



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2022 AT THE NHILL MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, 77-79
NELSON STREET NHILL, COMMENCING AT 3:00PM.**

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CRS M Albrecht (Mayor), B Ireland (Deputy Mayor), R Ismay, D Nelson, W Bywaters, R Gersch (via Zoom).

In Attendance:

Mr Greg Wood (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Monica Revell (Director Corporate and Community Services/Acting Director Infrastructure Services) and Ms Shauna Johnson (Executive Assistant).

1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

Cr M Albrecht opened the meeting at 3:00pm by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and offering the opening prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Ms Angela Hoy was an apology.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Councillor or Officer with a conflict of interest in an item on the Agenda must indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- the item for which they have a conflict of interest;
- whether their conflict is **general** or **material**; and
- the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Declaration of material or general conflict of interest must also be advised by Councillors and Officers at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

Cr B Ireland declared a general conflict of interest in item 9.4 as the decision benefits Cr Ireland.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: CRS R Ismay/D Nelson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 1

5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Community members wishing to ask questions at council meetings may do so, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the council meeting. Both the question and answer will be read out at the meeting. Questions may be submitted by mail, email info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au or delivered in person to a council customer centre but are limited to two questions and 100 words including any pre-amble. Offensive, trivial and repetitive questions or questions, which have been recently answered, may be excluded at the discretion of the Mayor.

The question must be accompanied by a name and the locality where the questioner resides or works, which will be read out at the meeting. By submitting a question, the questioner gives consent to this information being read out in public. Anonymous questions will not be answered.

No public questions or submissions.

6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 30 March – 26 April 2022

Cr ALBRECHT, MAYOR

Date	Meeting	Location	Comments
3/04/2022	Nhill Town Committee Planning Afternoon	Nhill	Thank you to all the new members of the Nhill Town Committee. I am excited to work with you all and your fantastic ideas.
04/04/2022	Mallee Electorate Candidate Forum	Nhill	Thank you to the candidates that attended the forum. Those that were present or watching online were more informed about candidates' views to assist in voting for the upcoming federal election. The forum recording can be found on the Hindmarsh Facebook page.
06/04/2022	Council Briefing	Nhill	
06/04/2022	Council Meeting	Nhill	

07/04/2022	Wimmera Development Association Independent Chair interviews	Horsham	Interviews were conducted for the independent chair role.
08/04/2022	Wimmera Development Association Independent Chair interviews	Horsham	Interviews were conducted for the independent chair role.
14/04/2022	Wimmera Development Association Independent Chair review	Zoom	Review of the interviews.
16/04/2022	Nhill Town Committee Easter Egg Hunt	Nhill	It was wonderful to organise the Nhill Easter Egg hunt and see all the children's delighted faces whilst finding Easter eggs and playing games. Thank you to all that attended and made it such a fun Easter tradition.
19/04/2022	Wimmera Development Association Independent Chair further review	Zoom	
23/04/2022	Wimmera Steampunk Festival	Dimboola	Massive congratulations must go to the organising committee of the Wimmera Steampunk Festival. It was an incredible weekend and with over 2500 people attending it was certainly an outstanding success. The events publicity will no doubt bring many people to Dimboola to learn more about the area, and I hope this year was the first of many festivals.
24/04/2022	Wimmera Steampunk Festival	Dimboola	
25/04/2022	ANZAC day dawn ceremony ANZAC day march ANZAC day ceremonial service	Nhill	It was an honour to participate in the ANZAC day march and MC the Nhill ANZAC day ceremonial service. It was a lovely tribute to remember those that have fought for our freedoms.

Cr IRELAND, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting	Location	Comments
03/04/2022	Jeparit New Residents Day	Jeparit Bowling Club	Guest speaker.
04/04/2022	Candidates Forum	Nhill	

	for Federal Election	Memorial Community Centre	
06/04/2022	Council Briefing Meeting	Nhill	
06/04/2022	Council Meeting	Nhill	
09/04/2022	WMPM Meeting		(Saturday morning)
11/04/2022	Jeparit Town Advisory Committee Meeting		
16/04/2022	Jeparit Easter Fishing Competition		Great to see the campers all along the river throughout Jeparit. Takes a lot of organising and a credit to the many volunteers.
19/04/2022	WMPM Meeting		
21/04/2022	Meeting with ex- President Jeparit Lions Club		RE approaches by district leaders to re- engage the lions club within the town
Various	Emails back and forth to Melbourne University to arrange meetings to connect the Jeparit Pioneer Museum to them for possible projects.		
23/04/2022	A site visit to Arkona Silo to see progress		
23/04/2022	Wimmera Steampunk Festival	Dimboola	A great new event that attracted people far and wide. A possible start to a regular event. Shout out to the tireless organisers.
25/04/2022	ANZAC wreath laying ceremony at the Dawn Service	Jeparit	
26/04/2022	Museum Meeting		To prepare for zoom meeting with Melbourne University regarding Menzies square and local Jeparit history (ie; the museum)

