



## ATTACHMENTS

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### ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- Item 4 Attachment 1 – Council Meeting Minutes 13 December 2023

### ITEM 7 CORRESPONDENCE

- Item 7.1 Attachment 2 – Email from Senator Alex Antic RE Flag Pride
- Item 7.1 Attachment 3 – Australia Day Petition
- Item 7.1 Attachment 5 – Letter to Gerang Hall Committee

### ITEM 9 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

- Item 9.1 Attachment 6 – Financial Report 31 December 2023
- Item 9.2 Attachment 7 – Community Action Plan 2024-2028
- Item 9.3 Attachment 8 – Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028
- Item 9.5 Attachment 9 – Community Engagement Policy

### ITEM 10 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Item 10.1 Attachment 10 – Rainbow Town Committee Minutes 20 December 2023
  - Item 10.2 Attachment 11 – Antwerp Hall Committee Financial Report
  - Item 10.2 Attachment 12 – WMPM Committee Minutes 21 November 2023
  - Item 10.2 Attachment 13 – Yurunga Committee Minutes 23 November 2023
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14 December 2023

## MINUTES

### Ordinary Council Meeting

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**Date:** Wednesday 13 December 2023

**Time:** 3:00pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

**Council:** Cr Brett Ireland – Mayor  
Cr Wendy Bywaters – Deputy Mayor  
Cr Melanie Albrecht  
Cr Debra Nelson  
Cr Robert Gersch  
Cr Ron Ismay

**Officers:** Monica Revell – Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Petra Croot – Acting Director Corporate & Community Services  
Michael Henderson – Acting Director Infrastructure Services

## **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Community**

Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.



## **Public Access**

This meeting is open to members of the public and will be livestreamed from Council's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil)

## **Live Streaming Statement**

This meeting will be streamed live on the internet and the recording of this meeting will be published on Council's website and/or social media pages after the meeting.

Members of the public attending this meeting may be filmed.

By remaining in the public gallery once the meeting commences, members of the public give their consent to being filmed, and for the recording of them to be made publicly available and used by Council.

Information about the broadcasting and publishing recordings of Council meetings is available in the Council's Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy is available on the Council's website.

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**In Attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Cr Brett Ireland (Mayor), Cr Melanie Albrecht, Cr Robert Gersch OAM, Cr Ron Ismay and Cr Debra Nelson.

**Officers:**

Ms Monica Revell (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Mr Michael Henderson (Acting Director Infrastructure Services) and Ms Shauna Johnson (Executive Assisant).

**1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY & LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT**

Cr B Ireland opened the meeting at 3:00pm by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and by reading out the live streaming statement.

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**2 APOLOGIES**

Petra Croot – Acting Director Corporate & Community Services

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**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.

**Ms M Revell declared a material conflict of interest in confidential item 14.3.**

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**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at the Council Chamber, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

**MOVED: CRS D Nelson/W Bywaters**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at the Council Chamber, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

**CARRIED**

Attachment Number: 1

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**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](mailto: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, questions which have been recently answered, or questions that may contain defamatory comments, 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.

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Ms Fay Gordes spoke to her submission on the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028.

Ms Wendy Werner spoke to her submission on the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028.

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**John Jenkins, Jeparit:**

**Question 1:**

What can be done about the fire hazard at 47 Charles Street Jeparit. For the past 10 to 11 years, I have been complaining to council about the fire hazard. I received a letter telling me I had to clean my yard and it is now the 6<sup>th</sup> December and the block at 47 Charles Street is still the same. How Come?

**Officer response:**

*Council undertakes the following procedure for the issuing and enforcement of residential fire hazards on an annual basis.*

*Council proactively undertakes fire prevention property inspections in each town prior to the fire danger season. Fire prevention notices are issued to properties with identifiable fire hazards to the front, side and / or rear yards with photos take of the hazards.*

*Depending on the time of year, the fire prevention notice usually has a 7-to-21-day compliance time frame. Recipients can request reviews and/or extensions of Fire Prevention Notices. At the expiry of this timeframe, a second inspection is completed. If the property owner has not complied with the issued notice, then a second set of photos are taken, and the owner is issued with an infringement notice to the value of \$1,923 for the 2023/2024 financial year and advised that they have a further 14 days to comply with the notice or a contractor will be employed to undertake prevention work at the owner's cost. If there is still no compliance after 14 days, a quote is obtained by Council for the cost of the works from a mowing contractor. Once the quote is accepted by Council the mowing contractor is authorised to commence the required work. The contractor's availability and weather conditions will impact when the works are completed. In relation to 47 Charles Street Jeparit, an inspection has been conducted and the property has complied with the fire prevention notice.*

**Question 2:**

Regarding the nature strip – it is not my property, its Council land, I don't work for the Council, and they don't pay me to cut it so it's the Councils land to keep tidy.

**Officer response:**

*Council has an adopted Nature Strip Policy that requires residents to ensure that nature strips are well maintained and in a safe condition at all times. Council does not carry out renovation or maintenance (including mowing and watering) of nature strips. It is common, accepted practice throughout Australia that the property owners or residents of abutting properties maintain the plants (excluding trees) and any landscape features on the nature strip. Generally, this amounts to weeding, mowing and edging turf. This ensures that Council is able to use resources efficiently and effectively.*

*A copy of the policy is available on Council's website or can be printed by our Customer Service staff.*



**Wilma Smith, Jeparit:**

Please a clarification on the by law concerning the number of cats and dogs allowed in town, at a residential home. I understand to be 2 dogs and 2 cats. If this is as I understand to be then why I am still, 18 months to 2 years later, still attempting to have the number of both decreased at a property in Jeparit. I contacted the local ranger on a number of occasions concerning this matter. This lady currently has 3 dogs, 5 cats and an unknown number of kittens.

***Officer response:***

*Hindmarsh Shire Local Law, Division 5.7, Part 37, section 37.1 to 37.2 inclusive states that you are required to obtain a permit to keep more than 2 dogs and 2 cats on a residential property and that those dogs and cats must be registered. For privacy reasons we are unable to detail the exact action that is being taken, but Council's Local Laws officer is following up on the complaint and if necessary will undertake enforcement action.*

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**6 ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 14 November – 4 December 2023**

**6.1 Cr IRELAND, MAYOR**

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/11/2023	Media report to Weekley Advertiser		Regarding Nhill being recognised as being one of the top affordable towns for rental properties throughout Victoria.
21/11/2023	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum AGM	Jeparit	
22/11/2023	Council Briefing	Nhill	
22/11/2023	Council Meeting	Nhill	
23/11/2023	Mayor Matters column to Media		
28/11/2023	16 Days of Activism Livestreamed Panel	Nhill	Joined by Councillor Bywaters, Ritchie Dodds and Melissa Morris for an hour's discussion on domestic violence against women.
29/11/2023	Jeparit Cuppa Connections	Jeparit	This was a good chance to catch up with some of the local community to talk about their concerns - transport to appointments being the big one.
01/12/2023	Dimboola Progress Association Kid's Christmas Party and Town Lighting Project Launch		

**6.2 Cr BYWATERS, DEPUTY MAYOR**

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
14/11/2023	Homework Club	The Patch, Nhill	
15/11/2023	CoRE Leadership Meeting	Online	
16/11/2023	Horsham Rural City Council Annual Statutory Meeting	Horsham	
18/11/2023	Dimboola Pool Opening 2023/24 Season	Dimboola	
22/11/2023	Women's Health Grampians AGM	Federation University, Ballarat	
24/11/2023	Hindmarsh Landcare AGM	Dimboola Hotel	

25/11/2023	Bring on Summer Youth Council FreeZA All-ages Event	Nhill Sports Stadium	
26/11/2023	Dimboola Rowing Club Come and Try Day	Wimmera River, Dimboola	
29/11/2023	WestVic Business Progress Association AGM	Horsham	
29/11/2023	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Online Panel	Nhill	
29/11/2023	Homework Club	The Patch, Nhill	
30/11/2023	Walk Against Violence – WWHS		
30/11/2023	West Wimmera Health Service AGM	Online	
01/12/2023	Late Night Shopping, Christmas Party and Concert	Nhill	
04/12/2023	Dimboola Progress Association Meeting	Dimboola	

### 6.3 Cr ALBRECHT

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
22/11/2023	Council Briefing	Nhill	
22/11/2023	Council Meeting	Nhill	

### 6.4 Cr GERSCH

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
13/11/2023	NDSC Annual General Meeting	Nhill	
22/11/2023	MAV John Smith Presentation	Nhill	
22/11/2023	Council Briefing	Nhill	
22/11/2023	Council Meeting	Nhill	
24/11/2023	RCV Board Meeting	Melbourne	
28/11/2023	Zoom Regarding 16 Days of Activism		
30/11/2023	WWHS Annual General Meeting		
01/12/2023	Volunteers Tourist Information Centre	Dimboola	

	Christmas Lunch		
01/12/2023	Nhill Christmas Festivities	Goldsworthy Park	
01/12/2023	Tourism Info Centre Volunteer Day		

### 6.5 Cr NELSON

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
13/11/2023	Dimboola Progress Association Meeting	Dimboola	
14/11/2023	Mates Mentoring DMSC	Dimboola	
14/11/2023	Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN finance meeting		
18/11/2023	Wimmera Equestrian dressage and show jumping	Dimboola	
22/11/2023	MAV social housing meeting	Nhill	
22/11/2023	Council Briefing	Nhill	
22/11/2023	Council Meeting	Nhill	
23/11/2023	Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Committee meeting	Horsham	
23/11/2023	Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Dinner	Horsham	
28/11/2023	Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Association Meeting	Horsham	
29/11/2023	Mates Mentoring DMSC	Dimboola	
30/11/2023	West Wimmera Health Services AGM	Online	
1/12/2023	Dimboola Christmas Event	Dimboola	

### 6.6 Cr ISMAY

No report provided.

## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

### 7.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Number:** 2

**Introduction:**

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

**Inwards:**

- 2023/11/03 – Letter from Gerang Hall Committee RE Management of Facility

**Outwards:**

- Nil

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council notes the attached correspondence, and that Council Officers prepare a response for the Gerang Hall Committee thanking them for their service.*

**MOVED: CRS R Gersch/R Ismay**

*That Council notes the attached correspondence, and that Council Officers prepare a response for the Gerang Hall Committee thanking them for their service.*

**CARRIED**

*Attachment Number: 2*

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**8 PLANNING PERMITS**

No planning permit reports.

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## 9 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

### 9.1 SPORTS AND RECREATION RESERVES ALLOCATION, USE AND FAIR ACCESS POLICY

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer  
**Attachment Number:** 3

#### **Introduction:**

This report presents an initial draft of the *Sports and Recreation Reserve Allocation, Use and Fair Access Policy* (the Policy) to be endorsed for consultation as per Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Consultation is recommended to take place through in-person meetings over several months with the final Policy to be presented to Council for adoption in May 2024.

#### **Discussion:**

The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation (OWSR) introduced the Fair Access Policy Roadmap in 2022, which aims to improve access to and use of community sports infrastructure for women and girls. This will help level the playing field and ensure women and girls have positive experiences with community sports facilities. Local Councils are required to have in place by 1 July – 1 October 2024 a Gender Equitable Access & Use Policy (or equivalent). Council must also develop an Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the Policy and the Fair Access Policy Roadmap.

Council acknowledges that the requirement to have a gender equitable access and use policy and action plan (or equivalent) in place, and the ability to demonstrate progress against that policy and action plan (or equivalent), will form part of the eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs relating to community sports infrastructure from 1 July 2024.

Council has several sporting and recreation reserves and facilities that are available for public use. The existing framework of user agreements and casual hire agreements are formalised through this policy that enables consistent and fair decision-making around use that prioritises the collective interests of the community. It also provides a key framework for the content of any agreement that manages Council's insurance, risk, safety, and compliance requirements for the use of each facility.

The policy incorporates the Fair Access requirements as contained in model documents provided by the OWSR with the realisation of these policy components requiring significant resourcing and engagement from local sporting clubs. Council officers are recommending an extensive consultation period to allow for-

- The collaborative completion of gender impact assessments relating to the implementation of the Policy actions; and

- Supported planning with sporting groups and users to ensure meaningful understanding and engagement with the principles, requirements, and actions of the Policy.

The draft policy has been developed in consultation with Council’s asset and facility management, community and economic development, contacts and procurement, and governance teams.

Council has also been participating in Community of Practice workshops with other LGAs, Sport and Recreation Victoria, and Sports Assemblies in the Grampians region through the Policy development process.

**Options:**

1. Council can choose to endorse the Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation, Use and Fair Access Policy for community and stakeholder consultation; or
2. Council can choose to amend the Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation, Use and Fair Access Policy prior to community and stakeholder consultation; or
3. Council can choose to not endorse the Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation, Use and Fair Access policy for community and stakeholder consultation.

**Link to Council Plan:**

A community well informed and engaged.  
 Gender equity, respect and leadership.  
 Strong governance practices.

**Financial Implications:**

The development and progress of this policy will form part of the eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs relating to community sports infrastructure from 1 July 2024.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Establishing this policy ensures that community facilities are accessible and available for all users fairly and equitably and supports the active and social lives of our community. It also acknowledges entrenched inequalities that impact the overall health and wellbeing of our community and proposes tangible actions that promote inclusion, equality and fair social participation.
Financial Sustainability	Establishing this policy ensures that Council is meeting its requirements under the Fair Access Policy Roadmap and remains eligible for key funding opportunities through the Victorian Government for sports community infrastructure. Maintaining and replacing assets with



	Council's own budget would divert resources from other critical projects and potentially result in the degradation of critical community resources.
Governance	Establishing a policy that enshrines the fair and consistent management of public facilities ensures that Council is adhering to its governance principles.

**Relevant legislation:**

*Gender Equality Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

In-person engagement is recommended prior to the formal endorsement of this policy and will be completed over several months in early 2024 as per Council's Community Engagement Policy.

**Gender equality implications:**

As this policy has a direct and significant impact on the community, an initial Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been completed. This initial GIA will be collaboratively built on during the consultation process.

**Confidential Declaration:**

This Council report does not consider confidential information as defined by section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

**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.

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

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

Author – Petra Croot, Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Sporting clubs and sport and recreation reserve user groups will be provided with the draft policy via email and Council officers will conduct in-person consultation sessions.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers will work collaboratively to review the proposed policy with relevant stakeholders and build capacity amongst sporting clubs and user groups to implement the actions and objectives contained within the Policy and the Fair Access Policy Roadmap produced by OWSR.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorses the draft Sports and Recreation Reserve Allocation, Use and Fair Access Policy for community and stakeholder consultation.***

**MOVED: CRS R Ismay/M Albrecht**

***That Council endorses the draft Sports and Recreation Reserve Allocation, Use and Fair Access Policy for community and stakeholder consultation.***

**CARRIED**

*Attachment Number: 3*

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## 9.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2024-2028

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer  
**Attachment Number:** 4

### **Introduction:**

This report seeks endorsement for the Hindmarsh Shire Council draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 to be made available to the public for consultation for the period of Thursday 14 December 2024 to Thursday 25 January 2024.

### **Discussion:**

The draft Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Plan 2024-2028 (**the Plan**) has been prepared following consultation processes with the community in late March and early April 2023. The draft plan lists all initiatives and aspirations that were raised by the community during the consultation process.

Following the initial identification process, community participants were then tasked with identifying and prioritising initiatives into two key areas:

- Strong Long Term / High Impact Initiatives, and
- Strong Immediate / Short Term / High Impact Initiatives.

This identification and prioritisation process required community participants to review the ideas that were identified during the 'brainstorming' session and consider those that were feasible and that would have a significant positive impact on their community.

A key direction within the prioritised initiatives identifies the role that Council should play in the action of implementing them. It identifies Council as either supporting, advocating, or delivering the initiative.

It is proposed to make the draft Plan available for public consultation between Thursday 14 December 2023 and Thursday 25 January 2024. This will give those community members who did not attend the consultation sessions the chance to have their say on the action items within the Plan. The final version of the Plan, along with the submissions received from this period, will be presented to the Council meeting held on 3 February 2024.

### **Options:**

1. Council can choose to endorse the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 to be made available for public consultation for the period Thursday 14 December 2023 to Thursday 25 January 2024; or
2. Council can choose to make amendments to the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 prior to making the Plan available for public consultation for the period Thursday 14 December 2023 to Thursday 25 January 2024.

### **Link to Council Plan:**

Theme One: Our Community.

A community well informed and engaged.

Provide arts and cultural activities that strengthen social connection.

Support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and abilities.

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment.

Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs.

Attractive streetscapes.

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy.

Facilitating and supporting economic development.

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation.

**Financial Implications:**

Initiatives contained within the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 will be referred to Council's annual budget.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The draft Community Action Plan provides initiatives for Council to implement, facilitate and support community driven development within Hindmarsh Shire, setting clear pillars for Council to focus on. This ensures that community resources are being used for community initiatives, and that Council has buy-in and support from the community that can be relied on and referred to when relevant funding becomes available.

**Relevant legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

Community engagement was undertaken as part of the development of the draft Plan.

The report recommends an additional consultation period for the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028, whereby the community will be able to provide feedback to Council regarding the draft Plan.

**Gender equality implications:**

Gender Impact Assessments will be completed as part of the implementation of initiatives contained within the Plan.

**Confidential Declaration:**

This Council report does not consider confidential information as defined by section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

**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.

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

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

Author – Phil King, Manager Economic and Community Development.

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

**Communications Strategy:**

A copy of the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 will be placed on Council's website, advertised in local newspapers, and published on Council's Facebook Page, along with an invitation for public submissions.

**Next Steps:**

Submissions and the final version of the Plan will be presented to Council at the Council meeting held on 3 February 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorses the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 to be made available for public consultation for the period of Thursday 14 December 2023 to Thursday 25 January 2024.***

**MOVED: CRS W Bywaters/D Nelson**

***That Council endorses the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 to be made available for public consultation for the period of Thursday 14 December 2023 to Thursday 25 January 2024.***

**CARRIED**

*Attachment Number: 4*

### 9.3 DISCONTINUATION OF GEORGE STREET, JEPARIT, AS A PERMANENT THROUGH ROAD

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

#### **Introduction:**

This report seeks Council endorsement for Council officers to take necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the noted section of George Street, Jeparit, to vehicle through traffic from the eastern boundary of the Jeparit Caravan Park to the western boundary of the Jeparit tennis courts.

#### **Discussion:**

On 27 February 2023, Council temporarily closed the section of George Street, Jeparit, noted in *Image 1.0* to all traffic (vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians) during the construction and redevelopment phase of the Jeparit Swimming Hole precinct. As part of this process, the limestone surface of this section of George Street has been removed to enable the construction of a new public amenities building and concrete path linking it to the new camp kitchen. Removable bollards have been installed at each street closure point to enable access by emergency, service, maintenance, and construction vehicles.

It is proposed that this section of the street be permanently closed to through traffic to allow for landscaping that connects the Caravan Park, tennis courts, and Jeparit swimming hole through an open pedestrian-accessible precinct. A pop-up irrigation system is being installed and a combination of instant turf and planting of seeds will be carried along the length of George Street to establish lawn between the tennis courts, caravan park and swimming hole. The closure to through traffic will not impact on the amenity or accessibility of the area as there is a suitable alternative access route to both residential properties and surrounding public facilities.

The section of George Street from the proposed closure point at the eastern boundary of the caravan park to Upper Roy Street will not be impacted. Should this be approved, the area between the western boundary of the tennis courts, Wimmera River, and Peterson Avenue will be accessible via Peterson Avenue and will be the designated car park for the Jeparit Tennis Club and Swimming Hole precinct.

The section of George Street proposed to be closed to through traffic is approximately 82 meters in length, from the eastern boundary of the Jeparit Caravan Park to the western boundary of the Jeparit Tennis courts. This relevant area is highlighted in the following image.



Image 1.0

If Council does not close this section of George Street and leave the area open to through traffic, patrons of the Jeparit Caravan Park and visitors to the Jeparit Swimming Hole will be exposed to risks associated with vehicles driving through the site.

**Options:**

1. Council can endorse officers taking the necessary steps to facilitate the closure of George Street, Jeparit, as indicated in Image 1.0 to through vehicle traffic; or
2. Council can not endorse officers taking the necessary steps to facilitate the closure of George Street, Jeparit, as indicated in Image 1.0 to through vehicle traffic and require that other traffic management measures for this precinct be put in place.

**Link to Council Plan:**

Theme one: Our Community

A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community.

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs.

Attractive streetscapes.

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation.

**Financial Implications:**

There may be additional costs involved in ensuring that there is an adequate turning circle at the end of Peterson Avenue / boat ramp entrance to accommodate both standard vehicles

and caravans. Additional signage indicating a “No Through Road” and directional signage for turning vehicles will need to be installed at George Street and Peterson Avenue.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Project Management and Strategic Execution	The realisation of this community-endorsed precinct project would be limited should this road not be closed. Safety risks would also be exacerbated as traffic would be active in an area that has been designed for pedestrian use.

**Relevant legislation:**

Section 206 of the *Local Government Act 1989* gives Council powers over roads in its Municipal District, including powers set out in Schedule 10 of the Act. Schedule 10 (3) provides that a Council may discontinue a road, or part of a road, by notice published in the Government Gazette.

Council will not close a road if it is being used as a public road and if its closure will unduly disadvantage adjacent landowners to the road. Council must be satisfied that the road is not required for community use or other public purpose at present or in the foreseeable future.

**Community engagement:**

As per Council’s Community Engagement Policy, Council held a community drop-in session with residents of Jeparit on Monday 27 November 2023 at the Jeparit Tennis Club as part of a community consultation process. Additional measures included advertisements in local newspapers and on Council website inviting responses in relation to the redevelopment of the Jeparit Swimming Hole including the closure of George Street to through traffic.

No objections to the closure of George Street were received during the consultation process.

**Gender equality implications:**

The closure of the section of George Street as proposed has no gender equality impacts, although the redevelopment of the precinct will significantly improve safety and security through the installation of lighting, construction of pathways and construction of a new amenities building. The redevelopment also includes an all abilities car park.

A Gender Impact Assessment has been prepared for the redevelopment of the Jeparit Swimming Hole precinct.

**Confidential Declaration:**

This Council report does not consider confidential information as defined by section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

**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.

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

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

Author Responsible – Phil King, Manager Economic and Community Development.

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council's decision will be communicated to residents of Jeparit via a media release, Council newsletter, and the Hindmarsh Shire Council website and Facebook page.

**Next Steps:**

Officers will take all necessary measures to facilitate the safe and compliant closure of the noted section of George Street, Jeparit (*Image 1.0*), as per this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorses officers to take necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the noted section of George Street, Jeparit, to through vehicle traffic from the eastern boundary of the Jeparit Caravan Park to the western boundary of the Jeparit tennis courts.***

**MOVED: CRS R Gersch/W Bywaters**

***That Council endorses officers to take necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the noted section of George Street, Jeparit, to through vehicle traffic from the eastern boundary of the Jeparit Caravan Park to the western boundary of the Jeparit tennis courts.***

**CARRIED**

---

#### 9.4 DIMBOOLA MINYIP ROAD AND LORQUON NETHERBY ROAD HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY AND PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATIONS

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Director Infrastructure Services

##### **Introduction:**

This report seeks Council approval to submit two applications for a Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity (HVSP) grant for the Dimboola Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road, and to refer \$424,409 for a 20% Council contribution in the 2024/25 draft budget.

##### **Discussion:**

Above average rainfall in 2022 has significantly deteriorated Dimboola Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby resulting in potholing, polishing, pavement deformation in outer wheel paths, areas of minimal cross fall, seal degradation, large drop offs from the edge of seal and pavement failure. Site inspections undertaken show at least 2.3km on Dimboola Minyip Rd and 2.335km of Lorquon Netherby Rd requires full reconstruction. Council officers have conducted a cost estimate for in-house staff and subcontractors to undertake the works, estimated at \$1,051,520 (exc. GST) for Dimboola Minyip Rd, and \$1,070,523 (exc. GST) for Lorquon Netherby Rd.

Officers have investigated funding options to rectify these issues. Unfortunately, the full reconstruction works were not claimable from the National Disaster Funding Assistance (NDF) following on-site meetings with Department of Transport and Planning staff. An alternative option is the HVSP from the Australian Government, which is open for applications, accepting proposals up to \$5,000,000 with a maximum 80% government contribution.

Should Council resolve to apply for the HVSP grant, the guidelines state a minimum 20% Council contribution equating to \$210,304 for the Dimboola Minyip Rd and \$214,105 for the Lorquon Netherby Rd, totaling \$424,409. This will be referred to the 2024/2025 budget.

##### **Options:**

1. Council makes amendments to the Officers recommendation for the Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road HVSP application.
2. Council does not approve the Officers recommendation for the Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road HVSP application.

##### **Link to Council Plan:**

Maintain the condition of our existing local road network prioritising capital works investment into renewal on roads and road related infrastructure.

Sealed road construction works on Dimboola Minyip Road (subject to funding).

##### **Financial Implications:**

This proposal requires Council to refer \$424,409 to the draft 2024/25 capital works budget towards the project in order to achieve a 20% contribution.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management	Both Dimboola-Minyip and Lorquon Netherby are strategic routes within Hindmarsh Shire and see significant traffic. Without directing funding to the roads, the conditions will further deteriorate.

**Relevant legislation:**

Road Management Act 2004

Local Government Act 1989

**Community engagement:**

The Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road has been identified by assessments undertaken by staff, professional engineering reporting and information gathered by conversations had with community members.

**Gender equality implications:**

A Gender Impact Assessment was completed on this review as per the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, with a resultant recommendation to attempt to secure funding to complete the projects for the benefit of safety to all road users.

**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.

Officer Responsible – Mick Henderson, Acting Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Daniel Griffiths, Manager Works and Operations

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council officers will liaise with the grant body and prepare an application for submission.

**Next Steps:**

If Council approves the recommendation, Council officers will submit an application for the reconstruction of a section of Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road through the HVSP grant program and report back to Council the outcome of the application.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council approve an application for the HVSP grant for the Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road, and refer a \$424,409 council contribution in the 2024/25 draft budget.***

***MOVED: CRS R Ismay/M Albrecht***

***That Council approve an application for the HVSP grant for the Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road, and refer a \$424,409 council contribution in the 2024/25 draft budget.***

**CARRIED**

---

## 9.5 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2024

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

### **Introduction:**

This report seeks approval from Council for the 2024 meeting dates and their advertisement in the local media.

### **Discussion:**

Each year Council advertises the meeting dates for the upcoming 12 months in the local newspapers. The advertised dates are for the Council meetings and the Annual Statutory Meeting.

It is proposed that Council hold one meeting per month, commencing at 3:00pm, except for May having two meetings due to legislative requirements to advertise and adopt the annual budget.

Council will continue to live stream Council meetings throughout 2024, which will mean that all meetings will need to be held in Nhill.

It is proposed that in keeping with practice of other councils around the state, Council does not meet in January.

It is the officers' recommendation to hold Briefing meetings twice per month, two weeks prior to the Council meeting at a time to be determined, and prior to the ordinary Council meetings, commencing at 1:00pm.

The proposed dates have also taken into consideration external organisations conferences and forums such as Municipal Association of Victoria conferences, Rural Council Victoria conferences, National General Assembly conference and LGPro conferences, to avoid clashes where possible.

### **Options:**

Council may choose to adopt the recommended timing and location for Ordinary Council Meetings and Council Briefings or select alternative dates, times, or locations to hold its meetings.

### **Link to Council Plan:**

Strong governance practices.

### **Financial Implications:**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Meetings open and livestreamed to the public ensure strong governance principles.

**Relevant legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

Council will continue to livestream meetings to allow community members who are unable to attend in person the opportunity to view Council meetings.

**Gender equality implications:**

A gender assessment was completed for the 2024 Council meetings.

**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 – Monica Revell, Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council meeting dates will be published in local newspapers, on Council’s website and through Council’s social media platforms.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council That Council holds Council meetings at the Hindmarsh Shire Council, Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street Nhill and sets the following times and dates for 2024:***

<b>DATE (WEDNESDAY)</b>	<b>TIME</b>
<b>7 February 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>6 March 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>3 April 2024*</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>8 May 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>29 May 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>26 June 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>24 July 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>28 August 2023</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>25 September 2024*</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>23 October 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>13 November 2024 (Annual Statutory Meeting)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>27 November 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>18 December 2024</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>

*\*School Holidays*

**MOVED: CRS W Bywaters/D Nelson**

***That Council holds Council meetings at the Hindmarsh Shire Council, Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street Nhill and sets the following times and dates for 2024:***

<b><i>DATE (WEDNESDAY)</i></b>	<b><i>TIME</i></b>
<b><i>7 February 2024</i></b>	<b><i>3:00pm</i></b>
<b><i>6 March 2024</i></b>	<b><i>3:00pm</i></b>
<b><i>3 April 2024*</i></b>	<b><i>3:00pm</i></b>
<b><i>8 May 2024</i></b>	<b><i>3:00pm</i></b>
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<b><i>27 November 2024</i></b>	<b><i>3:00pm</i></b>
<b><i>18 December 2024</i></b>	<b><i>3:00pm</i></b>

*\*School Holidays*

## 10 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 10.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Number:** 5 - 7

#### **Introduction:**

The following Hindmarsh Shire Council Advisory Committees held meetings on the following dates:

- **Nhill Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 30 October 2023 (see attachment 5)
- **Jeparit Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 13 November 2023 (see attachment 6)
- **Rainbow Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 20 November 2023 (see attachment 7)

The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting. A copy of the minutes for each meeting are included as an attachment for the information of Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes the minutes of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 30 October 2023, the minutes of the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 November 2023 and the minutes of the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee held on 20 November 2023.***

#### **MOVED: CRS D Nelson/W Bywaters**

***That Council notes the minutes of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 30 October 2023, the minutes of the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 November 2023 and the minutes of the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee held on 20 November 2023.***

#### **CARRIED**

**Attachment Numbers: 5 - 7**



## 10.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer  
**Attachment Number:** 8 - 9

### **Introduction:**

The following Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Asset Committees held meetings on the following dates:

- **Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee**  
General meeting on 26 October 2023 (*see attachment 8*)
- **Rainbow Civic Centre Community Asset Committee**  
General meeting on 8 November 2023 (*see attachment 9*)

The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting. A copy of the minutes for each meeting are 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 26 October 2023 and the Rainbow Civic Centre Community Asset Committee meeting held on 8 November 2023.***

### **MOVED: CRS M Albrecht/D Nelson**

***That Council notes the minutes of the Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee meeting held on 26 October 2023 and the Rainbow Civic Centre Community Asset Committee meeting held on 8 November 2023.***

### **CARRIED**

*Attachment Numbers: 8 - 9*

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**11 LATE REPORTS**

No late reports.

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**12 NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motions.

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**13 OTHER BUSINESS**

***MOVED: CRS R Gersch/R Ismay***

***That Council write a letter of congratulations to Alistair and Maree Taylor for being foster parents for over 25 years.***

**CARRIED**

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## 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 part IV of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, and 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*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the meeting be closed in accordance with section 66 (2) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider reports that contain confidential information as defined by section (3) of the Local Government Act 2020, and/or Part IV of the Freedom of Information Act 1982:***

- 14.1 *Australia Day Awards 2024 – this report contains “personal information, being information that which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs”, insofar***

*as it pertains to personal matters, and / or part IV of the Freedom of Information Act 1982.*

- 14.2 Contract Award 2023-2024-10 Engineering / Technical Services Panel – this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council’s position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released” insofar as it pertains to Award of Contract for Engineering/Technical Services Panel.**
- 14.3 Acting CEO Appointment Extension – this report contains “personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs”, insofar as it pertains to CEO employment matters.**

**MOVED: CRS M Albrecht/D Nelson**

***That the meeting be closed in accordance with section 66 (2) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider reports that contain confidential information as defined by section (3) of the Local Government Act 2020, and/or Part IV of the Freedom of Information Act 1982:***

- 14.1 Australia Day Awards 2024 – this report contains “personal information, being information that which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs”, insofar as it pertains to personal matters, and / or part IV of the Freedom of Information Act 1982.**
- 14.2 Contract Award 2023-2024-10 Engineering / Technical Services Panel – this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council’s position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released” insofar as it pertains to Award of Contract for Engineering/Technical Services Panel.**
- 14.3 Acting CEO Appointment Extension – this report contains “personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs”, insofar as it pertains to CEO employment matters.**

**CARRIED**

**15 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

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**16 RESUMING INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

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**17 MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business, Cr B Ireland declared the meeting closed at 4:29pm.

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**From:** Kevin & Kaye [redacted]  
**Date:** 19 January 2024 at 5:15:  
**Subject:** Fwd: Flag Pride

Hello Cr Brett, , I've forwarded this email to you for the simple reason that this applies to the Hindmarsh shire regarding all the flags that are on show at the shire offices. My opinion, and I'm sure, that is the opinion of all the ratepayers who I talk to, are of the opinion that there is only one flag that should be flown & that is the Australian flag that has flown through all the wars that have involved this country!

I would be pleased if you could table this letter at council meeting, including Senator Alex Antic email & make the point that council did not consult with ratepayers regarding the divisive flags of the other minority groups that are on show.

