1.21	1.78	1.23	1.81	2.49	0.95
Ararat Rural City Council	1.05	1.07	1.06	0.79	0.76	0.95	1.22	0.65	0.63
Benalla Rural City Council	1.21	1.72	1.10	0.71	0.58	1.06	0.76	0.66	0.56
Borough of Queenscliffe	1.96	0.98	1.23	1.64	0.82	1.33	2.48	4.60	1.07
Buloke Shire Council	1.31	5.97	0.84	0.74	0.89	1.95	1.13	1.09	1.11
Central Goldfields Shire Council	2.04	1.01	0.95	0.83	0.80	1.13	1.71	0.93	1.08
Gannawarra Shire Council	1.87	1.24	1.68	1.27	1.49	1.51	1.29	0.92	1.17
Hepburn Shire Council	2.74	1.08	1.26	1.46	0.93	1.49	1.50	1.21	1.44
Hindmarsh Shire Council	2.64	1.83	0.91	0.96	0.84	1.43	1.08	0.90	0.96
Indigo Shire Council	1.16	1.56	2.34	1.17	0.70	1.39	0.68	n/a	n/a
Loddon Shire Council	0.78	1.12	0.71	0.51	0.77	0.78	0.43	0.87	0.54
Mansfield Shire Council	1.05	2.58	1.54	0.96	1.01	1.43	1.31	1.69	1.85
Murrindindi Shire Council	0.64	0.82	0.69	0.62	0.92	0.74	0.72	0.62	0.57
Northern Grampians Shire Council	1.96	1.23	0.62	0.75	0.53	1.02	1.20	0.77	0.88
Pyrenees Shire Council	1.07	0.58	0.75	0.87	0.79	0.81	0.85	0.73	0.80
Strathbogie Shire Council	0.98	1.25	1.52	1.35	1.05	1.23	2.01	1.23	1.23
Towong Shire Council	2.46	1.46	1.03	1.00	1.18	1.43	1.53	0.88	0.94
West Wimmera Shire Council	0.91	0.98	0.83	0.96	0.95	0.93	1.94	3.84	1.25
Yarriambiack Shire Council	1.23	0.93	1.10	1.29	0.94	1.10	0.23	0.12	0.12
Average	1.48	1.60	1.11	1.00	0.88	1.21	1.28	1.94	0.86

Note: n/a = not able to provide an indicator result.

Source: VAGO.

Impact of rate capping

VAGO analysis found that, on average, councils are forecasting their revenue to decrease by 1 per cent over the next three financial years, while expenditure is set to increase by 2 per cent over the same period.

VAGO were encouraged by the fact most councils have identified longer-term viability risks that may result from rate capping, but noted that many councils do not yet understand how they can respond to this risk.

VAGO noted councils need to understand the impact of reduced revenue on their capital works programs, finding that in response to rate capping, councils have started reducing their longer-term capital expenditure programs. VAGO recommends councils develop longer-term programs focusing on covering 10 to 20 years, and not the typical four year focus.

VAGO Recommendations

VAGO recommends that local councils:

1. Introduce targets for each of the performance indicators included in each council's performance statement.

Link to Council Plan:

Strategic Objective 4.6: An organisation that takes its risk management responsibilities seriously and embeds a culture of risk management throughout the organisation.

Financial Implications:

Information will inform budget and long term financial planning

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible and Author – Monica Revell, Director Corporate & Community Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible and Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Victorian Auditor General's Office Results of 2016-17 Audits: Local Government.

Attachments: 12 & 13

11.7 PROTECTED DISCLOSURE POLICY

Responsible Officer: Greg Wood, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment Number: 14

Introduction:

As part of an ongoing governance review, Hindmarsh Shire Council's Protected Disclosure Policy has been reviewed and updated.

This report recommends Council adopts the revised Protected Disclosure Policy.

Discussion:

The *Protected Disclosures Act 2012 (PD Act)* provides a framework for the disclosure of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies and to provide protection for persons who make those disclosures or may suffer detrimental action in reprisal for those disclosures. Hindmarsh Shire Council takes seriously its responsibilities to persons who may make a disclosure in respect of improper conduct or detrimental action. Council does not tolerate improper conduct by its employees, officers or members, nor the taking of reprisals against persons who come forward to disclose such conduct.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's Protected Disclosure Policy (**attachment 1**) establishes a system, in accordance with the requirements of the PD Act, for the receipt, reporting, and handling of protected disclosures made in relation to Hindmarsh Shire Council. As part of the ongoing governance review being undertaken by Council, the Policy has been reviewed and updated.

The Policy has been updated to include more information about what constitutes improper conduct and detrimental action, how to make a disclosure and what happens following a disclosure. This information is currently in internal procedural documents but it is beneficial for this information to also be in the Policy because the PD Act requires the Policy to be circulated to staff and made available to the public to inform them of their rights, responsibilities, and protections.

It is recommended that Council adopt the updated Protected Disclosures Policy.

Options:

Council may adopt, reject, or adopt subject to change, the Protected Disclosure Policy.

Link to Council Plan:

4.6 An organisation that takes its risk management responsibilities seriously

Financial Implications:

No financial implications arise.

Risk Management Implications:

No risk management implications arise.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible— Greg Wood, Chief Executive Officer

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author—Alicia Stewart, Governance Advisor

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

The Protected Disclosure Policy will be circulated to all staff and be made available for public inspection at Council Offices.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Protected Disclosure Policy (version 2.0) as presented.
Attachment: 14

12. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

12.1 DIMBOOLA TOWN COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Attachment: 15

Introduction:

The Dimboola Town Committee held its Meeting on 4 December 2017. The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting. A copy of the minutes is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Dimboola Town Committee Meeting on 4 November 2017.

Attachment: 15

12.2 RAINBOW CIVIC CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Attachment: 16

Introduction:

The Rainbow Civic Centre Management Committee held its Annual General Meeting on and its general meeting on 30 November 2017. The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from these meetings. A copy of the minutes is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Rainbow Civic Centre Management Committee Meeting on 30 November 2017.

Attachment: 16

13. LATE REPORTS

No reports

14. OTHER BUSINESS

15. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

In accordance with Section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may close the meeting to the public if items to be discussed are deemed confidential, that is, if the items to be discussed relate to:

- a) Personnel matters;
- b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- c) Industrial matters;
- d) Contractual matters;
- e) Proposed developments;
- f) Legal advice;
- g) Matters affecting the security of Council property;
- h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) A resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the meeting be closed in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989, to consider:

15.1 *Australia Day Nominations*

16. MEETING CLOSE