Cr BYWATERS

Date	Meeting	Location	Comments
30/03/2022	Nhill Hindmarsh Community Conversations	Nhill Memorial Community Centre	
04/04/2022	2022 Mallee Electorate Candidates Forum	Nhill Memorial Community Centre	
05/04/2022	Viewing of the new Albacutya Bridge	Albacutya Bridge	
05/04/2022	Wimmera Steampunk Volunteers Meeting	Dimboola Imaginarium	
06/04/2022	Council Meeting	Nhill Memorial	

		Community Centre	
10/04/2022	Sunday Lunch with Chef Car Clark	Dimboola	
10/04/2022	Dimboola Pop Up Shop	Boat Shed Dimboola	
16/04/2022	Water Festival	Nhill	The celebration of paying respects to elders, Karen Community
22/04/2022	Preparations for Steampunk Festival	Horsham and Dimboola	
23/04/2022	Wimmera Steampunk Festival	Dimboola	

Cr NELSON

Date	Meeting	Location	Comments
04/04/2022	Mallee Electorate Candidates Forum	Nhill	
04/04/2022	Meals on Wheels Deliveries		
06/04/2022	Council Briefing		
06/04/2022	Council Meeting		
22/04/2022	ABC Radio Interview		
22/04/2022	French and Fabulous	Dimboola	
23/04/2022	Steampunk Festival	Dimboola	
24/04/2022	Recharge Sunday Concert	Dimboola	
25/04/2022	ANZAC Day Service	Dimboola	

Cr GERSCH

Date	Meeting	Location	Comments
30/03/2022	Nhill Community Meeting		
04/04/2022	RCV Election	Zoom	
05/04/2022	Visit to Albacutya Bridge		
06/04/2022	Council Meeting		
16/04/2022	Easter Egg Fun Day	Jaypex Park Nhill	
19/04/2022	Attended funeral for past Councillor and shire President Mrs Mavis Bailey		
25/04/2022	ANZAC Day Service		

Cr ISMAY

Date	Meeting	Location	Comments
31/03/2022	Working Bee ARB 480 Event		
31/03/2022	Meeting with Hindmarsh Landcare & VORRA		RE Rainbow Rises
01/04/2022	ARB Scrutineering/Street Parade		
02/04/2022	ARB 480 Prologue/Race Start		
03/04/2022	ARB 480 Off Road Race		
04/04/2022	Race pack-up, clean-up day		
04/04/2022	Mallee Electorate Candidates Forum		
06/04/2022	Council Briefing		
06/04/2022	Council Meeting		
07/04/2022	RREA Debrief meeting		
16/04/2022	Quambatook Tractor Pull event		
25/04/2022	ANZAC Ceremony	Rainbow	
26/04/2022	WMT Meeting	Yurunga	

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment Numbers: 2 – 5

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 12/04/2022 – Letter from Dimboola Town Committee to Council RE Steampunk Event Funds
- 20/04/2022 – Letter from Mari Q to Mayor RE Mallee Electorates Candidates Forum

Outwards:

- 08/04/2022 – Letter to Carol Paech from Council RE Correspondence Tabled at Council Meeting 6 April 2022

- 13/04/2022 – Letter to Dimboola Town Committee from Council RE Steampunk Event Funds

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

MOVED: CRS R Gersch/W Bywaters

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

CARRIED

Attachment Numbers: 2 – 5

8 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permit reports.

9 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

9.1 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachment Number: 6

Introduction:

The Financial Report for the third quarter of 2021/2022 financial year has been prepared, including explanations of variances where applicable, and is presented for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ending 31 March 2022 as presented.

MOVED: CRS R Ismay/B Ireland

That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ending 31 March 2022 as presented.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 6

9.2 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 PROGRESS REPORT

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Introduction:

This report provides Council with a progress update on the actions for 2021/2022 taken against the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Discussion:

Council's main strategic document the Council Plan 2021-2025 was developed and adopted in 22 September 2021. The document contains strategic objectives under four Themes Our Community; Built and Natural Environment; Competitive and Innovative Economy; and Good Governance & Financial Sustainability with annual actions on how Council will achieve the objective of the plan.

