



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 92 NELSON STREET, NHILL, ON WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2018, COMMENCING AT 4:00PM.**

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**AGENDA**

**1. Appointment of Temporary Chair**

**2. Acknowledgement of Opening Prayer**

**3. Apologies**

**4. Declaration by Councillors of any conflict of 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.

**5. Reports requiring a decision**

5.1 Council applications to the Building Better Regions Fund

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**6. Meeting Close**

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**Present:**

Crs R Ismay, R Gersch, D Nelson, D Colbert, T Schneider, R Lowe

**In Attendance:**

Mr Greg Wood, (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Monica Revell (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Shane Power (Director Infrastructure Services), Ms Shelley Gersch (Executive Assistant)

**1. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR**

The Chief Executive Officer called the meeting to order. The office of the previous Mayor (and Deputy Mayor) expired at 6:00am on the morning of the Statutory Meeting. It is necessary to appoint a Councillor to be temporary chair. Clause 6(6)(b) of Part 2 of Hindmarsh Meeting Procedure and Local Law No 1 of 2014 provides that *“Council may appoint a Councillor as acting Chair”*.

**Chief Executive Officer to seek nominations for temporary chair.**

Cr R Gersch nominated Cr R Ismay.

There being no further nominations, G Wood declared Cr R Ismay elected as temporary chair.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER**

Cr R Ismay acknowledged the Indigenous Community and recited the Opening Prayer.

**3. APOLOGIES**

No apologies

**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.

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## 5. REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

### 5.1 COUNCIL APPLICATIONS TO BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate and Community Services

In accordance with section 89(4) of the Local Government Act, a council must give public notice seven days before an ordinary or special meeting of the council is held. If it cannot comply with subsection (4), it must specify the urgent or extraordinary circumstances which prevented the council from complying in the minutes.

This matter is urgent preventing Council from giving the required notice before holding this meeting. The urgency is because new information has only recently become available and Council needs to make a decision in sufficient time to allow applications to the Building Better Regions Fund to be finalised prior to the closing date of 5:00pm Thursday 15 November 2018.

#### **Introduction:**

This report seeks support from Council for the submission of two grant applications to round 3 of the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Stream, and financial contributions towards the following projects:

- Wimmera River Discovery Trail
- Destination Rainbow

The Wimmera River Discovery Trail project will incorporate the establishment of a multiuse trail along the Wimmera River corridor between Dimboola and Lake Hindmarsh and the creation of important visitor nodes at Dimboola and Jeparit.

Destination Rainbow will see the restoration of sections of the Heritage Listed Yurunga Homestead and reconstruction of the Yurunga Coach House combined with the development and installation of appropriate wayfinding signage for the Hindmarsh Heritage Trail that will promote historic and heritage based attractions in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow of which Yurunga at Rainbow is an integral asset.

#### **Discussion:**

- Wimmera River Discovery Trail

Officers were considering submitting separate grant applications for projects in Dimboola and Jeparit, but as funding of \$400,000 has been allocated from the Victorian Government to the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership who has subsequently allocated the funds towards the Wimmera River Discovery Trail project, it is recommended that the projects be merged.

The Wimmera River Discovery Trail has been a Council priority since 2016 and has recently been selected as a top three priority project in the Grampians RDV Region Cycling and Trails Infrastructure Business and Masterplan (September 2018).

The Wimmera River Discovery Trail will provide local residents and visitors to the region with a rich environmental, cultural and historic experience while the visitor nodes in Dimboola and Jeparit will provide integral starting / finishing / wayfinding points.

The Dimboola visitor node will be based at the rear of the soon to be constructed Dimboola Library and will include the landscaping of the community space that will showcase local indigenous culture and history. New amenities that provide all ability toilets, showers and secure bike storage will be included.

The Dimboola visitor node will provide a direct link to Dimboola's main business district and the Wimmera River Discovery Trail as well existing walking trails that connect the Wimmera River, Riverside Holiday Park, Dimboola Recreation Reserve, and Wimmera River

The Jeparit visitor node will be located at the locally known Jeparit swimming hole that is adjacent to the Jeparit Caravan Park. This is a popular area for local residents and visitors. The existing river bank stability infrastructure will be redeveloped to enable easier and safer access to the river and improve the aesthetics of the area. This will provide easier and safer river access alongside an existing picnic / BBQ area and provide a welcome rest area / overnight stop along the trail.

Through the merger of these projects, the estimated total project cost is \$1.2M, which will require a contribution of \$200,000 from Council.

Budget for the Wimmera River Discovery project is as follows;

Building Better Regions Infrastructure Fund	\$600,000
Regional Development Victoria	\$400,000
Hindmarsh Shire Council	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>

As this project is based in areas classified as Outer Regional, the funding ratio will be \$1:\$1.

- Destination Rainbow

This project will see the completion of major renovation work at Rainbow's Yurunga Homestead and Coach House.

Work will include the restoration of the north side veranda of the homestead and although some reparatory works to the coach house were carried out in early 2018 to prevent the total collapse of the building, a complete restoration is now required to restore it back to its original condition. Works will include the reconstruction of the buildings stone walls, installation of windows and doors, installation of timber flooring and reconstruction of the 'lean too'.

Yurunga is one of Council's main and most northerly heritage based tourism assets and therefore an integral component of the Hindmarsh Shire Heritage Drive.

