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19 June 2025

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 18 June 2025

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

Council: Cr Ron Ismay – Mayor
Cr Chan Uoy – Deputy Mayor
Cr Roger Aitken
Cr Rosie Barker
Cr James Barry
Cr Tony Clark

Officers: Monica Revell – Chief Executive Officer
Petra Croot – Director Corporate & Community Services
Ram Upadhyaya – Director Infrastructure Services

Public Access: This meeting is open to the public and can be attended in-person or viewed online via Live Stream at
<https://www.youtube.com/@hindmarshshirecouncil>.



Cr Ron Ismay - Mayor
West Ward



Cr Chan Uoy – Deputy Mayor
East Ward



Cr Roger Aitken
North Ward



Cr Rosie Barker
West Ward



Cr James Barry
East Ward



Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



Councillor Statement of Values

Our commitment is to come prepared to every meeting, fostering a respectful and inclusive environment where accountability and approachability are at the core of our actions. We value and encourage innovation, collaboration, and open communication, always keeping in mind the well-being and needs of our community. Together, we stand united as one, working towards shared goals with mutual respect and consideration.

Vision

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

We will achieve our vision through four key themes woven into our Council Plan and Vision:

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

Values

Council addresses key values through:

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

Mission

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



Purpose of Council Meetings

Council conducts its formal decision-making process through Ordinary Meetings of Council and Special Meetings of Council.

Ordinary meetings are held regularly to conduct the ongoing business of the Council and Special meetings are held from time to time for specific purposes.

Council adopts a schedule for its Ordinary Council Meetings annually. This schedule can be found on Council's website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Council-meetings.

From time to time the Mayor and Councillors may call a Special Meeting of Council to deal with urgent items. These meetings are generally held at the Council Chambers at the specified time and date advertised in the public notices in local newspapers and on Council's website.

Meetings, or parts of meetings, are only closed to the public when topics of a confidential nature are discussed, such as an individual's personal or financial circumstances, contractual or legal matters. Grounds for closing the meeting are defined in more detail within Section 3(1) and Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Before each Ordinary or Special Council Meeting an Agenda is prepared by the Chief Executive Officer detailing the items that are to be presented to the meeting for Council's consideration and decision.

Copies of agendas are available at Council offices and on Council's website. The decisions of Council become resolutions of Council and are recorded in the official Council Minutes. Except for matters classified as confidential, all Agenda reports, Minutes and recordings of meetings are available on Council's website.



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In Attendance:

Councillors:

Cr Ron Ismay (Mayor), Cr Chan Uoy (Deputy Mayor), Cr Roger Aitken, Cr Rosie Barker, and Cr James Barry.

Officers:

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) and Ms Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor, opened the meeting at 3:00pm and read out the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVESTREAMING STATEMENT

Cr Ron Ismay read out the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Cr Rosie Barker read out the Councillor Statement of Values.



2 APOLOGIES

Cr Tony Clark

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.

Officer Monica Revell declared a material conflict of interest in item 15.1 as it relates to her professional development.



4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 May 2025 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Barker

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 May 2025 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachments:

1. 2025 05 28 Council Meeting Minutes - MEDIA [4.1.1]

4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
7 May 2025 Item 10.1	Council officers to prepare a media release for the third quarter update of the Council Plan Action Plan.	Media release and communications to be published at the end of 2024/2025 detailing achievements over the life of the plan.	In Progress
28 May 2025 Item 10.1	Council officers to contact appointees and advise of successful nomination to Advisory Committees.	All appointees have been emailed advising them of their successful nomination.	Complete
28 May 2025 Item 10.2	Council officers to prepare a letter to the minister requesting public holiday substitute.	Letter sent to Minister of Small Business.	Complete
28 May 2025 Item 10.3	Council officers to amend draft 2025-2026 budget to reflect the valuation change and extend community consultation period on Have Your Say.	Draft 2025-2026 budget has been amended and Have Your Say has been extended for community consultation.	Complete
28 May 2025 Item 10.4	Council officers to advertise the draft Road Management Plan in local newspapers, publish on Have Your Say for community consultation for 28 days.	Draft Road Management Plan has been published on Have Your Say for community consultation. Adverts have been placed in Nhill Free Press, Dimboola Banner, Rainbow Jeparit Argus, Government Gazette and Weekly Advertiser.	Complete



5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

No public questions or submissions received.



6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 20 May 2025 – 9 June 2025

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/05/2025	Volunteer Breakfast	Jeparit	Brisk morning but well attended.
20/05/2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Nhill	As always, it is a great honour and pleasure to perform.
20/05/2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Rainbow	Mother and daughter, a fraction extra special as I have known the family for a very long time.
21/05/2025	Volunteer Breakfast	Dimboola	Again, brisk morning but well attended.
21/05/2025	Budget Drop-In Session	Dimboola	
22/05/2025	Volunteer Breakfast	Rainbow	Well attended even had a Jeparit person come along because they missed the Jeparit one.
22/05/2025	Barengi Gadjin Land Council Forum	Horsham	A great get together with BGLC, Mayors and CEOs from Mildura to Hamilton and everywhere in-between. Very good presentations.
23/05/2025	Western Highway Action Group Meetings	Online (Teams)	
23/05/2025	Youth Council Disco	Jeparit	Cr Aitken and I dropped in briefly and chatted with the staff. The young people looked to be having a good time the music wasn't as good as it was at the discos I went to in the 70's though.
26/05/2025	Budget Drop-In Session	Nhill	
27/05/2025	Budget Drop-In Session	Rainbow	
28/05/2025	Council Briefing	Nhill	
28/05/2025	Council Meeting	Nhill	
04/06/2025	Council Briefing	Nhill	
06/06/2025	Centenary of the Memorial Hall Jeparit	Jeparit	A great roll up of both former and current presidents. Craige Proctor gave an



Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
07/06/2025	The John Coppock Story	Pioneer Museum Jeparit	impressive, detailed history of the building. Again, well attended on a very bleak night. Andrew Pollack has done a brilliant documentary on YouTube.

