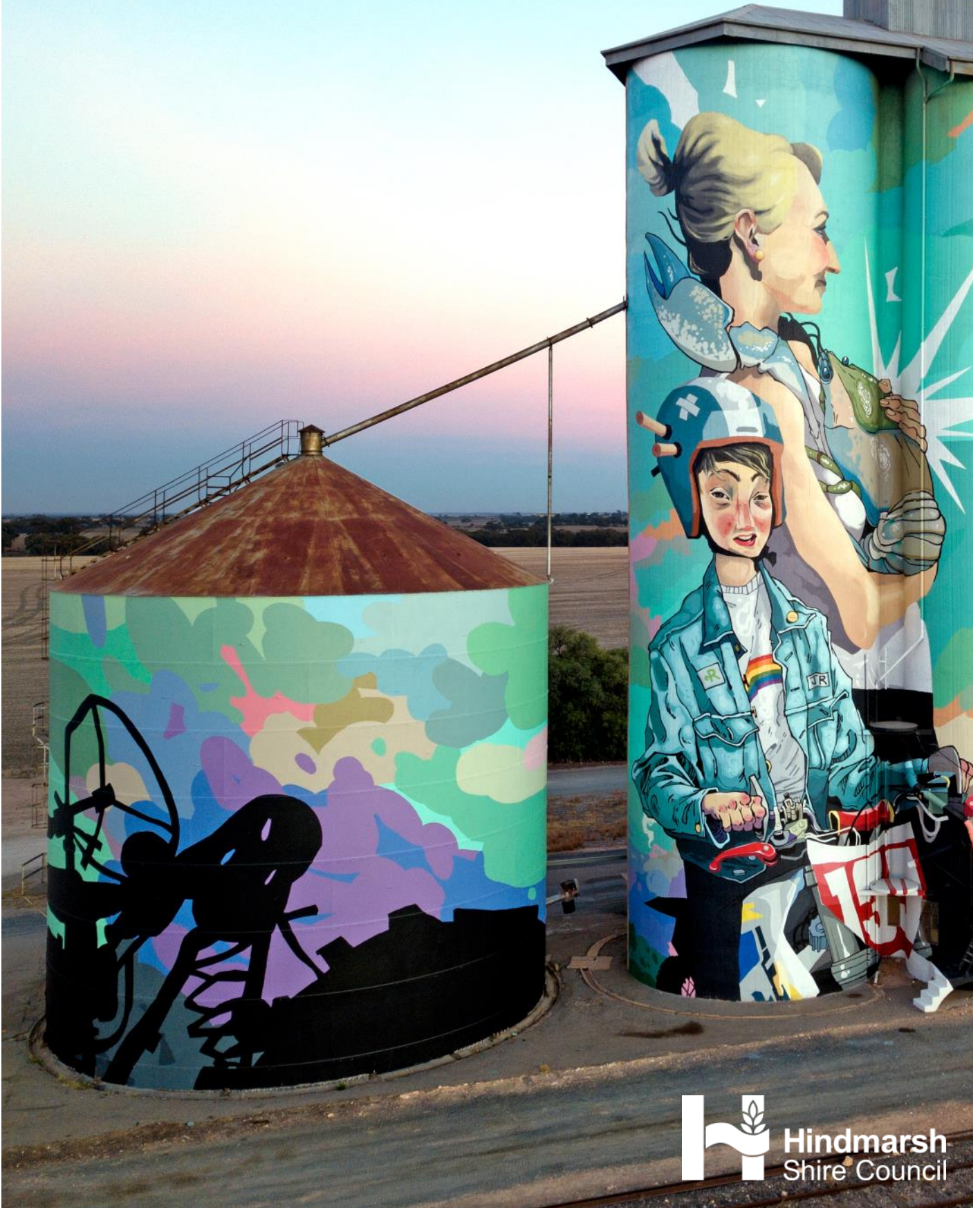


Hindmarsh Shire Council

Council Plan 2021-2025 and Community Vision 2040



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Acknowledgement of our Traditional Custodians

We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous community as the first owners of this country. We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to Aboriginal reconciliation, and acknowledges the traditional people and the cultural significance and history of the traditional land of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people.

Hindmarsh Shire aims to collaborate and work in meaningful and respectful ways with the Indigenous community.

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council prepare and adopt a Council Plan and Community Vision. In developing the Vision, Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Council has taken into account the needs and aspirations identified by our communities. Council engaged with the community by conducting an online survey and holding in person community conversation sessions.

Our Vision for Hindmarsh is:

Working together to be a connected, inclusive and prosperous community.

We will achieve our vision through our values with transparent and accountable actions and decisions; inclusion and collaboration with residents; showing respect and integrity to all; and, being proactive and responsible by encouraging innovation.

