



Hindmarsh Shire Council | PO Box 250 | 92 Nelson Street Nhill VIC 3418 | Ph: 03 5391 4444 |
Fax: 03 5391 1376 | Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

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MEDIA RELEASE

Hindmarsh Shire Celebrates 25 Years since amalgamation

We're turning 25 today. On 20 January 1995 the Shires of Lowan and Dimboola were amalgamated to become the Hindmarsh Shire Council.

The Shire of Lowan previously covered an area of approx. 2,861 square kilometres, and was first established in 1875. The Shire of Dimboola was established in 1885, after being severed from the Shire of Lowan, and covered an area of approx. 4,856 square kilometers.

The new shire was named after one of the major geographical features in the region, Lake Hindmarsh and covers an area of approximately 7,422 square kilometers making it one of the largest municipalities in Victoria.

Hindmarsh Shire is now home to more than 30 nationalities from around the world with the Karen migrant population increasing each year since they first arrived in Nhill in 2010.

Following amalgamation in 1995, the first Council was elected in 1997 which included current Hindmarsh Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rob Gersch.

Existing Councillors, Cr Rob Gersch and Cr David Colbert also served on the former Shire of Lowan whilst Cr Ron Ismay served on the former Shire of Dimboola.

Cr Gersch said "there have been some significant events within the Council and the Shire since amalgamation. We have experienced droughts, fires and floods. We have seen new infrastructure constructed and we have seen some infrastructure destroyed or demolished. The floods of 2011 certainly remain in my mind with the damage caused to bridges, weirs and roadways. We have also seen an increase in the number and types of services that Council provides which is now more than 100".

Cr Gersch added, "Since amalgamation, there have been 18 Councilors, nine Mayors and six chief executive officers of Hindmarsh Shire Council. It has been an honour to have served the

community for all of the time since Council was first established and to have been Mayor for three terms”.

Cr Gersch concluded “On behalf of Council, I would like to thank all residents of Hindmarsh Shire for your support over the past 25 years and wish everyone all the best for the future”.

Greg Wood

Chief Executive Officer