Progress on the year one actions against the Plan are included below:

Theme One – Our Community

Action Item	Update on Action
Monthly and fortnightly e-newsletters distributed through emails and available on Council's website	Q1: Council continues to distribute monthly and fortnightly e-newsletters. Hard copies of the monthly newsletters are placed at various businesses throughout Hindmarsh and also Council's Customer Service Centres. Q3: Previous editions of Council's fortnightly e-newsletters and monthly newsletters are available on Council's website. To view previous newsletters please visit www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/newsletters
Redevelopment of Council's website making it easier for our community to navigate	Q1: Council staff are working through the development of pages on Council's new website. Q3: The new Hindmarsh Shire Council website incorporating Visit Hindmarsh went live in March 2022. The new user-friendly website has been well received. The new website allows event organisers to register their events which are then included on the events calendar.
Councillors and Council Officers attend advisory committees including Town Committees, Wimmera Mallee Pioneer	Q1: On-line meetings have taken place in lieu of meeting in person due to COVID-19 restrictions on gathering

Museum and Yurunga Homestead meetings	<p>numbers. Officers and Councillors have been attending these meetings.</p> <p>Q3: Advisory Committee meetings including Town Committees, Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum and Yurunga Homestead are now moving to in person meetings. Councillors and Officer have been attending these meetings.</p>
Partner with Wimmera Pride to ensure LGBTIQ+ barriers and views are considered	<p>Q1: On-line workshop conducted with Elite Counselling and attended by Senior Staff.</p> <p>Q3: Youth Program to deliver IDAHOBIT day activities, including workshop from Nevo Zisin around self-love and how to be a good trans ally.</p>
Develop the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy	<p>Q1: Youth Strategy 2021-2025 draft complete and will be presented to Council in October. Karen translation commissioned by the Migration Translators.</p> <p>Q2: Youth Strategy 2021-2025 was adopted by Council on 15 December 2021. A version of the Youth Strategy was also prepared and adopted in Karen.</p> <p>Q3: After success in applications for Engage, FreeZA and Heywire funding rounds, the target areas of the Youth Strategy are continuing to be implemented. This includes continued work on the mental health podcast.</p>
Upgrades to the Nhill Library to encourage use by our multicultural community, children and youth	<p>Q1: In progress, at permit stage for minor structural changes. Electrical upgrades (excluding lighting) have been completed. Currently reviewing fixture upgrades.</p> <p>Q2: Works have commenced at the Nhill library with electrical works completed and new furniture and shelving ordered. The library will be closed for 1 week in early February to allow for the entry way to be increased allowing all abilities to easily access the large room.</p>

Continue to support early years services in Hindmarsh Shire	Q1: Facility upgrades recently completed at Dimboola & Nhill Early Years Centres.
Partner with Nhill Learning Centre to ensure barriers and views of the Karen and other multicultural communities are considered	Q1: Meeting occurred between Coordinator Libraries, Youth and Community Development Officer and NNHLC Director Annette Creek. Discussion included potential collaboration; and training sessions.
Ensure the Municipal Emergency Management Committee includes membership from key stakeholders	Q1: The MEMC committee includes membership from external stakeholders including a community representative. Hindmarsh meetings are held 3 times per year, along with 1 combined meeting including Hindmarsh, Horsham, Yarriambiack and West Wimmera Shire.
Support our ageing community through hosting seniors concert, social connection activities including movie matinees and morning teas, and delivery of community care services	<p>Q1: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2021 Seniors Concert was postponed and will be held in early 2022, senior's week activities moved online for 2021. Movie Matinees are held when possible which included morning tea prior to the movie. Council continues to deliver community care services to our community and also continue with the social outreach service for vulnerable and isolated community members.</p> <p>Q3: Creedence Clearwater Survival played to an audience on Thursday 10 March 2022. For those unable to attend the concert was livestreamed through Council's Facebook page. Movie Matinees are also continuing monthly, with morning tea prior to the movies enjoyed by all that attend.</p>
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.	Q1: Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic many events have been cancelled (Rainbow Desert Enduro, Great Victorian Bike Ride, Dimboola Steam Punk Festival etc) and or postponed. Support for these and other community events will continue in the future.