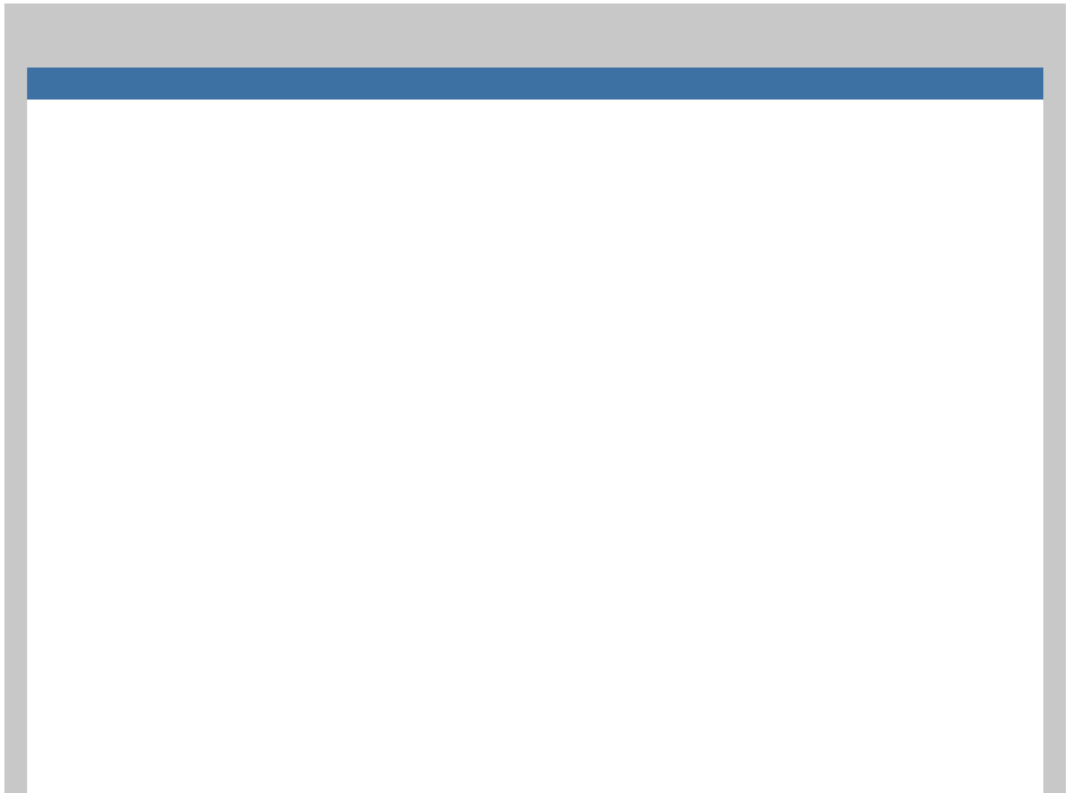
I look forward to hearing council's excuses!

KevinHedt.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Senator Alex Antic [redacted]  
**Date:** 19 January 2024 at 4:30:31 pm AEDT  
**To:** Kevin Hedt [redacted]  
**Subject:** Flag Pride



Dear Kevin,

As Australia Day approaches, I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate the symbol of our shared land and history that is the Australian Flag.

Our flag, based on the British Blue Ensign and showcasing the Union Jack, Commonwealth Star, and Southern Cross, has for many years been a symbol intended to represent every Australian, whether they be of European, Indigenous, or any other heritage.

As Tony Abbot has said, Australia is a young nation with an "immigrant character." Our flag is intended to encapsulate that character and represent us all.

However, since 1995, the Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag have been flown as official flags of Australia. This was largely done as a gesture of "reconciliation" between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and has arguably fostered a sense of division rather than unity.

This seems inevitable, as having multiple official flags implies multiple nations, rather than the fact that we are all Australians. Indeed, the term "First Nations" suggests that Indigenous Australians belong to a separate nation, which I suspect contributed to the defeat of the Voice to Parliament proposal at the recent referendum.

Now, many local councils fly a vast range of flags, even related to one's sexual preferences, further breaking us down into increasingly obscure identity groups.

Every Australia Day, the inevitable debate about celebrating Australia Day and the Australian Flag reoccurs, largely because the media amplifies the voice of a relatively small group of activists. So, I've taken the opportunity to create a video discussing our flag as a symbol of unity, and how absurd the division has become.

You can watch that video here:

\_\_\_\_\_

As we head into Australia Day, my hope is that we can all celebrate the blessings of living in Australia, whatever our heritage may be.

Your sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

**Alex Antic**

Liberal Senator for South Australia

If you've been forwarded this email, and are not yet on my mailing list, you might like to sign up to receive my future e-news updates directly at the link below:

Sign up here: <https://www.alexantic.com.au/join>



## About

Senator Alex Antic is a Liberal Senator representing South Australia in the Federal Parliament.

## Connect

Email: [alex@alexantic.com.au](mailto:alex@alexantic.com.au)



Authorised by Senator Alex Antic, Liberal Party of Australia (SA Division), Adelaide SA

This email was sent to [hedtway@gmail.com](mailto:hedtway@gmail.com).  
To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

**We the undersigned,  
petition that Council should  
LEAVE AUSTRALIA DAY ALONE**



**Australia Day means different things for many.**

It is still a day to be proud and acknowledge the sum of all Australians.

It is also a day to acknowledge those who have served, fought, and died under our flag, defending our freedoms.

For some Australia Day may be painful.

**We believe that the debate about Australia Day is NOT THE ROLE OF LOCAL COUNCILS - who should be focused on local issues.**

**We ask that Council LEAVE AUSTRALIA DAY ALONE and hold community events that:**

**Celebrate Australia Day**

**Acknowledge Indigenous Culture**

**Mark Australia Day with Citizenship Ceremonies**



31 January 2024

**Administration  
Centre**

PO Box 250  
92 Nelson Street  
Nhill VIC 3418  
Ph: (03) 5391 4444  
Fax: (03) 5391 1376

email:  
info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

website:  
www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

ABN 26 550 541 746

**Customer Service  
Centres**

**Jeparit**  
10 Roy Street  
JEPARIT VIC 3423  
Ph: (03) 5391 4450  
Fax: (03) 5397 2263

**Dimboola**  
101 Lloyd Street  
DIMBOOLA VIC 3414  
Ph: (03) 5391 4452  
Fax: (03) 5389 1734

**Rainbow**  
15 Federal Street  
RAINBOW VIC 3424  
Ph: (03) 5391 4451  
Fax: (03) 5395 1436

Gerang Hall Committee  
C/O Donna Krelle

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Gerang Hall Committee

**Re: Gerang Hall Committee Disbanding**


Council wishes to acknowledge the letter and minutes received from the Gerang Hall Committee dated 3 November 2023.

On behalf of Councillors, Council staff, and the community we wish to offer our sincerest thanks for the incredible work of the hall committee volunteers over many years in managing and maintaining this community asset. While use may have declined in recent years, we understand the important role that this venue has played in facilitating community events and meetings over the years.

Please pass on our thanks and best wishes to all Committee members and volunteers.

Yours sincerely

Monica Revell  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**



**HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING  
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Hindmarsh Shire Council**  
**Management Financial Report**  
**For the period ending 31 December 2023**

**COMMENTARY**

**General**

This report is for the period ending 31 December 2023

The Financial report provides financial reporting and variances against budget. This report incorporates Year to Date actual and variance figures for the six months up to 31 December 2023.

**Dashboard**

The Dashboard provides Council with a set of graphs detailing both financial and non-financial items. This will be available for distribution at the Council meeting.

**Executive Summary & Ratios**

The Executive Summary and ratios provides Council with a summary of financial items comparing year to date actuals against year to date budget.

**Financials**

Attached to this report are a set of financial statements consisting of an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, Capital Works Schedule and Detailed Program Expenditure. These statements are prepared in line with Australian Accounting Standards and the relevant regulations under the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*. The statements provide YTD Actual data with a comparison against YTD Budget figures.

A brief summary of the major budget variances is outlined on the following pages.

**Comprehensive Income Statement**

The Comprehensive Income Statement shows an operating surplus for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 of \$6,353,596 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$5,786,068.

There are a number of items that make up the overall variances between actual and budget. Explanation of material variances have been detailed against the Comprehensive Income Statement report.

**Balance Sheet and Cash Flow**

Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023 shows a balance of \$13,642,826.

**Capital Expenditure**

This report shows Capital works expenditure for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

**Local Government Performance Reporting**

This report shows Councils results against the Local Government Performance Reporting Service Performance Measures, Sustainability Capacity Indicators and Financial Performance Indicators for the period 1 July to 31 December 2023. Explanations have been provided where necessary.

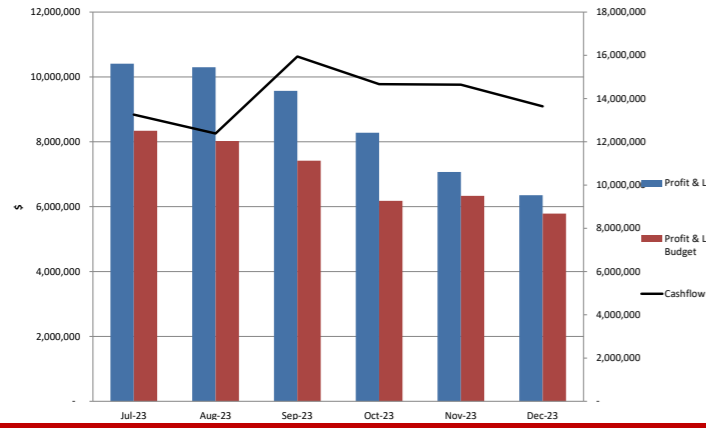
"The Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required"



### Hindmarsh Shire Council Performance Dashboard For the period ending 31 December 2023

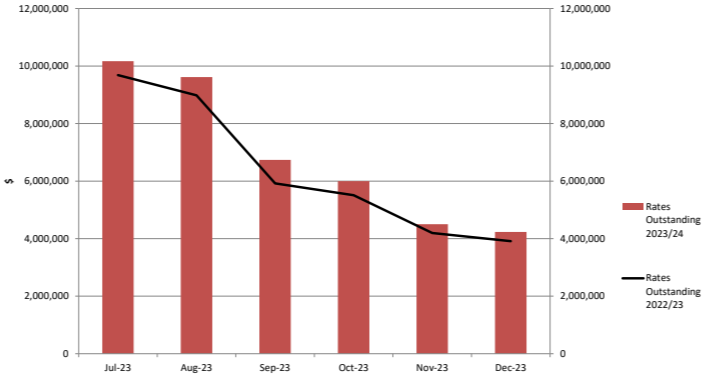
#### Profit & Loss

##### Profit and Loss

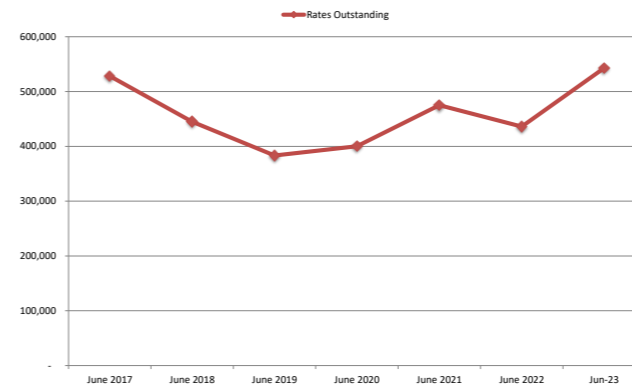


#### Outstanding Debtors, Rates & Infringements

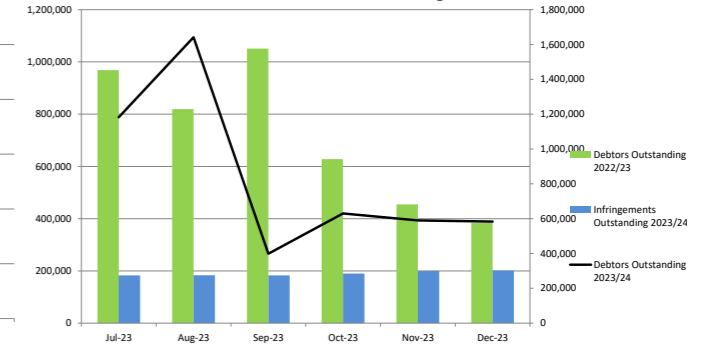
##### Rates Outstanding



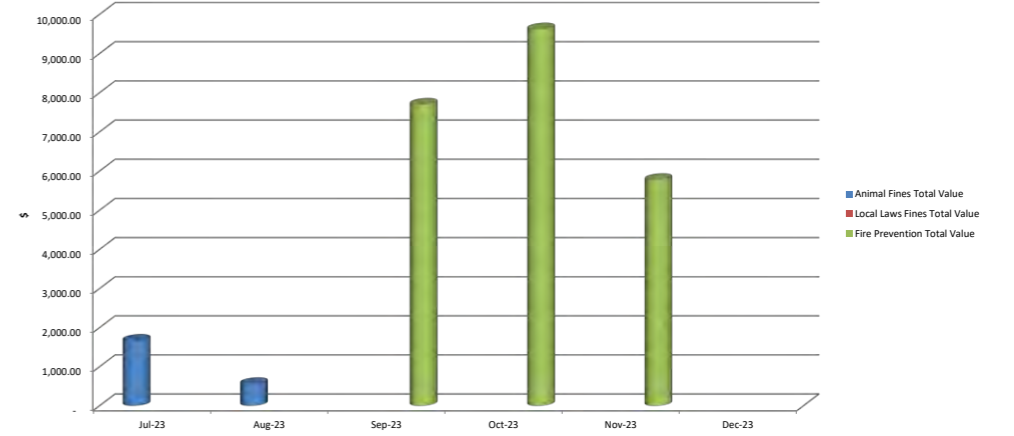
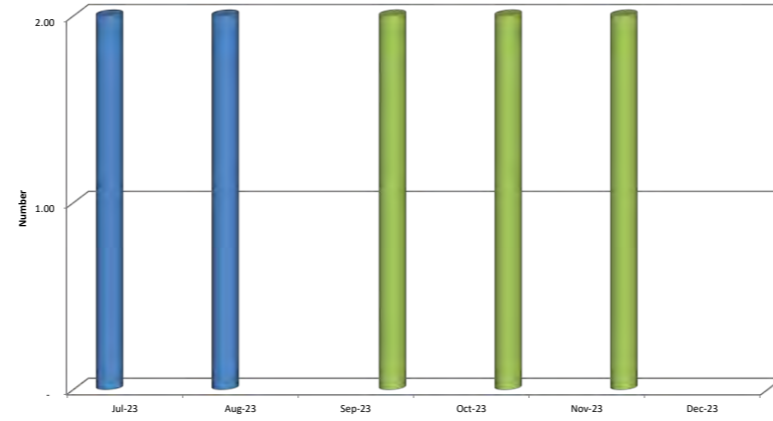
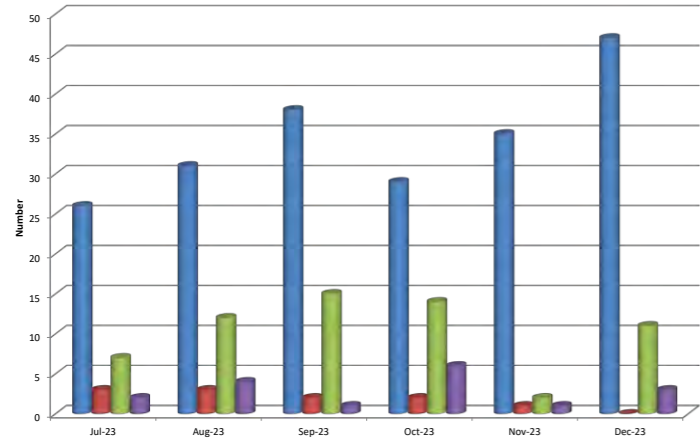
##### Rates Arrears



##### Debtors & Infringements

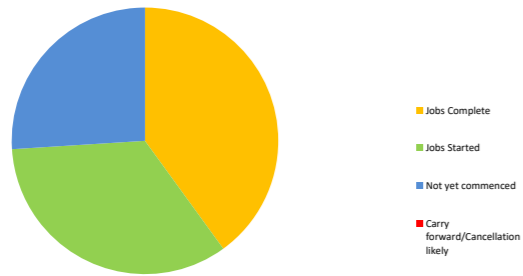


#### Local Laws



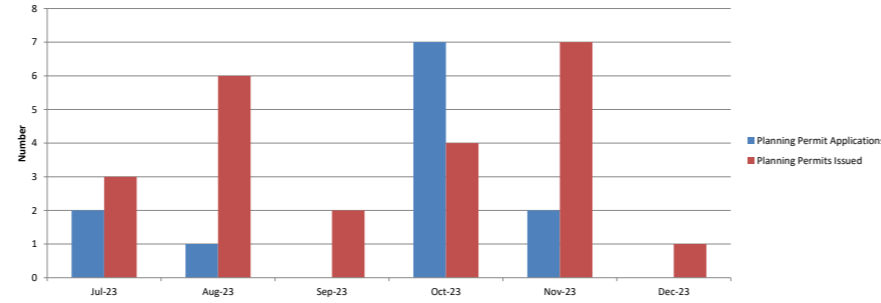
#### Capital Works

##### Capital Works



#### Planning and Building

##### Planning

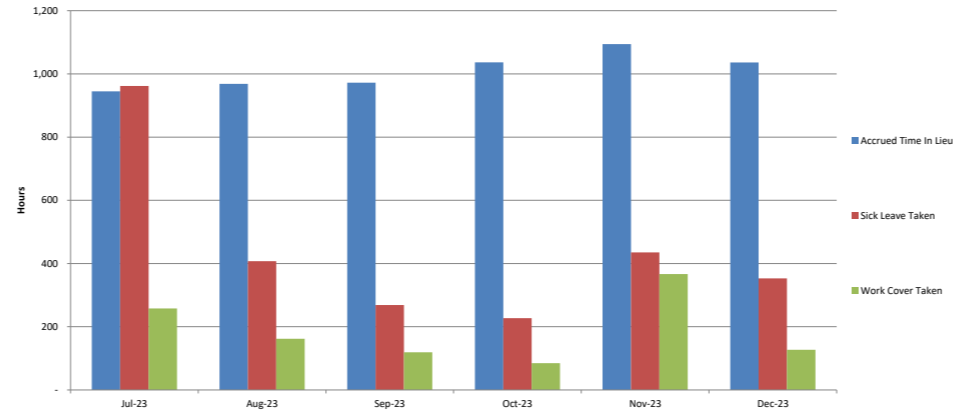
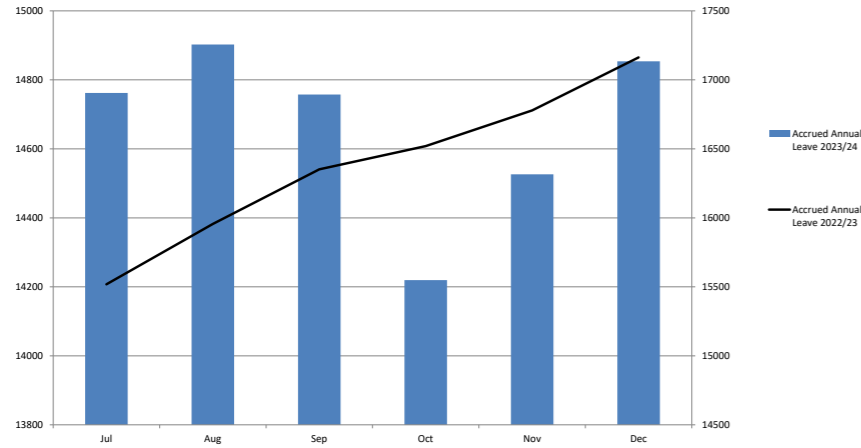




Hindmarsh Shire Council Performance Dashboard  
For the period ending 31 December 2023

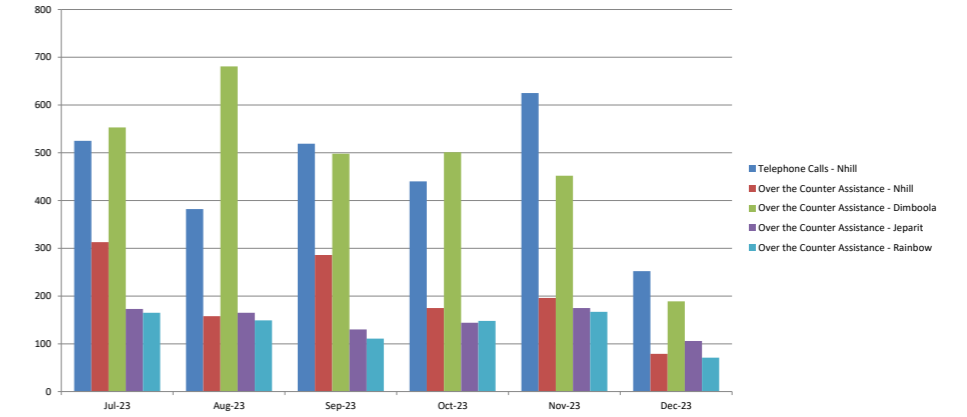
Human Resources

Accrued Annual Leave



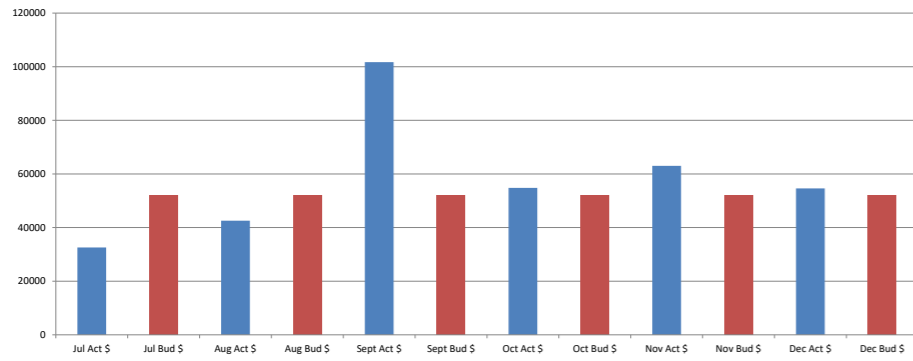
Customer Services

Customer Services

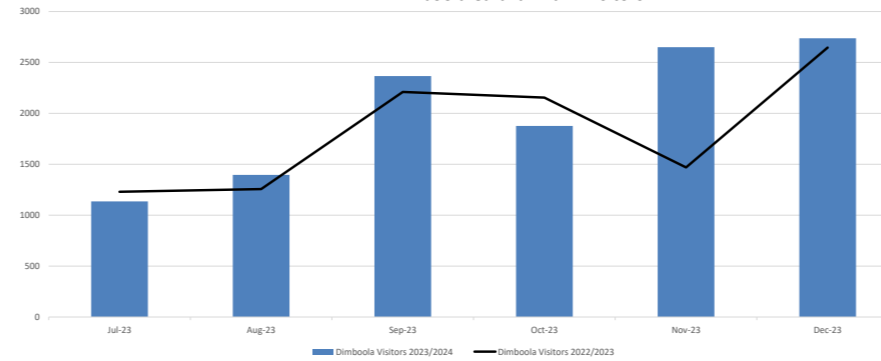


Caravan Park

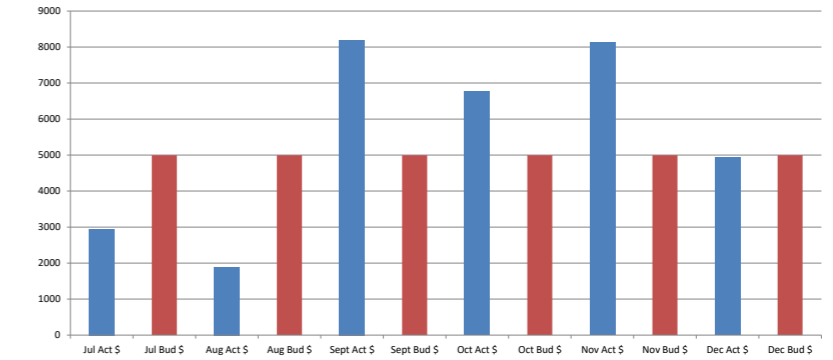
Caravan Park Revenue - Dimboola



Dimboola Caravan Park Visitors

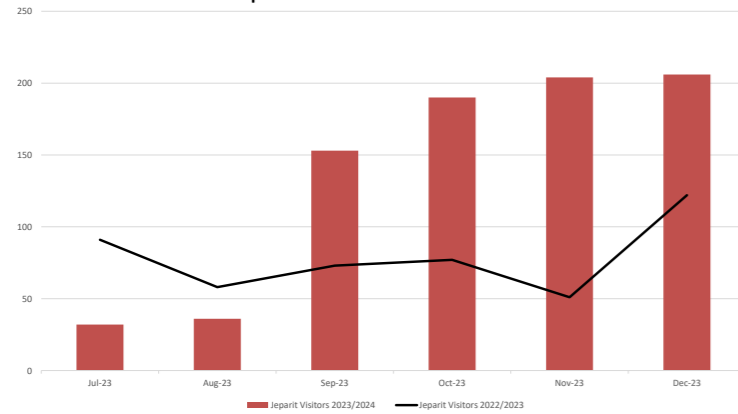


Caravan Park Revenue - Jeparit

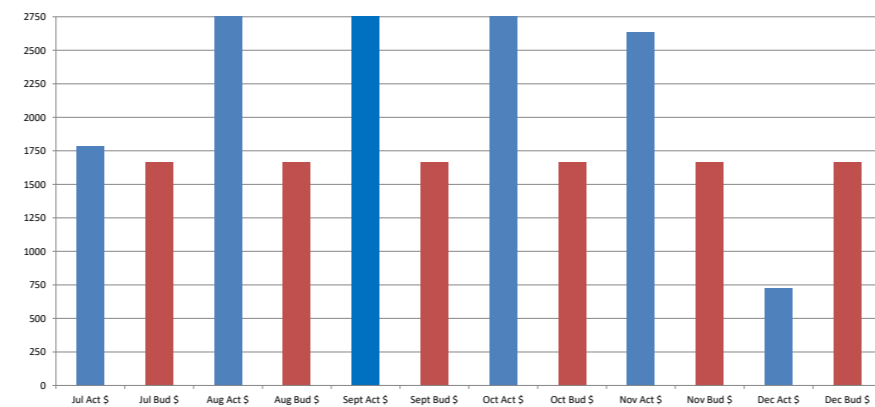


Caravan Park

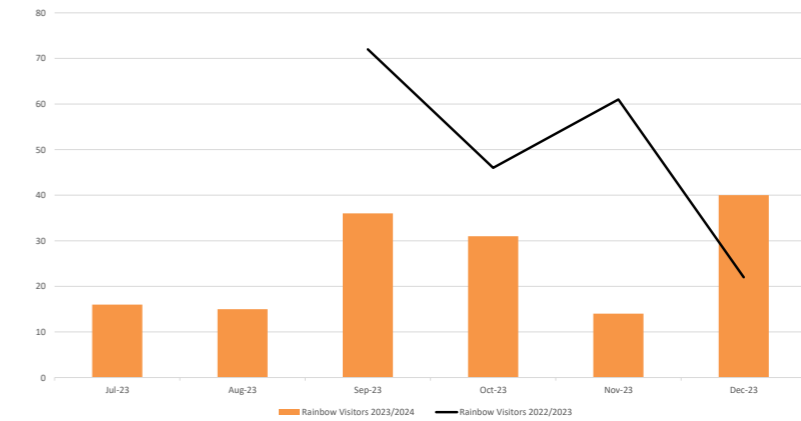
Jeparit Caravan Park Visitors



Caravan Park Revenue - Rainbow



Rainbow Caravan Park Visitors



**Hindmarsh Shire Council  
Executive Summary  
As at 31 December 2023**

	<b>Actual YTD December 2023</b>	<b>Budget YTD December 2023</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Rates & Charges Collected	6,032,765	7,291,949	
Income Statement Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	6,353,596	5,786,068	
Adjusted Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)	1,509,901	3,702,000	
Cash & Investments	13,642,825		
Rates Debtors	4,219,326		
Sundry Debtors	583,249		
Infringement Debtors	201,543		
Balance Sheet Working Capital	17,394,185		
Total Operating Revenue	16,543,937	16,229,601	
Total Operating Expenditure	10,190,341	10,443,533	
Capital Works Expenditure	4,258,515	4,371,584	

**Indicator Legend**

	No action required
	Requires active monitoring
	Immediate action required



**Hindmarsh Shire Council  
Ratio Summary  
As at 31 December 2023**

	Actual YTD	Budget	Indicator
<b>Working Capital</b> (This ratio identifies if the Council has sufficient Current Assets to meet its due debts with a safety margin. A generally acceptable current ratio is 2 to 1.)	710%	107%	
<b>Asset Renewal</b> (This ratio identifies councils expenditure renewing assets compared to the depreciation of the asset)	67%	42%	
<b>Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio</b> (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's ability to cover its costs through its own revenue efforts.)	108%	104%	
<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b> (This ratio is a measure of a Council's ability to cover its operational costs and have revenues available for capital funding or other purposes.)	58%	53%	
<b>Liquidity</b> (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's current assets compared to current liabilities.)	479%	118%	
<b>Unrestricted Cash</b> (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's cash compared to current liabilities.)	407%	419%	
<b>Indebtedness</b> (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue.)	2%	29%	
<b>Rates Concentration</b> (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's rate revenue compared to total revenue.)	59%	49%	
<b>Cash Expense Ratio (months)</b> (This ratio indicates (in months) how long Council can continue to undertake operations without any revenue being received.)	7.21		

**Indicator Legend**

	No action required
	Requires active monitoring
	Immediate action required

**Hindmarsh Shire Council**  
**Comprehensive Income Statement**  
**For the period ending 31 December 2023**

	YTD Actual \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Ref
<b>Income</b>				
Rates and charges	9,720,650	9,722,599	(1,949)	
Statutory fees and fines	17,780	18,618	(838)	
User fees & Reimbursements	693,778	885,652	(191,874)	1
Contributions - cash	75,040	6,000	69,040	2
Grants - operating (recurrent)	480,162	2,750,800	(2,270,638)	3
Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	207,703	0	207,703	4
Grants - capital (recurrent)	2,134	540,398	(538,264)	5
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	4,748,163	1,844,068	2,904,095	6
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	95,532	240,000	(144,468)	7
Interest	317,177	119,952	197,225	8
Other income	185,817	101,514	84,303	9
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,543,937</b>	<b>16,229,601</b>	<b>314,336</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee costs	3,951,694	4,118,775	(167,081)	10
Materials and services	2,568,610	2,905,748	(337,138)	11
Depreciation	2,624,553	2,418,300	206,253	12
Other expenses	1,045,485	1,000,710	44,775	13
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>10,190,341</b>	<b>10,443,533</b>	<b>(253,192)</b>	
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures accounted for by the equity method	-	-	-	
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year to date</b>	<b>6,353,596</b>	<b>5,786,068</b>	<b>567,528</b>	
Net asset Revaluation increment / (decrement)	-	-	-	
<b>Comprehensive result</b>	<b>6,353,596</b>	<b>5,786,068</b>	<b>567,528</b>	

**Comprehensive Income Statement**  
**Explanation of material variations**  
**For the period ending 31 December 2023**

Variance		
Ref	Item	Explanation
1	User fees & Reimbursements	User fees and charges are below budget due to Council ceasing to provide Aged Care Services. Rural Roads Victoria and private works income is less than budgeted this financial year.
2	Contributions - cash	Contributions is higher than budgeted due to the receipt of funds from the Dimboola Town Committee for the Dimboola Soundshell. Council received a contribution towards the Dimboola Boating Pontoon.
3	Grants - operating (recurrent)	Recurrent operating grants are below budget due to Council ceasing to provide aged care services. Grants commission income was budgeted for 23/24 however was received in June 2023.
4	Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	Operating Grants - non recurrent is has received funding from the Covid Relief Program, Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management and the Digital Planning Grant which were not budgeted for.
5	Grants - Capital (recurrent)	Capital grants recurrent is less than budget due to the timing of receipt of the Roads to Recovery funding.
6	Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	Capital grants is higher than budgeted due to the recognition of funding received in 2022/2023 committed to capital projects. Funding has been received for the Albacutya Bridge approach roads as well as a grant for the Nhill Aerodrome Runway upgrade.
7	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Net gain/loss on disposal of plant and assets for 2023/2024 will be reconciled at the end of the financial year.
8	Interest	Revenue from interest is higher than budgeted due to increases in interest rates.
9	Other Income	Other income is higher than budgeted due to the receipt of insurance recouperments for damage to the NMCC.

**Comprehensive Income Statement**  
**Explanation of material variations**  
**For the period ending 31 December 2023**

10	Employee Costs	Employee costs are currently under budget due to a number of vacancies. A budget allowance had been made for Aged Care Services which was discontinued as at 30 June 2023.
11	Materials and services	Materials and services is lower than budgeted as the invoices for November and December for waste collection have yet to be received. Recoupment of Quarry materials and plant operations are higher than budgeted.
12	Depreciation	Depreciation for 2023/2024 will be reconciled at the end of the financial year.
13	Other Expenses	Other expenses are higher than budgeted due to the timing of the budget in relation to insurance and Council's contributions.