The Community Vision and Council Plan follows four key themes:

- Our Community
- Built & Natural Environment
- Competitive & Innovative Economy
- Governance & Financial Sustainability

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires Council to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Council supports the Wimmera wide health and wellbeing priorities and has incorporated them into this plan.

The MPHWP will focus on five key areas:

- Healthy Eating
- Active Living
- Social Connectivity
- Improving Mental Health
- Preventing all forms of violence and injury

The Council plan will be a living document that will be reviewed and updated annually. The plan contains annual actions, allowing Council to adapt to our changing environment and inform the budget for each financial year.

Collaboration is key for ensuring successful implementation of this plan and a connected experience across our community. In delivering this plan we will partner with key stakeholders, state and federal government, regional bodies, as well as our community, business and industry sectors. We value the partnerships we have with the community and acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers throughout the Shire.

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

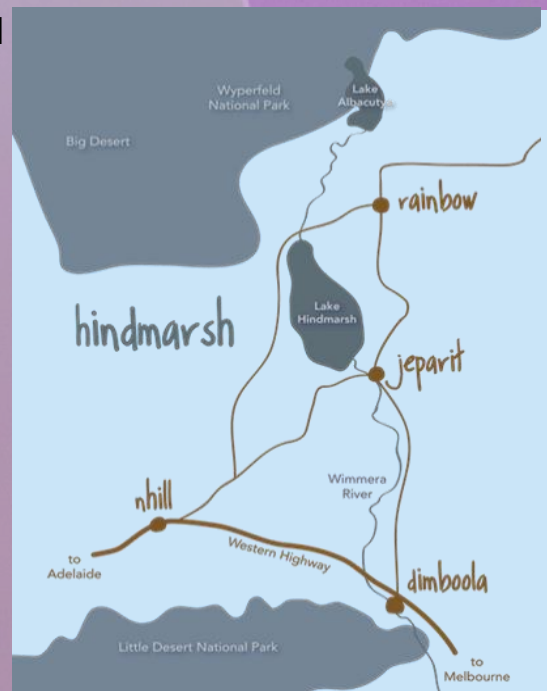
About Council & what we do

Hindmarsh Shire Council is located halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide, comprises 7,500sq kilometres and has a population of approximately 5,588. The Western Highway, the main thoroughfare between Melbourne and Adelaide, runs through the Shire.

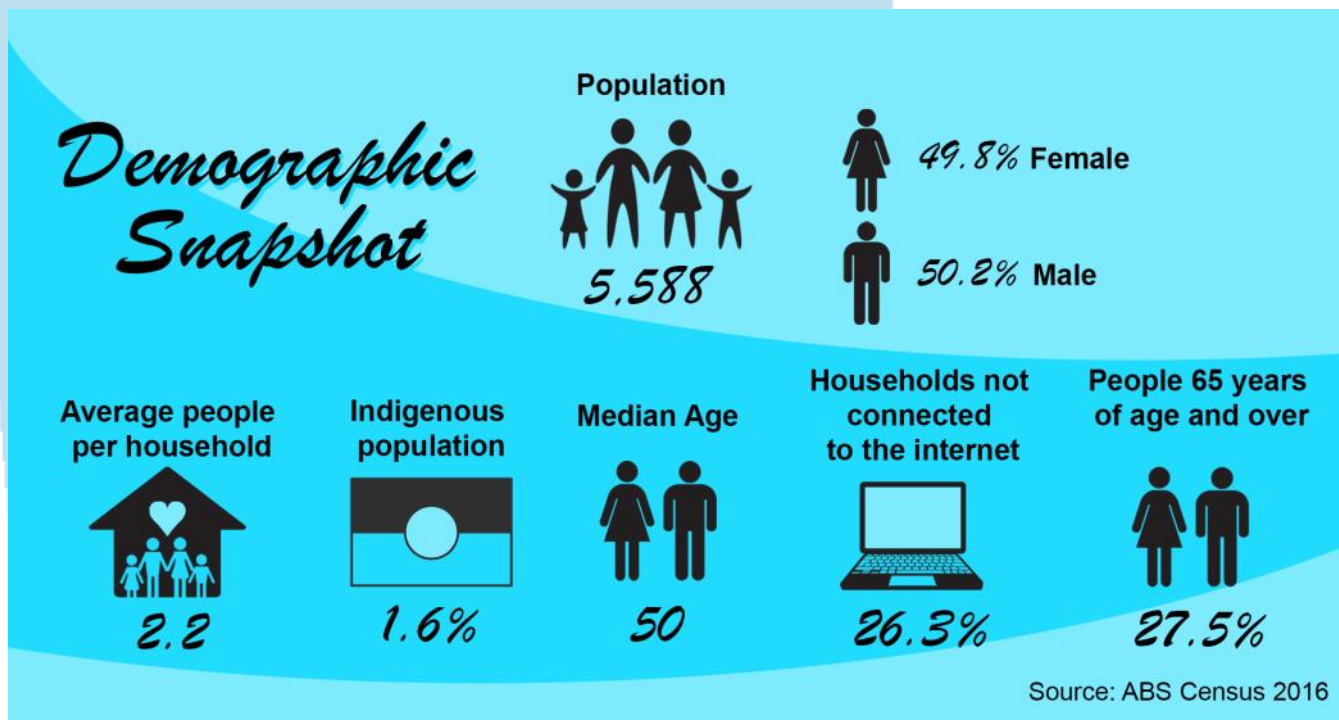
Hindmarsh Shire has four main townships (Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow) and is largely dependent on agriculture, health services, manufacturing and retail. Our towns have excellent sporting facilities, schools and hospitals, and our natural and heritage attractions draw thousands of visitors each year.

