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MEDIA RELEASE

Community and Business Action Grants application period extended

Hindmarsh Shire Council has extended the application period for the first round of Community Action Grants and Business Action Grants for the 2019/20 year to Thursday 31 October 2019.

In promoting the local funding program, Hindmarsh Shire Council Shire Mayor Cr Ron Ismay explained the community and business grants were a fantastic opportunity for local community groups and businesses to seek extra financial support for their projects. 'Each year Council helps to fund a variety of projects across both the community and business space in Hindmarsh Shire' Cr Ismay advised.

For community groups there are four categories, which are Event Sponsorship, Minor Facility Upgrades, Small Equipment and Community Assistance. 'Council have provided financial support for a wide range of initiatives in the past including the staging of events including fishing competitions and community celebrations, assistance with clubroom renovations, the purchase of I.T. equipment or cooking appliances for clubs or support for a special project a community group is hoping to deliver' explained Cr Ismay.

Cr Ismay added 'The guidelines for funding are quite broad and the application process is relatively easy. With funding amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 these grants present a fantastic opportunity for local clubs and community groups to secure some much needed financial support for their organisation.'

In relation to the business grants, Cr Ismay said a couple of the more popular projects funded were improvements to shops like painting and better access to businesses. 'Previously we've had businesses renew shop facades and signage or install automatic doors, hand rails and ramps to provide their customers with better access. However, we can help with business development too. Whether that is funding to create a business plan, staff development or helping a business move from home to a commercial premises there are a wide range of scenarios where Council may be able to provide some financial support' concluded Cr Ismay.

Applications for both Community and Business grants will close on Thursday 31 October 2019,

with Council inviting those who might be interested in applying to visit the Grants section of Council's website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants or contact Gaby Castro, Community Development Officer, on (03) 5391 4444, email gcastro@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

Greg Wood

Chief Executive Officer