**Hindmarsh Shire Council  
Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2023**

	YTD Actual 2023/24 \$	Actual 2023/24 \$	Ref
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	13,642,826	14,980,215	1
Rates and other receivables	5,735,636	1,902,961	2
Other assets & Inventories	865,643	587,151	3
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>20,244,105</u>	<u>17,470,327</u>	
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Investments in associates by equity method	233,067	295,103	
Infrastructure, Property and Plant and Equipment	201,194,640	201,579,255	
Capital Expenditure 2023/2024	4,258,515	0	4
Trade and other receivables	2,207	2,207	
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<u>205,688,429</u>	<u>201,876,565</u>	
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>225,932,534</u>	<u>219,346,892</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	77,141	2,752,875	5
Trust Funds and Deposits	588,647	101,886	6
Provisions	2,184,132	2,166,346	7
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>2,849,920</u>	<u>5,021,107</u>	
<b>Non current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	206,928	198,473	7
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<u>206,928</u>	<u>198,473</u>	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>3,056,849</u>	<u>5,219,581</u>	
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>222,875,685</u>	<u>214,127,311</u>	
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus	83,961,743	71,533,642	
Surplus/(Deficit) for period	6,353,596	8,349,185	
Asset revaluation reserve	132,560,343	134,244,484	
<b>Total equity</b>	<u>222,875,682</u>	<u>214,127,311</u>	

**Balance Sheet**  
**Explanation of material variations**  
**As at 31 December 2023**

Variance		
Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash and Cash Equivalents reflects the receipt of substantial grant funding late in the previous financial year that was carried forward for projects as well as the Victorian Grants Commission grant for 2023/24 which was received in 2022/23.
2	Rates and Other Receivables	Rates and other receivables recognise total rates raised for the 2023/2024 financial year less the amount of payments received from installments one and two.
3	Other Assets & Inventories	Other assets and inventories represent the amount of stock on hand to undertake operations and capital projects.
4	Capital Expenditure	Capital Expenditure as at 31 December 2023 was \$4,258,515. Refer to the Capital Works report for further information.
5	Trade and Other Payables	Trade and Other Payables represents the amount outstanding to creditors as at 31 December 2023.
6	Trust Funds and Deposits	As at 31 December 2023 Council holds \$587,737 for the Fire Services Levy which will be remitted during the 2023/2024 financial year.
7	Provisions	Provisions represents the amount held for Long Service and Annual Leave as well as quarry and landfill restoration.

**Hindmarsh Shire Council**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the period ending 31 December 2023**

**Cash Flows from Operating Activities**

	<b>Inflows/ (Outflows)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Rates & Charges	6,032,765
Statutory Fees and Fines	3,759
User Fees	1,142,600
Interest	317,177
Contributions - Cash	75,040
Grants - Recurrent	687,865
Net GST refund/(payment)	12,431
Grants - Non Recurrent	3,023,805
Trust	42,693
Other Revenue	185,817
<b>Payments</b>	
Employee Costs	(4,011,283)
Other Expenses	(1,185,741)
Suppliers	(3,109,722)
	3,217,204
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>3,217,204</b>

**Cash Flows from Investing Activities**

Payments for Property Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure	(4,258,515)
Proceeds from sale of Property Plant and Equipment	95,532
<b>Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities</b>	<b>(4,162,983)</b>

**Cash flows from Financing activities**

<b>Net cash inflow (outflow) from financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>
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<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>(945,778)</b>
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Cash at beginning of the period	14,588,603
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<b>Cash at end of the period</b>	<b>13,642,825</b>
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**Hindmarsh Shire Council**  
**Capital Works**  
For the period ending 31 December 2023

	YTD Actual \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Ref
<b>Property</b>				
Land	-	-	-	
<b>Total Land</b>	-	-	-	
Buildings	1,061,392	589,780	(471,612)	1
<b>Total Buildings</b>	1,061,392	589,780	471,612	
<b>Total Property</b>	1,061,392	589,780	471,612	
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>				
Plant, machinery and equipment	242,323	1,291,000	1,048,677	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	34,453	69,978	35,525	
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	276,776	1,360,978	1,084,202	
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Roads	1,209,856	1,960,272	750,416	3
Bridges	1,762	-	(1,762)	
Footpaths and cycleways	481,385	64,890	(416,495)	4
Drainage	126,547	17,412	(109,135)	5
Other infrastructure	1,100,797	378,252	(722,545)	6
<b>Total Infrastructure</b>	2,920,347	2,420,826	499,521	
<b>Total Capital Works Expenditure</b>	4,258,515	4,371,584	113,069	
<b>Represented by:</b>				
New asset expenditure	1,394,880	197,836	(1,197,044)	
Asset renewal expenditure	2,153,439	3,923,434	1,769,995	
Asset expansion expenditure	246,893	64,890	(182,003)	
Asset upgrade expenditure	463,304	185,424	(277,880)	
<b>Total Capital Works Expenditure</b>	4,258,515	4,371,584	113,069	



**Capital Works**  
**Explanation of material variations**  
**For the period ending 31 December 2023**

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	Work on the Rainbow Caravan Park amenities and Caravan Park cabins has continued on from 2022/23 using carried forward funding. Water damage repairs and seat replacement have been completed at the NMCC.
2	Plant, machinery and equipment	The purchase of plant and machinery is higher than budgeted due to a number of fleet items being purchased in the first quarter.
3	Roads	The shortfall in actual expenditure to budgeted is due to the phasing of the budgeted projects. Funding is being sought prior to commencement of work on roads damaged in the October 2022 floods.
4	Footpaths and cycleways	Work is being undertaken on the Wimmera Discovery Trail using carried forward grant funds.
5	Drainage	Drainage work which commenced in 2022/23 has been continued using carried forward funds.

**Hindmarsh Shire Council**  
**Key Result Area Summary**  
For the period ending 31 December 2023

Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024 YTD Actual \$	2023/2024 YTD Budget \$	2023/2024 Annual Budget \$	
<b>Theme 1: Our Community</b>					
<b>Community Development</b>	Councils community Development Team works with community groups, organisations and individuals to assist communities reach their aspirations and be healthy, active and engaged.	Operating Expenditure	203,872	88,728	177,509
		Operating Revenue	188,979	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	14,894	88,728	177,509
		Capital Expenditure	38,630	-	-
<b>Maternal and Child Health Centres</b>	Maintain maternal and child health facilities in Dimboola and Nhill. Council provides support to early years' services through the Municipal Early Years Plan. Council does not provide Maternal and Child Health Services. This service is provided by West Wimmera Health Services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	2,362	8,760	17,542
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	2,362	8,760	17,542
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Kindergarten Services</b>	Provision of Kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow under contract with Horsham District Kindergarten Association. Council does not directly deliver Kindergarten Services.	Operating Expenditure	80,574	67,110	134,235
		Operating Revenue	32,569	30,480	60,980
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	48,005	36,630	73,255
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Youth Services</b>	Improve the wellbeing of and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	66,824	77,130	154,298
		Operating Revenue	87,209	21,366	42,750
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(20,384)	55,764	111,548
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Aged &amp; Disability Services</b>	Council ceased to provide in-home aged care services on 30 June 2023. Costs related to Aged Care include Regional Assessment Services as well as social support.	Operating Expenditure	79,524	306,429	434,920
		Operating Revenue	76,766	165,216	330,587
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	2,758	141,213	104,333
		Capital Expenditure	2,447	-	-
<b>Health Promotion</b>	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	Operating Expenditure	111,857	80,334	160,741
		Operating Revenue	115,000	15,498	31,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(3,144)	64,836	129,741
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024	2023/2024	2023/2024	
		YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	
		\$	\$	\$	
<b>Community Transport</b>		Operating Expenditure	-	-	-
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	-	-	-
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Libraries</b>	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill, and improving services to Jeparit and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	166,707	204,750	409,619
		Operating Revenue	134,154	64,548	129,156
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	32,553	140,202	280,463
		Capital Expenditure	30,323	27,990	56,000
<b>Arts, Culture and Community Events</b>	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	47,352	65,574	131,179
		Operating Revenue	14,989	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	32,363	65,574	131,179
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Recreation Programs</b>	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	Operating Expenditure	6,758	7,578	15,167
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	6,758	7,578	15,167
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Public Order &amp; Safety</b>	Educate the community about public order and safety and enforce Council's compliance with the local laws when required. Operate the school crossing on the Western Highway in Nhill and maintain school crossings throughout the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	91,290	103,692	209,966
		Operating Revenue	16,587	40,614	81,250
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	74,703	63,078	128,716
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Early Years</b>	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	Operating Expenditure	9,183	14,694	29,401
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	9,183	14,694	29,401
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/2024 YTD Actual \$	2023/2024 YTD Budget \$	2023/2024 Annual Budget \$
<b>Theme 2: Built &amp; Natural Environment</b>					
<b>Local Roads &amp; Bridges</b>	<p>Provide safe, all weather access to residences and allow for efficient transport of goods to and from the Shire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of the road network is to provide property access for local traffic. Council endeavours to provide all-weather access to existing residential homes and dry weather access roads to non-residential properties.</li> <li>Council's road network comprises 573 kilometres of sealed roads, 845 kilometres of gravel roads (all weather) and approximately 1470 kilometres of earth roads (dry weather only, some contain gravel sections, though not maintained to an all-weather standard). The network also comprises six bridges and a significant number of large culverts.</li> <li>VicRoads is responsible for main roads including highways and marked routes. Similarly, state government agencies are responsible for roads and tracks within declared parks such as the Little Desert, Big Desert and along the Wimmera River.</li> </ul>	Operating Expenditure	2,503,712	2,295,158	4,592,042
		Operating Revenue	1,200,000	1,844,068	3,688,926
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,303,712	451,090	903,116
		Capital Expenditure	1,211,618	1,960,272	3,922,094
<b>Drainage Management</b>	Well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	Operating Expenditure	215,647	271,710	543,628
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	215,647	271,710	543,628
		Capital Expenditure	126,547	17,412	34,839
<b>Paths &amp; Trails</b>	Well maintained pedestrian access, including disabled access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	Operating Expenditure	153,385	125,874	251,848
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	153,385	125,874	251,848
		Capital Expenditure	481,385	64,890	129,839
<b>Tree Management</b>	Conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens, and recreation reserves.	Operating Expenditure	97,132	187,860	375,807
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	97,132	187,860	375,807
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024	2023/2024	2023/2024	
		YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	
		\$	\$	\$	
<b>Town Beautification</b>	Maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	352,405	398,172	796,511
		Operating Revenue	4,000	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	348,405	398,172	796,511
		Capital Expenditure	71,772	77,472	155,000
<b>Community Centres &amp; Public Halls</b>	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled community centres and halls, and support of communities that undertake these activities on behalf of Council. To protect and enhance the health of the community.	Operating Expenditure	172,952	138,630	277,330
		Operating Revenue	4,092	2,496	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	168,859	136,134	272,330
		Capital Expenditure	159,596	87,468	175,000
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council owned and controlled recreational land, buildings and facilities. Council also supports groups that undertake these activities on behalf of Council.	Operating Expenditure	365,042	540,066	1,080,437
		Operating Revenue	107,281	3,000	6,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	257,761	537,066	1,074,437
		Capital Expenditure	372,770	469,812	940,000
<b>Waste Management</b>	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	692,681	716,232	1,432,927
		Operating Revenue	1,456,312	1,325,364	1,433,142
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(763,631)	(609,132)	(215)
		Capital Expenditure	46,744	-	-
<b>Quarry Operations</b>	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	Operating Expenditure	301,018	327,444	655,080
		Operating Revenue	215,486	201,168	402,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	85,532	126,276	252,580
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Waterway Management</b>	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	Operating Expenditure	23,152	48,660	97,351
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	23,152	48,660	97,351
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Environmental Management</b>	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	Operating Expenditure	86,455	79,734	159,489
		Operating Revenue	85,000	37,482	75,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,455	42,252	84,489
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	Identification of potential fire hazards and prevention of loss of life and property caused by fire.	Operating Expenditure	80,742	75,210	150,447
		Operating Revenue	15,564	17,490	35,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	65,178	57,720	115,447
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024 YTD Actual \$	2023/2024 YTD Budget \$	2023/2024 Annual Budget \$	
<b>Theme 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy</b>					
<b>Economic Development</b>	Facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for residents to access employment.	Operating Expenditure	83,846	73,308	146,649
		Operating Revenue	5,463	3,750	7,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	78,383	69,558	139,149
		Capital Expenditure	-	24,990	50,000
<b>Tourism</b>	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	Operating Expenditure	129,964	151,062	302,206
		Operating Revenue	1,532,857	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(1,402,893)	151,062	302,206
		Capital Expenditure	96,382	69,870	139,796
<b>Private Works</b>	Provision of private civil works services. • Provide quotations for private works undertaken by Council's works department to residents, contractors and other authorities. • Potential private works include grading of farm driveways, grading of fence lines, construction of driveway cross-overs, and supply of labour, plant and materials. • Private works also include repair to Council's infrastructure caused by repair work to third party assets.	Operating Expenditure	162,319	221,310	442,726
		Operating Revenue	69,449	253,896	508,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	92,870	(32,586)	(65,274)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds</b>	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	Operating Expenditure	375,444	298,068	596,271
		Operating Revenue	610,586	364,848	730,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(235,142)	(66,780)	(133,729)
		Capital Expenditure	968,373	82,978	166,000
<b>Land Use Planning</b>	To ensure that any development that occurs in Hindmarsh Shire is carried out in accordance with relevant planning policies, principals and controls.	Operating Expenditure	144,394	145,482	291,086
		Operating Revenue	81,738	40,734	81,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	62,656	104,748	209,586
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Building Control</b>	To provide statutory and private building services to the community	Operating Expenditure	142,110	122,808	245,713
		Operating Revenue	17,563	24,498	49,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	124,547	98,310	196,713
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Aerodrome</b>	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome	Operating Expenditure	43,638	47,010	94,069
		Operating Revenue	303,116	2,496	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(259,479)	44,514	89,069
		Capital Expenditure	325,506	14,994	30,000

Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024 YTD Actual \$	2023/2024 YTD Budget \$	2023/2024 Annual Budget \$	
<b>Theme 4: Good Governance &amp; Financial Sustainability</b>					
<b>Civic Governance &amp; Leadership</b>	To ensure that Council provides effective leadership and that its decisions are transparent, inclusive and based on sound recommendations and advice.	Operating Expenditure	637,717	613,518	1,227,525
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	637,717	613,518	1,227,525
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Customer Service Centres</b>	Operation and maintenance of customer service centres to provide facilities from which Council can efficiently deliver services to the community. Provision of information to ratepayers and the general public on a broad range of services provided by Council and other government agencies.	Operating Expenditure	262,977	291,924	584,074
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	262,977	291,924	584,074
		Capital Expenditure	3,127	89,970	180,000
<b>Council Elections</b>	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council.	Operating Expenditure	225	1,998	4,000
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	225	1,998	4,000
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Financial Management</b>	To ensure the efficient and effective allocation of resources through sound financial planning and management that secures the long term financial viability of the municipality.	Operating Expenditure	200,053	265,128	530,444
		Operating Revenue	1,788,723	3,430,392	6,860,872
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(1,588,670)	(3,165,264)	(6,330,428)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Rating and Valuations</b>	Management of Council's rating system, including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges.	Operating Expenditure	117,629	116,332	232,748
		Operating Revenue	8,477,593	8,468,045	8,512,912
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(8,359,964)	(8,351,713)	(8,280,164)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024	2023/2024	2023/2024	
		YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	
		\$	\$	\$	
<b>Records Management</b>	Effective and efficient recording, storage, retrieval and disposal of records in line with the standards of the Public Records Office of Victoria.	Operating Expenditure	29,009	53,376	106,779
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	29,009	53,376	106,779
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Information Technology</b>	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	Operating Expenditure	269,277	210,054	420,250
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	269,277	210,054	420,250
		Capital Expenditure	27,875	42,486	85,000
<b>Risk Management</b>	Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure.	Operating Expenditure	521,076	548,720	687,523
		Operating Revenue	69,260	17,490	35,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	451,816	531,230	652,523
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Contract Management</b>	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	Operating Expenditure	117,456	101,418	202,911
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	117,456	101,418	202,911
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Payroll and Human Resources Services</b>	Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of Human Resources services to management.	Operating Expenditure	147,856	194,862	389,840
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	147,856	194,862	389,840
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Emergency Management</b>	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	Operating Expenditure	24,308	40,734	81,476
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	24,308	40,734	81,476
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Depots &amp; Workshops</b>	Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment.	Operating Expenditure	685,477	632,670	298,409
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	685,477	632,670	298,409
		Capital Expenditure	96,300	1,094,980	1,145,000



Service area	Description of services provided	2023/2024	2023/2024	2023/2024	
		YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	
		\$	\$	\$	
<b>Asset Management</b>	Provision of skills, resources and systems to ensure the most efficient and effective management of Council's assets. • Ensure that Council targets the correct level of asset expenditure to achieve and maintain the desired levels of service into the foreseeable future. • Ensure that Council's asset renewal expenditure targets the most critical assets. • Provide regular condition and defect audits of Council's assets to ensure safety and levels of service are maintained. • Provide Council's asset valuations.	Operating Expenditure	249,833	137,040	1,241,505
		Operating Revenue	403	1,002	2,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	249,429	136,038	1,239,505
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Fleet Management</b>	Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is management, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and efficient way possible.	Operating Expenditure	117,983	108,894	217,864
		Operating Revenue	37,866	43,080	86,200
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	80,118	65,814	131,664
		Capital Expenditure	199,120	246,000	246,000
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	Payment of invoices in an efficient and timely manner.	Operating Expenditure	15,219	18,696	37,412
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	15,219	18,696	37,412
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	Receival of payments from debtors in an efficient and timely manner.	Operating Expenditure	6,574	9,012	18,030
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	6,574	9,012	18,030
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-



REPORT OF OPERATIONS

Service Performance Indicators Service / indicator / measure	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	Results 2024	Comments
<b>Aquatic Facilities</b>					
<b>Service standard</b>					
<i>Health inspections of aquatic facilities</i>	1.50	1.00	0.00	1.25	
[Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]					
<b>Utilisation</b>					
<i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i>	2.14	2.08	0.53	0.24	This reflects only 7 weeks of the swimming pools being open.
[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of aquatic facilities</i>	\$29.45	\$40.41	\$138.36	\$68.72	The pools are closed from July to November. This cost reflects the direct costs associated with reopening the pools to the public.
[Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]					
<b>Animal Management</b>					
<b>Timeliness</b>					
<i>Time taken to action animal management requests</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Animal management requests are actioned within 1 day.
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]					
<b>Service standard</b>					
<i>Animals reclaimed</i>	37.10%	40.54%	62.96%	47.62%	
[Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100					
<i>Animals rehomed</i>	54.84%	59.46%	29.63%	52.38%	
[Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of animal management service per population</i>	\$42.05	\$44.81	\$41.97	\$13.98	2024 actuals for the period of 6 months only.
[Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]					
<b>Health and safety</b>					
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	There were no animal prosecutions to date during 2023/24.
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100					
<b>Food Safety</b>					
<b>Timeliness</b>					
<i>Time taken to action food complaints</i>	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]					
<b>Service standard</b>					
<i>Food safety assessments</i>	77.53%	73.27%	80.00%	168.75%	
[Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of food safety service</i>	\$884.78	\$762.91	\$776.43	\$941.88	Due to the small number of registered food premises, any additional costs incurred or decrease in the number of premises will significantly alter the food safety costs.
[Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]					
<b>Health and safety</b>					
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100					

Service Performance Indicators Service / indicator / measure	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	Results 2024	Comments
<b>Governance</b>					
<b>Transparency</b>					
<i>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</i>	14.07%	15.35%	24.39%	15.05%	Decisions made in closed council relate to personnel matters, contractual matters, hardship applications, and legal advice.
[Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100					
<b>Consultation and engagement</b>					
<i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i>	56.00	55.00	53.00	53.00	
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]					
<b>Attendance</b>					
<i>Councillor attendance at council meetings</i>	95.24%	98.81%	97.44%	92.86%	
[The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) x (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of elected representation</i>	\$42,056.33	\$48,490.50	\$53,870.37	\$36,496.56	2024 actuals for the period of 6 months only.
[Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]					
<b>Satisfaction</b>					
<i>Satisfaction with council decisions</i>	59.00	55.00	52.00	52.00	
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]					
<b>Libraries</b>					
<b>Utilisation</b>					
<i>Physical library collection usage</i>	0.30	0.61	0.54	0.28	
[Number of physical library collection item loans / Number of physical library collection items]					
<b>Resource standard</b>					
<i>Recently purchased library collection</i>	39.10%	25.16%	33.41%	32.80%	
[Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100					
<b>Participation</b>					
<i>Active library borrowers in municipality</i>	6.64%	6.50%	6.87%	6.84%	
[Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of library service per population</i>	\$66.95	\$55.85	\$61.44	\$26.68	2024 actuals for the period of 6 months only.
[Direct cost of the library service / Population]					
<b>Maternal and Child Health (MCH)</b>					
<b>Service standard</b>					
<i>Infant enrolments in the MCH service</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
[Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of the MCH service</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
[Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]					
<b>Participation</b>					
<i>Participation in the MCH service</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
<b>Participation</b>					
<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100					
<b>Satisfaction</b>					
<i>Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
[Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100					

Service Performance Indicators Service / indicator / measure	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	Results 2024	Comments
<b>Roads</b>					
<b>Satisfaction of use</b>					
<i>Sealed local road requests</i>	9.34	3.11	11.99	3.94	
[Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100					
<b>Condition</b>					
<i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i>	99.83%	99.83%	98.29%	98.29%	
[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of sealed local road reconstruction</i>	\$20.77	\$34.22	\$49.79	\$52.02	Work to be undertaken on roads was affected by weather. It is expected that the work will be complete later in the financial year.
[Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]					
<b>Service Cost</b>					
<i>Cost of sealed local road resealing</i>	\$5.08	\$5.17	\$6.03	\$6.77	Work to be undertaken on roads was affected by weather. It is expected that the work will be complete later in the financial year.
[Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]					
<b>Satisfaction</b>					
<i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i>	53.00	55.00	48.00	48.00	
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]					
<b>Statutory Planning</b>					
<b>Timeliness</b>					
<i>Time taken to decide planning applications</i>	43.00	69.00	107.00	614.00	There were several complex planning applications submitted for decisions.
[The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]					
<b>Service standard</b>					
<i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i>	76.19%	90.16%	54.55%	55.00%	
[(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of statutory planning service</i>	\$4,314.92	\$4,465.98	\$4,413.35	\$8,493.74	There have been a significant reduction in the number of planning applications received in the 6 months to December 2023 compared to last financial year.
[Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]					
<b>Decision making</b>					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100					

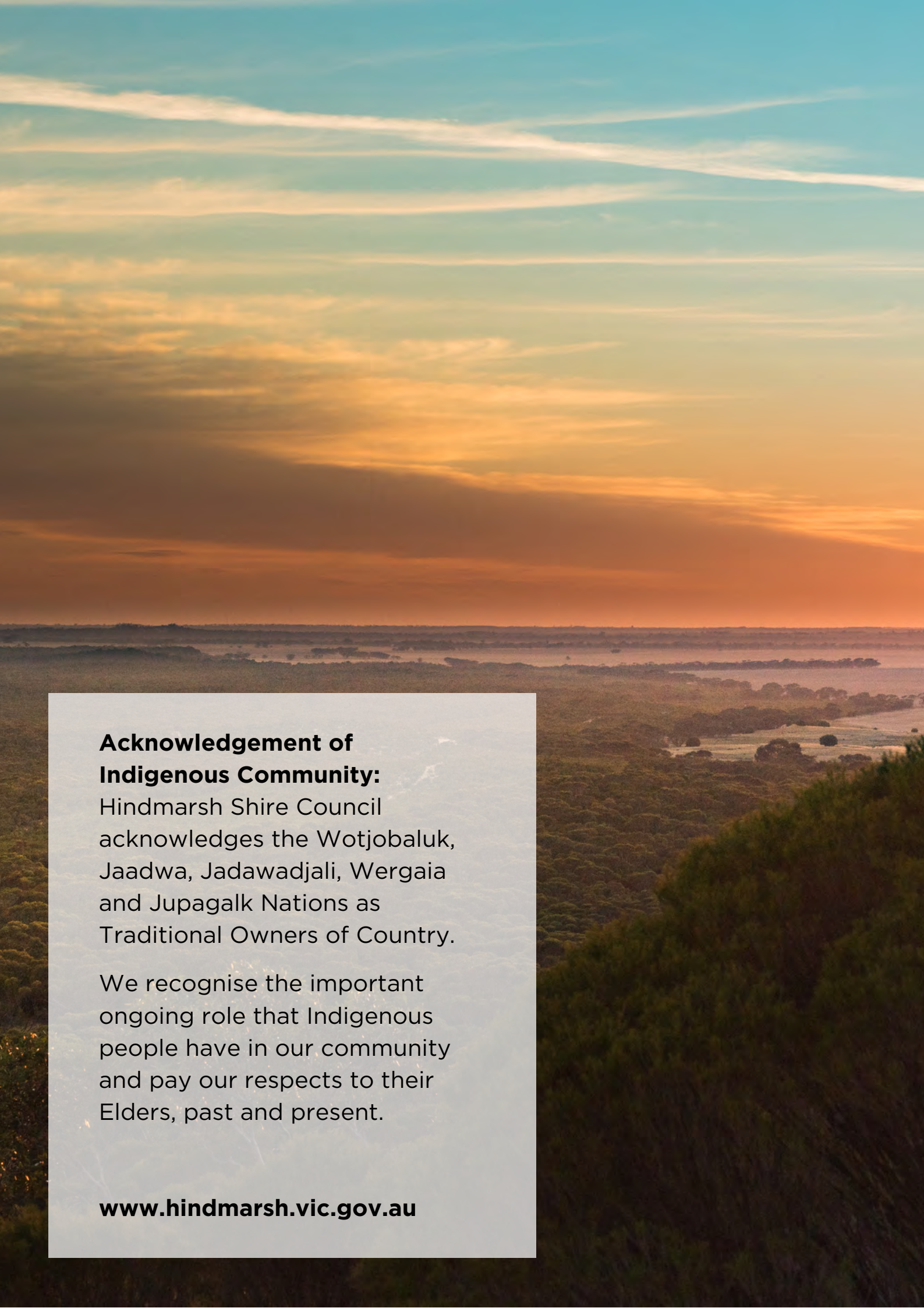
Service Performance Indicators Service / indicator / measure	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	Results 2024	Comments
<b>Waste Collection</b>					
<b>Satisfaction</b>					Comments
<i>Kerbside bin collection requests</i>	25.72	41.74	31.62	2.44	The majority of requests were in relation to broken bin lids or new bins.
[Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households] x1000					
<b>Service standard</b>					
<i>Kerbside collection bins missed</i>	0.09	0.18	0.00	0.35	
[Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10.000					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service</i>	\$198.18	\$212.62	\$227.59	\$126.37	2024 actuals for the period of 6 months only.
[Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]					
<b>Service cost</b>					
<i>Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service</i>	\$121.17	\$125.25	\$125.94	\$42.36	2024 actuals for the period of 6 months only.
[Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]					
<b>Waste diversion</b>					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>	30.10%	32.39%	34.54%	25.59%	
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100					

Hindmarsh Shire Council

# Community Action Plan 2024-2028

Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill & Rainbow

*DRAFT - December 2023*



**Acknowledgement of  
Indigenous Community:**

Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

[www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)



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# OVERVIEW & SUMMARY

## Overview

The Hindmarsh Shire 2024 - 2028 Community Action Plan is a plan developed through a consultation process between Hindmarsh Shire Council and the communities of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow during March and April 2023.

The aim of the community consultation process is to provide local communities with a forum for local initiatives and aspirations to be raised, discussed, and prioritised.

Prioritised initiatives then provide direction to Council for inclusion in Council Plans, Annual Budgets, and long-term Financial Plans enabling opportunities to seek alternative or additional funding to undertake projects as appropriate funding becomes available.

The Hindmarsh Shire 2024 - 2028 Community Action Plan is not a static document and will be reviewed on an annual basis and will evolve over the five-year period of the plan.

A collaborative effort by a range of stakeholders including individuals, community groups and organisations, Council, State and Federal Governments will be required for the plan to be successful and prioritised initiatives to be implemented.

The Hindmarsh Shire 2024 - 2028 Community Action Plan will align with other strategic Council documents including:

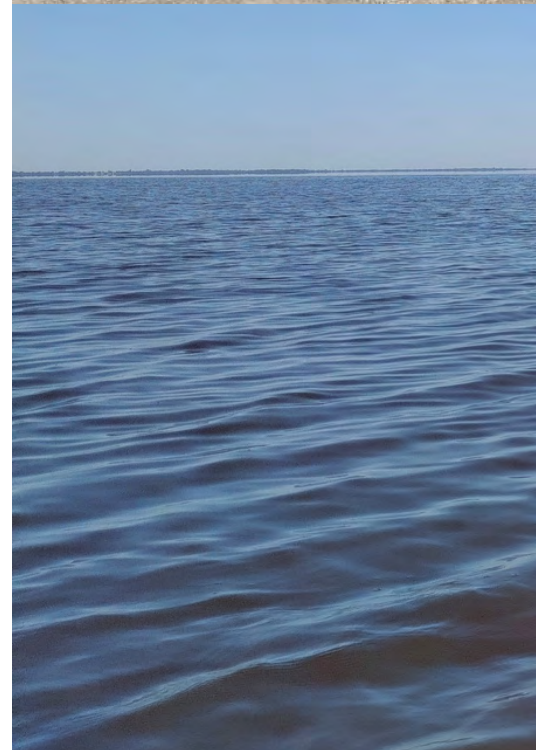
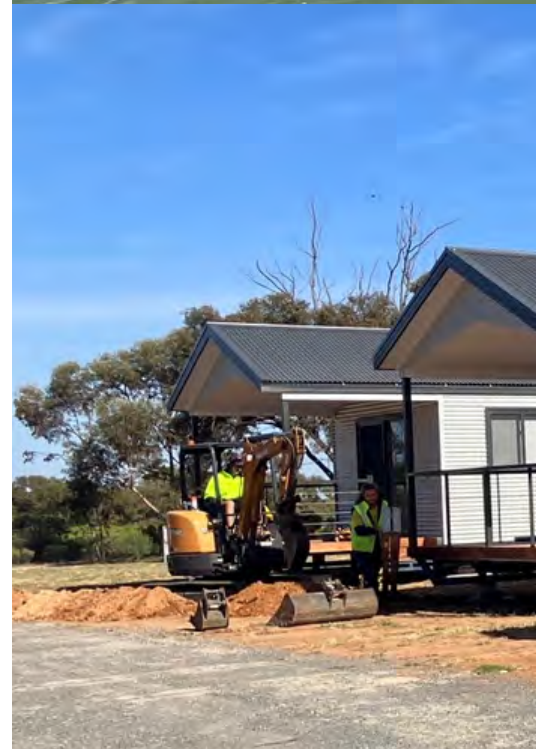
- Hindmarsh Shire Council 2021 - 2025 Council Plan
- Hindmarsh Shire Council 2024 - 2028 Economic Development Strategy
- Hindmarsh Shire 2024 - 2030 Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (to be developed)

## Summary

There have been many successful initiatives undertaken throughout the Shire that have been identified by the community through community planning processes. The timing of the implementation of the initiatives is dependent upon several factors including the size and complexity of the project and the availability of funding.

The following are examples of some of the initiatives undertaken following their identification and prioritisation through community consultation and planning processes.

- Establishment of a Community Hub in Rainbow (The Oasis) located at the former Rainbow Primary School.
- Establishment of a recreational lake in Rainbow (Rainbow Lake) at a former GWM Water reservoir.
- Redevelopment of the Rainbow Caravan Park.
- Establishment of an event to attract people to Rainbow (Rainbow Desert Enduro and Big Sky Festival).
- Increased and improved visitor experiences around Jeparit, e.g., Wimmera River/ Lake Hindmarsh, Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum and Menzies Square etc.
- Additional visitor accommodation options resulting in new cabins at the Jeparit Caravan Park.
- Improved facilities and aesthetics at the Jeparit Caravan Park and swimming hole, e.g., camp kitchen, new amenities building, retaining wall and deck and landscaping.
- Increased and up to date tourism, visitor information, promotional materials, signage etc to promote increased visitation.
- Improved facilities to the Broadway precinct through works to provide sound dampening and more components to the Jeparit Skate Park.









# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The process used for developing the Hindmarsh Shire 2024 - 2028 Community Action Plan consisted of the following steps.

**1**

A review of the following documents.

- 2016 Dimboola Community Precinct Plan
- 2016 Nhill Community Precinct Plan
- 2016 - 2019 Jeparit Community Plan
- 2016 - 2019 Rainbow Community Plan

**2**

Community consultations were held as per the following dates to provide opportunities for individual residents to raise initiatives and aspirations for group discussions and prioritisation.