Hindmarsh Shire is responsible for the governance and delivery of services that support the municipal community. This includes waste management, maintenance of roads, footpaths, and drainage, planning and building services, local laws and emergency management and recreation and community services.

Councillors are elected by, and accountable to, the people who live and do business within the municipality.



Who we are



- Hindmarsh has **47 hectares** of national park/projected area per population;
- **72%** feel safe walking alone at night.
- **45%** participate in sports groups or teams;
- **93%** agree that they can get help with care in case of emergency;
- **79%** think that there is a good spirit around Hindmarsh.
- **37%** eat recommended daily serves of fruit and vegetables;
- **17%** consume take away food >1 day per week;
- **33%** agree that domestic violence is a large problem in local area;
- **47%** Involved in insufficient activity;
- In 2019, Nhill had **39 days** with temperature of **more than 35 C**, **14 days** with **over 40 C** and **288 days** of **average rainfall**.

Our Councillors



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Cr Ron Ismay
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Deputy Mayor
Cr Melanie Albrecht
West Ward
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Cr Brett Ireland
North Ward
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Mobile: 0431 755 625



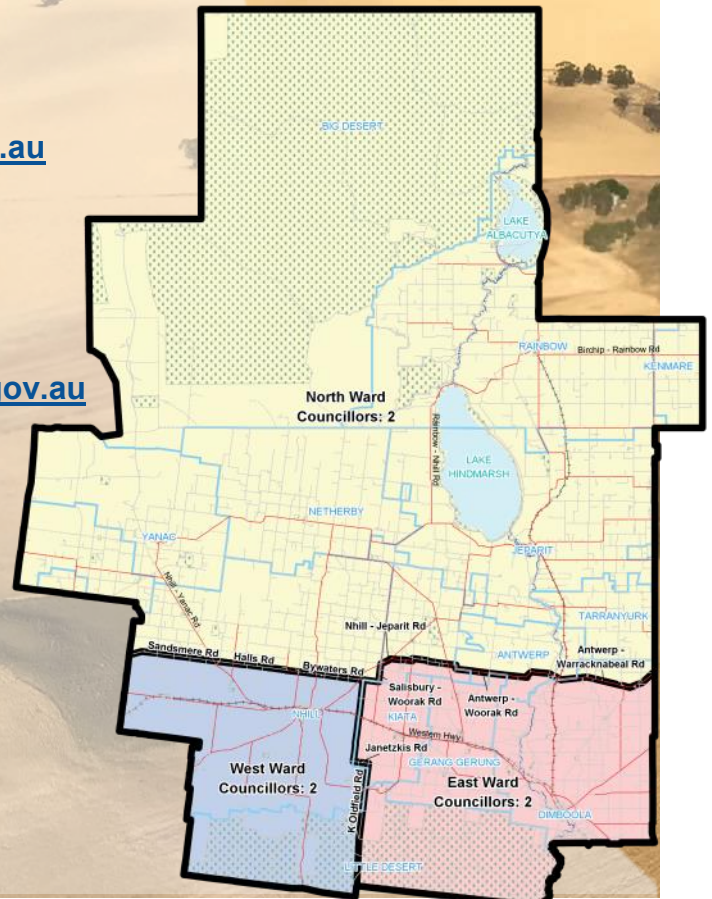
Cr Rob Gersch
West Ward
Email: rgersch@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
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Cr Debra Nelson
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Cr Wendy Bywaters
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How to read this document



This document contains three main components: Community Vision 2040, four-year Council Plan, and four-year Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan. This has been presented as a single integrated document due to their link.



Purpose of the Community Vision and Council Plan and Community Engagement

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Community Vision and Council Plan be prepared and adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election.

The Community Vision must describe the municipal community's aspirations for the future of the municipality for a period of at least the next 10 financial years.

The Council Plan must address the strategic planning principles outlined in the Act in the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans.

The Council Plan reflects the strategic priorities and direction of the elected Council. Included in the Plan is Council's strategic objectives and strategies for achieving the objectives. Each year Council will prepare an annual action plan for the coming year detailing initiatives for achieving the objectives and strategies, and indicators for monitoring success.

