

Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan *Annual Actions* 2026/2027

Incorporating Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Actions

Plan on a Page.

Our 2025–2029 goals and priorities:

Our Community OUR SOCIETY	Our community is active, healthy and connected. <i>We support physical and mental well-being by providing accessible spaces, services and opportunities to connect.</i> • Create and maintain shared spaces • Provide accessible programs for all ages and abilities • Support local events that bring people together	Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing. <i>We celebrate diversity, support newcomers and plan for sustainable population growth.</i> • Attract new residents and encourage multicultural inclusion • Invest in livability and town planning • Strengthen ties between towns through events and shared goals • Showcase new lifestyle and development possibilities	Our community can access services when and where they need them. <i>We advocate for and enable access to essential services that support daily life.</i> • Collaborate with regional partners and networks for greater impact through collective effort • Explore flexible and innovative services • Ensure community needs shape future service planning
Built and Natural Environment OUR WORLD	We care for and connect with our natural environment. <i>We provide access to nature and manage it for current and future generations.</i> • Complete and promote walking and cycling trail networks • Maintain and enhance recreational spaces • Support environmental tourism and stewardship • Manage wild animals and invasive weeds on Council owned and managed land, to maintain ecological balance and protect local biodiversity	Our infrastructure supports livability and resilience. <i>We maintain infrastructure to a sustainable standard and plan for future community needs.</i> • Focus on maintenance that prioritises accessibility and function for our farming network • Invest in essential infrastructure that supports our townships and agricultural industries • Plan for climate resilience and risk mitigation	We support development that enhances needs-based growth. <i>We work to ensure that housing and development in Hindmarsh meets our current and future community needs.</i> • Engage with developers, community stakeholders and Traditional Owners to ensure inclusive, well-planned growth • Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable and affordable • Invest in essential infrastructure upgrades to support new housing developments and population growth
Competitive and Innovative Economy OUR MODERNISATION	Our local businesses are supported to grow. <i>We create conditions that help existing businesses to thrive and new ones to succeed.</i> • Reduce red tape and simplify planning and business approval processes through engagement with current and future applicants • Support local procurement and small business networks • Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation	We attract investment that aligns with community values. <i>We position Hindmarsh as a region of choice for industries that reflect our identity and increase employment.</i> • Promote regional strengths and investment readiness • Explore joint ventures and development incentives • Support development that reflects local character	We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries. <i>We drive economic growth through encouraging diverse and bold investment opportunities.</i> • Be leaders in positive change that creates investment in the direction of our community • Explore community social enterprise opportunities and philanthropy • Foster industry collaboration and innovation • Showcase our history to create rich visitor experiences
Good Governance and Financial Sustainability OUR COMMITMENT	We are a transparent and responsive organisation. <i>We keep our community informed and follow through on commitments.</i> • Provide regular updates on Council decisions and actions • Improve follow-up systems and response times • Share decision-making processes in plain language	We engage our community with respect and openness. <i>We listen well, follow up and value personal interaction.</i> • Build capacity in staff and Councillors for engagement • Be present at community events and spaces • Use varied channels to reach diverse groups	We manage our resources responsibly and strategically. <i>We make the most of what we have and invest in what matters most.</i> • Explore revenue streams beyond rates • Prioritise spending aligned with community goals • Report clearly on how money is spent and what value it delivers

Our renewed committment

In 2025, Hindmarsh Shire Council established a deliberative community panel to support the development of the 2025–2029 Council Plan. This process brought together a small group of community members to contribute to strategic priorities through a structured, facilitated workshop.

As part of Council’s commitment to maintaining a deliberative approach to community input, participants were invited to return for a follow-up session in March 2026.

As well as the Actions detailed in this document, there were four other clear areas for us to focus on that effect everything we do. These are:



2026 Community Panel participants



Make processes
easier and more
consistent



Use plain
English (less
jargon)



Close the loop



Show the
outcomes of
what we do

As a result of this feedback, we’ve **simplified** our Action Plan, picking out a few really important priorities and leaving out things that are business as usual.

We’ve also changed the way we’ve presented some actions, as many apply to more than one priority area.

How the 2026/2027 Action Plan is presented

Action	Council Plan Alignment	Intended Outcome
This is the specific thing that we are going to do.	This references which part/s of the Council Plan 2025–2029 the Action aligns with.	This is the outcome that you should see as a result of the Action – each should have a real impact on the quality of life in Hindmarsh Shire Council or your engagement with Council as a community service provider.