- Dimboola - 27 March 2023
- Rainbow - 28 March 2023
- Jeparit - 3 April 2023
- Nhill - 4 April 2023

Rainbow Town Committee in conjunction with the Rainbow Progress Association also conducted their own community-based survey to enable residents of Rainbow that could not attend community consultations to have their own say.

Responses from participants are included in this Community Action Plan.

**3**

Analysing data collected through the consultation process.

**4**

Writing the draft plan.

**5**

Release the draft plan for public review and comment.

**6**

Develop the final plan.

**7**

Present final plan to Hindmarsh Shire Council for endorsement.







# SNAPSHOT OF HINDMARSH SHIRE

Hindmarsh Shire covers a geographical area of 7,500km<sup>2</sup> and has a dispersed residential population of 5,691 (2021 Census data).

The four main towns in the shire (Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill, and Rainbow) are attractive and have excellent hospitals, sporting facilities and schools.

The shire sits in Wotjobaluk country and has a long and significant history with the traditional owners of Country and their cultures with many significant sites situated around the shire.

The Western Highway passes through the shire, which provides a strategic advantage that supports the shire's largest economy, agriculture (primary and secondary), health services, manufacturing, and retail. The shire, like other areas across Victoria and Australia has suffered drought, floods, and fires in recent years and in these times of crisis, residents and communities across the shire have worked together to provide support and positive actions to overcome the heartache, inconvenience, and associated damage.

Whilst the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage, rates Hindmarsh Shire in the top 10% most disadvantaged LGA's in Victoria (ranked 8 out of 80) and in the top 27% most disadvantaged in Australia, residents and communities of the shire can be comforted in the knowledge that they are resilient, innovative, have a strong work ethic and provide volunteer support that is well above the Victorian average.

It is of vital importance that Council provides opportunities to its residents and communities to raise issues, suggestions and actions that will help to improve the level of infrastructure, services, sustainability and well-being of all businesses, community organisations and residents.



# COMMUNITY INPUT

Community Planning consultation sessions were held with local community representatives and residents in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill, and Rainbow which were attended by around 60 community members plus Council representatives.

At each consultation session, working groups were formed to identify different initiatives or issues of concern in their respective towns and more broadly across the shire.

The initial working group process was to identify and list all ideas and issues irrespective of their feasibility for either potential short term / quick wins (1-2 years) or long term / big ticket (4 years plus) implementation.

This process identified a large and diverse range of initiatives some of which will be capable of being delivered by Council as part of its capital works program, subject to budget or external funding opportunities.

In other instances, Council will provide advocacy or facilitation support to community groups if the identified initiative falls within their control.

The following is a list of all ideas identified at the consultation sessions.



# DIMBOOLA

## LONG TERM / BIG TICKET INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Reduction of speed limit along Lloyd Street through CBD or inclusion of a speed hump / raised road section at pedestrian crossing points.
- Establishment of a wellness centre in the former CFA building to improve mental health, physical wellbeing, community bonding (meditation, Yoga, Pilates, Gym etc).
- Establishment of a two-story modern building with rooftop gardens, viewing deck etc with views towards the river and township.
- Installation of CCTV to increase street security and safety.

### Group 2:

- Establishment of an Indigenous Keeping Place.
- Establishment of a Neighbourhood House.
- Increased lighting on walking tracks.

### Group 3:

- Increased maintenance at Dimboola Swimming Pool including use of the solar blanket and all-abilities changerooms.
- Development of masterplan for Dimboola Football clubrooms / changerooms and Dimboola Recreation Reserve.
- Increased Council staff to maintain parks and gardens.
- Development of official Visitor Information Centre.
- Continued updating of Visit Hindmarsh website.

## SHORT TERM / QUICK WIN INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Construction of concrete footpaths throughout Dimboola – at least one on every street.
- Construction of public toilets at Tower Park.
- Establishment of an Indigenous Keeping Place in the former CFA building.
- Installation of community notice boards.
- Installation of rubbish bins at tourism destinations.
- Increased shelter at the bus stop – or relocate the bus stop.
- Council to approach shop owners to smarten up shop fronts.
- Establish larger residential blocks for purchase.
- Establish a backpackers accommodation building at the RHP.

### Group 2:

- Install an ice machine at RHP.
- Establish a shelter at the former pony club site and install a plaque in recognition of it.
- Establish a dog off leash park.
- Reduce speed limit through Lloyd Street CBD.
- Establish a community garden.
- Install a street piano / encourage buskers or street entertainment.
- Increase street beautification by installing tubs / pots / flowers / plants etc.
- Creation of more street art.
- Art exhibitions in Library / Old Shire Hall.
- Increased tree planting and watering.
- Beautification of High Street entrance into Dimboola.
- Installation of a screen at the bus shelter.
- Green waste bins
- Fix or replace the lights on Wimmera Street bridge.
- Top-dress walking tracks with quarry dust.
- All-ability parking in front of Wimmera Bakery in Lloyd Street does not have all-ability access to the footpath.

### Group 3:

- Council support for the Men's Shed through promotion etc.
- Streetscape beautification, trees and plants etc.
- Lighting of trees in Lloyd Street.
- Install re-charge stations for phones, i-pads etc in dining pods.
- Establishment of an Urban Landcare Group.



## LONG TERM / BIG TICKET INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Replacement of Jeparit Weir.
- Re-use the old Council mechanics workshop for other purposes - e.g., start-up businesses etc.
- Charles Street - trucks (Assume to detour trucks away from Charles Street)
- Improve walking tracks route.
- Construction of more footpaths throughout Jeparit.
- Keep the Jeparit swimming pool open.
- Install a swimming pontoon at the Jeparit Swimming Hole.
- Construction of a new shed that is lined internally and used for supermarket, café, newsagents, and post office.
- Improve visual aesthetics of entry into Jeparit by mowing grass, removing old cars and furniture etc.
- Increase / retain, childcare / kindergarten and after school care.
- Redevelop the Tennis Club / courts as part of redevelopment of the Jeparit Caravan Park.

### Group 2:

- Construction of new tennis courts.
- Construct new netball change rooms.
- Beautify Jeparit streetscapes.
- Construct toilets at the skate park in Broadway.
- Increase the level of street art around Jeparit.
- Establish a visitor centre in Roy Street.
- Maintain water levels in Lake Hindmarsh.

### Group 3:

- Redevelop the Tennis Club / courts as part of redevelopment of the Jeparit Caravan Park.
- Establish and implement a streetscape plan for Roy Street.
- Improve tourism signage - natural and heritage-based assets.
- Replace synthetic surface at the Jeparit Bowling Club and increase shade areas.
- Promotion of healthy living for community and social well-being.
- Construction of toilets at the skate park.

## SHORT TERM / QUICK WIN INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Installation of street furniture
- Shade sail over playground in the recreation reserve.
- Signage at the RV Dump Point to advertise local attractions e.g., WMPM and other improvements - landscaping, filling in of potholes etc.
- Improved streetscapes - bin wraps, metal art etc.
- Re-painting of parking bays.
- Enforce removal of un-registered and dumped cars from streets and houses etc.
- Another power pole at the caravan park?

### Group 2:

- Bike pump / BMX track - rec reserve / tennis courts.
- Improve the walking track from WMPM to the Swimming Hole as part of the WRDT.
- Swimming pontoon at new deck at Swimming Hole.
- Toilet at the skate park.
- Landscape the Jeparit Swimming Hole area with local native trees, flowering plants and shrubs and art sculptures.
- Establish musical and arts festivals.
- Collaborative community arts projects (mosaic birds) / community garden.

### Group 3:

- Construction of a swimming pontoon at the swimming hole.
- Landscape and improve RV Dump Point.
- Install solar heating and improve shade at the swimming pool.
- Re-open the Men's Shed.



## LONG TERM / BIG TICKET INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Continued redevelopment of Davis Park.
- Continued redevelopment of Nhill Lake.
- Continued redevelopment of the Nhill Caravan Park.
- Continued redevelopment of Victoria Street, Nhill.

### Group 2:

- Establish commercial industries at Nhill Aerodrome.
- Establish a dog off leash park in Nhill.
- Establish a bike track (Aerodrome / Nhill Lake).
- Establish a BMX / Pump Track between Nhill College and the tennis courts.
- Encourage community driven expansion of the NAHC.
- Continued redevelopment of Davis Park.
- Continued redevelopment of the Nhill Caravan Park.

## SHORT TERM / QUICK WIN INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Continue redevelopment of Davis Park to include a community hub.
- Establish a Cane Ball / Volleyball court at Davis Park or elsewhere.
- Develop vacant land next to the Police Station as a hospital car park.
- Establish freight routes throughout the shire.
- Retain water in Nhill Lake all year round.
- Re-establish the Friday Fiestas.
- Refurbish the bird hide on the boardwalk in the Nhill Swamp.

### Group 2:

- Establish a dog off leash park in Nhill.
- Improve tourism signage around Nhill and the shire.
- Review location of community noticeboard in Goldsworthy Park.
- Establish incentives to retain / attract businesses, e.g., Luv-a-Duck.
- Establish a marketing strategy to brand the town of 'Nhill'.
- Re-establish the Business Nhill organisation.
- Increase / improve Motel accommodation options in Nhill.



# RAINBOW

## LONG TERM / BIG TICKET INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Increased rental accommodation options for visiting professionals, contractors and labourers .
- Improved footpaths and drainage in Winifred Street.
- Establishment of an industrial estate.
- Sub-division for residential development including larger lifestyle blocks.

### Group 2:

- Truck parking facilities with shower and toilets (railway yard).
- Walking track to Rainbow Lake including under road pedestrian / bike crossing.

### Group 3:

- Provide truck and caravan parking close to town (eg railway yards) with toilets and showers etc.
- Recreational bike facilities including bunk house type accommodation.
- Establish Rainbow as an off-grid town – solar, wind etc.
- Combined kindergarten, childcare and intergenerational centre.

### Group 4:

- Under road pedestrian / bike crossing as part of the walking track to Rainbow Lake.
- Establishment of a 'Desert Eco Lodge and Desert Eco Tours'.
- Continued support for Big Sky Festival.
- Facilitate / advocate steam train groups tours to Rainbow from Dimboola.
- Establishment of community transport options to assist elderly / disabled with appointments etc.

### Group 5:

- Increased maintenance for the MECCA.
- Redevelop entrance to the Recreation Reserve.
- Construct new football change rooms.
- Visitors parking at Llew Schilling silo.
- Establish heavy vehicle by-pass.
- Improvements to amenities at Lake Albacutya.
- Establishment of a tourism trail – Pella / Albacutya Silo.
- Promote Rainbow as a 'work from home' destination.
- Continued advocacy for funding for better roads.

## SHORT TERM / QUICK WIN INITIATIVES

### Group 1:

- Walking / bike path to Rainbow Lake.
- Training for community leaders.
- Improved access to 'The Oasis' and installation of an all-abilities toilet.
- Subsidised community pensioner firewood program.
- Subsidised roof / gutter cleaning service (voucher system).
- Increased promotion of Rainbow to attract visitors.

### Group 2:

- Improved caravan visitor parking.
- Establishment of a pump track at the Recreation Reserve.
- Improved amenities and facilities at Western Beach / Lake Albacutya.
- Incentives to beautify local empty shop fronts.
- Redevelop old Council offices into all-ability toilet and baby change place.
- Repair door into ladies' public toilet at the MECCA to stop it 'banging'.
- Maintain nature strip trees to keep them alive.

### Group 3:

- Reduce speed limit to 40kph / 50kph in Taverner Street.
- Improvements to Rainbow Rises Road by sealing entries into GrainCorp and Rainbow Rises Events Centre.
- Improve drainage infrastructure in Bow Street at the railway crossing.

### Group 4:

- Improvements to the Rainbow Swimming Pool including increased maintenance and improved accessibility.
- Improve parking bays in Federal Street including provision of all-ability car parks.
- Improve signage for the Rainbow Caravan Park.
- Increased levels of gutter and culvert cleaning.

### Group 5:

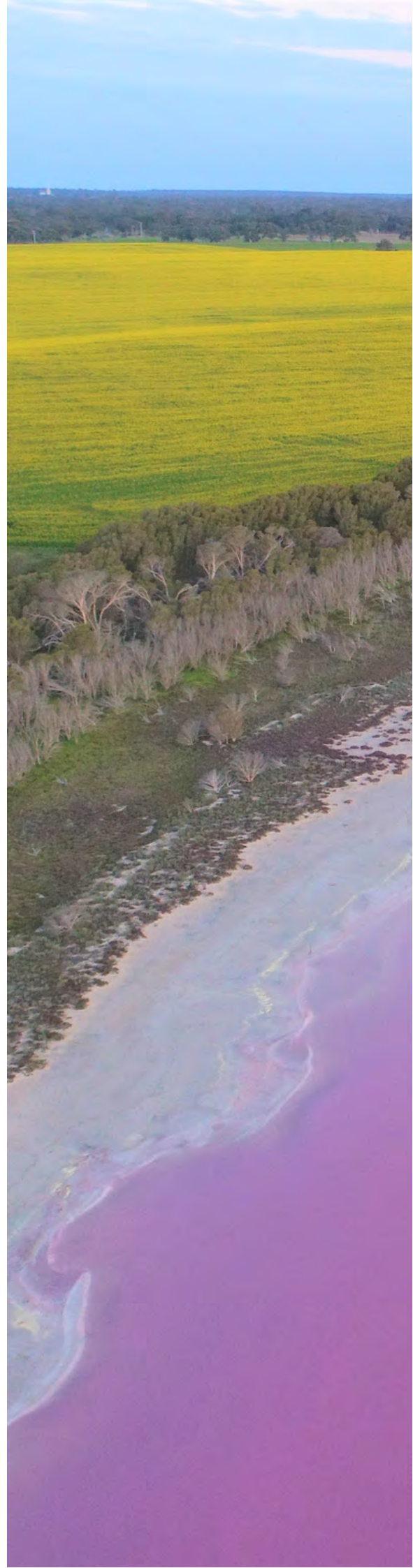
- Establish an information centre in the old Council offices.
- Establish farm stays, farm tours and harvest tours etc.
- Increase level of information to the community about the Llew Schilling silo development.
- Increased kerbing, gutter and sealed road infrastructure in Rainbow.

In addition to the community consultations that provided the above information, the Rainbow Town Committee conducted their own survey aimed at obtaining responses from residents who were unable to attend the community consultation sessions.

The following is a summary of the responses received from the residents of Rainbow who contributed to the survey.

1. Most respondents have positive views about living in Rainbow.
2. Most respondents want to see the town's infrastructure improved and economic development occur.
3. Some referred to the relative isolation of Rainbow, in terms of distance from a major regional centre, as a positive and said that this underlines the need for the town continue to grow.
4. Younger respondents see these issues as priorities:
  - a. Walking and cycling access around the town and out to the Rainbow Lake
  - b. Improved healthcare and childcare services
  - c. New Football Changerooms
  - d. Improved roads in the district
  - e. Land for housing, residential and rural residential, and for businesses
  - f. More events such as the Big Sky Festival that benefit residents and attract tourists.
5. The elders who responded provided detailed views on what the town needs. Their focus was on improvements in Federal Street, including The Mecca, and on welcoming new residents, and tourists. They also supported the need for housing and land for businesses.

The Dimboola Town Committee, Dimboola Football Netball Club, and Dimboola Rowing Club have previously advocated to Council to seek funding for the establishment of an extensive, broad-based master plan for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve. Whilst the redevelopment of facilities within the Dimboola Recreation Reserve was identified in the above list for Dimboola, the establishment of a master plan is widely considered as a priority for the broader community.









# PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTION PLANS

Following this initial process each working group was then asked to short list and prioritise ideas and issues taking various aspects into consideration. For this process, a matrix utilising the following descriptions was utilised.

- Initiatives that have strong and long-term impact but require more effort to achieve.
- Initiatives that have immediate impact and make a difference but are easy to implement.
- Initiatives that have little value and are difficult to implement and are resource intensive.
- Initiatives that have little impact or value but are easy to implement.

## Key

Short	<2 years
Medium	<5 years
Long	>5 years
TBA	To be assessed

The timeframe listed in the table indicates how long the project may take to deliver once it has been identified for implementation.

**High-impact** initiatives will be considered in the development of Council's annual budget and Council Plan (and annual Action Plans) and will drive funding applications as grant opportunities arise.

Actions that are identified as **immediate** will be considered at the earliest possible opportunity, where resources allow and in line with a priority assessment against other projects and initiatives.

Council will publish a progress report on the Action Plan annually.

# PRIORITISED STRONG LONG TERM / HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES

Location	Initiative	Responsible (Council/Community /Other)	Council Role	Time Frame	Cost Est.
Dimboola	Establishment of a wellness centre in the former CFA building to assist with community wellbeing, mental health and exercise.	Other	Support	TBA	TBA
	Establishment of a two-story building with roof top access for bar, viewing, etc.	Community	Support	TBA	TBA
	Establishment of a community garden.	Community	Support	TBA	TBA
	Establishment of a Neighborhood House.	Community	Support	TBA	TBA
	Complete lighting on walking tracks and replace the lights on the Wimmera Street bridge.	Council	Deliver	Short	\$50,000
	Establish an Indigenous Keeping Place.	Other	Advocate/Facilitate	TBA	TBA
	Establishment of at least one concrete footpath in every street in Dimboola.	Council	Deliver	Long	\$500,000
	Establishment of a master plan for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve.	Council	Deliver	Short	\$100,000
	Establishment of an accredited Visitor Information Centre (potentially in conjunction with the Indigenous Keeping Place).	Council	Deliver	Long	\$200,000
	Establishment of backpacker accommodation.	Other	Support	TBA	TBA
	Development of residential housing land.	Other	Advocate/Support	Medium	TBA
Jeparit	Replacement of the Jeparit Weir.	Council	Advocate/Deliver	Medium	\$3.5M
	Charles Street - trucks (Assume to detour trucks away from Charles Street)	Council	Advocate/Support	Medium	TBA
	Improve walking tracks route with all-weather surface - suitable for bikes.	Council	Deliver	Short	\$200,000
	Construction of more footpaths throughout Jeparit.	Council	Deliver	Long	\$300,000
	Keep the Jeparit swimming pool open for longer hours and install solar heating and additional shade.	Council	Deliver	Medium	\$60,000

# PRIORITISED STRONG LONG TERM / HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES

Location	Initiative	Responsible (Council/Community/Other)	Council Role	Time Frame	Cost Est.
Jeparit	Redevelop the Tennis Club / courts as part of redevelopment of the Jeparit Caravan Park.	Council	Deliver	Medium	\$1M
	Improve visual aesthetics of entry into Jeparit by mowing grass, removing old cars and furniture etc.	Council	Deliver	Short	\$100,000
	Construct a bike pump / BMX track at the rec reserve or tennis courts.	Council	Deliver	Long	TBA
	Improved streetscape aesthetics throughout Jeparit.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Short	TBA
	Relocate the skate park to the Recreation Reserve or the Swimming Hole precinct and include a multi-use concrete hard stand for other activities.	Council	Deliver	Long	\$60,000
	Establish a streetscape masterplan.	Council	Deliver	Short	\$50,000
Nhill	Continued staged redevelopment of Davis Park infrastructure and facilities.	Council	Deliver/Advocate	Long	\$5M+
	Continued redevelopment of Nhill Lake.	Community	Advocate/Support	Medium	TBA
	Develop vacant land next to the Police Station as a hospital car park.	Community/Other	Advocate/Support	Medium	TBA
Rainbow	Establishment of a 'Desert Eco Lodge and Desert Eco Tours'.	Community/Other	Support	Long	TBA
	Establishment of community transport options to assist elderly / disabled with appointments etc.	Community/Other	Support	Short	TBA
	Advocate to reduce speed limit to 40kph / 50kph in Taverner Street.	Council/Community	Advocate/Support	Short	TBA
	Truck parking facilities with shower and toilets (e.g. railway yard).	Community/Other	Advocate/Support	Medium	TBA
	Construction of new football change rooms.	Council/Community	Deliver	Short	\$1.5M
	Establish heavy vehicle by-pass.	Council/Other	Advocate/Support	Long	TBA
	Increased maintenance for the MECCA - including toilet upgrades.	Council	Deliver	Short	\$100,000
	Establishment of an industrial estate.	Council/Other	Deliver/Support	Long	TBA

# PRIORITISED STRONG LONG TERM / HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES

Location	Initiative	Responsible (Council/Community/Other)	Council Role	Time Frame	Cost Est.
Rainbow	Increased kerbing, gutter and sealed road infrastructure in Rainbow, including Winifred Street.	Council	Deliver	Medium/Ongoing	TBA
	Improvements to the Rainbow Swimming Pool including increased maintenance and improved accessibility.	Council	Deliver	Short/Ongoing	TBA
	Establish Rainbow as an off-grid town – solar, wind etc.	Community/Other	Support	Long	TBA
	Combined kindergarten, childcare and intergenerational centre.	Council/Community	Deliver/Advocate/Support	Long	TBA
	Walking track to Rainbow Lake including under road pedestrian / bike crossing / or safe road crossing option.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Short	TBA
	Increased worker rental accommodation options including for health care employees.	Council/Other	Deliver/Advocate/Support	Short	\$500,000

# PRIORITISED STRONG IMMEDIATE (SHORT TERM) / HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES

Location	Initiative	Responsible (Council/Community/Other)	Council Role	Time Frame	Cost Est.
Dimboola	Promotion of Men's Shed to attract more members / participants.	Community	Support	Six months	TBA
	Feature lighting of Lloyd Street trees.	Community	Support	Six months	TBA
	Reduction of speed limit between Wimmera and Lochiel Streets.	Council	Advocate	Immediate	TBA
	Installation of an ice machine / freezer at Riverside Holiday Park.	Council/Other	Deliver/Support	Immediate	TBA
	Supply and installation of a street piano.	Community/Other	Support	Twelve months	TBA
	Installation of permanent art works in the library.	Council	Deliver	Immediate	\$3,000
	Utilisation of former CFA Building for community use.	Council/Community/Other	Deliver/Advocate/Support	Twelve months	TBA
	Establishment of a proper information centre.	Council	Deliver	Twelve months	TBA
	Installation of community notice boards.	Council	Deliver	Six months	\$5,000
	Installation of additional rubbish bins at tourism destinations.	Council	Deliver	Twelve months	TBA
	Increased shade at the bus shelter	Council	Deliver	Immediate	TBA
Decorate empty shop fronts.	Community/Other	Support	Immediate	TBA	
Jeparit	Collaborative community / street arts projects (mosaic birds).	Community	Support	Six months	TBA
	Enforce removal of un-registered and dumped cars from streets and houses etc and enforce yards to be tidied / mowed etc.	Council	Deliver	Immediate	TBA
	Re-painting of parking bays.	Council	Deliver	Immediate	TBA
	Swimming pontoon at new deck at Swimming Hole.	Council	Deliver	Twelve months	\$100,000
	Improved streetscapes - bin wraps, metal art, etc.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	\$50,000

# PRIORITISED STRONG IMMEDIATE (SHORT TERM) / HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES

Location	Initiative	Responsible (Council/Community /Other)	Council Role	Time Frame	Cost Est.
Jeparit	Landscape and improve RV Dump Point (student art).	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Immediate	\$5,000
	Establish musical and arts festivals - New Years Eve concert at the Swimming Hole.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	\$10,000
	Keep the Jeparit swimming pool open and for longer periods during the season.	Council/Other	Deliver/ Advocate	Twelve months	TBA
	Re-open the Men's Shed.	Community	Support	Twelve months	TBA
Nhill	Establish a dog off leash park in Nhill.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Six months	\$50,000
	Improve tourism signage around Nhill and the shire.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	TBA
	Continued redevelopment of the Nhill Caravan Park.	Council	Deliver/ Advocate	Immediate	TBA
	Continued redevelopment of Victoria Street, Nhill.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Immediate	TBA
Rainbow	Walking track to Rainbow Lake including under road pedestrian / bike crossing / or safe road crossing option.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	TBA
	Improved all-ability access in to / out of the Rainbow Swimming Pool e.g., 'lifting chair / hoist'.	Council	Deliver	Immediate	TBA
	Continued support for the Big Sky Festival at The Oasis.	Council	Deliver	Immediate	TBA
	Continued advocacy for funding for better roads.	Council	Deliver	Twelve months	\$100,000
	Improve signage for the Rainbow Caravan Park.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	\$50,000
	Increased levels of gutter and culvert cleaning.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Immediate	\$5,000
	Improve parking bays in Federal Street including provision of all-ability car parks.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	\$10,000



# PRIORITISED STRONG IMMEDIATE (SHORT TERM) / HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES

Location	Initiative	Responsible (Council/Community /Other)	Council Role	Time Frame	Cost Est.
Rainbow	Establishment of a tourism trail - Pella / Albacutya Silo.	Council/Other	Deliver/ Advocate	Twelve months	TBA
	Establish visitors parking at Llew Schilling silo.	Council	Deliver	Twelve months	TBA
	Redevelop entrance to the Recreation Reserve.	Council	Deliver	Twelve months	TBA
	Promote Rainbow as a 'work from home' destination.	Council/Community	Deliver/Support	Twelve months	TBA
	Establish an information centre in the old Council offices / increase tourism promotion in local businesses e.g., Service Station, Café etc.	Council	Deliver	Six months	TBA
	Advocate to reduce speed limit to 40kph / 50kph in Taverner Street.	Council/Community	Advocate/ Support	Six months	TBA
	Improved vehicle /caravan visitor parking.	Council	Deliver	Immediate	TBA
	Establishment of a pump / BMX track at the Recreation Reserve.	Community	Support	Six months	TBA
	Improve public toilets facilities - including at The Oasis, MECCA, Lake Albacutya, Swimming Pool.	Council/Other	Deliver/ Advocate	Twelve months	TBA
	Subsidised community pensioner firewood program.	Community	Support	Twelve months	TBA



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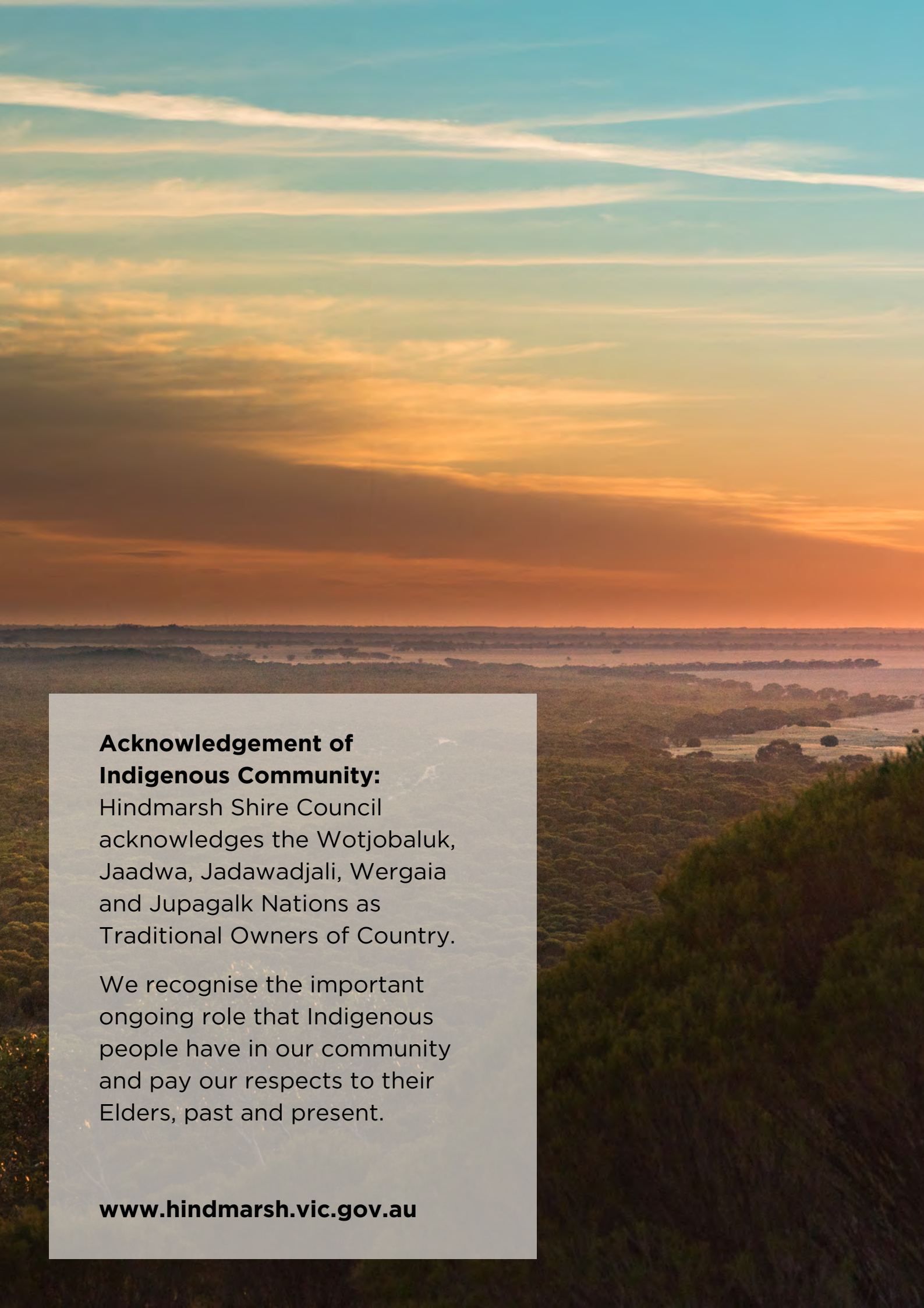
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Hindmarsh Shire Council

# Economic Development Strategy 2024-28

*DRAFT - January 2024*



**Acknowledgement of  
Indigenous Community:**

Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

[www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)

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# SUMMARY

## Momentum is Building

There have been many recent economic development successes in Hindmarsh Shire over recent years. The time is right to seize further opportunities and to continue the momentum created from investments of the past decade. Among the Shire's recent economic development achievements are:

- Construction of new self-contained cabins in Dimboola, Rainbow, Nhill and Jeparit adding to both visitor and short-term worker accommodation availability.
- Inclusion of Hindmarsh in the Silo Art Trail with investment in silo artworks at Albacutya and Arkona, and progress towards the multi-faceted Schilling's silo development.
- Investment in agricultural production in the Shire (which has been high for the past few years after excellent seasonal conditions) to reach almost \$300 million in gross value (\$292.5 million) in 2021 including 8% of Victoria's lentils, 6% of barley and 5% of wheat.
- Construction of Rainbow Lake and redevelopment work at Nhill Lake.
- Security of water (from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline) has increased the economic contribution from the Shire's recreational waterbodies, particularly at Dimboola and Jeparit weir pools, the new Rainbow Lake and soon at redeveloped Nhill Lake (with new pumping system being installed).
- Recommitment of rail passenger transport connecting the Shire with Adelaide and Melbourne via The Overland.
- Regional project to crush glass waste from the Shire and recycle into road surfacing material.
- Central business district revitalisation work (involving both private and public investment) in Dimboola.
- Expansion of West Wimmera Health Service's range of facilities.
- Introduction of new events and festivals in the Shire, highlighted by the Steampunk Festival.
- Investment at Luv a Duck to increase processing throughput (more than doubling the throughput of 5 years ago).
- Further investment in Blue Lake Milling following its acquisition by the CBH Group.








## Strategies for a New Economic Landscape

The strategies in this document provide direction for Council to:

- Guide Hindmarsh communities through a period when the Shire is expected to have many emerging economic development opportunities, offset by challenges which could derail the prospects for delivering the opportunities.
- Attract investment in industry sectors for which the Shire has an apparent competitive advantage.
- Participate in innovative housing development initiatives to address shortages of both rental and for sale housing.
- Deliver infrastructure to support and drive the potential population growth in the Shire.
- Attract new investment and reinvestment in innovative and sustainable businesses.
- Collaborate in regional activities (with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development, Wimmera Mallee Tourism and neighbouring Councils) to efficiently implement relevant economic and tourism initiatives which are beyond local government boundaries.
- Assist key Hindmarsh towns to increase visitation and the economic impact from visitors.
- Cost-effectively resource Council's involvement in local economic development and tourism with a small team, and selective outsourcing.

# Strategy Snapshot

Current Estimates			Strategy Targets
Shire population	5,698		5,650 by 2036
Shire local jobs	2,233		2,300 by 2036
Dwelling stock	2,954		3,280 by 2036
Visitor economy	\$17.8 million		\$25.5 million by 2028
Total output	\$721.5 million		\$800 million by 2028

## 3 Strategy Pillars >>> 10 Strategies >>> 40 Actions

Strategic Pillars have been developed to help in Hindmarsh Shire Council contributing to the delivery of the economic targets.

- Pillar 1: Council as a proactive facilitator.
- Pillar 2: Reducing barriers to investment in the local economy.
- Pillar 3: Building the Shire’s reputation for liveability, tourism and events.

Strategies are grouped by Strategic Pillar although not necessarily mutually exclusive (implying that some strategies contribute to more than one objective), as indicated in Figure 1.

### Pillar 1 Strategies:

- Actively facilitate the Shire’s significant new economic development opportunities, which build on local supply chains, to achieve investment readiness and support their implementation.
- Collaborate with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) and Wimmera Mallee Tourism (WMT) to progress opportunities and initiatives of regional importance.
- Provide supportive services for new, expanding and sustainable existing businesses and community enterprises (including support for Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises).
- Scale up Council’s cost-effective approach to resourcing economic development functions.