The Council Plan expands on the four themes of our community, built & natural environment, competitive and innovative economy, and good governance and financial sustainability.

The Community Vision and Council Plan has been informed by community engagement through an online questionnaire and community conversation sessions including round table discussions.

Through our online questionnaire we asked our community for their top 3 priorities under the four themes, challenges for Hindmarsh, how to address the challenges, what they like most about Hindmarsh, areas to focus on, and advocacy and support required to make Hindmarsh age friendly.

The results then informed our round table discussions with participants asked to consider and discuss the following with Councillors and staff members:

- What communication / conversation methods can Council adapt or add to bridge the perceived communication gap?
- What new services / spaces are needed to facilitate active, engaged and supported youth and elderly?
- In addition to current programs and initiatives, how can Council continue to support our businesses and local tourism groups and organisations to create tourist-friendly towns, to maximise experience and improve the sustainability of local businesses?
- Given the limited resources that Council has to dedicate to repairing and renewing localised infrastructure, what are some examples of tangible infrastructure improvements needed to support our community, and how should Council go about identifying priority areas in the future?
- What actions can Council take to improve / increase Council's and the broader community's environmental awareness and management practices?
- Are there any other suggestions or actions that Council can consider to improve the quality of life, community liveability and sustainability of the townships and residents within the Shire?

Community Vision

Hindmarsh: Working together to be a connected, inclusive and prosperous community.

We will achieve our Community Vision through four key themes:

- Our Community
- Built and Natural Environment
- Competitive and Innovative Economy
- Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Our Community

By 2040 we want to:

- be a friendly, welcoming, inclusive and desirable place to live.
- provide arts and cultural activities that strengthen social connection.
- recognise respect and support Traditional owners.
- celebrate the diversity within our Community.
- be safe and accessible communities.
- support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and abilities.
- promote digital connectivity to support learning and work.

Built and Natural Environment

By 2040 we want:

- well maintained roads, buildings and other assets that service our community needs.
- spaces and facilities to support our recreation, socialisation and wellbeing.
- sustainable practices that preserve our landscapes and open spaces for our future generations to enjoy.
- quality and affordable housing and rental accommodation suitable for our diverse community.

Competitive and Innovative Economy

By 2040 we want:

- a strong tourism industry with quality accommodation for visitors.
- a variety of commercial and other employment opportunities for all ages and abilities.
- strong local businesses providing goods and services including retail and hospitality.
- a strong competitive agricultural industry.

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

By 2040 we want:

- accountable leadership to achieve a strong and shared future.
- responsible and sustainable financial, asset and risk management.
- continued advocacy on issues that matter to our community.
- consultative and engaging partnerships with the community and interest groups.

Council Values and Mission

Council Values

Council addresses key values through:

- Transparent and accountable actions and decisions
- Inclusion and collaboration with residents
- Showing respect and integrity to all
- Being proactive and responsible by encouraging innovation

Council Mission

Council's mission is to:

- Increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.
- Provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.
- Foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.
- Promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability.
- Advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.



Theme One: Our Community

Council's mission is to increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.

Objectives	What are we going to do	Council's Role
A community well informed and engaged	Use a broad range of communication and engagement techniques with information accessible in different languages	Deliver
	Redevelopment of Council's website to allow for easier navigation	Deliver
	Continue to engage with the community through Council-Community Conversations to provide an alternative avenue of engagement, consultation and promotion	Deliver
	Support and celebrate our volunteers	Deliver Partner
	Provide opportunities for our LGBTIQ+ community to inform Council on barriers to accessing council services and facilities	Deliver Partner
	Support local community organisations through the Community Action Grants Program	Deliver
Communities that feel safe and are resilient	Work with key stakeholders to develop and implement plans and policies that assist our communities to prepare and recovery from emergencies and natural disasters	Deliver Partner
Provide arts and cultural activities that strengthen social connection	Facilitate and support arts, music, and cultural community events, celebrations and activities to build social connection.	Deliver Partner
	Support significant days and events important to our multicultural community.	Deliver Partner
A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community	Further develop and provide library services to facilitate a range of activities for residents	Deliver
	Continue to support and facilitate Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council including the development and implementation of a Youth Strategy	Deliver Partner
	Provide infrastructure and support to early years services within Hindmarsh	Deliver Partner
	Advocate for a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages	Advocate
	Advocate and lobby for improved mental health services for all ages in our community	Advocate