2026/2027 Council Plan Actions

Action	Council Plan Alignment	Intended Outcome
Implement a Customer Request Management system <i>A CRM is system that tracks community and business enquiries, complaints and requests.</i>		• Clearer tracking of issues • Fewer lost or duplicated requests • More consistent information from Council • Trends and reporting lets Council see issues and improve processes over time
Adopt and implement a Playground Strategy  <i>A Playground Strategy is a plan that guides how playgrounds are designed, upgraded, maintained and distributed across the Shire to meet community needs.</i>		• Improved access to safe, high-quality play spaces across all towns • Clear service levels and expectations for maintenance and renewal • Greater alignment between community needs and Council investment
Reduce speed limits on local streets in towns (with State Government approval)		• Safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, children, and older residents • Stronger sense of community safety and wellbeing
Develop an action plan to improve access to Council assets, activities and events 		• Increased participation in Council programs, events and community activities • More equitable use of Council assets across all towns and localities • Higher community satisfaction with Council services and public spaces
Provide an annual update on activities within the Local Area Action Plan and Economic Development Strategy.		• More diverse tourism experiences available for residents and visitors • Stronger local economy with greater spending in towns and small businesses • Improved visibility and promotion of the region's attractions
Update grant seeking and application processes through an official service platform		• Clearer communication to the community about upcoming and successful grant applications • Increased ability for community groups to partner with Council on joint funding opportunities • Easier processes for community groups and businesses to apply for Council grants
Improve engagement with 18–25 years olds		• Increased participation of young people in Council programs, events and decision-making • Greater visibility of young people's voices in community planning and policy • Increased collaboration between Council, schools, clubs and youth organisations
Promote Hindmarsh Shire as retirement friendly 		• The Shire becomes a more attractive place for retirees to live, contributing to population stability and local economic activity.

Action	Council Plan Alignment	Intended Outcome
Promote the achievements of Hindmarsh Pride Committee		- Stronger sense of belonging and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ residents - Greater community understanding of diversity, equality and Pride initiatives
Increase tree planting on public land		- Improved shade in public spaces, making towns more walkable - Enhanced visual appeal and character of streets, parks and community areas
Continue to use the Deliberative Panel at key decision points, maintaining continuity in participants while allowing opportunities for new members to be introduced.		- Increased community trust in Council decision-making through transparent, representative processes - Stronger continuity of community knowledge and insight across long-term projects - More diverse perspectives included as new members join over time
Simplify forms and community-facing processes		- Reduced frustration and time spent completing Council forms - Improved access for residents with low digital literacy or language barriers - Greater confidence in navigating Council processes independently
Review Advisory Committee and Working Group policies and procedures to emphasise collaboration between towns		- Stronger collaboration and knowledge-sharing between towns across the Shire - Greater sense of unity and shared purpose across geographically dispersed communities
Complete service reviews for tourism, economic and business development, youth, and early years		- Greater confidence that services are efficient, effective and meeting local needs - Better alignment between community expectations and Council service levels - Reduced duplication or gaps in service delivery across towns and departments
Develop a list of Council Assets identified for disposal or reduced maintenance and present to Council		- Increased transparency around how Council manages public assets - More sustainable long-term management of public facilities and spaces - Improved ability to invest in higher-priority community needs
Undertake training with staff on the Community Engagement Policy , including engagement tools, facilitation and consultation methods		- Improved quality and consistency of engagement with the community - Greater confidence among staff when facilitating conversations and consultations - Increased community trust through clearer, more respectful and transparent interactions
Provide updates on the implementation of the Youth Strategy		- Increased community confidence that Council is delivering on youth priorities - Improved awareness of youth programs, initiatives and opportunities