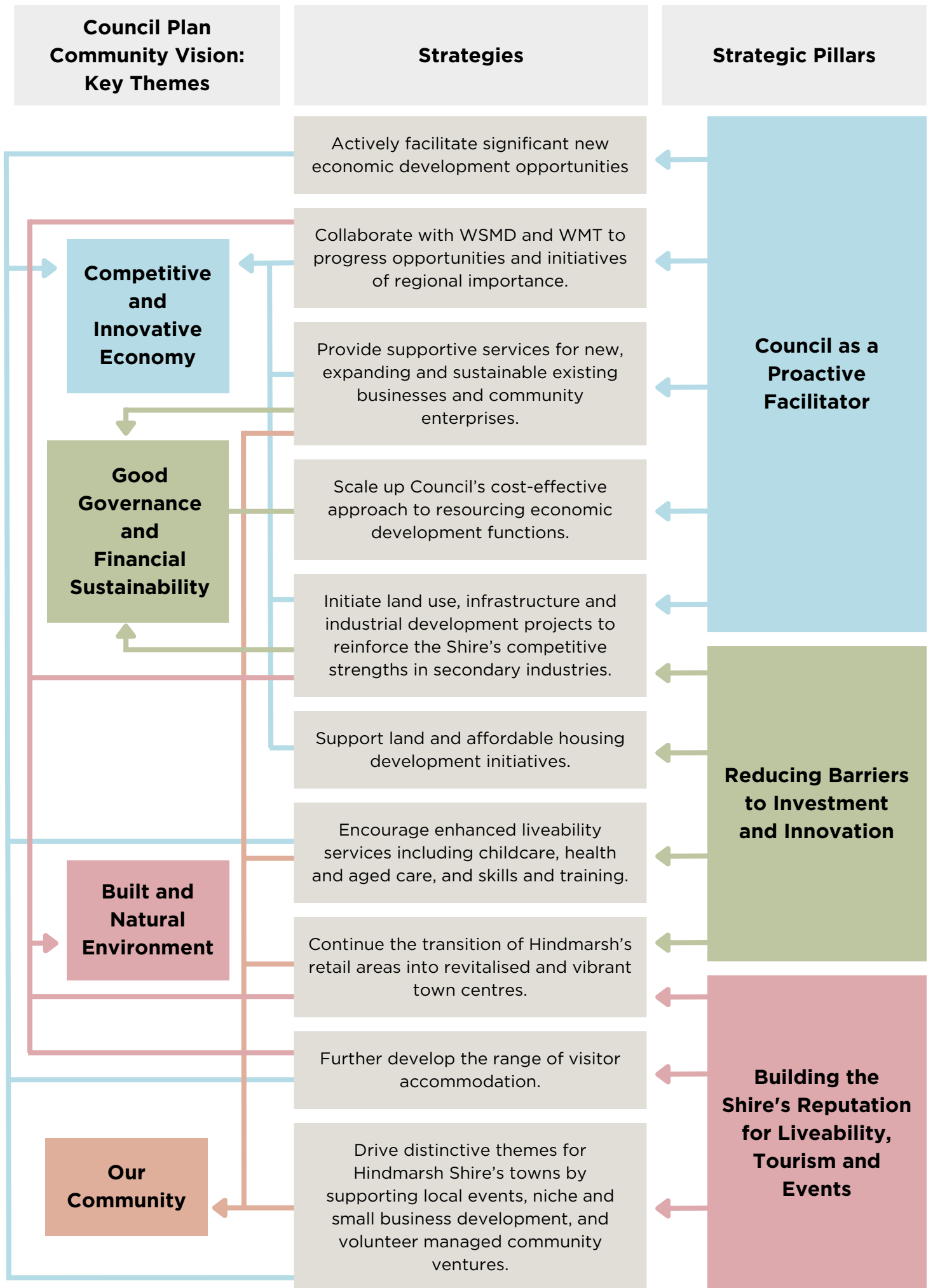
### Pillar 2 Strategies:

- Initiate land use, infrastructure and industrial development projects to reinforce the Shire’s competitive strengths in secondary industries.
- Support land and affordable housing development initiatives for key workers and older residents.
- Encourage enhanced liveability services including childcare, health and aged care, and skills and training.

### Pillar 3 Strategies:

- Continue the transition of Hindmarsh’s town retail areas into revitalised and vibrant town centres.
- Further develop the range and quality of visitor accommodation.
- Drive distinctive themes for Hindmarsh Shire’s towns.





## Designed around Community Input

Economic development strategy consultation forums were conducted in Nhill, Dimboola, Rainbow and Jeparit, attended by around 60 community members and Council representatives. The discussions and suggestions at the forums unambiguously showed that Hindmarsh Shire communities believe Council has a direct role in delivering economic development initiatives. The issues and suggestions which emerged from working groups across the four towns are overwhelmingly reflected in the Economic Development Strategy.



## Compatible with State and Regional Strategies

### Wimmera Mallee Regional Partnerships and Regional Development Australia

The Wimmera Mallee Regional Economic Development strategic directions are:

1. Strengthen agriculture and food product manufacturing through diversification.
2. Promote growth and development of the visitor economy, leveraging natural assets and Aboriginal heritage.
3. Support and expand economic opportunities in growing sectors (health and social services)
4. Position the region to benefit from emerging growth opportunities in natural resources.

### Tourism Development

- The Strategy is consistent with Victoria's Visitor Economy strategic pillars outlined in the Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan of 2023: Nature - Epicurean - Arts and culture - First Peoples' led experiences.
- The decision to structure Victorian Tourism Regions into Visitor Experience Partnerships is acknowledged in this Strategy.





## People

Human habitation in Hindmarsh Shire spans at least 1,600 generations of occupation by the Wotjobaluk peoples. Established trade networks allowed goods and information to flow over substantial distances. Mobility helped the people to manage cycles of droughts and floods. Only since the mid-1800s (or the last 10 generations) has the area been also settled by squatters, missionaries, and Chinese miners moving along the ‘gold escort route’ between South Australia and Victorian goldfields. By the end of the nineteenth century, the area which is now Hindmarsh Shire had become a significant part of the Victorian Wheatbelt and a heartland of broadacre agriculture.

Hindmarsh Shire is the third largest local government area in the Wimmera Southern Mallee (after West Wimmera and Buloke) and has the second smallest population (West Wimmera Shire has the smallest). These three large Shires of West Wimmera, Buloke and Hindmarsh have the lowest population densities of all municipalities in Victoria. Around 80% of Hindmarsh’s population reside in its four main townships; Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. The largest of these townships (Nhill) is 74 kilometres north of the urban area of Horsham.

In the twentieth century, Hindmarsh Shire’s residents of overseas origin tended to be from Western Europe. Indeed, at the 2021 Census, 63.1% of residents claimed an ancestry from the British Isles (England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales) and a further 16.0% has German ancestry. However, only 2.6% were actually born in the British Isles or Germany. Most recent migrants to Hindmarsh are from Asian countries. Of the 2021 population the largest overseas born origins were:

- Myanmar (2.0%)
- Thailand (1.5%)
- Philippines (0.9%)
- India (0.8%)

The Hindmarsh population from these four Asian countries was 278 people in 2021.



Nhill is recognised for its success in attracting and retaining the Shire’s cohort of Karen people (from southern Myanmar), initially recruited to live in Nhill with some family members working at Luv-a-Duck’s processing plant. The Karen people now constitute a significant sub-community in the Shire. If key worker vacancies are to be filled over the next five years, it is likely there will be increased reliance on international migrants being attracted to the Shire.

At the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, Hindmarsh had a population of 5,698, having almost stabilised in the past five years. Within the Shire, Table 1 shows the town of Nhill is the largest urban centre with 2,401 residents in 2021, having increased at 1.9% per annum since 2016. Jeparit’s population of 476 people remained relatively stable over the five years 2016 to 2021. Rainbow decreased at just 0.3% per annum and Dimboola experienced greater decline at 1.1% per annum but has shown evidence of reversing that trend since 2021.

**Table 1: Population of Hindmarsh Shire Towns, 2016 and 2021\***

Town	2016	2021	%pa change
Nhill	2,184	2,401	1.91%
Dimboola	1,730	1,635	-1.12%
Rainbow	683	672	-0.32%
Jeparit	477	476	-0.04%
Rural Balance	647	514	-4.50%
<b>Shire Total</b>	<b>5,721</b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>-0.08%</b>

\*SOURCE: ABS Censuses of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021

The Shire's age profile is notably older than regional Victoria and Victoria averages (the median age is 50 years, compared with the Victorian average of 38 years). Although this ageing profile should peak over the next fifteen years, there will be continuing service demands from a large elderly population.

The Shire's post-World War 2 population was 10,067\* and has steadily declined over seven decades at an average annual rate of 0.8%. In the fifteen years 2006 to 2021 the rate eased to -0.5% per annum and between 2016-21 the change of less than -0.1% shows the population is approaching population stability\*\*.

Projections have been prepared by Wimmera Southern Mallee Development for Hindmarsh Shire's population following extensive interviews with local employers and insights on potential new industry investments. These projections are summarised in Table 2 and indicate continued progress towards population stability over the next 15 years, with the average annual decrease reducing to just 0.06% per annum over the 2021-36 period. The projections are considered realistic, with their achievement being challenged only by barriers preventing new job creation (especially available housing).

The population pyramids in Figure 1 demonstrate net-migration to satisfy new jobs will not only help to stabilise the overall population but will lead to a more balanced age structure, and a reduction in the percentage of people aged 65 years and over.

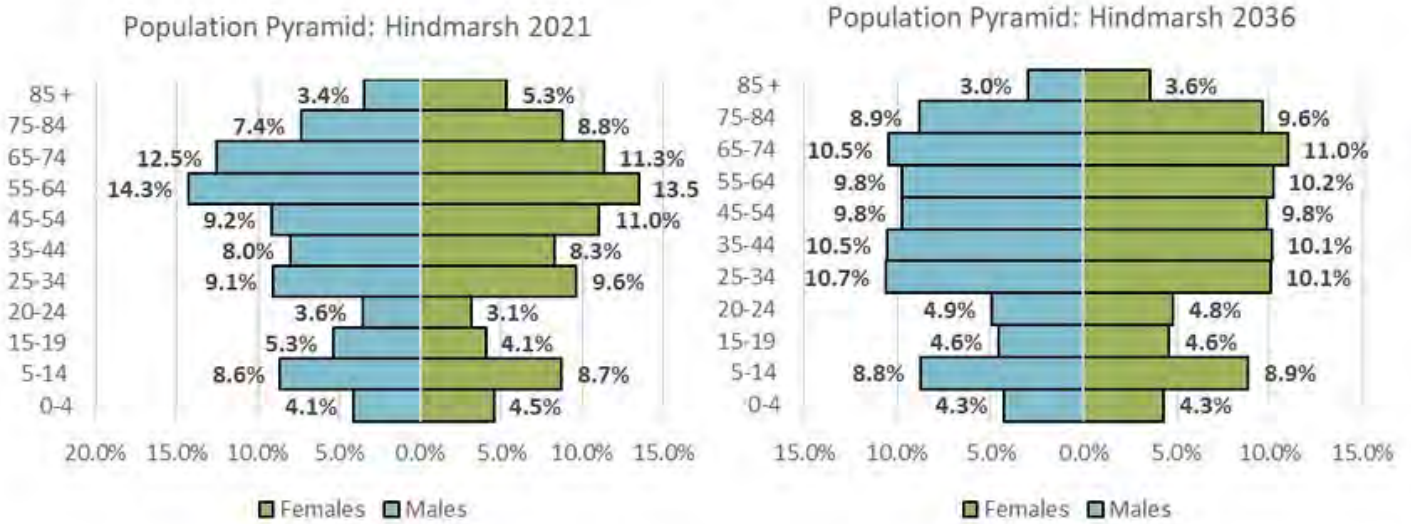
**Table 2: Hindmarsh Shire Population Projections**

Age Group	2021	2026	2031	2036	% change pa
0-4	284	269	272	281	-0.07%
5-9	282	282	281	286	0.08%
10-14	288	291	290	292	0.08%
15-19	309	303	301	301	-0.18%
20-24	220	291	312	319	2.50%
25-29	317	306	324	336	0.39%
30-34	297	313	328	343	0.96%
35-39	268	304	325	342	1.63%
40-44	265	290	314	334	1.56%
45-49	288	287	304	324	0.78%
50-54	376	319	308	318	-1.11%
55-59	423	363	329	321	-1.82%
60-64	489	413	360	333	-2.52%
65-69	415	422	384	349	-1.15%
70-74	369	392	380	353	-0.30%
75-79	308	337	344	331	0.49%
80-84	221	256	274	274	1.45%
85+	286	223	215	215	-1.89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>5,659</b>	<b>5,645</b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>-0.06%</b>

\* Wimmera Region Profile (1961), Victorian Central Planning Authority

\*\* ABS Censuses of Population and Housing 2006 to 2021

**Figure 1: Population Pyramids 2021 and 2036: Hindmarsh Shire**



## Employment and Socio-Economic Wellbeing

The largest industry is agriculture (principally grain, sheep, oilseeds and legumes) which accounted for 27.1% of its workers in 2021, and actually increased at a rate of 1.7% per year between 2016 and 2021 (the first time in many decades). Value adding to agriculture is also important, with major duck processing, and grain handling businesses helping to make manufacturing the fourth largest employing industry (at 6.0%). Other significant industries include health services (which is the second largest employing industry at 18.1% of all jobs, and has been increasing at 0.86% per annum), and employment/training (the third largest employing industry, at 8.1%). Tourism is recognised as an emerging industry and Hindmarsh Shire is part of the Wimmera Mallee Tourism regional grouping.



It is useful to group the nineteen industries into just five sectors, which broadly describe the nature of the economic contribution. The classification also helps to understand structural changes in local economies over time:

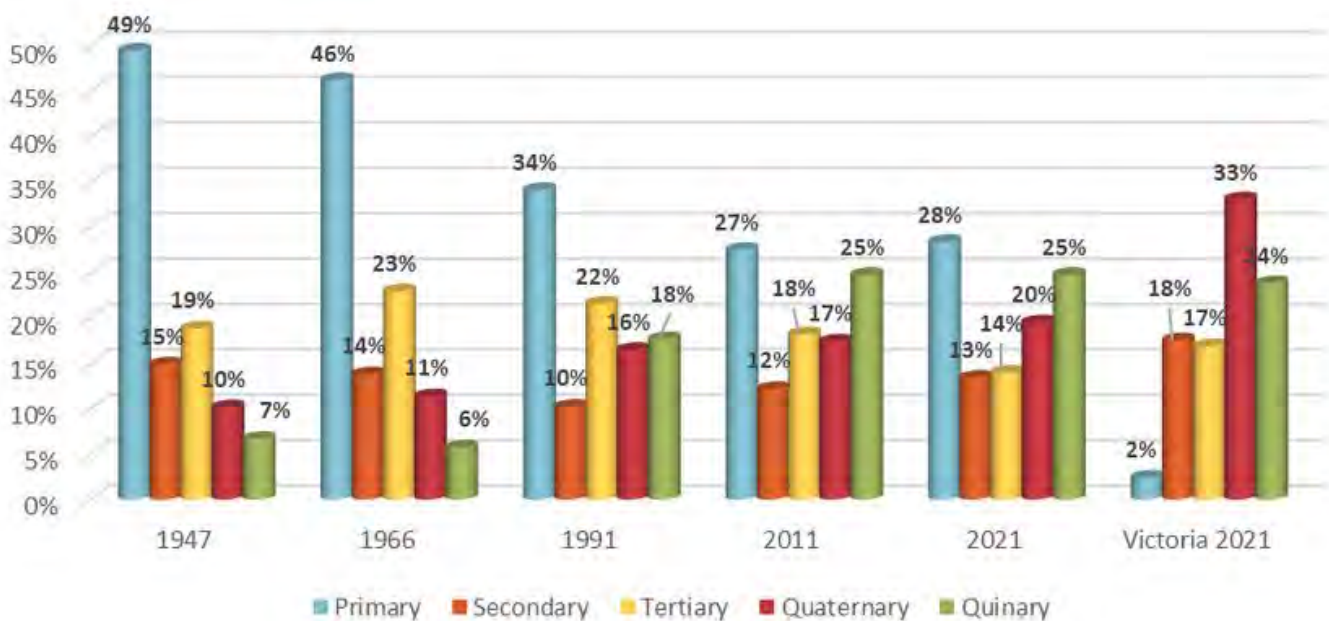
- Primary Sector (agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining industries): This sector generates products from the earth's natural resources.
- Secondary Sector (manufacturing, construction, electricity, gas, water and waste): This sector transforms and adds value to natural resource products.
- Tertiary Sector (retail trade, wholesale trade, transport, postal and warehousing): This sector provides services which deliver products to consumers.
- Quaternary Sector (finance, real estate, information/media, professional/technical/scientific, administrative, and education services): Services targeted largely to businesses, and other organisations.
- Quinary Sector (health, accommodation and food services, art and recreation, other personal services): Services targeted largely to individuals.



Unsurprisingly broadacre agriculture, and therefore the primary sector, has been the largest employing industry in Hindmarsh Shire since its colonial settlement. Perhaps more surprising is the Shire’s gradual shift from a production focused workforce to one that is now dominated by service industries. Figure 2 indicates that just after the second world war almost half the employed workforce had jobs in agriculture and another 15% worked in other production (secondary) industries such as manufacturing and construction.

Farm aggregations and vastly improved agricultural technologies have seen agricultural jobs in Hindmarsh Shire fall by about two-thirds over the past 75 years (ie from 1,908 jobs in 1947 to 651 jobs in 2021); an average annual decrease of 1.5%. Service jobs (across the tertiary, quaternary and quinary sectors) now make up 58% of all employment in Hindmarsh Shire. This is considerably lower than Victoria as a whole (74% of all jobs are in service industries) and, with the continuing significance of agriculture and potentially value-adding to agricultural products, is unlikely to ever be comparable with the State average. Indeed, economic development opportunities in production industries suggest Hindmarsh’s production employment should be strengthened in future years, and jobs in agriculture increased in the Shire between 2016 and 2021 for the first time in decades (following several seasons with above average rainfall and relatively good commodity prices).

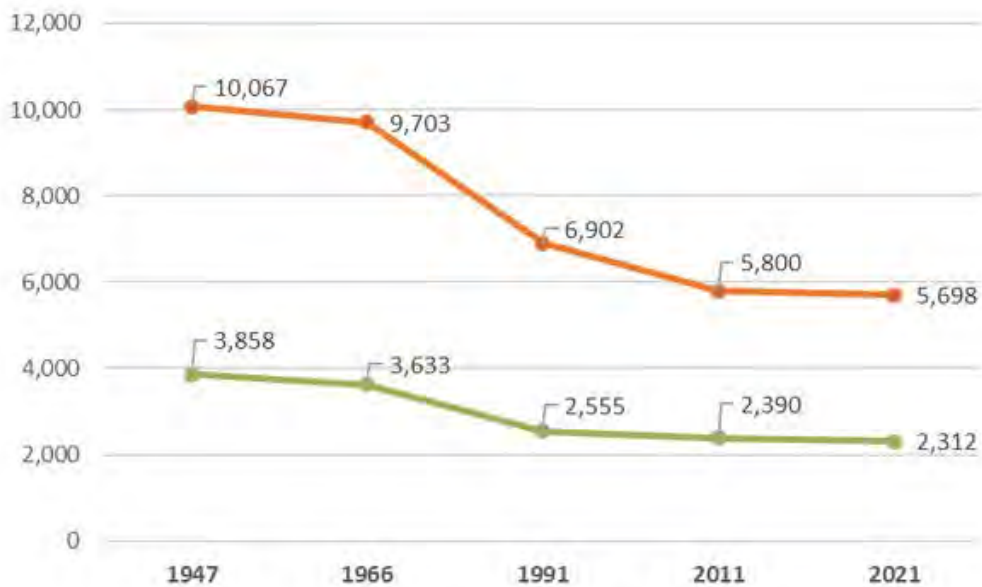
**Figure 2: Employment by Industry**



The rate of loss of jobs in Hindmarsh Shire (0.70% per annum) has been similar to the rate of population decline (0.77% per annum) since 1947. However, both the number of jobs and the population levels have begun to stabilise in the past decade.



**Figure 3: Population and Employment**



Hindmarsh Shire has a high level of socio-economic disadvantage\*. It is in the highest decile for disadvantage in Victoria and is ranked the 8th most disadvantaged (over advantage) local government area in the State (of 79 total local government areas). The Shire's larger towns have high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. The four main towns are within the most disadvantaged 20% of all 'suburbs' in Victoria, with:

- Jeparit being the most disadvantaged, ranking 53rd of all 2,816 suburbs and localities in the State.
- Dimboola ranking 156th
- Nhill ranking 313th
- Rainbow ranking 371st.

The median household income in Hindmarsh Shire was \$1,159 per week in 2021, which was just 65.9% of the Victorian median. However, the Shire's households have high levels of outright home ownership and, for those paying either a mortgage or rent, these levels are considerably lower than the State norms. The median rent in 2021 was \$180 per week (48.7% of the Victorian median) and median mortgage was \$750 per month (40.3% of the Victorian median). Availability of housing is a bigger liveability issue in Hindmarsh Shire than the cost.

\* SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indices for Areas) indices of advantage and disadvantage are calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using a range of variables on income, employment, housing, etc.



## Housing

At the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, Hindmarsh Shire had 2,498 occupied dwellings with an average household size of 2.2 persons. Separate houses make up the overwhelming majority of residential dwellings (95.0%). The majority of occupied dwellings are owned outright:

- 52.2% of occupied dwellings (1,235) were owned outright by the occupants.
- 26.3% of dwellings (623) were owned with a mortgage.
- 16.8% of dwellings (393) were rented, and only 9.1% were rented from a managing agent or housing authority (with the balance rented through informal contacts). This compares with a Victorian average of 27.5% of occupied dwellings which are rented and the vast majority (21.9%) are rented through managing agents or a housing authority.

**Table 3: Occupied Dwellings in Hindmarsh 2016-2021**

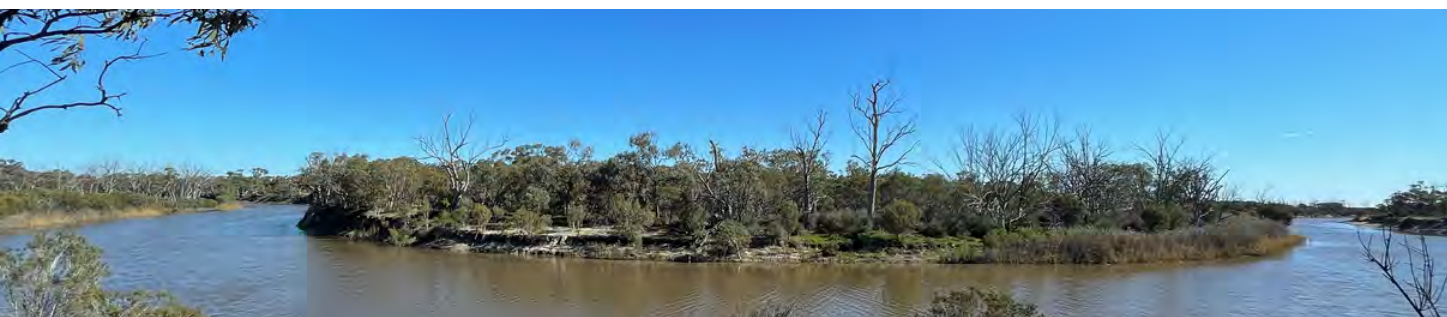
Town	2016	2021	%pa change		
			Outright home ownership	Homes mortgaged	Homes rented
Nhill	884	951	0.55%	1.33%	3.24%
Dimboola	703	727	0.38%	1.27%	-0.53%
Rainbow	292	295	-0.12%	0.30%	-3.99%
Jeparit	200	209	2.06%	6.07%	-9.53%
<b>Shire Total</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>1,236 to 1,257</b>	<b>594 to 626</b>	<b>343 to 408</b>
<b>Actual Change</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>65</b>

There have been 25 new residential dwelling building approvals in Hindmarsh Shire since the 2021 Census (ie 2021-22 and 2022-23 to date – July 2022 to May 2023) at a value of \$8.164 million\*, or \$327,000 in construction value per dwelling (excluding land purchase), which is somewhat higher than average local market value after the housing is constructed.

There has also been \$2.376 million in housing alterations and additions and \$10.011 million in non-residential building (farm, industrial and commercial) approvals in Hindmarsh in the past two years, making the total value of building approvals \$21.4767 million.

The population projections presented earlier would generate estimated demand for 12-14 new dwellings per annum through to 2036, excluding pent-up demand.

\* Australian Bureau of Statistics, Building Approvals, Australia 2021-22 and 2022-23 year to date



## Economic Output

Although employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been surpassed by the quaternary and quinary sectors, the Shire’s economic output remains dominated by the product sectors, and agriculture and manufacturing in particular. The estimated economic output of the Shire in 2022 was \$721.5 million and 57.3% was contributed by the primary and secondary sectors.

The Shire has a net-commuting outwards workforce (ie people commuting from Hindmarsh Shire to work in other locations) of 169, or 7.0% of the residents who are employed. Professional, scientific and technical services has the largest outwards commute with a net 22 people commuting from the Shire (44% of all people employed in this industry). Table 4 summarises the economic output and the jobs of employed residents and the jobs occupied within the local area, all by industry and sector.



**Table 4: Employed Residents, Local Workforce and Economic Output**

Sector	Industry	Hindmarsh 2021			Hindmarsh 2022	
		Residents	Workforce	Net-Commuting Workforce	Economic Output (\$million)*	% of Output
Primary Sector	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	651	644	-7	227.0	31.5%
	Mining	5	5	0	0.0	0.0%
	<b>Sub-total Primary</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>227.0</b>	<b>31.5%</b>
Secondary Sector	Manufacturing	143	155	12	135.6	18.8%
	Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	27	15	-12	5.4	0.8%
	Construction	140	116	-24	44.9	6.2%
	<b>Sub-total Secondary</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>-24</b>	<b>185.9</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
Tertiary Sector	Wholesale Trade	44	34	-10	1.1	0.2%
	Retail Trade	141	121	-20	23.1	3.2%
	Transport, Postal and Warehousing	138	122	-16	45.5	6.3%
	<b>Sub-total Tertiary</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>-46</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
Quaternary Sector	Information Media and Telecommunications	8	10	2	7.0	1.0%
	Financial and Insurance Services	18	14	-4	20.1	2.8%
	Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	13	8	-5	64.0	8.9%
	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	50	28	-22	6.3	0.9%
	Administrative and Support Services	42	33	-9	8.4	1.2%
	Public Administration and Safety	126	120	-6	31.4	4.4%
	Education and Training	194	193	-1	21.6	3.0%
	<b>Sub-total Quaternary</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>158.8</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Quinary Sector	Health Care and Social Assistance	434	434	0	61.3	8.5%
	Accommodation and Food Services	60	52	-8	9.3	1.3%
	Arts and Recreation Services	17	10	-7	0.8	0.1%
	Other Services	61	42	-19	8.8	1.2%
	<b>Sub-total Quinary</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
	Inadequately described/Not stated	97	78	-19		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>-169</b>	<b>721.5</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Remplan modelling 2022



# COMMUNITY INPUT

Economic development strategy consultation forums were conducted in Nhill, Dimboola, Rainbow and Jeparit. These forums were attended by around 60 community members and Council representatives. At each forum, working groups were formed to agree on economic development issues of concern in the respective towns and across the Shire. The nature of discussions and suggestions at the forums unambiguously showed that Hindmarsh Shire communities believe that Council has a direct role in delivering economic development initiatives and that this role needs to be more prominent than is currently dedicated to the function.



The issues and suggestions which emerged from the 12 working groups across the four towns are embodied in both the Economic Development strategy directions and the specific strategies. The verbatim comments and suggestions are as follows.

## RAINBOW

### Group 1:

- Make it easier to subdivide/rezone land for housing
- Introduce recycling initiatives/enterprises
- Need to encourage the next generation of volunteers
- Being off-grid might attract some new residents.

### Group 2:

- Vacant houses - finding a way to sell or rent them.
- Community 'opportunity shop'
- Renewable energy - self sustaining
- Industrial estate/zoned area
- Large lot (say 2 acres) residential development
- Tourism - try to get visitors to stay 2 nights in the town.

### Group 3:

- Promote remote working from home (infrastructure/internet)
- Attract workers - more vacancies than workers

- Need quality accommodation
- Volunteer burnout is a problem (too much expected).
- Volunteers - how to attract and retain? A funded central volunteer management body?
- Quality housing. Housing an issue for people wanting to work in town.
- Assistance to help older people stay in their homes (fee-for-service gardening, rubbish removal)
- Improving shopfronts in town - number of deteriorating empty shops looks poor.

### Group 4:

- Residential subdivisions
- Large lot residential subdivision
- Industrial estate - no current industrial zoned land
- Residential attraction program (focusing on a welcoming community with jobs available)
- Find a way to deal with derelict housing and unavailable land allotments
- Renewable energy/off-grid power for town
- Grains value adding enterprise to be attracted/established.

## JEPARIT

### Group 1:

- Open, operating and well-maintained shops in the main street
- Jeparit secures the sale of mechanics workshop, not someone from out of town
- Museum – needs to be operating well with knowledge, signage, documented stories, resources to further develop, talking displays, try to engage new volunteers, Jeparit community fundraisers.
- New supermarket complex needed with supermarket, café, newsagency, post office.

### Group 2:

- Retirement village to free up existing housing with one person style dwellings
- Tourism promotion
- Main street upgrade.

### Group 3:

- Town to secure the sale of mechanics workshop, not someone from out of town to not use or maintain
- Shops need to be maintained and presented in an acceptable manner.
- Museum needs to be more interactive.
- Presentations of homes and gardens and nature strips in town need to be better maintained. Council sends letters annually but it is not considered to be enough.
- Lake Hindmarsh – keep water in it.

- Davis Park – sport, community involvement, all inclusive
- Changing places – Jaypex park
- Industrial estate.

## DIMBOOLA

### Group 1:

- Need more land and housing available (both for sale and rent)
- Shire to become more active in re-zoning for housing developments/reduce red tape for re-zoning
- Achieving new jobs means more housing.

### Group 2:

- Industrial estate
- Events – support for major events
- Courses run in Dimboola for tourism (RSA, Farm Tours – desert tours and walks)
- Develop tourism influx strategies:
  - E-bikes
  - Short walk guided tours, birdwatching, information tours
- Salvage centre/art recycling
- Value adding – steam train engine visits.
- Establish a neighbourhood house
- Community noticeboard
- Corella management
- Senior citizens centre
- Fishing competitions expansion (and fish kill strategy).

### Group 3:

- Retail responses to visitors with extended trading hours and extended supermarket hours.
- Medium density living close to CAA/CBD
- Backpackers accommodation (possible use for Allambi)
- New forms of community living/housing styles
- Create more arts and culture (vibrancy)
- Create more entertainment to attract and keep people.
- Create pop-up experiences/classes/craft.
- Establish a volunteer hub.

The suggestions from the consultation forums have been summarised and classified against the strategy to which each suggestion relates. The results and linkages are presented in Figure 4 on the next page.

## NHILL

### Group 1:

- Expand commercial industry
- Housing – how to increase housing stock
- Tourism accommodation – innovative ideas
- Caravan master planning – consider potential growth
- Tidy up main street - Recommence grant for shopfront painting
- Employment advertising to market jobs in Nhill across all industries
- Electric car charger – is it slow or fast.