Theme One: Our Community continued

Objectives	What are we going to do	Council's Role
Support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and abilities.	Provide Home and Community Care Services to enable our aged and vulnerable community to retain independence to remain in their homes for longer	Deliver
	Facilitate a range of events and activities to engage and support our elderly community	Deliver Partner
A range of transport options	Advocate for improved public transport services, including the return of passenger rail to the Wimmera	Advocate
	Provide transport options for school holiday activities to ensure no student is disadvantaged	Deliver
Assist our Community to recover from COVID-19	Support a range of events and activities within Hindmarsh to bring communities back together	Deliver Partner
A diverse community	Support and encourage refugee or migrants to relocate and invest in Hindmarsh	Deliver Partner Advocate
	Provide opportunities for our Karen and all other multicultural communities to inform Council on barriers to accessing council services and facilities	Deliver Partner
Recognise respect and support Traditional Owners	Acknowledge and preserve Aboriginal values and culture through partnerships, land management practices and understanding in order to deliver positive outcomes	Deliver Partner
	Consider our Indigenous heritage when planning for new community facilities, projects or spaces	Deliver Partner
Digital connectivity to support learning and work	Promote the strength of digital connectivity in the Shire	Deliver
	Advocate for improved mobile phone coverage, including a telecommunications tower west of Rainbow	Advocate

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

Council's mission is to provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Objectives	What are we going to do	Council's role
Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs	Maintain the condition of our existing local road network prioritising capital works investment into renewal on roads and road related infrastructure.	Deliver
	Upgrade parks and open spaces as funding stream are available, including lighting for increased night time use, safety and security.	Deliver
	Completion and installation of the pathways hierarchy and pathways expansion program to provide inclusive footpaths and kerbing.	Deliver
	Regularly review Council's asset management plans, and update the Assets Register	Deliver
	Advocate for the continuation of State and Federal Government funding to support the maintenance and upgrades of Council's extensive road network and infrastructure needs.	Advocate
	Develop master plans for all Recreation Reserves, multi-use facilities and active outdoor open spaces.	Deliver Partner
	Develop and implement a strategic roads strategy to support agriculture and communities	Deliver Partner
Environmentally sustainable practices	Implement a range of environmentally sustainable practices throughout the Shire including solar/wind powered infrastructure and water efficient appliances	Deliver Partner Advocate
	Encourage the community to implement waste minimisation and management strategies through education and promotion	Deliver Partner Advocate
	Continuous improvement of our waste management and transfer stations through upgrades and establishment of rural collection points for increased recycling use and waste services, including transition to a new waste strategy	Deliver Partner Advocate
Attractive streetscapes	Maintain attractive streetscapes, open spaces and public places	Deliver
	Encourage and support residents and ratepayers to maintain the cleanliness and good order of their properties.	Partner Advocate
	Continue to replace and increase green space with regular tree planting in accordance with Council's adopted tree strategy and sustainable watering systems.	Deliver

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

Council's mission is to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.

Objectives	What are we going to do	Council's role
Facilitating and supporting economic development	Review and implement Council's Economic Development Strategy	Deliver Partner
	Facilitate business networking sessions and showcasing Hindmarsh businesses	Deliver Partner
	Provide support to Hindmarsh businesses through buy local campaigns, Council purchasing locally and promote business assistance grants	Deliver Partner Advocate
	Advocate for affordable and available rental accommodation through the Wimmera Development Association regional housing taskforce	Partner Advocate
	Actively participate in the Wimmera Development Association and Rural Councils Victoria	Partner
	Review and update Council's town planning scheme to allow for urban and commercial development	Deliver
Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation	Promote Hindmarsh Shire as a destination of choice by increasing and improving tourism signage to encourage people to stop, stay and play in Hindmarsh Shire.	Deliver Partner Advocate
	Develop master plans for all Council owned and operated caravan parks and seek funding to support the implementation of actions and upgrades including cabin accommodation	Deliver
	Establish camping facilities along the Wimmera River Discovery Trail phase 1 and advocate for funding for the completion of the whole trail	Deliver Partner Advocate
	Online bookings and payment options available for Hindmarsh Shire managed caravan parks	Deliver
	Support community initiatives such as markets, pop up shops and appropriate events / activities	Deliver Partner Advocate

Theme Four : Good Governance & Financial Sustainability

Council's mission is to promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability, and to advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