Action	Council Plan Alignment	Intended Outcome
Trial community pop-ups to promote Council consultations and projects		- Increased awareness of Council consultations among residents who may not engage online - More convenient opportunities for community members to provide feedback during everyday activities - Higher participation rates in engagement activities due to accessible, visible pop-up locations
Publish an annual ' Council at a Glance ' summary that showcases how rates and grants were spent for the calendar year		- Increased community understanding of how Council allocates and spends public funds - Greater transparency and accountability in Council's financial decision-making
Incorporate a Human Powered Vehicle track into Council's Project Pipeline and commence preparing shovel-ready plans for future grant funding		Having shovel-ready designs positions Council to secure external funding sooner, enabling faster delivery of new community infrastructure
Support interested community groups or individuals to establish Park Runs		More residents have access to free, regular physical activity opportunities that support health, social connection and community wellbeing
Collaborate with community groups to support events for farmers		- Farmers benefit from stronger social connection and wellbeing through locally led events that provide support, information and a sense of community - Partnerships with sporting clubs and community groups help deliver more accessible, relevant activities for farmers
Continue to advocate for spur lines at key rail collection sites <i>A spur line is a short branch that diverges from the main train line to connect to a loading site.</i>		Improved rail access at key collection sites helps reduce heavy-vehicle traffic on local roads, supporting safer travel for residents, farmers and freight operators
Collaborate with Landcare groups, Traditional Owners, environmental stakeholders and relevant government agencies to identify and promote biodiversity conservation priorities , including remnant vegetation protection, roadside habitat management, ecological restoration opportunities and community environmental education initiatives		- Community members are more informed and engaged in protecting the natural environment - Local biodiversity and habitat values are better understood and supported through collaborative partnerships - Council decisions are informed by local environmental knowledge, stakeholder expertise and strong community partnerships
Coordinator Sport, Recreation and Community Development to engage with sporting clubs in delivering the Sport and Recreation Strategy		- Improved relationships between Council and sporting clubs - Easier engagement with Council for club volunteers. - Increased support and capacity for local sporting clubs - Better collaboration to deliver Sport and Recreation Strategy outcomes

Housing and Economic Development

Housing and economic development activities need to be staged to make sure that any major strategy or project we work on makes sense in light of the planning scheme, business landscape, available land and identified need.

Council’s Planning Scheme review in 2025 identified these priorities, which are dependent on external funding:

- Lower Wimmera Flood Study
- Rural Land Use Strategy
- Housing Strategy

Based on these priorities, the Economic Development Strategy and identified need, we’ve identified some key actions that form the foundation of future work in housing and economic development, and that can be completed, or significantly commenced, in 2026/2027.

Action	Council Plan Alignment	Intended Outcome
Implement endorsed Planning Scheme Review recommendations		• Future strategic planning work will appropriately scoped, defensible, aligned with State policy, and capable of meaningful statutory implementation.
Adopt a Developer Contributions – Downstream Infrastructure Policy <i>This policy sets out how Council will handle contributions from developments for things like drainage, roads and other shared community infrastructure that might be impacted by growth.</i>		• Existing ratepayers should not be as burdened with funding infrastructure required to support new development • Provides an interim mechanism to manage infrastructure impacts while more comprehensive strategic and statutory tools, such as a formal Developer Contributions Policy, are progressed and implemented into the Planning Scheme
Promote infill land supply <i>Infill land supply relates to the development of vacant, underutilised or partially occupied plots of land within existing township zones.</i>		• Increased infill developments on existing land, supporting increased housing and growth in a financial sustainable way
Commence a Business Landscape Review <i>This review would track what businesses are currently operating in Hindmarsh Shire as well as what future needs and opportunities there might be.</i>		• Identifies community needs and service gaps, creating a clearer picture of what residents and businesses require now and into the future • Provides an evidence base for prioritising investment, guiding both major and minor business attraction aligned with community benefit and strategic planning
Provide quality support to planning and business applicants through implementation of the Business Friendly Councils program		• Faster and simpler interactions with Council for businesses and developers • Improved support for new and growing businesses

Council's Planning Framework

Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029

Community Vision

The Council Plan is designed to support the realisation of the long-term Community Vision.

Working together to welcome new possibilities and create vibrant towns, connected communities and opportunities for all.

Pillars

The pillars set out Council's overarching service themes.

**Our Community
(OUR SOCIETY)**

**Built and Natural
Environment
(OUR WORLD)**

**Competitive and
Innovative Economy
(OUR MODERNISATION)**

**Good Governance and
Financial Sustainability
(OUR COMMITMENT)**

Goals

The goals describe our objectives for the next four years that fall under each pillar.

Priorities

Priorities are things we have identified as being the most important when it comes to achieving our goals.

Annual Budget

Annual Actions

Annual actions are revised every year against our goals and priorities. This means we will consult with the community every year and ensure that our budget enables us to achieve what we have set out to do.

Quarterly Reporting

So that the community stays 'in the loop', we will report every quarter on the progress of our Annual Actions against the Council Plan.