### Group 2:

- Rail trail from river at Jeparit to Yanac
- Tourism initiatives (aerodrome, silo, signage, pinball museum)
- Upgrade main power grid

**Figure 4: Community Consultations and Economic Development Strategies**

Strategy Area	Number and % of groups raising issues (12 groups in total)	Range of suggestions and issues raised
<p><b>1.1</b> Actively facilitate the Shire’s significant new economic development opportunities to achieve investment readiness and support their implementation.</p>	<p>3 (25%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling initiatives</li> <li>• Attraction of grains value-adding business</li> <li>• Salvage centres and art recycling</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.2</b> Collaborate with WSMD and WMT to progress opportunities and initiatives of regional importance</p>	<p>3 (25%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rail trails</li> <li>• Towns going off-grid with renewable energies.</li> <li>• Renewable energies to make towns self-sustaining.</li> <li>• A range of regional tourism promotions</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.3</b> Provide supportive services for new, expanding and sustainable existing businesses and community enterprises (including Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises)</p>	<p>4 (33%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shire to become more active in rezoning for developments/reduce red tape for rezoning.</li> <li>• Industrial estates/zoned areas (x 3)</li> <li>• Community enterprise development (x 3)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.1</b> Initiate land use, infrastructure and industrial development projects to reinforce the Shire’s competitive strengths in secondary industries.</p>	<p>3 (25%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial estates/zoned areas (x 3)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.2</b> Support land and affordable housing development initiatives for key workers and older residents</p>	<p>9 (75%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more land and housing available (both for sale and rent)</li> <li>• Vacant houses – finding a way to sell or rent them.</li> <li>• Medium density living, close to CBD</li> <li>• New forms of community living/housing styles</li> <li>• Quality housing. Housing an issue for people wanting to work in town.</li> <li>• Residential subdivisions</li> <li>• Large lot residential subdivisions</li> <li>• Find a way to deal with derelict housing and unavailable land allotments.</li> <li>• Retirement village to free up existing housing with one person style dwellings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.3</b> Encourage enhanced liveability services including childcare, health and aged care, and skills and training</p>	<p>7 (58%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shire to become more active in rezoning for developments/reduce red tape for rezoning</li> <li>• Neighbourhood house</li> <li>• Community noticeboard</li> <li>• Senior citizens centre</li> <li>• Create more arts and culture (vibrancy)</li> <li>• Create more entertainment to attract and keep people.</li> <li>• Create pop-up experiences, classes and craft.</li> <li>• Assistance to help older people stay in their homes (fee-for-service gardening, rubbish removal).</li> <li>• Davis Park - sport, community involvement, all inclusive</li> <li>• Changing places - Jaypex park.</li> </ul>

Strategy Area	Number and % of groups raising issues (12 groups in total)	Range of suggestions and issues raised
<p><b>3.1</b> Continue the transition of Hindmarsh's town retail areas into revitalised and vibrant town centres</p>	<p>6 (50%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop tourism influx strategies (e-bikes, short walk guided tours, birdwatching, information tours)</li> <li>• Retail responses to visitors – extended trading hours – extended supermarket hours</li> <li>• Try to get visitors to stay 2 nights in the town.</li> <li>• Open, operating and well-maintained shops in the main street</li> <li>• Jeparit secures the sale of mechanics workshop, not someone from out of town (x 2).</li> <li>• New supermarket complex needed with supermarket, café, newsagency, post office.</li> <li>• Main street upgrades</li> <li>• Improving shopfronts in town – number of deteriorating empty shops looks poor.</li> <li>• Shops need to be maintained and presented in an acceptable manner.</li> <li>• Presentations of homes and gardens and nature strips in town need to be better maintained. Council sends letters annually but it is not considered to be enough.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.2</b> Further develop the range and quality of visitor accommodation</p>	<p>4 (25%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backpacker accommodation</li> <li>• Retail responses to visitors – extended trading hours – extended supermarket hours</li> <li>• Tourism accommodation - innovative ideas</li> <li>• Caravan master planning - consider potential growth.</li> <li>• Need quality accommodation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.3</b> Drive distinctive themes for Hindmarsh Shire's towns</p>	<p>8 (75%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a volunteer hub.</li> <li>• Volunteer burnout is a problem (too much expected).</li> <li>• Volunteers - how to attract and retain? A funded central volunteer management body?</li> <li>• Events – support for major events</li> <li>• Courses run in Dimboola for tourism (RSA, farm tours, desert tours and walks)</li> <li>• Value adding – train steam engine.</li> <li>• Museum needs to be more interactive.</li> <li>• Need to encourage the next generation of volunteers.</li> <li>• Pioneer Museum needs to be operating well with knowledge, signage, documented stories, resources to further develop, talking displays, try to engage new volunteers, Jeparit community fundraisers.</li> <li>• Tidy up main street - Recommence grant for shopfront painting.</li> </ul>





# STRATEGIES



A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The background is a dense line of trees silhouetted against the sky. In the foreground, there are reeds and grasses on the left side, partially obscuring the view of the water.

## **Strategic Pillar 1**

Proactive Council Economic  
Development Facilitation

## STRATEGY 1.1

**Actively facilitate the Shire's significant new economic development opportunities, which build on local supply chains, to achieve investment readiness and support their implementation.**



### Strategy Context

Decades long trends of farm aggregation and agricultural automation have reduced Hindmarsh Shire's population and jobs. The Shire has also seen mergers and acquisitions impact on its manufacturing base, leaving the export of agricultural commodities from the Shire as the mainstay of the local economy.

Several new ventures and value-adding opportunities have been identified by Hindmarsh communities and business operators. Council has not committed staff time or other resources to encouraging new investment and innovation in newly emerging opportunities in recent years, but the case to do so over the next five years is compelling. With a focus on Australian food production reaching \$100 billion per annum, Australia's reputation for clean and green production, the growing importance of grains-based protein in diets, and robust biosecurity which can be delivered in broadacre systems all point to good prospects for Hindmarsh Shire. The potential to value add to agricultural commodities produced in Hindmarsh Shire is at a peak. In addition:

- Agribusiness industry sectors are showing a shift towards the emergence of niche and smaller businesses.
- Broadacre agricultural environments are becoming increasingly attractive to producers and processors who are concerned with investment security (away from urban development pressure) and sustainability.

Water security from the Wimmera Mallee pipeline, the prospect of reticulated renewable energies in the region, improving connectivity, and Hindmarsh's location relative to the major population centres in both Victoria and South Australia all contribute to its suitability for ventures in some industry sectors.

Facilitation support should be limited to ventures which meet agreed selection criteria such as:

- Potential job creation.
- Expected social and economic benefits to the community.
- Supply chain links (ie business connection reasons for locating in the Shire).
- Investment and operational contribution to the Shire.

Council should focus on a manageable number of supply chain improvement opportunities rather than attempting to attract completely external investment in an untargeted way. Identified current prospects include:

- Malt barley production and processing.
- Stockfeed production.
- Indigenous plant foods production and processing.
- Central distribution facilities.
- Grain handling and storage equipment manufacture.
- Intensive livestock.
- Recycling and other circular economy projects.



One to two of these opportunities should be developed and facilitated by Council in each of the five years 2024 to 2028, with progress from one to the next being determined by success with the previous venture and the extent to which the opportunity remains current.

Council facilitation services to support investors in these opportunity areas could encompass:

- Supporting significant businesses in their applications for relevant State and Commonwealth grant programs
- Developing investment guides or business cases for specific ventures
- Assistance with feasibilities and/or business cases for significant individual investment opportunities
- Negotiating alliance partners in the supply chain (suppliers, processors or logistics providers)
- Provision of industrial land packages (such as flexibility on small or large lot configurations, support in connecting services to headworks, and the ability to stage land development)
- Liaison with infrastructure providers on behalf of businesses
- Liaison with regional organisations in garnering support for new business investments
- Assistance to build regional collaborative structures which involve one or more Loddon businesses.

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 1.1

<b>1.1.1</b>	Meet with relevant community stakeholders and selected local businesses in each supply chain to shortlist those opportunities which are ready to be progressed to facilitation support.
<b>1.1.2</b>	Decide how the facilitation will be resourced (in-house staff time, outsourcing, application for financial support from a grant, or fee-for-service).
<b>1.1.3</b>	Develop a program of support activities.
<b>1.1.4</b>	Implement the facilitation activities for 1-2 agreed opportunities each year.

## STRATEGY 1.2

### **Collaborate with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) and Wimmera Mallee Tourism (WMT) to progress opportunities and initiatives of regional importance.**

#### **Strategy Context**

Regional opportunities which will have an impact on the Hindmarsh Shire economy include:

- Renewable energy developments
- Mineral sands mining projects
- New tourism trails
- Regional housing initiatives (covered in Strategic Pillar 2).

Renewable energy is a significant current economic development which began an implementation phase in the early 2000s. Wind and solar power investors have recognised the natural attributes, and the broadacre environment, of the Wimmera Southern Mallee and many new projects are under development. Uncertainty over the extension of powerlines to connect the new sources of energy to reticulated power grids are affecting the potential scale and timing of these developments, but the rate of change in renewable energy technologies and battery storage and the urgency of reducing fossil fuel carbon emissions require that these uncertainties are resolved. In Hindmarsh Shire, renewable energy company BayWa r.e. operates a 7.4 megawatts wind farm (more power than the current whole Hindmarsh Shire requirement) near Nhill which is connected to the grid via Nhill's electricity substation.

Among the 19 renewable energy projects totalling 10 gigawatts capacity under development around the region, Stage 2 of the Murra Warra wind farm is closest to Hindmarsh Shire and is located just over 20 kilometres east of Dimboola. It will involve 38 new turbines generating 109 megawatts of power.

Further renewable energy projects in the region and in Hindmarsh Shire are likely to emerge during the 2024-28 timeframe. It is quite possible local power generation capacity and storage battery capabilities will advance over the next five years to the point where micro-grid power supplies may be possible, and very cost-efficient, for some of Hindmarsh Shire's towns.

Hindmarsh Shire has negligible mining employment and economic activity and there are no mining projects in the pipeline. However, new mineral sands mines encompassing rare earth minerals are strongly tipped to commence both construction and operational phases in the next five years, creating jobs and new supply chains and placing demands on the region's housing, recreational and service sectors. Astron Corporation (trading as Donald Mineral Sands), WIM Resource Pty Ltd and Iluka Resources are companies which have been exploring and proving the resources in the region, with plans to establish large mineral sands mining construction works and operations in the next few years.



There is scope to assist in leading WMT (including any revised structure in which WMT is a participant) to further build on the iconic Silo Art trail and developing new integrated tourism trails in which Hindmarsh Shire has a prominent role, particularly:

- Recreational waterway trails, incorporating the Wimmera River at Dimboola and Jeparit, Nhill Lake, Rainbow Lake and Lake Hindmarsh.
- Museums and historic attractions, incorporating the Wimmera-Mallee Pioneer Museum as a minimum.

History, Heritage and Landscapes Trails (currently informal and in need of formal development). The Wimmera Mallee has a rich Indigenous history which has not been developed into organised tourism activity to date. Other landscapes are associated with flora, fauna, national parks, desert environments and broadacre farming. The region also has a strong post-colonial settlement history especially in cropping and other farming practices, and innovations in agricultural machinery and equipment (often preserved at local museums and historic buildings).

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 1.2

<b>1.2.1</b>	Participate in committees/working groups on renewable energies, mining, and tourism with WSMD/WMT.
<b>1.2.2</b>	Contribute local information and advocacy for WSMD business cases and information memoranda for new suitable renewable energies investments in the region.
<b>1.2.3</b>	Communicate with local Hindmarsh contractors and suppliers on individual and consortium work opportunities, as and when they arise, during both construction and operational phases of mineral sands mining and renewable energies projects in the region.
<b>1.2.4</b>	Assist WMT to further build on the successful silo art trail and develop new regional recreational waterbody trails, incorporating the Wimmera River at Dimboola and Jeparit, Nhill Lake, Rainbow Lake and Lake Hindmarsh. The market for these trails will overlap with silo art visitors but will add families and younger cohorts. This strategy could extend to collaboration with Grampians Tourism’s proposed ‘Victorian Great Lakes’ initiatives by incorporating Lakes Fyans, Bellfield, Wartook and Walkers into the trail options.
<b>1.2.5</b>	Lead regional efforts (in partnership with Yarriambiack Shire Council, WMT and WSMD) to upgrade the displays and sustainability of the region’s museums and historic attractions (incorporating Hindmarsh’s Wimmera-Mallee Pioneer Museum, Nhill Aviation Museum, Pinball Museum and Dimboola’ Print Museum as a minimum) by introducing, subject to accessing grant funding, shared curatorial expertise and offering interactive displays and exhibitions which change throughout the year (for example 2-4 themed exhibitions per year).

## STRATEGY 1.3

**Provide supportive services for new, expanding and sustainable existing businesses and community enterprises (including support for Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises).**

### Strategy Context

Council's role in facilitating business growth in the Shire should not just be focused on attracting investment from outside, but also in offering similar support to 'growth from within'. That means supporting existing businesses planning to expand and diversify, and existing community members who would like to invest in their local communities.



Some Hindmarsh communities have expressed interest in actively participating, and investing, in the establishment of community enterprises which will strengthen and help to revitalise their communities. Concerned communities in several Wimmera Southern Mallee towns have been stepping up to raise investments for both for-profit and not-for-profit business operations to either retain important services in towns or to add a new dimension; some remain community owned and operated, others have appointed managers or have built the business prior to selling. Some examples include the Royal Hotel in Sea Lake, the independent supermarket in Rupanyup, Bakery on Broadway in Wycheproof, and The Border Inn at Apsley. Organisation structures for these community enterprises vary from cooperatives, partnerships, companies limited by shares to companies limited by guarantee, but the key commonality is that the shareholders all have an interest in strengthening their local community rather than necessarily receiving a competitive financial return on their investment.

It is understood that Barengi Gadjin Land Council intends to increase its involvement in plant nursery, food production and tourism enterprises which focus on cultural sites and stories. The timing and scale to develop these enterprises will, of course, be at the discretion of BGLC and Hindmarsh Shire Council should have only a supportive and encouragement involvement.

Designated Council officers could be responsible for liaison with other Council officers to assist businesses, investors and community stakeholders in working through planning, building, supply chain contacts, and other statutory agency contacts associated with proposed community businesses/enterprises.







In order to demonstrate that Council is ‘open for business’ in the context of new business investment and areas where community groups could assist and participate in new enterprises, it would be appropriate for Council to produce a broad Shire-wide investment guide. This would be both an advocacy document for potential grant funding and a formal confirmation of the Shire’s readiness for targeted types of business. Among the business types which could be suited to community enterprises, other private investment and/or diversification by existing local business operators, which have been nominated during consultations, are:

- Rainbow hotel and brewery.
- Wimmera Mallee Chocolate Factory.
- Modular homes/caravan park cabins construction facility.
- Service station/truck stop.

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 1.3

<b>1.3.1</b>	Design a new enterprise investment guide for Hindmarsh Shire identifying generic features of relevance (town characteristics, infrastructure, social and recreational assets, etc) and, for each of the selected business opportunities, why the opportunity exists and an outline of the competitive strengths of a Hindmarsh Shire location. The document would be available on Council’s website and in hard copy.
<b>1.3.2</b>	Maintain a register of appropriate legal, financial and business advisory professionals to recommend to Hindmarsh Shire community groups and business proponents on options for structuring community enterprises.
<b>1.3.3</b>	Support Barengi Gadjin Land Council to build and enhance First Nations visitor experiences in the region, and other Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises (eg in nursery, landscaping, and food production)

## STRATEGY 1.4

### Scale up Council's cost-effective approach to resourcing economic development functions.

#### Strategy Context

Regional economic development was once delivered through 'top down' policies and programs of Commonwealth and State Governments, but this has changed in the past 30 years and local and community-based approaches and responses have become accepted as the most effective and most sustainable way to develop regions; in Australia and around the world. An acceptance demonstrated by the fact that most new businesses, new investment and new jobs in any region are generated by the existing community (and the supply chain connections of the existing community): Research in Australia suggests that the proportion is at least 70%. Conversely 'top down' initiated regional economic development programs are rarely sustained. They are shaped, funded and often concluded within just one term of government office, yet their successful implementation and maturation may have a "lead time" of more than a decade, unless they are embraced and driven at the local level. Flexible programs which support innovation and capitalise on emerging local opportunities are more likely to be successful.

The shift to local responsibility for steering economic development has inevitably been embraced as a function of Local Government authorities. More recent structures have seen the explicit acknowledgement of economic development as a local government function, with the formation of Council Economic Development Units. In some cases, the Economic Development function has been integrated with planning, development, community services and/or sustainability functions. In many regions, these Council Economic Development Units work in complement to separately incorporated Economic Development Organisations which are formally linked to one or more Councils (eg Wimmera Southern Mallee Development). These organisations tend to have Boards of Management which have both local government and industry participants, from private and public sectors: The public participants often represent public owned training providers, infrastructure companies (such as water and power providers), hospitals and sport and recreation bodies.

Council employs staff across community development, economic development and tourism functions. There are three members of the community, economic and tourism development staff team, with a total commitment of 1.6 FTE's on the economic development (including tourism) workload. This is considered to be inadequate resourcing to deliver on the 2024-28 strategies.



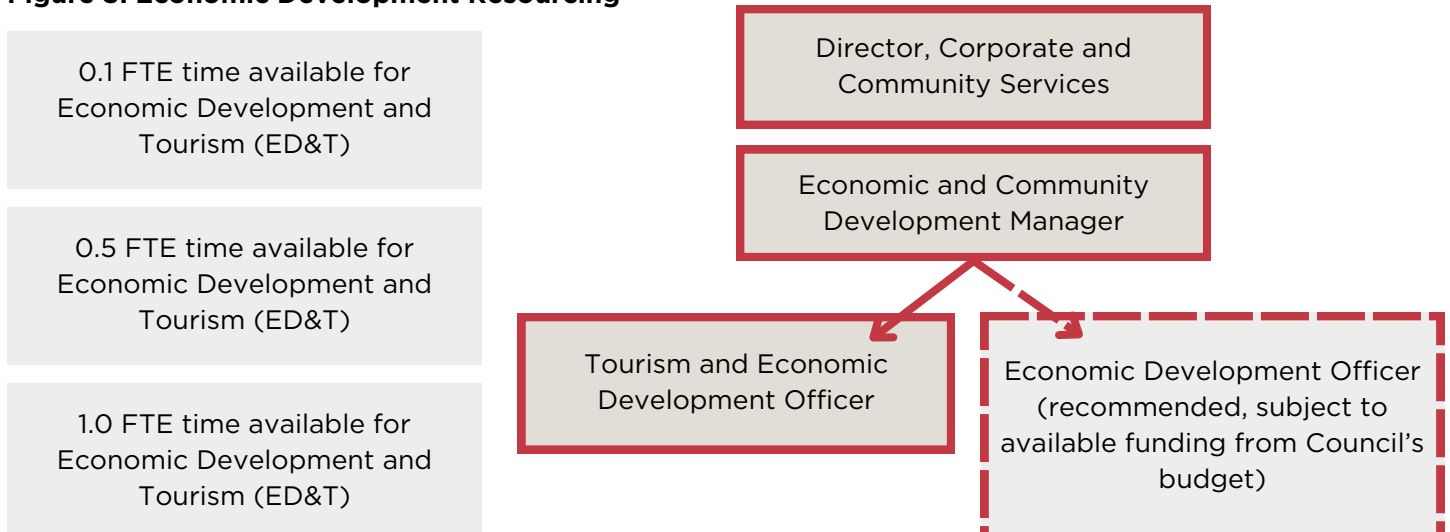
In Hindmarsh Shire Council to date there has not been an accepted multi-disciplinary approach to economic development activities, whereby staff who have responsibilities for other roles which have economic development implications (such as planning, building, and health staff and other operational roles) are engaged in helping to develop and to support specific projects. There has been a level of outsourcing to resource specific economic development projects such as masterplans, tourism infrastructure, and accommodation (usually when a small Council funding commitment can be leveraged by funds from a government program).

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 1.4

Actions within this strategy account for many of day-to-day economic development activities of Council and consume 1.1 FTEs of the currently available 1.6 FTEs dedicated to economic development tasks, including tourism.

<b>1.4.1</b>	Provision of executive support to community committees (incorporating Asset Management Committees of Council, town or progress committees, sporting clubs) through attending meetings, correspondence, letters of support, Council briefing papers, etc. This action is currently resourced by 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing and is expected to be ongoing at this level throughout 2024-2028.
<b>1.4.2</b>	Representing Hindmarsh Shire on regional and State working parties and project working/steering groups. This action is currently resourced by 0.2 FTE staffing and is expected to be ongoing at this level throughout 2024-2028.
<b>1.4.3</b>	Responding to requests for business, economic development and tourism information. This action is currently resourced by 0.1 FTE staffing and is expected to be ongoing at this level throughout 2024-2028.
<b>1.4.4</b>	Drafting policy, responses and recommended directions on economic development matters where decisions are needed, for consideration by Council. This action is currently resourced by 0.2 FTE staffing and is expected to be ongoing at this level throughout 2024-2028.
<b>1.4.5</b>	Preparing advocacy and lobbying documents and representing the Shire to government and potential new investors and businesses. This action is currently resourced by 0.1 FTE staffing and is expected to need an increase to 0.2 FTE throughout 2024-2028.
<b>1.4.6</b>	Recruit an additional Economic Development Officer who will share some of the load in Actions 1.4.1 to 1.4.5 and will take prime responsibility for delivery of the Strategic Pillars 1 and 2 under direction of the Economic and Community Development Manager, while the Tourism and Economic Development Manager will have prime responsibility for Strategic Pillar 3.

**Figure 5: Economic Development Resourcing**





## **Strategic Pillar 2**

Reducing Barriers to  
Investment and Innovation



## STRATEGY 2.1

### **Initiate land use, infrastructure and industrial development projects to reinforce the Shire's competitive strengths in secondary industries.**

#### **Strategy Context**

Manufacturing, construction, and utilities (electricity, gas, water and waste) are classified as secondary industries. Community forums in the four main Hindmarsh towns identified provision of serviced industrial estates as keys to future economic development. Industrial estates could accommodate:

- Manufacturing and processing businesses.
- Trades and construction operators.
- Wholesaling and warehousing operations.
- Distribution and logistics businesses.
- Other service activities.

Hindmarsh Shire has a long history as a centre for food and agricultural equipment manufacturing. But this competitive strength has eroded in the twenty-first century. Mergers and acquisitions have reduced the Shire's constituent businesses in these sectors; part of a global trend towards 2-3 major corporations controlling supply chains. Nhill in particular was a manufacturing hub of the twentieth-century, but mergers and acquisitions have reduced the commitment to the region and many of the businesses have been lost or have been affected by industry consolidations and mergers (in food manufacturing and commodity handling).

New value adding processes to grains, grain legumes and oilseeds have the potential to attract investment in the Shire to value add to products beyond the farmgate. This could occur through farming operations collaborating to value add, vertical integration by either family or corporate farms, or entirely new processing and value adding businesses establishing in the Shire.

The processing steps which are emerging in the twenty-first century often involve extraction of nutrient rich components from the base commodity and diversion of former waste-streams into valuable co-products (liquid, solid and dried). Undertaking these processes close to the product source, rather than close to the market is arguably more attractive, since the products after second stage processing may be divided between food for human consumption applications, specialty stockfeeds, food or nutraceutical ingredients, and even higher value biological fertilisers. The ability to access cost-competitive sources of renewable energy, biosecure and food safe premises, and investment security could all add to the competitiveness of a location at the centre of a broadacre farming district. Availability of suitable premises, and access to suitable staff, and housing shortages are the biggest offsets to these comparative advantages.





Hindmarsh Shire’s towns are under-represented in construction trade businesses and employment and need to adopt a contemporary approach to attracting and retaining trade apprentices, tradespeople and trades businesses. The percentage of the Shire’s employment in the construction industry in total is 5.8% and the main towns have construction industry employment ranging between 1.6% and 7.9% of the total employed workforce. By town, in 2021:

- Dimboola had 7.9% of its workforce employed in trades and construction.
- Nhill had 6.1% of its workforce employed in trades and construction.
- Jeparit had 3.9% of its workforce employed in trades and construction.
- Rainbow had 1.6% of its workforce employed in trades and construction.

There is a pressing need to implement mechanisms to retain tradespeople and trade businesses in the Shire.

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 2.1

<b>2.1.1</b>	Review planning scheme provisions for industrial land in Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola and conduct initial demand and feasibility assessments for industrial estates in these towns.
<b>2.1.2</b>	Explore infrastructure and industrial development government support programs which could be accessed for detailed planning and provision of industrial estates.
<b>2.1.3</b>	Investigate microgrid or modular-grid renewable energy hubs to power select Hindmarsh Shire towns.
<b>2.1.4</b>	Establish the viability of at least one trades-hub (with modular factory units and shared services) to attract small trades businesses and local branches of trades businesses and to increase the number of local apprentices.

## STRATEGY 2.2

### Support land and affordable housing development initiatives for key workers and older residents.

#### Strategy Context

Shortages of housing for rent and sale have been widely acknowledged as the greatest barriers to filling job vacancies, attracting skilled workers and achieving population growth in towns right across the Wimmera Southern Mallee\*. Housing shortages were evident well before the COVID pandemic but have been exacerbated by it. They occur at a time when the region has major economic development opportunities including those specified for Hindmarsh Shire.

In addition to job opportunities, lower residential market values have brought new households to several Hindmarsh towns, attracted by housing affordability and rural lifestyle. A proportion of these residents remain somewhat disenfranchised with few social connections and low disposable incomes, which has contributed to the Shire's relatively high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Indices for Areas (SEIFA).

Household size has slowly decreased in the Shire for at least two decades. In 1991 the average household size was 2.5 persons per occupied dwelling, and by 2021 it had reduced to 2.2. This change is a key factor in creating demand for new housing, and the housing stock has risen even during periods when there is no population growth. The average price for houses sold in Hindmarsh Shire in 2022 was \$222,962, having risen at the average annual rate of 8.5% over the previous 10 years\*\*.

\* Wimmera Development Association (2020) Housing Review

\*\* Victorian Valuer Generals records 1992 to 2022



Attracting either developers or housing associations (including those structured as community enterprises) to provide suitable properties for sale and rent to incoming households needs to demonstrate a reasonable return on investment. This is difficult in the Shire. The average value of new houses (measured by building approvals) in Hindmarsh in 2021-22 and 2022-23 was \$364,000, excluding land, which is 63% higher than the average market value of \$222,962. On this basis, and with 6.6% capital gain per annum, it would take around 7.5 years for an investment in housing to begin making a capital gain. Community driven initiatives, whereby local residents contribute to a housing fund, with lower expectations for commercial returns, can enable Hindmarsh communities to develop more housing to accommodate people moving to the area for employment opportunities.



The combined issues of limited affordable housing, insufficient rental accommodation, and residential land for future development have been widely agreed throughout the Wimmera Southern Mallee region by Councils, community organisations and industry stakeholders as major inhibitors to growth. Demand for lifestyle rural residential blocks has also been recognised in regional assessments and by Hindmarsh Shire communities.



## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 2.2

Hindmarsh Shire Council can support land, key worker and older resident housing initiatives in several ways.

<b>2.2.1</b>	Participate in WSMD's Wimmera Housing Innovation projects in the Shire. Initial towns and community groups involved in discussions with Wimmera Housing Innovations (WHIP) are Dimboola and Rainbow. Nhill and Jeparit should be also considered in the short-term (ie next 1 to 2 years).
<b>2.2.2</b>	Directly making applications and/or supporting applications, to Victorian and Commonwealth government affordable housing program grants and loans or infrastructure to facilitate housing developments.
<b>2.2.3</b>	Provision of minor infrastructure, planning and building permits for housing developments on a case-by-case basis, and with consideration of concessional rates and charges.
<b>2.2.4</b>	Residential land subdivision support including infrastructure connections and statutory approvals, also on a case-by-case basis.
<b>2.2.5</b>	Develop a plan for provision of larger lot, rural residential estates in larger towns of the Shire.

## STRATEGY 2.3

### Encourage enhanced liveability services including childcare, health and aged care, and skills and training.

#### Strategy Context

The need to reduce barriers to growth and to the attraction of key workers and retirees is unparalleled. Although housing is widely considered as the most significant current inhibitor to growth in Hindmarsh Shire, other liveability factors, are also of critical importance, particularly when considered in combination or as an overall package. Ratings of liveability factors by employers\* in Hindmarsh Shire are generally positive, especially in Nhill and Dimboola, while there is more dissatisfaction in Rainbow and Jeparit. Realistically, core liveability factors of childcare, health services, aged care and workforce skills and training are beyond the ability of local government and local communities to solve directly, since they are the consequence of State and Commonwealth Government policies and funding, and local provision must be equitable compared with metropolitan areas and other regional and rural locations. Private sector intervention is possible, but unlikely when the viability outlook is no better than marginal.

\* Compiled from survey work by Wimmera Development Association in 2020.

#### Liveability strengths in Nhill are considered to include:

- General health care (with a hospital operated by West Wimmera Health Service, also providing some dental and specialist services).
- Primary and secondary school education (with one public and two private schools).
- A range of aged care options (West Wimmera Health Services, Avonlea, Iona and independent living units).
- Relatively good child-care services (with 3-4 years old kindergarten sessions and long-day care four days per week).
- Retail centre core services.
- Sport and recreation facilities.
- Cultural assets and facilities which include aviation heritage, other history, environmental assets (but not cultural assets for the increasing multicultural residents).
- Community groups and community support.



#### Liveability strengths in Dimboola are considered to include:

- General health care (through private practitioner services)
- Primary and secondary school education.
- Aged health support through the hospital (Grampians Health) but with no intensive care and very limited independent living aged units.
- Child-care services (with 3-4 years old kindergarten sessions and long-day care 4 days per week)
- An improving retail centre.
- Sport and recreation facilities.
- Cultural assets and facilities which include a new library, Sidney Nolan and Print Museum heritage, environmental assets (Wimmera River and access to the Little Desert) and the undeveloped Aboriginal heritage sites.
- Community groups and community support. There are around 40 community groups, most with a 'can do' attitude.



In Rainbow, secondary and further education, dental services, and specialist medical care are rated as weaknesses contributing to reduced attractiveness of the town to potential new residents. Liveability relative strengths in Rainbow are considered to include primary education facilities, child-care, aged-care, sport and recreation facilities, and cultural assets (including Yurunga, proximity to both Lakes Albacutya and Hindmarsh, and the Wyperfeld National Park). The town's retail centre and community support networks are rated as adequate.



The Jeparit community also rates secondary education (requiring a bus commute to either Nhill or Rainbow), further education, and specialist medical care services as weaknesses, contributing to reduced attractiveness of the town to potential new residents. Primary education facilities and general health care are rated as Jeparit's major strengths in attracting residents while child-care, aged-care, sport and recreation facilities, and cultural assets (including a pioneer museum, other historic features, the Wimmera river, proximity to Lake Hindmarsh and a new library) are all viewed as relative strengths of Jeparit. The town's community groups and support networks (of which there are around 30) are rated as adequate.



While the retention of The Overland rail service (operated by 'Journey Beyond') is one of the economic development successes of Hindmarsh Shire in recent years, the towns of Nhill and Dimboola (and indeed Horsham) should be better serviced with passenger rail than twice per week.

A regional approach is appropriate in addressing human service delivery affecting liveability, with Hindmarsh Shire supporting the actions and promoting them locally.

Access to early childcare is being addressed by the State Government. Victoria's early childhood reform program, to give three-year olds access to at least five hours per week of subsidised kindergarten in 2022 and increasing to 15 hours per week over the next decade, is being rolled out across parts of regional Victoria, including Hindmarsh, where this is a major inhibitor to access to jobs (especially among females). Three-year old kindergarten has been established across the Shire. Both services are provided by Emerge Early Years Services.

Regional Victorian children experiencing disadvantage will be the first to receive a roll-out of the 'Pre-Prep' program of 30 hours each week of teacher-led play-based learning, which will begin in six selected areas from 2025, before expanding across the state. Hindmarsh Shire is one of the six selected areas. Pre-Prep programs will be delivered through sessional kindergartens and long day-care centres giving 4-year-old children greater opportunities to socialise, learn and prepare for formal education.

The Victorian Skills Authority's (VSA) Wimmera Southern Mallee's Skills Profile argues that employers in the region will be seeking to employ an additional 1,700 to 2,400 workers to meet demand over the next 3 years. On top of new worker demand, 1,210 workers are required to replace retirements. However, the VSA profile warns that employers across all industries currently face challenges filling all types and levels of roles. This shortage is projected to continue, with data and estimates suggesting that the region will have a shortfall of 700 to over 2,000 workers in the next 3 years.



In order to address workforce shortages, the region will need to address “systemic and longstanding barriers.... Adjustments to immigration processing such as reducing long visa processing times (of more than 4 months for 50% of applications) and securing a designated area migration agreement (DAMA) for the region, would support import of labour to the region and make a major contribution to meeting demand for new workers in the next 3 years\*.”


Labour market demand and skills mismatches are not confined to any specific occupational grouping; they extend across process worker, farm labour, professional, technical, and service occupational areas. This situation demands a regional skills and workforce capability development strategy across the region. The Wimmera Southern Mallee VSA Skills Taskforce recommended that a long-term regional workforce plan should be developed.

\* VSA WSM Regional Profile 2023

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 2.3

The actions for this economic development strategy are predominantly geared to “advocacy” action for wider regional efforts to reduce long-term barriers which have progressively worsened in impact across local government areas in the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

<b>2.3.1</b>	Support regional efforts (by neighbouring Councils, training providers, WSMD and the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership) in advocating for and undertaking long term regional development planning, to identify and address critical infrastructure and service gaps that create barriers to workforce attraction and retention.
<b>2.3.2</b>	Advocate to State and Commonwealth governments for a systematic and flexible approach to regional development that includes infrastructure, amenity and planning solutions, and that consolidates existing funds and programs (with new local, or ‘place-based’, solutions and funding developed and implemented by local stakeholders and communities).
<b>2.3.3</b>	Advocate to the State Government to return regular return rail passenger services to the Shire, with connections from Ararat to Nhill, including Dimboola (and Horsham and Stawell) en route.
<b>2.3.4</b>	In collaboration with other WSM organisations, document the regional case for changes to the Australian immigration policy, demonstrating to the Australian Government the barriers to international immigrants working in the region and the justification for establishing a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA), or its equivalent, for the region. Hindmarsh Shire’s track record in attraction and retention of a sizable Karen community should be used in both quantitative and qualitative evidence of the potential for a targeted immigration approach tailored to the Shire and the Wimmera Southern Mallee.
<b>2.3.5</b>	Lobby the State Government and private sector providers to not only increase the availability of childcare in the region, but to reduce the cost to parents and guardians with young families of returning to work or increasing their hours of participation.
<b>2.3.6</b>	Participate in working groups with technical and further education, tertiary education, adult education, and registered training organisations (RTOs) to help in ensuring training is relevant and responsive to industry needs.