Objectives	What are we going to do	Council's role
Strong governance practices	Ensure compliance with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	Deliver
	Continue online streaming of Council meetings to uphold the principles of public transparency and accessibility	Deliver
	Provide a range of engagement and communication methods to ensure open, easily available and transparent communication between Council and the community.	Deliver
	Work collaboratively with, and support appropriate community organisations, to plan community initiatives and mitigate community issues.	Deliver Partner
Long-term financial sustainability	Continue to focus on responsible financial management in budgeting and long term financial planning	Deliver
	Enhance our financial management systems through the Rural Council Transformation Project	Deliver Partner
	Continue to advocate State and Federal Governments for sustainable funding models for small rural councils	Advocate
Ensure responsible risk management principles	Further develop and implement Council's Risk Management Framework and ensure all key risks have been measured and adequately controlled.	Deliver
A skilled Council and workforce capable of meeting community needs	Enhance our workforce through the development of a Workforce Plan that supports the needs of the organisation and encourages diversity	Deliver
	Provide for a safe working environment and develop a productive and skilled workforce.	Deliver
	Provide professional development opportunities including diversity and cultural awareness education and training for Councillors and staff	Deliver Partner
	Provide opportunities for culturally diverse and young people through activities such as work experience, cadetships, certificates, apprenticeships and traineeships	Deliver Partner
	Promote benefits of being a Councillor encouraging diversity on Council	Deliver Advocate
Gender Equity respect and leadership	Demonstrate leadership on gender equity and promote respectful relationships through partnerships, programs, activities, spaces and education and Council's implementation of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>	Deliver Partner Advocate

2021/2022 Annual Plan to achieve our objectives

Theme One – Our Community

Action Item
Monthly and fortnightly e-newsletters distributed through emails and available on Council's website
Redevelopment of Council's website making it easier for our community to navigate
Councillors and Council Officers attend advisory committees including Town Committees, Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum and Yurunga Homestead meetings
Partner with Wimmera Pride to ensure LGBTIQ+ barriers and views are considered
Develop the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy
Upgrades to the Nhill Library to encourage use by our multicultural community, children and youth
Continue to support early years services in Hindmarsh Shire
Partner with Nhill Learning Centre to ensure barriers and views of the Karen and other multicultural communities are considered
Ensure the Municipal Emergency Management Committee includes membership from key stakeholders
Support our ageing community through hosting seniors concert, social connection activities including movie matinees and morning teas, and delivery of community care services
Support local community events including the Rainbow Desert Enduro, Great Victorian Bike Ride, Dimboola inaugural Steampunk Festival, Nhill Friday Fiestas in February, Peter Taylor Barefoot Tournament etc.
Celebrate volunteers week
Construction of Rainbow Library
Provide community action grants to support Hindmarsh community groups and organisations
Continue to support the Rural Outreach Program
Provide school holiday activities throughout Hindmarsh
Support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill
Establish and maintain relationships with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) and local indigenous groups
Provide public computers and free Wi-Fi at Hindmarsh Shire Libraries

Theme Two – Built & Natural Environment

Action Item

Review and update Council's asset management plan

Implement recycling bins in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow main business districts

Review Council's road management plan

Construction of Albacutya bridge and associated road works

Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season

Consider for adoption of Nhill streetscape plan

Installation of solar heating on Rainbow swimming pool

Advocate for improved water quality in the regional lakes and rivers

Construction of new clubrooms at Nhill Tennis Club

Review and update waste management strategy

Installation of pedestrian safety fencing at Nhill Early Years Centre

Installation of seating and electric barbeques at Rainbow lake

Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas

Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee, Wimmera Regional Transport Group and Grampians Central West Waste, Resource Recovery Group and Hindmarsh Landcare Network

Continue to advocate for funding for Davis Park improvements

Theme Three – Competitive and Innovative Economy

Action Item
Upgrades to ensuites at Dimboola Caravan Park
Provide the business assistance grants program
Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, stay and play
Host business networking session to encourage Hindmarsh businesses to come together and network
Construction of a camp kitchen at Jeparit riverbank precinct
Installation of cabin accommodation (including all abilities) at caravan parks within Hindmarsh Shire (subject to funding)
Commence review on Council's economic development strategy
Participate in Wimmera Development Association housing strategy meetings
Enhance Council's Procurement Policy to support Council purchasing locally
Commence Silo Art at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow and Arkona Silo
Provide a calendar of events to assist community groups and event organisers to promote their events
Provide business concierge services to assist business understand COVID-19 restrictions

Theme Four – Good Governance & Financial Sustainability

Action Item
Develop a workforce plan
Online streaming of Council meetings through Council's Facebook page
Consideration for employing a trainee, or apprentice when vacancies arise throughout the year
Community conversation sessions held annually in our four main towns
Drop in sessions held allowing for community input to Council on key documents or projects
Develop a ten (10) year long term financial plan
Quarterly finance reporting to Council
Review Council's complaints policy
Ensure Council representation on Wimmera Development Association, Rural Council's Victoria, and Municipal Association of Victoria
Quarterly Council plan reporting to Council
Develop a gender equality action plan
Collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Loddon Shire Council to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project
Audit & Risk Committee meetings review and consider Council risks at each meeting

Reporting on Council Plan

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Council is committed to regularly monitoring and reporting on progress on the Council Plan 2021-2025 in the interests of transparency and accountability.

Each quarter across the financial year, a progress report will be presented to an open Council Meeting. The report will provide a detailed update on the annual action plan items under each theme of the Council Plan.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 will be reviewed annually to address and identify the changing circumstances and to continue to reflect the priorities of the community and work towards the Hindmarsh Shire Community Vision 2040.