	<p>Q2: To compliment the range of events and functions already mentioned, there will be additional community events held in response to funding received through the Regional Recovery Fund. Reconnecting Communities through Small Events in Hindmarsh Shire will support some existing and new events across the shire.</p> <p>Dimboola will have a series of events including an evening concert at the Barefoot Skiing tournament and Friday night events at the Dimboola Visitor Node.</p> <p>Jeparit will utilise funds to support the MOPKE Christmas function and an evening concert following the Easter Fishing competition.</p> <p>Nhill will utilise finds to support their Christmas Carols and other concerts while Rainbow is planning for the return of the Big Sky Festival in March 2022.</p> <p>Q3: Support was provided to the Rainbow Enduro 240 event in March. Officers are working with the Dimboola Town Committee to ensure the Wimmera Steampunk festival runs smoothly.</p>
Celebrate volunteers week	<p>Q3: Officers are currently organising morning / afternoon teas in each of our 4 towns to celebrate the work of our wonderful volunteers.</p>
Construction of Rainbow Library	<p>Q1: In progress. Framing and roof beams erected. Landscape design prepared.</p> <p>Q2: Electrical wiring and plastering has been completed. Painting is well underway. Furniture and shelving have been ordered.</p> <p>Q3: Rainbow Library opened to the public on 1 April 2022. The library has been well received, with many new members signing up for library services on opening day.</p>
Provide community action grants to support	<p>Q1: Round 1 of the Community Action</p>

Hindmarsh community groups and organisations	<p>Grants is currently open.</p> <p>Youth Grants have also been established using FReeZA funding to support Youth outcomes.</p> <p>Q2: Round 1 of the Community Action Grants awarded grants to 13 local organisations.</p> <p>Round 2 of the Community Action Grants will be advertised early in 2022.</p>
Continue to support the Rural Outreach Program	<p>Q1: Council continues to support the Rural Outreach Program. Outreach officers have attended movie mornings.</p>
Provide school holiday activities throughout Hindmarsh	<p>Q1: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic September school holiday activities were unable to be held. Take home packs were prepared with over 140 packs distributed.</p> <p>Activities are being planned for the remainder of the year once restrictions have eased.</p> <p>Q3: Our Libraries and Youth teams have developed an extensive April school holiday program, including partnering with Uniting and Centre for Multicultural Youth to support Hindmarsh's young people attending their events.</p>
Support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill	<p>Q1: Council continues to support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill.</p> <p>Q3: During our recent Community Consultation sessions a call out for volunteers was discussed.</p>
Establish and maintain relationships with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) and local indigenous groups	<p>Q1: Council staff are working closely with BGLC on projects such as the Wimmera River Discovery trail and will continue to maintain and build on the relationships already established through these and future projects.</p> <p>Q2: Council staff are liaising with BGLC regarding internal cultural awareness training for all staff.</p>
Provide public computers and free Wi-Fi at Hindmarsh Shire Libraries	<p>Q1: Public computers and free Wi-Fi are available at Dimboola, Jeparit & Nhill Libraries.</p>

	Q3: Public computers are now available at Rainbow library. Wi-Fi will be available by the end of May 2022.
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Theme Two – Built & Natural Environment

Action Item	Update on Action
Review and update Council's asset management plan	Q3: Officers are currently developing the Asset Management Plans required as part of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> . This will be adopted by 30 June 2022.
Implement recycling bins in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow main business districts	Q2: A strategic plan is to be developed to assist with the identification and roll out of suitable bins for rubbish, recycling, and glass bottles across the municipality.
Review Council's road management plan	
Construction of Albacutya Bridge and associated road works	Q2: Construction has commenced on the bridge works, due for completion in early 2022. The roadworks will also commence in early 2022. Q3: Construction of the bridge and road approaches is nearing completion. Works are on track to be completed before the end of the 21/22 financial year.
Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season	Q1: Free Green waste month was held from 10 September to 10 October.
Consider for adoption of Nhill streetscape plan	Q2: The Draft Nhill Streetscape Plan was presented to Council in December 2021 and endorsed.
Installation of solar heating on Rainbow swimming pool	Q1: Quotations have been obtained for installation of solar heating on Rainbow Swimming Pool. Q3: Rainbow Swimming Pool solar heating has been installed.
Advocate for improved water quality in the regional lakes and rivers	
Construction of new clubrooms at Nhill Tennis Club	Q1: Due to two unsuccessful tender advertising rounds works is currently underway for design and approval of permits prior to re-advertising. Q2: Council has completed design and is in the process of obtaining a

