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MEDIA RELEASE

Hindmarsh Caravan Park Upgrades

Caravan Parks throughout Hindmarsh Shire will be expanded with additional on-site self-contained accommodation units thanks to funding received through the Victorian Government's, Regional Infrastructure Fund, Wimmera Southern Mallee Caravan Park Upgrades program.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay said "Council has received funding of \$650,000 through the State Governments Regional Infrastructure Fund as part of a program to improve caravan parks throughout the Wimmera Southern Mallee region".

"Funding for the inclusion of more self-contained accommodation units will significantly enhance the potential to increase visitation to Hindmarsh Shire thereby providing economic benefits to local businesses, tourism operators and the broader community" said Cr Ismay.

The funding should enable the construction, installation and fit out of up to six two bedroom accommodation units with three being all-abilities or DDA Compliant and three standard units.

It is proposed that two standard units will be installed at the Riverside Holiday Park Dimboola, one all-ability unit at both Jeparit and Rainbow Caravan Parks, and one all-abilities and one standard unit at Nhill Caravan Park.

Cr Ismay said "As there is a relatively short time frame for this project to be completed by, Council plans on going out to tender for the design, construction, installation and fit out of these units in the immediate future".

"All of the new units will be six berth, self-contained, two bedroom units and inclusion of a family unit at Jeparit is something the community has been asking for and by being an all-abilities unit it will increase the opportunity to attract more visitors to Jeparit" said Cr Ismay.

He added “The new accommodation unit at Rainbow will also be an all-abilities unit and along with the new change rooms will be part of the early stages of the redevelopment of the Rainbow Caravan Park”.

Cr Ismay continued “We are excited to install an all-abilities unit at the Nhill Caravan Park.” “With the installation of all-abilities cabins in Jeparit and Rainbow this will mean all caravan parks in the Hindmarsh Shire will have all-abilities accommodation options.”

The increase in the number of units at Dimboola and Nhill will increase accommodation availability to meet demand.

Cr Ismay said “Council is also waiting on the outcome of another funding application that if successful, will see additional accommodation units in Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow. At this stage Council does not know when the outcome of that funding application will be announced but we are confident that it will be supported”.

Improvements to tourism and visitor infrastructure is a focus throughout Hindmarsh Shire at the moment with an extension to the camp kitchen at Riverside Holiday Park, Dimboola nearing completion and the refurbishment of the amenities facility at Nhill Caravan Park recently commenced. Both of these have been funded by the State Governments Camping and Caravan Grants program through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is currently finalising plans for a power upgrade to the Rainbow Recreation Reserve and Caravan Park and has also recently submitted a funding application to redevelop the caravan park. The Rainbow Caravan Park Master Plan is also available for public viewing and comment.

Additionally, Council is currently finalising plans to redevelop the Jeparit Swimming Hole precinct in Jeparit which will include the redevelopment of the erosion control retaining wall and construction of a range of infrastructure including picnic shelters, camp kitchen etc that will be available for use by the local community and visitors as part of the Wimmera River Discovery Trail.

Plans are also underway to establish a unique attraction in Rainbow as part of the Silo Art Trail which will complement the recently painted Albacutya Silo and the soon to commence Arkona Silo.

Cr Ismay said “As can be seen by the projects either being carried out or still in the planning phase, there is a lot of work going on at the moment which when completed will definitely increase the level of services and facilities on offer within the shire to visitors and locals alike”.

For more information, please contact Monica Revell, Director Corporate and Community Services, on 03 5391 4444 or email mrevell@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

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