Health and Wellbeing

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* recognises the significant role of Councils in improving the health and wellbeing of people who live, work, study and play in their municipality. The Act requires Hindmarsh Shire Council to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every 4 years within 12 months of each general election.

In developing the Health and Wellbeing Plan we consulted with the community who told us mental health, healthy eating, being active and social connectivity are very important. Preventing violence was also identified as a concern.

Integrating Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into Council Plan.

In our Council Plan 2021-2025, we have chosen to include initiatives supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities. While such initiatives are often documented in a separate Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, we believe their inclusion in this Council Plan will help facilitate one of the key objectives of any local government: to improve the quality of life of the people in our community.

Extensive analysis and evaluation of the health and wellbeing of our community was conducted in partnership with stakeholders and Wimmera Primary Care Partnership Population Health and Wellbeing Profile 2016. (http://www.wimmerapcp.org.au/wp-gidbox/uploads/2016/11/Wimmera-PCP-Profile_25-Oct-2016.pdf)

Hindmarsh Shire works in partnership with a number of stakeholders in the health, wellbeing and the social service sector including West Wimmera Health Services, Wimmera Primary Care Partnership, and Wimmera Health Care Group.

We will continue to work with stakeholders to develop an action plan which will be reviewed annually.

Council will focus on five key areas:

- Healthy Eating
- Active Living
- Social Connectivity
- Improving Mental Health
- Preventing all forms of violence

Healthy Eating

With ease of access, affordability and the marketing of unhealthy food and drink choices or diet and food environment is continually changing. Only 37% of our community eat the recommended daily serves of fruit and vegetables, with 17% consuming take away food at least one day per week.

Poor diet contributes to obesity along with other illnesses including type 2 diabetes, dental disease, and cardiovascular disease.

Our aim is to provide opportunities to build a healthier food culture.

We will achieve this by:	Council's Role
Reviewing "Heathy Food Choices Policy" every 12 months	Deliver
Building a healthier food culture by sharing healthy food recipes	Deliver Partner
Promoting and participating in national Nutrition Week	Deliver Partner
Providing healthy eating messages available in common areas, intranet, education messages, posters in our parks and across organisation	Deliver Partner
Including information on our healthy food choices policy in employee induction	Deliver
Discussing healthy food with parents in supported playgroup environment and provide information on the 'traffic light system'	Deliver
Families who feel they require more information or support with healthy eating, the supported playgroup facilitator can assist with a referral to a dietician	Deliver Partner

Active Living

Leading an active life improves our health and wellbeing. Regular physical exercise can help to prevent chronic diseases like cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, obesity and many more.

47% of Hindmarsh community members partake in insufficient exercise.

Our aim is to provide opportunities for active living through supporting our community to engage in physical activities.

We will achieve this by:	Council's role
Actively promoting and participating in community initiatives that support physical activity including Active April, Walk to School, and Park Run.	Deliver Partner
Maintaining and promoting walking and cycling tracks the across the Shire.	Deliver Partner
Providing maximum shade across the Shire (by planting more trees) in different areas: walking tracks, cycling tracks and outdoor sitting areas.	Deliver
Maintaining and promoting local parks, bike paths, recreation facilities and community activities to encourage physical activity.	Deliver Partner
Utilising Hindmarsh Shire Libraries and supporting organisations for a variety of physical activity sessions like yoga classes, pilates, as well as supporting education sessions from health professionals.	Deliver Partner
Support and promote outdoor play and provide opportunities for this during playgroup and supported playgroup sessions.	Deliver Partner
Providing parents with tip sheets during playgroup on keeping active and encourage this as a form of self-care.	Deliver Partner

Social Connectivity

Social connections comprise the people we know, the friends we confide in, the family we belong to and the community we live in. Each contributes to our physical and mental health in a variety of ways.

In Hindmarsh, only 17% people make time to keep in touch with friends-regularly/all the time and 51% help out a local group as a volunteer.

Our aim is to improve the social connectivity.

We will achieve this by:	Council's role
Supporting our community to use Hindmarsh Shire Libraries and Neighbourhood Houses.	Deliver Partner
Increasing awareness and celebration of diversity of people in community.	Deliver Partner
Increasing the range of community activities that support social connections.	Deliver Partner
Supporting and maintaining the use of the natural environment for different meet and greet activities.	Deliver
Increasing the opportunity to meet new and diverse people.	Deliver Partner
Supporting families to meet up outside of playgroup and early years services to strengthen relationships.	Deliver
Referring identified support needs of families to appropriate services to ensure these needs are being met.	Deliver

Mental Health

Mental health is an essential ingredient of individual and community wellbeing and significantly contributed to the social, cultural and economic life of Victoria. Mental health conditions overlap considerably with chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancers, alcohol and substance misuse, and problem gambling.