	building permit to then go to tender as a construction only project.
Review and update Waste Management Strategy	
Installation of pedestrian safety fencing at Nhill Early Years Centre	Q1: Pedestrian fencing has been installed at Nhill Early Years Centre.
Installation of seating and electric barbeques at Rainbow Lake	Q1: Awaiting change of use application (planning permit will be included in October Council meeting). Following approval works will be able to commence. Q2: Design for Amenities Building in progress to obtain a building permit then quote for construction. Once costs finalised then work will commence on BBQ & picnic tables.
Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas	Q2: Plans are being prepared to support a funding application in early 2022 for improved street lighting across the shire.
Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee, Wimmera Regional Transport Group and Grampians Central West Waste, Resource Recovery Group and Hindmarsh Landcare Network	Q2: Councillors and Council staff attend Western Highway Action Committee, Wimmera Regional Transport Group and Grampians Central West Waste, Resource and Recovery Group Meetings. A Councillor attends the Hindmarsh Landcare Network meetings.
Continue to advocate for funding for Davis Park improvements	Q1: Council continues to advocate both state and federal government for funding to improve Davis Park. Q2: A series of schematic plans and cost plans have been developed for various aspects associated with the redevelopment of Davis Park. Council will be holding further discussions with NDSC in early 2022 to determine an appropriate direction. Q3: Council Officers have been receiving requests from both Federal and State parties and candidates for Council's top priorities. Davis Park is the number 1 priority for funding.

Theme Three – Competitive and Innovative Economy

Action Item	Update on Action
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Upgrades to ensuites at Dimboola Caravan Park	Q2: Upgrades to two ensuites have been completed, the other two are scheduled for the new year.
Provide the business assistance grants program	Q1: Round 1 applications for the Business Assistance Grants Program will be presented to Council in October. Q2: Round 1 applications for the Business Assistance Grants Program were awarded at the October 2021 Council meeting. Round 2 will be advertised in early 2022.
Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, stay and play	Q1: New and updated Visit Hindmarsh webpage is under development as part of the Hindmarsh Shire website development. Regional marketing campaigns being development by WMT through external grant funding. New brochures have been designed and printed. Q2: Radio and print advertising was undertaken leading up to the Christmas/new year period. A regional television campaign is penciled in for March/April 2022. Work is continuing on the funded Silo Art Trail projects. Increased social media undertaken on Albacutya Silo (videos cross-shared by Visit Victoria).
Host business networking session to encourage Hindmarsh businesses to come together and network	Q1: This has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Q2: Planning is underway to host a business networking session at the end of February 2022.
Construction of a camp Kitchen at Jeparit riverbank precinct	Q1: Currently delayed due to slow landowner consent via Parks Victoria. Q2: Draft master plan has been prepared indicating where the camp kitchen is to be located. As indicated above, Parks Vic are currently processing landowner consent.
Installation of cabin accommodation (including all abilities) at caravan parks within Hindmarsh	Q2: Council awarded the contract for design, construction, and installation

Shire (subject to funding)	<p>of cabins at the November 2021 Council meeting. It is anticipated cabins will be on site at the end of May / early June 2022.</p> <p>A funding application for Regional Tourism Investment Fund is currently being developed (in replace of unsuccessful BBRF application).</p>
Commence review on Council's economic development strategy	
Participate in Wimmera Development Association housing strategy meetings	<p>Q1: Council continues to participate in the WDA housing strategy meetings.</p> <p>Q3: WDA presented to Council and discussed the housing strategy. Officers have continued to be involved in housing strategy meetings.</p>
Enhance Council's Procurement Policy to support Council purchasing locally	<p>Q1: Council adopted the updated Procurement Policy on 4 August 2021. The policy includes local and regional weighting to support our local and neighbouring businesses.</p>
Commence Silo Art at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow and Arkona Silo	<p>Q1: A Silo Art Project Coordinator has been appointed.</p> <p>Arkona Silo Art art curator/artist management has been appointed.</p> <p>Q2: Comprehensive engineering assessment of the Llew Schilling Silo is completed, awaiting final report. Preliminary Budget in development, site being cleared of items belonging to Llew. Expecting to develop EOI for appointment of architect in Q1 2022. Arkona Silo Art awaiting 3 artist options/quotes, expected January 2022. Aiming for April installation.</p> <p>Q3: Artwork on the Arkona Silo will commence in early April 2022 with Smug</p>
Provide a calendar of events to assist community groups and event organisers to promote their events	<p>Q1: As part of the development of the new Hindmarsh Shire website a calendar of events will be established making it easy for community groups to register their events.</p> <p>Q3: With the implementation of the new website, community members</p>

	and groups can submit event information to be published on Council's website and social media pages.
Provide business concierge services to assist business understand COVID-19 restrictions	Q1: Under the funding received Council has employed a business concierge and hospitality officer until 30 November to assist businesses and community groups understand the COVID-19 restrictions and roadmap.