## Strategic Pillar 3

### Building the Shire's Reputation for Lifestyle, Tourism and Events

#### Regional Tourism Background

The form and structure of Hindmarsh Shire's regional tourism organisation, Wimmera Mallee Tourism, as an organisation beyond 2023 is not yet determined. However, the Victorian Government has made it clear, following a major review of regional tourism, that the existing arrangement of Regional Tourism Boards will be phased out to be replaced by negotiated 'Visitor Economy Partnerships' (VEPs). It is understood that a VEP must either:

- Contain a Regional City with a resident population greater than 50,000 people and at least three local government areas, or
- Contain a minimum of six participating local government areas.

Wimmera Mallee Tourism secured additional resourcing for 2022-23 and funding for several projects, many which stemmed from the development and rollout of the Silo Art Trail. Several of these are works-in-progress which will be ready for action in the next five years.

If, for example, a combined Grampians/Wimmera Mallee region became a designated Visitor Economy Partnership it would be likely to entail:

- Eight local government areas: The Rural Cities of Ararat and Horsham and the Shires of Buloke, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.
- This would make the tourism region larger than any of the existing Regional Tourism Boards in the State (in terms of the number of local government authority members).
- A need for the region to recognise a Visitor Economy Partnership structure of "One region: Two distinct tourism product mixes". There should be potential for two sub-committees within the structure, with one dedicated to the Wimmera Mallee.
- At least one staff member of the new VEP being physically based in the Wimmera Mallee.

The State Government is also currently developing a destination management plan for the whole of Victoria. Key pillars of this plan are understood to be nature-based tourism and First Nations led tourism.

## STRATEGY 3.1

### Continue the transition of Hindmarsh's town retail areas into revitalised and vibrant town centres.

#### Strategy Context

Plans are needed for the central activity areas of each town in the Shire so that they look attractive, offer products and services that are responsive to residents and visitor needs, and that add value to travel experiences.

Retail strips in towns, and more significantly in suburbs of major metropolitan areas, have shifted focus from product retailing to personal services (dominated by food service and health and wellbeing). This has affected previously dedicated retail businesses whereby they have expanded their approach and adopted a product plus service range. Competition created by online sales and social media marketing has been part of the reason for this change, enabling retailers to provide a shopping experience that can only be delivered by physical visits to the store.

Apart from visits to supermarkets, town central activities areas are now destinations for these specific service outlets focused on health, wellbeing and lifestyle appointments and/or cafés and restaurants, rather than being destinations for traditional retailing. In Hindmarsh Shire, this trend is evident albeit that the transition of town centres has been much slower than in metropolitan suburbs, regional centres and even in coastal and commuter towns. Indeed, loss of town centre businesses in Hindmarsh Shire has often been a more concerning trend than the transition away from retailing in some Hindmarsh towns.

Many small businesses in the main streets of Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) towns have reported that they feel challenged by time and staffing pressures\*. Encouraging additional capital investment to help revitalise retail centres more by making them attractive focal points for both community and visitors is likely to stimulate flow-on investment by the businesses themselves and lead to improved product/service offers by all businesses in the town. This stimulating investment can be in streetscapes, artwork, public amenities, new infrastructure (like charging stations, seating, shade, and landscaping).

\* Tischler, McDonald, Reeves (2022). *Ground Truthing Jobs & Population Data in the Wimmera Southern Mallee: Background Research Report*. Federation University.



The feel and atmosphere of the central activities area, or retail strip, in towns can also be dramatically altered by the establishment of a “hero” business which is a source of pride and a business of choice for local residents, and a destination for visitors. Hero businesses are leaders in revitalising town centres. They attract people to the town in their own right, and often trade for extended hours to suit customer expectations. They are businesses which create an atmosphere of activity and enthusiasm. The Imaginarium in Dimboola and Mr Le Vietnamese Street Food in Nhill are examples of Hindmarsh Shire hero businesses. Some community-based enterprises also have the potential to be hero businesses, such as the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum in Jeparit and the Eureka Hotel and Brewery in Rainbow.

In Hindmarsh, most of the larger towns have at least one popular and contemporary café or bakery and these are helping to make the towns attractive meeting places for residents and stopover points for travellers. Extending this relatively new feature of the towns to other food service, retail, accommodation and other services, and to extend the operating hours of the centres is the next step.

Dimboola is leading the way toward town centre revitalisation. Dimboola is increasingly attracting people who view it as a satellite or commuter town for Horsham, and the main street has seen the establishment of a number of new food service, art and collectibles, and opportunity shop businesses in the past few years.

Acknowledgement that the wider region is a legitimate tourism destination (based around the region's silo art trail, waterbodies, and cultural and natural environment attractions) is leading to local residents understanding that a new service mentality is key to capturing the benefits of tourism.



It is considered there are genuine business gaps and prospects in Hindmarsh towns to create businesses or to diversify existing businesses in sectors which will stimulate town revitalisation. Potential business types are:

- Specialised art and craft products and galleries
- Bakeries, cafés and restaurants
- Hotels, pubs, wine bars, craft breweries, distilleries
- Combined/diversified functions (eg newsagency/bookshop with café, butchery with takeaway ready to eat foods)
- Businesses which combine products with do-it-yourself options; eg retail products with training, workshops, events, and other experiences.

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 3.1

<b>3.1.1</b>	Continue Council support for the biennial Steampunk Festival in Dimboola, and encourage the articulation of the 'reimagining concept' implicit at Steampunk into year-round retailing and attractions. This should include further development of the Nhill Silo Heritage project as a potential functioning heritage, events and arts precinct.
<b>3.1.2</b>	Prioritise projects which have town centre revitalisation objectives in Council's annual community and business grants assessment criteria and evaluation process over the next five years.
<b>3.1.3</b>	Identify and promote the establishment of hero businesses in town centres by working with town communities to research and determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type, style and range of suitable hero businesses.</li> <li>• Market potential and outlook for viable operations.</li> <li>• Sites/properties which have design features that maximise the business' image.</li> <li>• Potential operators and investors.</li> </ul>

## STRATEGY 3.2

### Further develop the range and quality of visitor accommodation.

#### Strategy Context

Prior to the onset of the COVID pandemic, tourism to the Wimmera Mallee region, including Hindmarsh Shire, was gaining momentum. Stimulated by the region's Silo Art Trail, the region has become a genuine destination for domestic travellers on camping and caravanning holidays, international visitors looking to enjoy, and capture on camera, the region's 'big skies' and the ever-changing colours of Wimmera Mallee country, or the "different light" referred to in the latest Wimmera Mallee Tourism campaign.

Domestic tourism has largely returned to pre-COVID levels, but the economic contribution to the Hindmarsh Shire economy is less than optimal through a lack of accommodation to suit all market segments. Camping and caravanning options are relatively well supplied, and there is some self-contained cabin accommodation at a range of sites.

The Shire's network of caravan parks has been the recipient of considerable recent investment with on-site cabins, powered sites and park infrastructure. But further development is needed to expand the market segment range and choice in quality commercial accommodation (potentially including community enterprises). The Shire has several hotel and motel properties but remains under-serviced in meeting the changing demand for up-market accommodation. The time is right to build on the range and capacity of accommodation services within Hindmarsh Shire towns. Visitor accommodation is a key deficiency which needs to be addressed to improve visitor experiences and to maximise the regional economic benefits from visitation. Existing accommodation is a combination of private sector owned and operated, local government owned and operated, committee of management operated, and community enterprises.



New delivery models need to be identified to enable new partnerships between Council, community organisations and private investors. Comprehensive accommodation options, particularly higher quality self-contained accommodation (such as hostels and lodges, art or themed hotels, and apartments) will greatly enhance the region's tourism industry diversification.



Hindmarsh Shire has many private and community owned buildings that could be repurposed for accommodation, residences or visitor attractions (or all three). Repurposing existing significant buildings has become an increasingly popular trend in recent years. “The trend of rehabilitating old buildings into accommodation facilities (apartments and hotels) remains one of the brightest spots in the hospitality industry, offering a unique and rewarding experience for travellers seeking modern-day accommodations linked to a bygone era.... Reusing old buildings can avoid the high costs associated with new construction and land purchases.... Adaptive reuse hotels and apartments are enticing a growing legion of youthful urban residents and out-of-towners attracted to the elegant charm and local character these older buildings possess. It also allows hotel properties to effectively differentiate themselves in an increasingly competitive environment for tourism dollars\*”.

*\* Clayton Daspit AIA, LEED AP (July 2019) ‘Revitalising Old Buildings Sets Growing Trend for Hotel Industry’.*



## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 3.2

<p><b>3.2.1</b></p>	<p>Implement the findings, relevant to Hindmarsh Shire, of Wimmera Mallee Tourism’s feasibility project on redeveloping more eclectic accommodation.</p>
<p><b>3.2.2</b></p>	<p>Develop new projects, seeking financial support for their development from the Victorian Government, in Hindmarsh towns where it is acknowledged that accommodation is too limited to appeal to the full extent of existing tourist segments. This may include feasibilities and development work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the network of self-contained cabins.</li> <li>• Develop accommodation options which are visitor experiences in their own right. Examples are participative farm stays, guided/escorted tours with mobile camping and glamping, and group accommodation facilities which cater for special interest groups with meeting facilities and outside tours and activities.</li> </ul>

## STRATEGY 3.3

### Drive distinctive themes for Hindmarsh Shire's towns.

#### Strategy Context

Now that Hindmarsh Shire has a range of accessible and engaging tourism products it is time to build the capacity and the motivation within the local communities to respond. Communities and towns around the Shire and region have been underprepared for the growth in tourism by offering accommodation, food services, retail and other suitable choices for visitors. This under-preparedness is also limiting the attraction of new residents who judge a potential hometown on many of the same factors that influence visitors.

Distinctive themes, to differentiate Hindmarsh towns within the Shire and broader region would enable practical, non-competitive residential and visitor attraction activities to be undertaken. These practical activities would embrace developing and supporting local events, accelerating niche and small business development, and transitioning volunteer community ventures into sustainable operations. Themes which build on unique economic development (including tourism) features of each town should be developed, in consultation with each community.

Themes could build on the image that each community wants to project and sustain. The following examples are intended to simply set the scene, with community input and agreement needed before moving on to branding and promotional activities:

- **Nhill:** Agribusiness service centre, aviation and history.
- **Dimboola:** Events, arts and collectibles centre.
- **Jeparit:** Pioneer heritage and river town.
- **Rainbow:** Colour town on the desert edge.

## ACTIONS | STRATEGY 3.3

<b>3.3.1</b>	Provide a small level of seed funding to help approved and representative town community groups to set themes for their town which will help to position economic development (including tourism) focuses for the town.
<b>3.3.2</b>	Support the efforts of town community groups to instigate and run local events, accelerate niche and small business development, and to transition volunteer community ventures into sustainable operations.
<b>3.3.3</b>	Establish volunteer support mechanisms for each town or shared across towns (volunteer hubs, virtual support, more structured training and induction).



# Work Plan



Strategic Pillar	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Council Role	Resourcing	Budget (additional to staff)
Proactive Council Economic Development Facilitation	1.1 Actively facilitate the Shire's significant new economic development opportunities, which build on local supply chains, to achieve investment readiness and support their implementation.	1.1.1 Meet with relevant community stakeholders and selected local businesses in each supply chain to shortlist those opportunities which are ready to be progressed to facilitation support.	2024-2028	Facilitation	ECDM, EDO	-
		1.1.2 Decide how the facilitation will be resourced (in-house staff time, outsourcing, applications for financial support from grants, or fee-for-service).	2024-2028	Management	DCCS, ECDM	-
		1.1.3 Develop a program of support activities.	2024	Management	ECDM, EDO	-
		1.1.4 Implement the facilitation activities for 1-2 agreed opportunities each year.	2024-2028	Delivery	ECDM, EDO	\$10,000 p.a.
	1.2 Collaborate with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) and Wimmera Mallee Tourism (WMT) to progress opportunities and initiatives of regional importance.	1.2.1 Participate in committees/working groups on renewable energies, mining, and tourism with WSMD/WMT.	2024-2028	Representation	DCCS, ECDM, TEDO, REG	-
		1.2.2 Contribute local information and advocacy for WSMD business cases and information memoranda for new suitable renewable energies investments in the region.	2024-2028	Facilitation	EDO, REG	-
		1.2.3 Communicate with local Hindmarsh contractors and suppliers on individual and consortium work opportunities, as and when they arise, during both construction and operational phases of mineral sands mining and renewable energies projects in the region.	2024-2028	Facilitation	EDO	-
		1.2.4 Assist WMT to further build on the successful silo art trail and develop new regional recreational waterbody trails, incorporating the Wimmera River at Dimboola and Jeparit, Nhill Lake, Rainbow Lake and Lake Hindmarsh.	2024-2027	Facilitation	TEDO, REG	-
		1.2.5 Lead regional efforts (in partnership with Yarriambiack Shire Council, WMT and WSMD) to upgrade the displays and sustainability of the region's museums and historic attractions (incorporating Hindmarsh's Wimmera-Mallee Pioneer Museum, Nhill Aviation Museum, Pinball Museum and Dimboola' Print Museum as a minimum) by introducing shared curatorial expertise and offering interactive displays and exhibitions which change throughout the year (for example 2-4 themed exhibitions per year).	2024-2026	Management	ECDM, TEDO, REG	-

Strategic Pillar	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Council Role	Resourcing	Budget (additional to staff)
Proactive Council Economic Development Facilitation (continued)	1.3 Provide supportive services for new, expanding and sustainable existing businesses and community enterprises (including support for Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises).	1.3.1 Design a new enterprise investment guide for Hindmarsh Shire identifying generic features of relevance (town characteristics, infrastructure, social and recreational assets, etc) and, for each of the selected business opportunities, why the opportunity exists and an outline of the competitive strengths of a Hindmarsh Shire location.	2024	Delivery	DCCS, ECDM, EDO	\$20,000
		1.3.2 Maintain a register of appropriate legal, financial and business advisory professionals to recommend to Hindmarsh Shire community groups and business proponents on options for structuring community enterprises.	2024-2028	Facilitation	ECDM, EDO, TEDO	-
		1.3.3 Support Barengi Gadjin Land Council to build and enhance First Nations visitor experiences in the region, and other Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises (eg in nursery, landscaping, and food production).	2025-2028	Facilitation	DCCS, ECDM, EDO, TEDO, REG	-
	1.4 Scale up Council's cost-effective approach to resourcing economic development functions.	1.4.1 Provision of executive support to community committees (incorporating Asset Management Committees of Council, town or progress committees, sporting clubs) through attending meetings, correspondence, letters of support, Council briefing papers, etc.	2024-2028	Facilitation	ECDM, EDO, TEDO	-
		1.4.2 Representing Hindmarsh Shire on regional and State working parties and project working/steering groups.	2024-2028	Representation	DCCS, ECDM, EDO, TEDO	-
		1.4.3 Responding to requests for business, economic development and tourism information.	2024-2028	Facilitation	ECDM, EDO, TEDO	-
		1.4.4 Drafting policy, responses and recommended directions on economic development matters where decisions are needed, for consideration by Council.	2024-2028	Management	DCCS, ECDM, EDO, TEDO	-
		1.4.5 Preparing advocacy and lobbying documents and representing the Shire to government and potential new investors and businesses.	2024-2028	Advocacy	DCCS, ECDM, EDO, TEDO	-

Strategic Pillar	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Council Role	Resourcing	Budget (additional to staff)
Proactive Council Economic Development Facilitation (continued)	1.4 Scale up Council's cost-effective approach to resourcing economic development functions (continued).	1.4.6 Recruit an additional Economic Development Officer who will share some of the load in Actions 1.4.1 to 1.4.5 and will take prime responsibility for delivery of the Strategic Pillars 1 and 2 under direction of the Economic and Community Development Manager, while the Tourism and Economic Development Manager will have prime responsibility for Strategic Pillar 3.	2024	Delivery	DCCS, ECDM	-
Reducing Barriers to Investment and Innovation	2.1 Initiate land use, infrastructure and industrial development projects to reinforce the Shire's competitive strengths in secondary industries.	2.1.1 Review planning scheme provisions for industrial land in Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola and conduct initial demand and feasibility assessments for industrial estates in these towns. Nhill and Jeparit should soon follow.	2024	Delivery	ECDM, EDO, SP	-
		2.1.2 Explore infrastructure and industrial development government support programs which could be accessed for detailed planning and provision of industrial estates.	2025	Management	ECDM, EDO	-
		2.1.3 Investigate microgrid or modular-grid renewable energy hubs to power select Hindmarsh Shire towns.	2025-2026	Facilitation	EDO	-
		2.1.4 Establish the viability of at least one trades-hub (with modular factory units and shared services) to attract small trades businesses and local branches of trades businesses and to increase the number of local apprentices.	2025	Facilitation	EDO	\$10,000
	2.2 Support land and affordable housing development initiatives for key workers and older residents.	2.2.1 Participate in WSMD's Wimmera Housing Innovation projects in the Shire. Initial towns and community groups involved in discussions with Wimmera Housing Innovations (WHIP) are Dimboola and Rainbow.	2024-2027	Representation	EDO, REG	-
		2.2.2 Directly making applications and/or supporting applications, to Victorian and Commonwealth government affordable housing program grants and loans or infrastructure to facilitate housing developments.	2024-2028	Management	EDO	-
		2.2.3 Provision of minor infrastructure, planning and building permits for housing developments on a case-by-case basis, and with consideration of concessional rates and charges.	2024-2028	Delivery	EDO, Operations Team	TBD

Strategic Pillar	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Council Role	Resourcing	Budget (additional to staff)
Reducing Barriers to Investment and Innovation (continued)	2.2 Support land and affordable housing development initiatives for key workers and older residents (continued).	2.2.4 Residential land subdivision support including infrastructure connections and statutory approvals, also on a case-by-case basis.	2024-2028	Delivery	EDO, Operations Team	TBD
		2.2.5 Develop a plan for provision of larger lot, rural residential estates in larger towns of the Shire.	2025	Delivery	EDO, SP	-
	2.3 Encourage enhanced liveability services including childcare, health and aged care, and skills and training.	2.3.1 Support regional efforts (by neighbouring Councils, training providers, WSMD and the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership) in advocating for and undertaking long term regional development planning.	2025	Management	ECDM, EDO, REG	-
		2.3.2 Advocate to State and Commonwealth governments for a systematic and flexible approach to regional development that includes infrastructure, amenity and planning solutions, and that consolidates existing funds and programs.	2024-2027	Representation	DCCS, ECDM	-
		2.3.3 Advocate to the State Government to return regular return rail passenger services to the Shire, with connections from Ararat to Nhill, including Dimboola (and Horsham and Stawell) en route.	2024-25	Advocacy	CEO, DCCS, EDO	-
		2.3.4 In collaboration with other WSM organisations, document the regional case for changes to the Australian immigration policy, demonstrating to the Australian Government the barriers to international immigrants working in the region and the justification for establishing a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA), or its equivalent, for the region.	2024	Advocacy	DCCS, ECDM, EDO	-
		2.3.5 Lobby the State Government and private sector providers to not only increase the availability of childcare in the region, but to reduce the cost to parents and guardians with young families of returning to work or increasing their hours of participation.	2024-2026	Advocacy	DCCS, ECDM, EDO	-
		2.3.6 Participate in working groups with technical and further education, tertiary education, adult education, and registered training organisations (RTOs) to help in ensuring training is relevant and responsive to industry needs.	2024-2028	Representation	DCCS, ECDM, TEDO, EDO	-



Strategic Pillar	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Council Role	Resourcing	Budget (additional to staff)
Building the Shire's Reputation for Lifestyle, Tourism and Events	3.1 Continue the transition of Hindmarsh's town retail areas into revitalised and vibrant town centres.	3.1.1 Continue Council support for the biennial Steampunk Festival in Dimboola and encourage the articulation of the 'reimagining concept' implicit at Steampunk into year-round retailing and attractions. This includes further development of the Nhill Silo Heritage project.	2023-2026	Facilitation	ECDM, TEDO	-
		3.1.2 Prioritise projects which have town centre revitalisation objectives in Council's annual community and business grants assessment criteria and evaluation process over the next five years.	2024	Management	ECDM, TEDO, EDO	-
		3.1.3 Identify and promote the establishment of hero businesses in town centres by working with town communities to research and determine, type, style and range of suitable hero businesses, market potential and outlook for viable operations, sites/properties which have design features that maximise the business' image, and potential operators and investors.	2024-2027	Facilitation	TEDO, EDO	-
	3.2: Further develop the range and quality of visitor accommodation.	3.2.1 Implement the findings, relevant to Hindmarsh Shire, of Wimmera Mallee Tourism's feasibility project on redeveloping more eclectic accommodation.	2025-2028	Management	TEDO, REG	TBD
		3.2.2 Develop new projects, seeking financial support for their development from the Victorian Government, in Hindmarsh towns where it is acknowledged that accommodation is too limited to appeal to the full extent of existing tourist segments. This may include feasibilities and development work to extend the network of self-contained cabins and develop accommodation options which are visitor experiences in their own right.	2024-2026	Facilitation	TEDO	\$20,000
	3.3: Drive distinctive themes for Hindmarsh Shire's towns.	3.3.1 Provide a small level of seed funding to help approved and representative town community groups to set themes for their town which will help to position economic development (including tourism) focuses for the town.	2024-2025	Facilitation	TEDO, EDO	\$10,000 p.a.
		3.3.2 Support the efforts of town community groups to instigate and run local events, accelerate niche and small business development, and to transition volunteer community ventures into sustainable operations.	2025-2028	Facilitation	TEDO, EDO	-

Strategic Pillar	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Council Role	Resourcing	Budget (additional to staff)
<b>Building the Shire's Reputation for Lifestyle, Tourism and Events (continued)</b>	<b>3.3:</b> Drive distinctive themes for Hindmarsh Shire's towns (continued).	<b>3.3.3</b> Establish volunteer support mechanisms for each town or shared across towns (volunteer hubs, virtual support, more structured training and induction).	2024-2028	Management	ECDM, TEDO, EDO	\$20,000

Key to Council Roles	
Role	Examples of Activities
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verbal and written lobbying</li> <li>Letters of support</li> <li>Provision of supporting information</li> </ul>
Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating in reference groups, steering committees, regional/State/Commonwealth organisations</li> </ul>
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convening meetings.</li> <li>Establishing, supporting and overseeing advisory committees and working groups.</li> <li>Providing referrals and introductions.</li> <li>Assisting in project development through terms of reference, briefs or calls for quotations.</li> </ul>
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applying for grants and loans and entering into associated agreements.</li> <li>Commissioning consultants, contractors and other suppliers.</li> <li>Managing project reference groups and steering committees.</li> <li>Project reporting.</li> </ul>
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking capital works and/or operational projects using in-house Council resources.</li> </ul>

Key to Resourcing	
DCCS	Director Corporate and Community Services
ECDM	Economic and Community Development Manager
TEDO	Tourism and Economic Development Manager
EDO	Economic Development Officer (proposed position)
SP	Statutory Planner
REG	REG - Partner regional organisations (eg WSMD, WMT, WHIP, BGLC)
TBD	To be determined



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# POLICY

## C012 Community Engagement

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### 1 Purpose

Hindmarsh Shire Council (**Council**) recognises and values the vast knowledge and experiences within our diverse communities and is committed to placing the community at the heart of what we do.

We strive to develop communities that are resilient, connected and engaged. Effective and meaningful community engagement plays a critical role in enabling this future, where equitable access to participatory decision-making is essential to a strong community.

The Community Engagement Policy outlines Council's commitment and approach to community engagement practice and gives effect to the Community Engagement Principles provided for in the *Local Government Act 2020*. It details the principles that guide our work towards delivering sustainable outcomes for our communities: through shared problem-solving, open dialogue and meaningful participation.

Effective and meaningful community engagement has real benefits for both Council and the community. Better identifying the priorities, needs and aspirations of our community will assist Council to improve its strategic planning and service delivery. A regular two-way conversation ensures Council is transparent, accountable and informed in its decision making which will demonstrate integrity, build trust, develop strong partnerships and create sustainable outcomes.

### 2 Scope

The policy applies to planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of community engagement activities as directed by Council, recommended by staff or legislated by the Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* including:

- Community Vision;
- Council Plan;
- Asset Plan;
- Financial Plan;
- Other engagement processes as determined, which may include but are not limited to:
  - The making of local laws;
  - Budget and policy development;

- When decisions of a strategic nature, where community input will inform outcomes, are required – including for strategies, projects, assets and/or services which directly impact the community.

The policy does not apply to community engagement processes that are subject to prescribed processes imposed by other Victorian legislation, such as land-use planning applications or other Council processes such as service requests or complaints.

Whenever Hindmarsh Shire Council is planning, delivering a project, or making a decision that significantly impacts the way our community experiences the Shire or their interaction with our organisation, the community must have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in that process.

### 3 Background

Community engagement occurs for a variety of reasons and across a broad range of Council areas, such as community planning, service delivery, infrastructure design, strategies, plans and more. You can see when we are required by law to engage in the Legislative Requirements section. Hindmarsh Shire Council uses the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Engagement to guide our planning.

The IAP2 Spectrum is a useful, widely recognised tool that identifies five levels of participation. For each level there is a corresponding goal, commitment and role for Council and the community in the process. There may often be more than one level of engagement used across a project, depending on the stage, scope, timeline and stakeholders involved, as well as the influence and impact identified.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
<b>Goal</b>	To provide our community with objective and clear information that lets them know when something is happening, or about to happen.	To seek and consider community feedback on alternatives, proposals and/or decisions we need to make.	To work directly with our community throughout the process to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are understood, considered and incorporated where appropriate.	To partner closely with our community in identifying alternatives, developing solutions and co-designing a jointly agreed outcome.	To place final decision making in the hands of our community, build their capacity to identify solutions and lead or deliver change.
<b>Our commitment to community</b>	We will keep you informed.	We will listen to and acknowledge your concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decisions.	We will work with you to ensure what we've heard is directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decisions.	We will work together in co-designing solutions, and as much as possible, incorporate your advice and proposals into the decisions.	We will work alongside you to realise your decisions and aspirations.
<b>The role of community</b>	Listen	Contribute	Participate	Partner	Partner or lead

Engagement type	Informative	Consultative	Deliberative	Deliberative	Deliberative
Methods	Media release, advertisement, newsletter, social media post, website, public notice.	Surveys	Workshops, advisory committees.	Facilitated workshops	Community panel, deliberative workshops and focus groups.

## 4 Definitions

### Council

means Hindmarsh Shire Council

### Act

means *Local Government Act 2020*

### Community

means the people who have a stake and interest in Hindmarsh Shire and includes people who live, work, study or conduct business or are involved in local community groups or organisations in the municipality.

### Stakeholder

An individual or group that has an interest in any Council decision or activity, including Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal communities, other tiers of government and government agencies, businesses, educational institutes, not-for-profits and philanthropic organisations, visitors, residents, advocacy groups, children, ratepayers and renters, emergency services, culturally and linguistically diverse people and many more.

## 5 Community Engagement Types

### 5.1 Deliberative Engagement

Deliberative engagement is a process used to reach an outcome or decision for complex issues. The process typically occurs over a period of time and brings together a real mix of voices to work through and consider issues in a supported environment. Deliberative engagement involves the highest three levels of public participation, ‘involve’, ‘collaborate’ and ‘empower’.

It is an inclusive and transparent process in which participants are provided with:

- a clear purpose from the outset of what will be achieved and why
- relevant evidence and background information to analyse
- sufficient time to explore, assess and discuss options
- practical support to enable participation in the process

It should enable a diverse range of people in our community to be highly involved, including those most impacted by the decision.

Examples of deliberative engagement practices are:

- Working with advisory groups;

- Proposals and ideas are discussed by a panel of community members where participants are asked to consider and prioritise ideas;
- A representative group participates in a series of sessions of information exchange in order to reach consensus.

We will undertake **deliberative engagement** for:

- Community Vision (10 years)
- Council Plan (4 years)
- Financial Plan (10 years)
- Asset Management Plan (10 years)
- Projects and policies where deliberative engagement is determined to be the most effective process to reach an outcome or make a decision.

## 5.2 Consultative Engagement

Consultative engagement involves one-way information exchange from the Community to Council. Participatory engagement typically occurs when feedback is invited on ideas, alternatives or draft documents.

Examples of participatory practices are:

- Surveys;
- Polls, idea gathering;
- Submissions.

We will undertake **consultative engagement** for:

- Budgets
- Making or changing a local law
- Acquiring or selling land
- Leasing Council land
- Council policies that have a direct and significant impact on the Community
- Strategies, service planning and projects whose level of complexity does not necessitate deliberative engagement.

## 6 When Council will Engage

### 6.1 Circumstances that Trigger Engagement

Council will promote opportunities for the community to actively participate in the following processes:

- Where a proposed change to Council activities or strategic direction may significantly affect the community in terms of the economy, lifestyle, environment, wellbeing or amenity of the municipality.
- When developing new or reviewing existing policies, strategies or plans.

- When introducing a new service, discontinuing an existing service or substantially changing or reviewing a service that may significantly affect how services are provided.
- Proposals for changing the way in which public space looks, is used or enjoyed.
- The community raises an issue with Council for a decision (or outcome) and there are likely to be competing community interests.
- Planning and development of major projects and capital works, including public buildings, centres or other infrastructure.
- Any circumstance where Council needs more information or evidence to make an informed decision.

## 6.2 Circumstances where Engagement will be Limited

There are times when Council’s level of engagement with the community and key stakeholders will be limited. In certain circumstances, Council may only be able to inform the community and stakeholders of Council’s decisions and actions.

Examples include when:

- Council is not the lead agency
- an immediate resolution is required
- specialist or technical expertise is required
- an initiative involves confidential or commercial information
- there are clear and defined legislative responsibilities that must be met
- developing or reviewing internal policies and procedures
- there is a risk to public safety.

## 7 Legislative Requirements

Elements of our community engagement work are guided by Victorian Government legislation which sets specific engagement requirements for some Council activities. These statutory requirements usually relate to long term strategic council planning and budgeting, amendments to the planning scheme, development of public health and wellbeing plans, local law making, land acquisition and sales, electoral reviews and some road changes.

The *Local Government Act 2020* outlines a set of overarching principles and requirements to guide the engagement approach of councils. Other relevant legislation is listed in the References section of this document.

## 8 Community Engagement in Practice

The planning stage for all engagement activities is critical to ensuring successful and authentic engagement with our community and key stakeholders. The engagement process should be tailored to each project or decision being made, based on the levels of complexity or public impact/interest.

Plan	
<b>Define the engagement purpose, objectives and scope</b>	Understanding the purpose and the objectives of the engagement is a critical first step in the planning process. Here we determine the reasons why we are engaging and what we are trying to achieve. Careful consideration is also given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the level of engagement required (IAP2 Spectrum)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what the community can influence (negotiables and non-negotiables)</li> <li>• how the results will be used (engagement outcomes)</li> <li>• when the engagement is required (timeframes)</li> <li>• how will the engagement process be monitored and evaluated (Evaluation).</li> </ul>
<b>Understand the level of Impact/Interest</b>	<p>Community and stakeholder analysis are undertaken to ensure engagement is representative and inclusive of those who are impacted/interested in the project or decision. Consideration is given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• barriers to participation and how these can be addressed and overcome</li> <li>• reasonable support is provided to participants to enable meaningful and informed engagement</li> <li>• participants are entitled to feel valued, respected and welcome, regardless of gender, age, ability, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.</li> </ul>
<b>Design appropriate communication and engagement methods</b>	<p>The communication and engagement methods used to facilitate participation are fit for purpose based on participants' needs and the information being conveyed. The timeframes for the engagement activities allow participants to understand and consider the information provided and make a fully informed contribution. A variety of engagement methods can be used throughout the engagement process.</p>
<b>Do</b>	
<b>Implement the engagement</b>	<p>Conduct engagement activities that are meaningful, genuine and respectful. Invite previously identified stakeholders to participate and ensure participation is accessible and inclusive.</p>
<b>Provide clear, timely communications</b>	<p>Provide clear, jargon-free information to participants to explain the initiative and consider translated information if required. Allow sufficient time to review the information and provide feedback.</p>
<b>Share</b>	
<b>Closing the loop with the community</b>	<p>Following the engagement process we will report back to the community and stakeholders the results and outcomes of the engagement process. This will be done in a timely, accessible and informative manner so that participants understand how their involvement influenced the process, and therefore the outcome or decision. If the engagement process is lengthy it is important that regular project updates are provided to ensure the community remain engaged.</p>
<b>Inform the decision-making process</b>	<p>After the consultation process is complete and all feedback has been collated and reviewed, a report is prepared for Council that articulates the consultation methodology and outcomes and how it informs the project or decision being made.</p>
<b>Evaluate</b>	
<b>Measuring outcomes</b>	<p>Evaluation of the engagement process is planned at the beginning of the project, so we are aware of what the outcome will be measured against. The evaluation process will be tailored to the scale and complexity of the engagement and will consider several elements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the engagement objectives were met</li> <li>• engagement outcomes were achieved</li> <li>• participants were representative of the stakeholders identified based on impact/interest</li> <li>• the communications and engagement methods were appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Sharing evaluation outcomes</b>	<p>Reflective practice allows us to refine and continually improve our community engagement practices. We will reflect on what did and didn't work objectively and realistically and produce an evaluation report to share observations and recommendations.</p>
<b>Improve</b>	
<b>Continuous improvement and capacity building of Council officers</b>	<p>We will take the lessons learnt throughout the project capturing them in an accessible format. Ideas for improvement of engagement will be shared across the organisation and inform future versions of this Policy and Council's broader engagement framework.</p>

## 9 Roles and Responsibilities

The design, delivery, reporting and evaluation of community engagement is the responsibility of employees as appropriate to their role and function.