High rates of hospitalisation for intentional self-harm and suicide has been reported Hindmarsh area.

Our aim is to promote awareness regarding mental health.

We will achieve this by:	Council's role
Supporting and promoting participation in library based program.	Deliver Partner
Promoting awareness of support available and raise awareness of the signs of poor mental health through social media.	Deliver Partner
Advocating for the continuation of the Rural Outreach Program.	Partner Advocate
Improving residents' access to the natural environment through appropriate planning, provision and maintenance of open spaces for residents to use and enjoy.	Deliver
Participating in programs that support Mental Health including Mental Health First Aid Training.	Deliver Partner



Preventing all forms of violence and injury

Preventing all forms of violence and injury is considered top priority while preparing Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans.

In 2019, 24% assault and related offences, 64% of sexual offence and 12% of the stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour reported in Hindmarsh aged 17 years and under. This proportion is higher than the State.

Our aim is to reduce all forms of violence and injury by following:

We will achieve this by:	Council's role
Provide public information and participate in the Victoria Against Violence campaign including but not limited to 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Human Rights Day to raise Awareness of gender equity and family violence.	Deliver Partner
Develop a gender equity action plan.	Deliver
Demonstrate leadership on gender equity and promote respectful relationships through partnerships, programs, activities, spaces and education and Council's implementation of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>	Deliver Partner Advocate
Commit to and implement CORE strategy 2021-2025 in partnership with Women's Health Grampians	Deliver
Promote awareness through social media on the signs of family violence and the support mechanisms in place available for victims	Deliver Partner



Contact Council



Hindmarsh Shire Council operates four Customer Service Centres across the Shire to meet the needs of each community.

Council also operates library services across the Shire with three combined customer service centres and libraries; and one stand-alone library.

Nhill Customer Service Centre

92 Nelson Street, NHILL

Ph: 03 5391 4444

Dimboola Customer Service Centre & Library

101 Lloyd Street, DIMBOOLA

Ph: 03 5391 4452

Jeparit Customer Service Centre & Library

10 Roy Street, JEPARIT

Ph: 03 5391 4450

Rainbow Customer Service Centre & Library

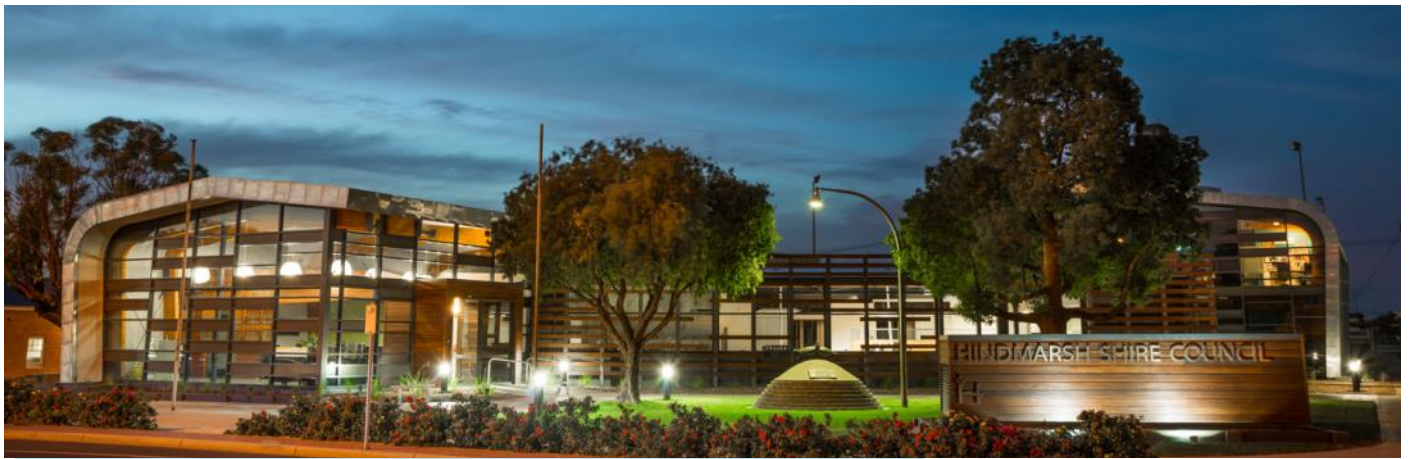
Federal Street, RAINBOW

Ph: 03 5391 4451

Nhill Library

5 Clarence Street, NHILL

Ph: 03 5391 4449



Further information can be found on our Website:

www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

You can email us at:

info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Or write to us at:

PO Box 250, NHILL VIC 3418

If you are online, follow us on Facebook to keep up to date:

www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

www.facebook.com/hindmarshshireyouthcouncil

www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirelibraries

Please subscribe to our fortnightly e-newsletter:

www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/enews