Theme Four – Good Governance & Financial Sustainability

Action Item	Update on Action
Develop a workforce plan	Q1: Work has commenced on the development of a workforce plan. Q2: The workforce plan was adopted by the CEO in December 2021.
Online streaming of Council meetings through Council's Facebook page	Q1: Council continues to stream 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	Q1: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have not allowed for community meetings to be held in person. Q2: A community meeting was held in Jeparit in November to discuss the Riverbank precinct. Q3: Community Conversation sessions were held in our main four towns during March 2022. The meetings included round table sessions where community members could provide their input into Council's 2022/2023 annual action plan and budget through identifying priority projects.
Drop in sessions held allowing for community input to Council on key documents or projects	Q1: Drop in sessions were scheduled to be held for the Council Plan but due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have not allowed for community meetings and therefore sessions were required to be

	<p>cancelled.</p> <p>Q3: A drop-in session was held for the Arkona Silo Art project in March 2022.</p>
Develop a ten (10) year long term financial plan	<p>Q1: The Long Term Financial Plan has been prepared and was adopted by Council on 20 October 2021</p>
Quarterly finance reporting to Council	<p>Q1: Council's first quarter finance report will be presented to the October Council meeting.</p> <p>Q2: Council's second quarter finance report will be presented to the February 2022 Council meeting.</p> <p>Q3: Council's third quarter finance report will be presented to the May 2022 Council meeting.</p>
Review Council's Complaints Policy	<p>Q2: The complaints policy was updated and adopted in December 2021. A copy is available on Council's website.</p>
Ensure Council representation on Wimmera Development Association, Rural Council's Victoria, and Municipal Association of Victoria	<p>Q1: Council continues to have representation on WDA, RCV and MAV.</p>
Quarterly Council Plan reporting to Council	<p>Q1: The first quarterly report to Council will presented to Council in November 2021.</p> <p>Q2: The second quarterly report to Council will presented to Council in February 2022.</p> <p>Q3: The third quarter report to Council will be presented to Council in May 2022.</p>
Develop a gender equality action plan	<p>Q1: Work has commenced on the development of a gender equality action plan.</p> <p>Q3: The gender equality action plan was adopted in March 2022 and has been provided to the Gender Equality Commissioner for feedback. Following the review and acceptance of the plan the plan will be available on Council's website.</p>
Collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Loddon Shire Council to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project	<p>Q1: RCTP is progressing with evaluation of potential software completed and a recommendation prepared for the board.</p>

	<p>Q2: A recommendation of the preferred software will be presented to the February 2022 board meeting.</p> <p>Q3: The board has agreed to a preferred supplier and is currently preparing a formal contract. The Board will prepare a report for LGV to accept the recommendation.</p>
Audit & Risk Committee meetings review and consider Council risks at each meeting	<p>Q1: Risk management is a standing item on Audit & Risk Committee meetings</p>

Link to Council Plan:

The Council Plan is the overarching plan that sets the strategic objectives for Council over the four-year term and provides annual actions to achieve the plan under the four key themes.

Financial Implications:

Council's annual budget allocates funding to complete initiatives.

Risk Management Implications:

The preparation of the Council Plan, incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan, and Community Vision is a statutory requirement

Relevant legislation:

The Council Plan was developed under the Local Government Act 2020 and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Community engagement:

Community engagement was undertaken as part of the development and adoption of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Gender equality implications:

A gender impact assessment was not required.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest, including the type of interest.

Author and Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Director Corporate & Community Services
In providing this advice as the Author and Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Council Plan 2021-2025 third quarter actions 2021/2022 update.

MOVED: CRS R Gersch/R Ismay

That Council receives the Council Plan 2021-2025 third quarter actions 2021/2022 update.

CARRIED

9.3 DRAFT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2032

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Infrastructure Services
Attachment Number: 7

Introduction:

This report presents the draft Asset Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The report includes a recommendation that Council adopt the draft Asset Plan and invites community submissions.

Discussion:

Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan. The scope of an Asset Plan is for a minimum period of ten financial years and needs to be adopted by 30 June 2022.

Thereafter, Council should review and adopt an Asset Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election of Council.

The draft Asset Plan has been developed with the aim of maintaining existing service levels and provides information to inform the community on how Council controlled assets are to be managed. This information will inform Council's Annual Budget preparation and longer term planning.