What Business as Usual Looks Like



Food safety
regulation
programs

Business
assistance
grants

Building
Compliance/
Enforcement

Planning
Compliance/
Enforcement

Youth Council

School holiday
programs

Early years
services
(managed by
third party)

Youth
programs and
events

Rhyme time at
local libraries

Library
services in
four main
towns

Building and
planning
permits

Local laws
enforcement

Events and
community
activities

Community
development

Collection and
management
of waste

Advocating
with state and
federal bodies
for community
needs

Hosting
Australian
citizenship
ceremonies

Fire
prevention

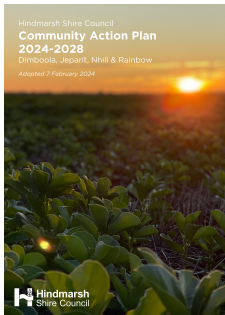


What else we're working on



Council Plan 2025–2029 & Community Vision

The Council Plan and Community Vision address the Strategic Planning Principles from within the Act and detail the delivery of the strategic priorities and direction of the elected Council. It is strongly informed by community consultation.



Community Action Plan 2024–2028

This document is a critical reference document for Council and staff that can provide direction to Council for inclusion in Council Plans, Annual Budgets, and long-term Financial Plans and outside grant and funding opportunities.



Youth Strategy

The 2025–2029 Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy acknowledges the important role young people play in strengthening and sustaining our local community and economy. This Strategy seeks to develop and affirm existing opportunities for young people and work innovatively and collaboratively on issues that they continue to face.



Economic Development Strategy

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024–2028 builds on current economic contexts within the Hindmarsh Shire, to identify strategies and targets to support our people, employment and socio-economic wellbeing, housing, and economic output.



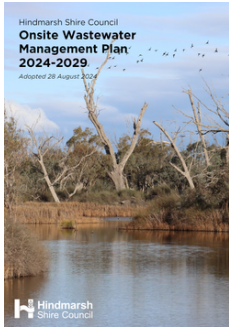
Sport and Recreation Strategy

The 10-year Sport and Recreation Strategy sets out how Council, along with local clubs, groups, and community partners, will work together to make sport and recreation more accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable for everyone.



Fair Access Policy Action Plan

The Fair Access Policy Action Plan complements the Fair Access components of Council's adopted Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation, Use and Fair Access Policy (the Policy) that was adopted on 26 June 2024 and reflects the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, introduced by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation in 2022.



Onsite Wastewater Management Plan

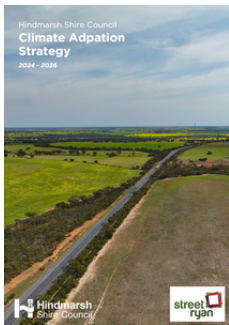
This Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) is a planning and management document that focuses on the Hindmarsh Shire Council's understanding of the cumulative risks that OWMS presents in our municipality and shapes the Council's activities in managing those risks now and into the future.



Domestic Animals Management Plan

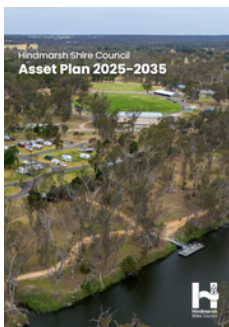
The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act) requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (plan) every four years.

The plan must set out a method for evaluating whether the animal management services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to requirements of the Act and the *Domestic Animal Regulations 2015*.



Climate Adaption Strategy

This document presents a refresh of Hindmarsh Shire's previous Climate Adaptation Strategy by summarising recent and long-term climate trends and the accepted outlook for future climatic changes. It presents practical strategies and actions for which Council can make a meaningful contribution in offsetting potential adverse impacts from climate change and severe climate events.



Asset Management Plan

The Asset Plan 2022-2032 is a means of outlining the key elements involved in managing Council assets. It combines management, financial, engineering and technical practices to ensure that the level of service required by user groups is provided at the lowest long-term cost to the community within the limits of any fiscal constraints that may be imposed by Council.



Hindmarsh Shire Local Area Action Plan (GWMT)

In collaboration with its member councils, GWM Tourism has commissioned Stafford Strategy to develop this LAAP. This LAAP is focused on Hindmarsh Shire. The aim is to help guide the development of the Shire's visitor economy while ensuring it reflects the needs and aspirations of the community, First Peoples, industry, and Hindmarsh Shire Council.



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