The application of principles and processes outlined in this policy is effectively the responsibility of line management across the breadth of Council service areas and teams. Councillors are responsible for adopting the Community Engagement Policy and for championing our commitment to community engagement in their interactions with the Hindmarsh community. It is also a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* that the role of the Mayor is to lead engagement with the community on the development of the Council Plan (s18c).

## 10 References

Related documents	Legislation
Add Related Documents	<i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> <i>Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005</i> <i>Disability Act 2006</i> <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> <i>Multicultural Victoria Act 2011</i> <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> <i>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014</i> <i>Public Administration Act 2004</i> <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> <i>Subordinate Legislation Act 1994</i>

## 11 Document Control

Community Engagement Policy		Policy Category		Council
Version Number	1.1	Policy Status	DRAFT	
Approved/Adopted By	COUNCIL	Approved/Adopted on:		
Responsible Officer	CEO	Review Date		
Version History	Date	Version	Description	
	February 2021	1.0	Initial Policy	
		1.1	Updated policy	



20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

To Committee Members,

NOTICE is hereby given that a Rainbow Advisory Committee Meeting of the Hindmarsh Shire Council will be held at the Supper rooms on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 7:30pm.

## AGENDA

**1. Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community**

**2. Apologies**

**3. Disclosure by Committee members or Councillors or Council Officers of any interest or conflicts of interest in any item on the agenda**

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**6. Correspondence**

- Letter from The Oasis Committee Chairperson regarding 2024 Big Sky Festival
- Email from Shire regarding request for a letter of support for more frequent bus travel between Rainbow & Horsham

**7. Events**

**8. General business as notified to the Chair**

- A. Big Sky Festival request for financial support
- B. Request for letter of support to extend bus services between Rainbow & Horsham
- C. Shire Council budget priority list request
- D. Tiny Towns Grants
- E. Derelict Houses in Rainbow
- F. Update on Llew's Silo project (operating ideas, costs, who will run it?)
- G. Christmas Lights Night review
- H. Christmas lights/decoration competition & Santa photos
- I. Potential of Men's She to make some decorations

- 9. Councillor Report**
  - 10. Officer Report**
  - 11. Urgent business**
  - 12. Finance report**
  - 13. Decisions to be made**
  - 14. Meeting Closed**
  - 15. Council Officer Authorisation**
-

**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER**

***Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community***

*We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners of Country.*

*We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.*

**2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

In attendance : Greg Roberts, Roger Aitken Belinda Eckermann, Graham Nuske, Norelle Eckermann, Mick Henderson, Colleen Petschel

Apologies : Allira Roberts & Ron Ismay

*Move that apologies be accepted – Roger/Norelle AiF C*

**3. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS OR OFFICERS OF ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.**

NA

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Rainbow Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the Supper rooms circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.*** *Graham/Belinda AiF C*

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Nil

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**INWARD**

- Letter from The Oasis Committee Chairperson regarding the 2024 Big Sky Festival
- Email from the Shire regarding request for a letter of support for more frequent bus travel between Rainbow & Horsham.

**OUTWARD**

- Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Outward Correspondence be approved and the Inward Correspondence noted.

Moved : Colleen

Seconded : Graham

## 7. EVENTS

Nil

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

### 8.1 Big Sky Festival request for financial support

- CP read the letter out to the committee (copy to be emailed out with minutes)
- It was discussed that this was a successful community event for the town
- Discussed that the “Day at the Lake” money (\$816.75) and the “Historic film” (\$710) money could be used to provide financial support totaling \$1526.75
- **Motion : It was moved that the money allocated to “Day at the Lake” and “Historic Films” be reallocated to provide financial support to the 2024 Big Sky festival**  
Moved Graham/ Belinda AiF C

### 8.2 Extended Bus services support letter

- CP requested more information about the original request
- Discussed how the elderly could use the bus for medical appointments etc (particularly if the can no longer drive)..also discussed the services WWHS offer in transporting patients
- We need to be careful that if it eventuated that it would not adversely impact local traders and services
- CP to get the added info and write up a draft letter to bring to the next meeting

### 8.3 Shire Council Budget Priority list.

- After a lengthy discussion about projects and jobs that needed to be completed the committee came up with the following list (not really in any priority order):
  1. Walking track from town to Rainbow Lake (RTC willing to contribute funds)
  2. Solar lighting in the main street (RTC has \$2000 set aside for this project already)
  3. Boardwalk structure at Rainbow Lake
  4. Drainage in Winifred Street
  5. Bakery Lane & West Lane to be sealed
  6. Line marking & disability parking in the main street

\*Footpaths were also discussed (Graham announced that he was footpathless)

### 8.4 Tiny Towns Grant

- Committee was looking for some clarity about the process
- Nhill and Jeparit have projects ready to go
- Individual groups can apply for grant as it does not need Shire approval
- Walking track to the Lake has potential
- Shire could support a ‘ready to go’ project in 2025

### 8.5 Derelict Houses in Rainbow

- This is becoming a real concern
- 10 Lake street had possibly been sold
- 11 Darts Ave another property that’s an issue
- Council does not have the money or manpower to demolish or maintain

### 8.6 Update on Llew's Silo

- Entering at ground level has some concerns
- Still at the very early stage of planning
- At this stage the plans are that no one will man it and that there will be no costs involved
- The building structure will happen..the art installation may come later.

### 8.7 Christmas Lights Night review

- A pretty successful night
- Made \$201.90 from the BBQ, costume competition and lighting of the tree raffle.
- Good community event
- Combined well with the traders staying open later
- Improve on the communication of the event next year

### 8.8 Christmas Lights competition & Santa Photos

- Norelle suggested that if the learning group does not take on the lights competition next year that the RTC could organize it (have registration at the Lights night)
- Norelle suggested that it would be a great addition if we could have Santa photos for next years event.
- Everyone definitely agreed with both suggestions.

### 8.9 Request to the Men's Shed to make Christmas decorations

- As this was Allira's agenda item we will hold this over until the next meeting

### 8.10 Other info.

- The New chair of the Learning group will be publicly announced soon
- Rainbow landcare has purchased a community mower. It will be managed by Landcare and stored in the Lions shed

<b>9. COUNCILLOR REPORT</b> NA
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<b>10. OFFICER REPORT</b>
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- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The two new cabins are operational (Mick kept his word that they would be ready before Christmas)</li><li>-The Caravan toilet block will be signed off on around the 22<sup>nd</sup> January (has some issues..but a good addition and will be used effectively when the park gets more use)</li><li>-Planning to set up a system where you can book the cabins etc online via the Shire website</li></ul> <p><i>Moved that the report be accepted Belinda/Roger AiF C</i></p> |
|--|

<b>11. URGENT BUSINESS</b> Nil
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<b>12. FINANCE REPORT</b>
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**12.1 Summary of Balances in Finance Report.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Finance Report as provided with this Agenda be approved.

Moved Graham

Seconded Roger AiF C

**12.2 Purchase Orders to be raised - \$2,000 or less**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Council Officer raise the following Purchase Orders, being a value of \$2,000 or less.

Moved

Seconded

Creditor	Value \$	Description of Goods or Services
Rainbow Progress Association – The Oasis	\$1526.75	To provide financial support to the 2024 Big Sky festival to be held in April.

**12.3 Purchase Orders to be raised – Greater than \$2,000**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Council Officer, following approval by Council or the CEO, raise the following Purchase Orders greater than \$2,000.

Moved

Seconded

Creditor	Value \$ (> \$2,000)	Description of Goods or Services

**13. DECISIONS TO BE MADE**

The following decisions are recommendations to Council for endorsement:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Business Arising from Minutes	-



6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	-
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	
9	Councillor's Report	
10	Officer's Report	
11	Urgent Business	
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report as provided with the Agenda be approved.
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	That the Council Officer raise the Purchase Orders listed.
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised (above \$2,000)	That the Council Officer, following approval by Council or the CEO, raise the following Purchase Orders listed which are greater than \$2,000.

**14. MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting closed at 9:03pm

**15. COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION**

I Michael Henderson accept the following recommendations made by the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee at this meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Business Arising from Minutes	
6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	
9	Councillor's Report	
10	Officer's Report	
11	Urgent Business	
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report as provided with the Agenda be approved.

12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	That the Council Officer raise the Purchase Orders listed.
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SIGNED:

Council Officer



Dated:

15/01/2024\_

**ANNUAL / QUARTERLY  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
Antwerp Hall  
COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE**

**REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1/7/2022 TO 30/06/2023**

Balance Brought forward from previous year

\$ 3,878.25

**Income Received this financial year**

Date	From	Description	Amount	Total
15/07/2022	Table tennis raffle		\$ 386.00	
28/09/2022	Hindmarsh Shire		\$ 250.00	
7/10/2022	Ann Jupp	donation	\$ 100.00	
16/12/2022	Democracy Sausage sizzle	proceeds	\$ 344.65	
27/01/2023	VEC	Vic Electoral commission hire	\$ 400.00	
<b>Total Received YTD</b>				<b>\$ 1,480.65</b>

**Payments Made this financial year**

Date	To	Description	Amount	Total
30/06/2023	Bendigo Bank	debit card fee x 12	\$ 36.00	
17/07/2022	CFA	fire extinguisher check	\$ 36.30	
5/09/2022	Red Energy	electricity	\$ 168.79	
10/09/2022	Bunnings	Key lock box	\$ 49.02	
18/09/2022	IGA Nhill	sundry supplies	\$ 37.00	
18/09/2022	Murtoa - pizza purchases	pizza night	\$ 212.31	
28/09/2022	Bruce Miller Plumbing	new water pump	\$ 550.00	
8/11/2022	Dellar Material Supplies	gas bottle	\$ 35.00	
24/11/2022	Woolworths	food - Democracy sausage sizz	\$ 119.17	
24/11/2022	Dimboola Stockfeeds	BBQ part	\$ 17.74	
27/11/2022	IGA Nhill	food - Democracy sausage sizz	\$ 24.23	
30/11/2022	GWM Water	rates	\$ 14.48	
5/12/2022	Red Energy	electricity	\$ 167.80	
13/01/2023	CFA	fire extinguisher check	\$ 92.40	
6/03/2023	Red Energy	electricity	\$ 155.93	
31/05/2023	Aldi	cleaning products	\$ 17.57	
31/05/2023	GWM Water	rates	\$ 16.07	
1/06/2023	Red Energy	electricity	\$ 134.22	
9/06/2023	CFA	fire extinguisher check	\$ 42.80	
<b>Total Spent YTD</b>				<b>\$ 1,926.83</b>

**Total Funds Unspent to date**

\$ 3,432.07

**Commitments for expenditure**

Date	To	Description	Amount	Total
<b>Total Commitments</b>				<b>\$ -</b>

**Total uncommitted amount available to Committee**

\$ 3,432.07


**Volunteer hours**

	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Total
<b>Total volunteer hours</b>	3	32	3.00	3.00	41

Treasurer

I Certify that the details provided in the financial report are true and correct.

Name: Neville Hornby

Signed: 

Date: 20/12/2023

Contact: [hornbynj1@gmail.com](mailto:hornbynj1@gmail.com) 0428 975 247

# Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum

Dimboola Road, Jeparit, Victoria 3423

Email: [wmpmjeparit@gmail.com](mailto:wmpmjeparit@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WMPMJeparit](http://www.facebook.com/WMPMJeparit)

## Minutes – Tuesday 21 November, 2023, 7.30 p.m. at Briarley House

The meeting followed immediately after the second attempt at appointing office bearers for the coming year.  
Cr Brett Ireland presided over this portion of the meeting.

### Nominations:

**Chair:** Rhys Wilkosz nominated Peter Robson. (There followed another lengthy discussion relating to OH&S prior to the nominations continuing. JW, WW and CNP reiterated that the Museum is a more complex entity than the Rally and OH&S issues. CNP explained that there are 10-15 hours weekly devoted to Secretarial tasks so that anyone in a leadership position needs to be aware of this and to be on site regularly and to work within the HSC compliance frameworks; comments endorsed by JW in regard to leadership working to implement the existing Masterplan. WW: incoming leadership needs to be more communicative with volunteers which is not happening; volunteers have raised this with outgoing leadership team and some feel they are not being treated respectfully; endorsed by MP; WW happy to work with anyone to achieve this. CNP also raised the lack of courtesy in most new committee members not responding to or acknowledging email communications; this needs to change.) Cr Brett Ireland indicated that because PR's nomination was conditional on OH&S issues being resolved, he was disinclined to accept the nomination. Wendy Werner nominated Craige Proctor; seconded by Maryanne Paech; Don Pedder nominated Peter Pumpa; seconded by Rhys Wilkosz. Vote conducted with PP being elected.

### Appointments:

**Vice-Chair:** RW phoned Peter Robson to ascertain if he would accept the nomination; PR agreed. No vote.

**Secretary:** Peter Pumpa nominated Rhys Wilkosz; seconded by Don Pedder. Maryanne Paech nominated Craige Proctor; seconded by Tige Mannington. Vote conducted with CNP being elected. Discussion around RW taking on an Assistant Secretarial role going forward.

**Treasurer:** Craige Proctor nominated Maryanne Paech; seconded by Don Pedder; Maryanne agreed to continue in the role.

**Chair:** Peter Pumpa **Vice-Chair:** Peter Robson **Secretary:** Craige Proctor **Treasurer:** Maryanne Paech

**Committee Membership:** BI asked CNP to clarify the Management Committee membership: (alphabetically) Tige Mannington; Clem Paech; Maryanne Paech; Don Pedder; Craige Proctor; Peter Pumpa; Peter Robson; Wendy Werner; Rhys Wilkosz; Wendy Zanker (10 members). RW needs to complete an Expression of Interest Form and submit to HSC. Terry Wundersitz can be added if he wishes to be. RW nominated Norm Dahlenberg as a committee member; accepted; ND needs to submit an Expression of Interest Form to HSC and to provide an email address to Secretary (this would make 11 members).

### 1) Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair (PP) welcomed members and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

### 2) Declarations of interest – NA

3) **Present:** Peter Pumpa (PP) – Chair; Craige Proctor - Secretary (CNP); Maryanne Paech – Treasurer (MP); Wendy Werner (WW); Clem Paech (CP); Tige Mannington (TM); Don Pedder (DP); Rhys Wilkosz (RW); Cr Brett Ireland (HSC, BI); Jeff Woodward (JW, HSC, remotely). Guests: Colin Moore; Norm Dahlenberg; Mel Wagener; Cheryl Quinn (WM and CQ only for providing a Rally Planning update).

**Apologies:** Brett Gebert; Wendy Zanker; Peter Robson.

**MOTION: To accept the apologies. Moved: CNP Seconded: MP CARRIED**

### 4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The last meeting, on 17 October 2023, was a general meeting.

**MOTION: To accept the Minutes of the 17 October meeting. Moved: CNP Seconded: DP CARRIED**

### 5) Correspondence

#### Inwards

Invoice from Cambrelles for car decals (\$180.00)

HSC (Petra Croot) – notification that HSC volunteers are no longer required to have an up-to-date vaccination status.

HSC (Heather Boyd) – Budget Proposal Form 2024-25 requiring submission by **15 January**.

HSC (Petra Croot) – Social Media Management Policy document for signing by page Administrators.

HSC (Petra Croot) – notification of COPE (Construction, Occupancy, Protection and Environment) insurance inspections on site: **Tuesday 5 December, 1.00 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.**

Natureworks (Queensland) – quote for fibreglass horses and Shearer with sheep bronze statue (see Gen. Bus.)

Museums Victoria – responses to query re digitisation of Ryko banner (see Gen. Bus.)

#### Outwards

To HSC – signed Social Media Management Policy document.

To HSC – confirming at least one committee member will be on site for COPE inspection.

To Museums Victoria – re Ryko banner  
To Natureworks – re horse sculptures etc.

**MOTION: To accept the outward correspondence and note the inward Correspondence.**

**Moved:** CNP **Seconded:** CP **CARRIED**

6) **Business arising from Correspondence –**

HSC Budget Proposal Form. “ I recommend that you choose 5 projects and list them by priority. There are very limited funds in the new year’s budget therefore some of the projects may not be able to be undertaken. It would also assist if the town or asset committee make a financial contribution to any projects, as this may be looked at favourably by Council.” (Heather Boyd, HSC Accountant). We need to submit up to five proposed projects to HSC by 15 January. **These are to be determined at the 18 December meeting.**

7) **Treasurer’s Report (MP)**

Volunteer Hours: October 2023: **338 hours**

Purchases / Finances - Laminator (WW) and WMPM car decals (\$180.00)

<b>October 2023</b>	
Opening balance 01.10.23	24,645.94
Receipts	1,205.80
Expenses	25.93
Closing balance 31.10.23	25,825.81
Term Deposits (2)	34,685.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,773.20</b>

MP highlighted the increasing difficulties in getting accurate banking details. WW asked if we have internet banking; MP – we don’t. Something to be investigated going forward.

**MOTION: To accept the Treasurer’s report as circulated. Moved:** MP **Seconded:** RW **CARRIED**

**MOTION: To pass invoices and receipts for payment. Moved:** MP **Seconded:** RW **CARRIED**

**General Business**

- 1) **Rally 2024 update** (Mel Wagener and Cheryl Quinn; report given at commencement of meeting). MW reported that the Organising Team has prioritised goals and tasks for the next few months and with the Rally Planning Document produced by CNP the team has a clear idea of the vast number of tasks needing to be undertaken and when and that CNP has completed all the preliminary compliance work; DP has taken charge of exploring the VicRoads permit which is a significant undertaking. CQ has drafted letter to Adrian King re consent to use paddock. BI acknowledged the time, effort and commitment being shown by the Organising Team/Sub-committee – Cheryl Quinn and Mel Wagener (community members), Peter Pumpa, Wendy Zanker, Tige Mannington and Don Pedder with ongoing support from Craige – and reminded the management committee that all Rally discussion takes place outside the regular committee meetings. Next Planning Meeting: **28 November, 7.30 p.m.**
- 2) **HSC update** (JW). WMPM Sign for RV Dump site should now be ready to be erected. HS Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 relating to WMPM. A lengthy discussion ensued on this. WW proposed that WMPM send a letter to HSC re the EDS and lobby for curatorial expertise and support and regular themed exhibitions going forward as well as for marketing WMPM more widely through advocacy for increased staff to support the current Tourism Officer; the Museum attracts 600 visitors while Murtoa’s Stick Shed attracts 23,000 annually; the local community needs to see WMPM as having value and it doesn’t currently; WMPM could potentially become a hero business for the town and area. JW added that there is merit in having all museums in the Shire coordinating, collaborating and sharing resources and marketing; there are potentially wonderful opportunities with this. **Motion:** that WMPM make a submission to HSC to lobby for ongoing support to assist us in implementing the Masterplan vis à vis the frames of reference in the EDS 2024-2028. **Seconded** CNP. **All in favour.** Questions: new doors have been placed on Tarranyurk Hall with no consultation with Committee nor notification; who was responsible for this? Ongoing sewer issue [since rectified]; painting of Chemist and School remains unfinished after a lengthy period.
- 3) **Individual Committee Member goal setting and contributions for the year ahead.** Each Committee Member was asked to outline briefly their individual aspirations for and specific contributions for the next year to both the day-to-day operations of the Museum and to supporting the implementation of the HSC Masterplan.  
MP – being on site to support volunteers; cleaning and creating displays  
CP – storyboards on headers, Scrub Roller, various other implements, McKay collection; Merrett Shed vehicles  
TM – reorganising shed with volunteers  
WW – advertising and marketing; cataloguing and photographing collection  
RW – introducing more active displays  
DP – Rally planning and resolving issues with HSC; general volunteering  
PP – oiling woodwork on exhibits and producing more storyboard frames; building maintenance  
CNP – producing six more storyboards before Rally; continuing to implement strategies from Masterplan

Norm Dahlenberg (guest, not a committee member) – refurbishing displays  
WZ, PR, BG not present to offer comments.

4) **Visitors (MP):**

October Attendance:

Adults	Pens./Conc.	Child/Student	Family	Group
39	74	1	3	

Woodbine Warracknabeal Tour Groups Thursday 2 November.

Intergenerational filming project, Monday 27 November and Thursday 7 December (since postponed).

**Group Bookings:** Warrnambool Indoor Bowls group of 50 visiting on Friday 12 April and are asking the Museum to be open by 9-9.30 and have asked for a tour. Contact: Barb Draffen, 0419 368 221.

- 5) **Menzies Institute Jeparit Historical Society scoping visit – 27 November** (BI, CNP). This will be a preliminary scoping survey conducted by a consultant engaged by Menzies Institute and funded by a Public Record Office of Victoria grant. WZ and CNP to participate.
- 6) **Webinars.** CNP reported he has attended a number of online webinars: RHSV Historical Societies Support Committee webinar meeting – 17 October; PROV Local History Grants Program information webinar – 26 October; HEPP webinar- 2 November. CNP reported that such engagement with other bodies is of potential use to WMPM and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Executive is keen to visit WMPM at some stage.
- 7) **Donations.** Leyonhjelm crockery (donation process not followed). **Motion to accept this donation. Moved: MP Seconded: CNP CARRIED**
- 8) **Fibreglass horses.** WW reported on communication with Natureworks. Cost of two fibreglass Clydesdale horses around \$19,900 (\$7,700 each, 100 kg each, six-month lead time and 50% upfront) including delivery from Queensland. They also have a shearer with sheep (\$2,500). WW and CNP stated it would be a boon to attracting more visitors. WW Colin Moore (guest) felt that any such display should be outside the Museum rather than within the precinct, to be more attractive to potential visitors. <https://natureworks.com.au/> For ongoing discussion including CNP searching for possible grants.
- 9) **Ryko the Biko Banner.** WW has been liaising with Museums Victoria and other bodies re options for producing a digital copy of the banner; its size (11m x 1.8 m) creates difficulties and it may have to be photographed in section using a gantry mechanism. WW keen to continue working on this for the coming months. For ongoing discussion
- 10) **Pickling equipment storyboard and future Storyboard suggestions.** CNP had circulated for feedback a draft storyboard on pickling equipment but only three committee members had acknowledged this and provided feedback. CNP is now working on a storyboard for the Mallee/Scrub Roller of which we have two in our collection.) CNP found a 1925 photo of pickling grain at Lorquon; has to be purchased for \$10 online. **Moved WW and seconded CP that we purchase the photo.**
- 11) **Maintenance.** Painting quotes – three quotes from Elliot’s: Tarranyurk Hall, \$17,600; Briarley fretwork only, \$4,400; doors, verandah etc., \$28,600; no quote provided for Albacutya work; Matt Campbell is still painting the rear of the Chemist but this has been going on for many months. Someone needs to take this up with HSC. Sewer works completed. MP reported that the rear door of Briarley House had been left open overnight following tradespeople having been on site and this is an issue. We don’t always know who is coming and going but this is a security issue. Communication between WMPM and HSC needs to be upgraded so that we know who is coming and when and what has been done. Ongoing rabbit issue, entering site via holes in fences; possibly a dozen places. Need to ascertain whether these have been dealt with. Albacutya front door unusable and needs to be fixed; WW emailed HSC re this [since been fixed by PP].
- 12) **First Aid Training.** Volunteers and Committee Members (prior to Rally). CNP reiterated that having committee members and volunteers upskilled in FAT should be a priority. CNP to revisit issue with JW of HSC.
- 13) **New Book:** *Aborigines of north-west Victoria* by John Tully. CNP spoke briefly about this new book and highlighted the selection on the Porrone gundidj clan of the Jeparit area.
- 14) **HSC Update - Cr Brett Ireland**
- 15) **Next Meeting: Monday 18 December, 11 a.m., followed by a Christmas lunch for committee members, volunteers and allies.**

Meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

## **Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee**

General Meeting, Thursday, November 23, 2023, Solly residence, 5 Taverner St Rainbow, **6:00pm**, followed by a Christmas meal

### **Draft Minutes**

Welcome and Opening at 6:08 pm

Members present: Jennifer Solly (Chair), Peter Solly (Secretary/Treasurer), Heather Drendel, Colin Drendel, Lou Ravenhorst

Visitors: Robyn Ravenhorst

Apologies: Mayor Cr Brett Ireland, Jeff Woodward (available via phone) Hindmarsh Shire

Moved Lou Ravenhorst, Col Drendel - That the apologies be accepted. c/d

Additional items for General Business (to be accepted at Chairperson's discretion)

Nil

Declaration by a Councillor, Officer or Committee Member of any direct or indirect interest in any item on the agenda

Nil

Minutes of the previous meeting as circulated

Moved: Heather Drendel, Col Drendel – That the minutes of the general meeting held on October 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record. c/d

### **Business Arising:**

- Oct 30: Peter texted Helen Woodhouse-Herrick of Nhill re tentative booking. Lunch and tour is now on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024
- Oct 31: Peter emailed our Sunday duty roster to The Argus. It has been printed weekly, 3 weeks at a time
- Sunday duty roster and tour guide notes were emailed to our volunteers
- Diane Wall (Archives) delivered history book titles to replenish our stock. The Rainbow Show book is no longer available. We have 1 copy only
- Oct 31: Jenny placed 6 jars of Heather's plum jam and 4 of chutney in the craft shop for sale
- Nov 8: \$10,000 from our working account has been put on Term Deposit at the Commonwealth bank in Horsham
- Nov 10: Jenny collected 2 samples for blinds from Robyn Creek in Horsham

- Nov 12: A sheep was seen feasting on the roses at the front of the house
- Nov 14: Peter put 2 star pickets at the sheep access points from West paddock
- Nov 14: Peter texted Brooke Mellington with our decision on the Baltic pine flooring. Brooke acknowledged the text
- Nov 16: Our Facebook page editors (Peter, Jenny and Robyn R) had read the updated Council social media policy. Forms were signed that we understand our responsibilities and they were emailed to Council
- Jan Edelston is kindly cutting paper for the kitchen and pantry shelves
- Nov 17: Peter posted a request for photos of the west wall of the coach house on Facebook, Rainbow – The Famous Australian Town. We have had one lead.
- Nov 20: Jenny and Peter met with Mick Henderson (Hindmarsh Shire) at Yurunga re maintenance issues and the maintenance budget
- Nov 22: Dr Gary Hill rang Peter re the conservation work. External painting is organized. Contact has been made with Cleighton re the roof drainage work. He is now working on the Ebenezer Mission.

#### Correspondence In (Letters)

- Oct 31: Statement from HSC to Yurunga Committee re another account for food premises registration (\$72.00, over 90 days) and renewal registration –food-class 3 (\$175.00) Total \$247.00

#### (Emails)

- Nov 1: Petra Croot, (Manager Governance and Human Services, HSC) to Asset Committees re draft revised guidelines, change to Covid vaccination status, reporting , volunteer profiles
- Nov 6: Heather Boyd (Manager Finance and Customer Service HSC) to Asset Committees re budget proposal form for 2024-5 to return by the end of January'24. List 5 projects in priority order for consideration. Committee financial contribution to projects is welcomed
- Nov 6: Lindsay Mew (Art Station) to Heather re Invoice to Committee for \$5,000 deposit for garden urn
- Nov 13: Petra Croot to Council social media accounts re reading the Social Media CEO Delegated and Approved Users document and returning signature section
- Nov 14 (text): Brooke Mellington to Peter re “Thanks for letting me know”
- Nov 15x2: Mick Henderson (Manager Assets and Facilities HS) to Peter re meeting committee on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November
- Nov 16: FoodTrader System to Yurunga Committee re renewing food registration (as if it was from HSC)
- Nov 16x3: Michelle Stewart (Environmental Health Officer HSC) to Jenny re email from FoodTrader
- Nov 16: Petra Croot to Peter re thanks for social media signatures from Yurunga

#### Correspondence Out (Letters)



- Oct 30: Jenny to Michelle Stewart re cover letter and forms (Applications for renewal of registration food act 1984) for Yurunga and Jenny's home kitchen plus copies of 3 accounts for payment we had received from HSC (Emails)

- Oct 31: Peter to The Argus re the Yurunga Sunday volunteer roster
- Nov 14: Peter to Mick Henderson re meeting with committee members
- Nov 14 (text): Peter to Brooke Mellington re decision on Baltic pine
- Nov 14: Peter to Council re copy of the October Minutes
- Nov 15: Peter to Mick Henderson re meeting on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6:45pm
- Nov 16: Jenny to FoodTrader re renewal of registration
- Nov 16: Peter to Petra Croot re scans of the signatures of the 3 Yurunga Facebook page editors
- Nov 16x3: Jenny to Michelle Stewart re FoodTrader email and the letter sent to Michelle on Oct 30
- Nov 16: Peter to Minerva Heritage and Mag and Phoenix Plumbing re Yurunga roof conservation work plumbing

#### Late Correspondence in Email

Nov 21: Shauna Johnson, Hindmarsh Executive to Peter re Mayor Cr Brett Ireland reappointed Council delegate to Yurunga Homestead Committee.

Moved: Lou Ravenhorst, Heather Drendel – That the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. c/d

#### Reports

~Financial  
Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

#### Financial Report

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

Opening Balance per statement at 1<sup>st</sup> October \$12,800.44

#### Plus Income:

Entries	
General entries	\$140.00
Trade Travel Group	\$157.50
Opening Day Oct 15	\$120.00
Wycheproof Planned Activity Group	\$60.00
Hopetoun Group	\$130.00
Catering Trade Travel Group	\$367.50

Produce	\$86.00
Books etc	\$13.00
Donations	\$5.00
Total Income	\$1,079.00
Less Expenses:	
T Ismay & Co QR code mural signs	\$44.24
Rbw Learning Group Brochures	\$22.00
Total Expenses	\$66.24
Closing Balance per statement 31 <sup>st</sup> October	\$13,813.20

Term Deposit reinvested with interest on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
at 3.95% % interest pa for 12 months .  
To be reinvested by April 28<sup>th</sup> 2024                      \$5,090.82

*Peter Solly* Secretary/Treasurer, Yurunga Homestead Community Asset  
Committee

Moved: Peter Solly, Col Drendel – That the financial report be accepted. c/d

~Mayor, Cr Brett Ireland

~ Jeff Woodward

#### General Business

- Blinds samples - Robyn Creek has provided samples. These do not seem to be appropriate.  
Heather has spoken to Sunrasia Blinds (Melissa) and has some leads, needs to follow up and has measurements
- Council budget proposal form for 2024-5 ~ We are to list 5 projects we would like to do, in priority order. Return by end of January '24.  
Committee financial contribution encouraged

Moved: Heather Drendel, Lou Ravenhorst - That a letter of concern concern about structural problems around the verandah roof and the verandah South East corner as well as floor moisture in the underground room. cd

Moved Heather Drendel, Lou Ravenhorst – That we contact Heather Boyd for details regarding major or minor projects, maintenance, conservation grant projects etc Jenny and Peter are to submit the priority list.

Projects identified in the Conservation Management Plan and the conservation of the structural integrity of the buildings is the priority.

- Deposit for urn – Lindsay Mew has been difficult to contact: We have an invoice for a deposit. We will wait until we have a formal bill before proceeding. Meanwhile keep Shauna in the loop
- Garden issues: We have had sheep from West's Paddock getting in to our garden and "pruning" our roses. The fence has been reinforced. The water timer on the North East corner was faulty and has been replaced.
- Volunteer hours so far this financial year. Since July 1: approximately Peter 100, Jenny 150, Heather 109, Col 109. Plus other volunteers on Sundays as per log book.
- Action items update - mainly the letter to Joy McLean still to be done.
- The January 2024 meeting will be held a week earlier on January 18<sup>th</sup> as the normal date is the eve of Australia Day.

#### Bookings

Friday March 1, 2024, lunch and tour, Nhill Visitor Centre volunteers  
Contact: Helen Woodhouse-Herrick TBC

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, lunch and tour, Martin's Albury group, 40 ppl, arrival 11:30am  
Contact: Jessica George, Expanding Horizons, Adelaide (08) 8362 8080

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024, 7:30 pm at Yurunga 1 week early.

If you have an idea or would like some action taken, please notify the Secretary or Chairperson so that it can go on the agenda for discussion at the meeting. If something comes up after the agenda goes out (usually a week before the meeting, it can be listed on the night.