The Asset Plan must include the following:

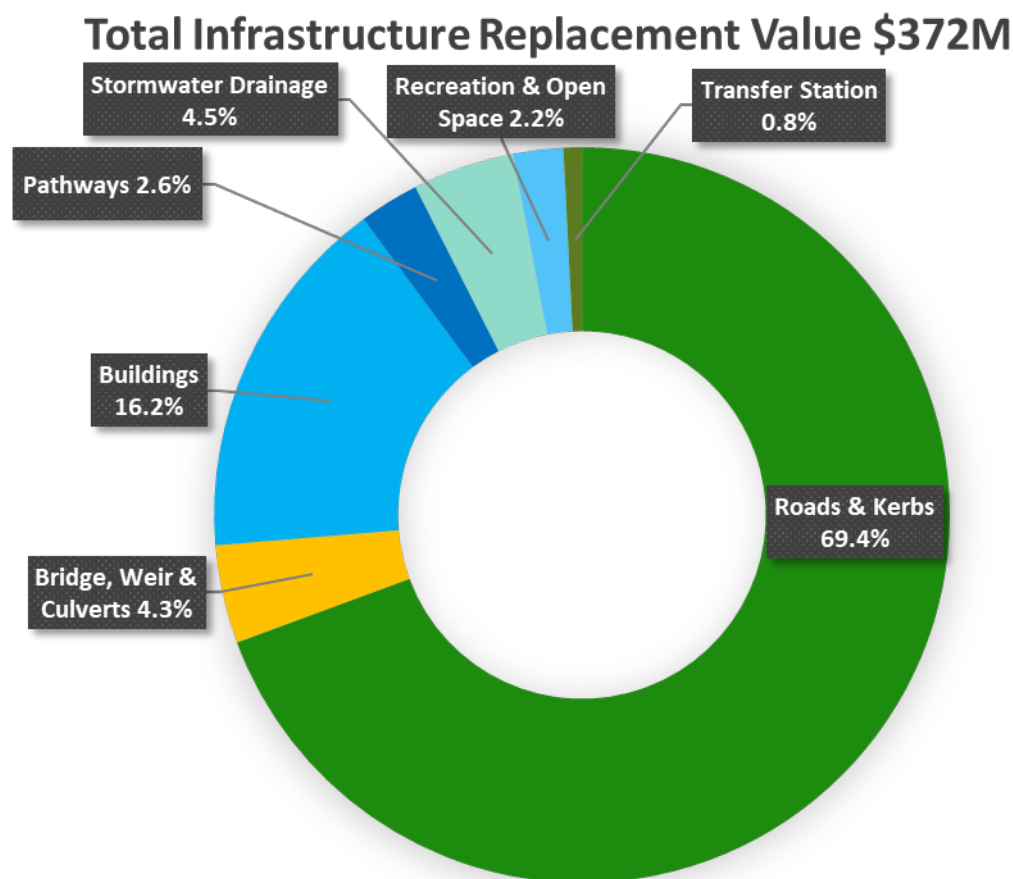
- information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure under the control of the Council.
- 10-year financial forecast/modelling to maintain Council Infrastructure to agreed and acceptable service level to the Community.

Council's total infrastructure replacement value is \$372m and broken into the following asset categories:

- Roads
- Bridges, Weirs and Culverts

- Buildings
- Pathways
- Stormwater Drainage
- Recreation and Open Space
- Transfer Stations

The below graph provides asset replacement values proportions as of April 2022.



The draft Asset Plan has been prepared and is recommended to make the plan available for public submissions from Thursday 5 May to Monday 23 May 2022 with the final version to be adopted at the Council meeting on 1 June 2022.

Link to Council Plan:

Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisation needs: Regularly review Council's asset management plans and update the Assets Register.

Financial Implications:

Modelling for the 10 years is done using Assetic Predictor modelling software with input of current asset condition, level of service required and budget forecasts from Council Long term financial plan.

Under the current modelling there is a shortfall of approximately \$1.7m over 10 years to fully comply with the Asset Plan.

Risk Management Implications:

Natural disasters like flooding, fire and earthquake are not considered while preparing this Asset Plan. Asset Plan will be beneficial in reducing the long-term financial risk to Council assisting preservation of assets conduction in appropriate condition to serve the community at agreed level of service.

Relevant legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community engagement:

It is proposed that the draft Asset Plan be made available to allow for submissions for the period Thursday 5 May 2022 to Monday 23 May 2022. Submissions will be considered at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 June 2022.