This project will link Yurunga and other heritage based tourism assets through the installation of new wayfinding signage across the shire.

Budget for the Destination Rainbow project is as follows;

Building Better Regions Infrastructure Fund	\$135,000
Hindmarsh Shire Council	\$45,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>

As this project will be based in an area classified as Remote, the funding ratio will be \$3:\$1.

**Link to Council Plan:**

Strategic Objective 1.1:	An actively engaged community.
Strategic Objective 1.3:	A community that is physically active with access to a wide range of leisure, sporting and recreation facilities.
Strategic Objective 2.1:	Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs.
Strategic Objective 3.1:	A strong rural economy and thriving towns.
Strategic Objective 3.2:	A thriving tourism industry.

**Financial Implications:**

Council requires a contribution of **\$245,000** towards the Building Better Regions Infrastructure Stream projects as outlined in this report. The following provides details on Capital Works programs where these funds can be allocated from.

At the Council meeting on 3 October 2018, Council moved to allocate \$240,000 in the 2018/2019 budget to meet the funding requirements in its application to the Fixing Country Roads Project. Council has been notified that they were successful in obtaining funding to the amount of \$980,000 (\$803,667 State contribution & \$176,333 Council contribution). As there is a balance of \$63,667 available from Council's contribution, this report seeks Council's support to allocate the available funds to the Building Better Regions Fund grant applications.

To assist in meeting the shortfall in funding requirements for the Building Better Regions grant applications it is proposed to defer a section of the Elgin Street Reconstruction Project and the Greig/McKenzie Road Gravel Renewal Project from Council's 2018/2019 capital works program.

The Elgin Street Nhill Reconstruction Project involves renewing the pavement, bitumen surface and construction of drainage infrastructure. The scope of the Elgin Street project extends between Davis Avenue and Young Street in Nhill, the area which services Hindmarsh Shire Council offices, State Emergency Services (SES), Nhill Bowls Club, Nhill Post Office, Country Fire Authority and the residence at 1 Young Street.

The proposed works include a contribution from the SES for asphaltting the section of the laneway at the rear of their shed. Council is yet to receive a contribution from SES. With this in mind it is proposed to defer part of the project to the 2019/2020 budget process. It is proposed that Council proceed to asphalt the section from Davis Avenue to the Council office carpark.

Budgeted at \$104,448, it is proposed to allocate \$26,651 from the Elgin Street Project as a contribution to the Building Better Regions Fund grant applications.

The Greig/McKenzie Road Antwerp Gravel Renewal Project is budgeted at \$154,682 and involves re-sheeting approximately 3.6 kilometres of unsealed road with a 100mm limestone overlay on Greig and McKenzie Roads. Located in salt plains, the works require treatments such as geotextile fabric underlay to retain pavement moisture and extend pavement life. With this in mind, it is proposed to defer this project to the 2019/2020 budget process providing officers more time to investigate treatment options.

**Summary of Council allocations**

Fixing Country Roads Project	\$63,667
Elgin Street Reconstruction Project	\$26,651
Greig/McKenzie Gravel Road Renewal Project	\$154,682
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>

**Risk Management Implications:**

Comprehensive project budgets and risk management plans will be completed for submission with both grant applications.

**Conflict of Interest:**

Under section 80C of the LGA officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Author: Phil King, Manager Economic and Community Development Manager.  
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no interests to disclose.

Officer Responsible: Monica Revell, Director Corporate & Community Services.  
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no interests to disclose.

**Communications Strategy:**

In the event of either or both grant applications being approved, an appropriate communications strategy will be developed.

**Options:**

1. Council can allocate funds as detailed in the Financial Implications and for the submission of either or both grant applications.
2. Council not support the allocation of funds and submission of the grant applications for either or both projects.
3. Council support the allocation of funds from an alternative source and submission of the grant applications.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

1. ***Submits Building Better Regions Grant applications for Wimmera River Discovery Trail, \$600k (subject to confirmation of Victorian state contribution of \$400,000 - project cost \$1.2M) and Destination Rainbow, \$135k (project cost \$180k)***

2. **Allocates funds from the projects as detailed below as contributions towards the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) grant applications.**

•	<b>Fixing Country Roads Project (excess council contribution)</b>	<b>\$63,667</b>
•	<b>Elgin Street Reconstruction Project (partial deferral)</b>	<b>\$26,651</b>
•	<b>Greig Gravel Road Renewal Project</b>	<b>\$154,682</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>

3. **Allocates funds to the projects as detailed below, subject to successful Building Better Regions Grant applications**

•	<b>Wimmera River Discovery Trail</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
•	<b>Destination Rainbow</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>

4. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to commit the \$200,000, allocated in point 3 above to support alternative BBRF grant application(s) if the \$400,000 state contribution to the Wimmera River Discovery Trail is not confirmed.**

**MOVED: Crs T Schneider/R Gersch**

**That Council:**

1. **Submits Building Better Regions Grant applications for Wimmera River Discovery Trail, \$600k (subject to confirmation of Victorian state contribution of \$400,000 - project cost \$1.2M) and Destination Rainbow, \$135k (project cost \$180k)**

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***CARRIED***

**6. MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business, Cr R Ismay declared the meeting closed at 4:20pm.

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