Copies of the draft Asset Plan will be available at Council's Customer Service Centres and on Council's Website.

Gender equality implications:

No impact on Gender Equality.

Conflict of Interests:

Under section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Director Infrastructure Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Madan Dhungel, Strategic Assets Coordinator

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers and Council's Facebook page notifying of the draft Asset Plan and invite submissions.

Next Steps:

The Draft Asset Plan operates over a ten-year period and will be reviewed by 31 October following each Council election.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

- 1. approves the draft Asset Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020;***
- 2. Gives public notice of the preparation of the draft Asset Plan inviting written submissions from the public for the period 5 May to 23 May 2022;***

- 3. Considers public submissions and formally adopts the Asset Plan at the Council meeting on Wednesday 1 June 2022.**

MOVED: CRS B Ireland/D Nelson

That Council

- 1. approves the draft Asset Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020;**
- 2. Gives public notice of the preparation of the draft Asset Plan inviting written submissions from the public for the period 5 May to 23 May 2022;**
- 3. Considers public submissions and formally adopts the Asset Plan at the Council meeting on Wednesday 1 June 2022.**

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 7

Cr B Ireland declared a general conflict of interest and left the room at 3:47pm.

9.4 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

This report seeks approval for the Deputy Mayor to attend the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Annual Conference in Canberra from Sunday 19 to Wednesday 22 June 2022.

Discussion:

The National General Assembly of the Local Government is due to be held in Canberra from 19 to 22 June. The theme of the assembly is Partners in Progress, recognising that working collaboratively as partners in government achieves more for communities.

Council's Councillor Expense Entitlements Policy requires any interstate travel by Councillors be approved by a resolution of Council.

Previous ALGA conferences have been attended by the mayor as delegate for Council. Due to the inability of the mayor to attend this year, it is proposed that the substitute delegate be the Deputy Mayor in line with Council delegates to other peak bodies.

The National General Assembly is attended by Council's from across Australia and provides an opportunity for Hindmarsh to network with other Local Government leaders. The program includes an address from the Prime Minister and various keynote speakers.

Options:

1. Council can approve the attendance at the National General Assembly of Local Government from 19 – 22 June 2022 for the Deputy Mayor.
2. Council can nominate another delegate to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government from 19 – 22 June 2022.
3. Council can decide not to send a delegate to the National General Assembly of Local Government from 19 – 22 June 2022.

Link to Council Plan:

Strong governance practices

Financial Implications:

Council will incur costs of approximately \$3,000 associated with conference registration, airfares, accommodation and incidentals for the delegate attending.

Risk Management Implications:

No Risk Management Implications.

Relevant legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community engagement:

N/A

Gender equality implications:

Not required

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest, including the type of interest.

Author & Officer Responsible – Greg Wood, Chief Executive Officer

In providing this advice as the Author & Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council nominates the Deputy Mayor as the delegate for the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra from 19 – 22 June 2022 and approve costs associated with attendance including conference registration, airfares, accommodation and incidentals.

MOVED: CRS R Ismay/R Gersch

That Council nominates the Deputy Mayor as the delegate for the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra from 19 – 22 June 2022 and approve

costs associated with attendance including conference registration, airfares, accommodation and incidentals.

CARRIED

Cr B Ireland returned to the room at 3:55pm.

10 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

10.1 DIMBOOLA TOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Attachment Number: 8

Introduction:

The Dimboola Town Advisory Committee held a general meeting on 4 April 2022. The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting. A copy of the minutes is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Dimboola Town Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 April 2022 (no quorum).

MOVED: CRS W Bywaters/D Nelson

That Council notes the minutes of the Dimboola Town Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 April 2022 (no quorum).

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 8

10.2 YURUNGA HOMESTEAD COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Attachment Number: 9

Introduction:

The Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee held a general meeting on 24 February 2022. The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting. A copy of the minutes is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee meeting held on 24 February 2022.

MOVED: CRS B Ireland/R Ismay

That Council notes the minutes of the Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee meeting held on 24 February 2022.

CARRIED

Attachment Number: 9

11 LATE REPORTS

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

13 OTHER BUSINESS

14 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

In accordance with Section 66 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council may close the meeting to the public to consider confidential information. Confidential information is defined by Section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* as being:

- a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;
- b) security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;
- c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;
- d) law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;
- e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
 - i. relates to trade secrets; or
 - ii. if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
- h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);
- i) internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;

- j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;
- k) information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition;
- l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989

No confidential reports.

15 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr M Albrecht declared the meeting closed at 3:58pm.