6.2 CR CHAN UOY, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/05/2025	Volunteer Week Breakfast and Budget Drop-In Session	Jeparit Menzies Square and Hall	
20/05/2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Nhill Council Chambers	
21/05/2025	Volunteer Week Breakfast and Budget Drop-In Session	Dimboola Shire Hall	
26/05/2025	Draft Budget Drop-In Session	Nhill Council Chambers	
27/05/2025	Food Security – WSMD	HRCC Shire Hall	Strategies to protect our food operations during a crisis in line with a defence strategy.
27/05/2025	WSMD Board Meeting	Federation University Horsham	
28/05/2025	Council Briefing	Nhill Council Chambers	
28/05/2025	Council Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	
04/06/2025	Governance Training Australian Institute of Company Directors	Geelong	Scholarship for Not-for-profit organisations.
05/06/2025	Governance Training Australian Institute of Company Directors	Geelong	
06/06/2025	Jeparit Memorial Hall 100 th Anniversary	Jeparit	Heritage and architecture matters for small towns.



6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/05/2025	Volunteers Breakfast	Jeparit	
20/05/2025	Budget Drop-In Session	Jeparit	
20/05/2025	Citizenship Ceremony	Rainbow	
22/05/2025	Rainbow Volunteer Breakfast	Rainbow	
23/05/2025	Hindmarsh Youth Disco Night	Memorial Hall, Jeparit	
27/05/2025	Budget Drop-In Session	Rainbow	
28/05/2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
28/05/2025	Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
06/06/2025	Jeparit Memorial Hall 100 Years Celebration	Jeparit, Memorial Hall	
07/06/2025	John Coffey Movie Night	Pioneer Museum, Jeparit	

6.4 CR ROSIE BARKER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/05/2025	Biggest Morning Tea	Nhill CFA	Well attended event and was able to meet with many Nhill locals.
21/05/2025	Dimboola Volunteers Breakfast	Dimboola Library	Nice to meet with Dimboola locals.
21/05/2025	Dimboola Budget Drop-In Session	Dimboola Library	
22/05/2025	Global Executive Live Panel	Online	Interesting meeting with Councillors from Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia with reflections on violence and protection due to aggression being experienced by Councillors.
26/05/2025	Nhill Budget Drop-In Session	Council Chambers, Nhill	
28/05/2025	Meet with Nhill Free Press	Hindmarsh Shire Council	
28/05/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	



Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
29/05/2025	Understanding the Role of Local Government Inspectorate	Online	Meeting discussing potential Conflicts of Interests and how to report.
29/05/2025	WSMLLEN Committee Meeting	Federation University Horsham	Significant saved fundings, grant has been renewed for further years.
29/05/2025	Victorian Transmission Plan	Online	Well attended event with many questions asked and answered.
03/06/2025	AGM Broughton Hall	Broughton	Good turn out to ensure the continuation of this important community hall.
04/06/2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
08/06/2025	Nhill Historial Society Prominent Women of Nhill	Nhill Senior Citizens	Yvonne Gladdis Presentation
09/06/2025	West Wimmera Action Group Meeting	Goroke Community Hall	

6.5 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
28/05/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
04/06/2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
11/06/2025	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
11/06/2025	Heavy Transport and Freight Group Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	

6.6 CR TONY CLARK

Cr Tony Clark did not submit an activity report for this period.



7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 2025/05/22 - Rainbow Archive and Historical Society to Council re Thanks for Community Action Grant Round 1 – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2025/05/27 - West Wimmera Action Group to Council re Urgent Motion – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)
- 2025/06/02 - Loddon Shire to Council re Seeking Support for United Opposition to the Emergency Service and Volunteer Fund – (Attachment Number: 7.1.3)

Outwards:

- 2025/05/26 - Council to Jacinta Allan re Emergency Service and Volunteer Fund – (Attachment Number: 7.1.4)
- 2025/05/29 - Council to Minister re Requesting Public Holiday Arrangements 2025 – (Attachment Number: 7.1.5)
- 2025/05/29 - Council to Alina Rosenthal re Resignation from Nhill Township Advisory Committee – (Attachment Number: 7.1.6)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr C Uoy

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

CARRIED



8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. 2025 05 28 Assembly of Councillors [8.1.1]
2. 2025 06 04 Assembly of Councillors [8.1.2]

Introduction:

As required under Section 33(9) of Hindmarsh Shire Council's Governance Rules, the attached Assembly of Councillors Records are presented as attachments to the Council Agenda for the information of Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Barker

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

CARRIED

9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.



10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

10.1 ADOPTION OF THE 2025/2026 BUDGET (INCORPORATING THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN FOR 2025/2026-2034/2035 AND THE REVENUE AND RATING PLAN)

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Draft Annual Budget 2025/26 (Incorporating Revenue and Rating Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan) [10.1.1]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the draft 2025/2026 Annual Budget (incorporating the draft Long-Term Financial Plan and draft Revenue and Rating Plan) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The report includes a recommendation that Council adopt the draft as the 2025/2026 Annual Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

The budget has been developed to balance the retention of existing community service levels, maintenance and renewal of assets, and new initiatives to improve the amenity and make Hindmarsh a better place to live. One of the key focuses of this budget – shaped significantly by community consultation – is addressing the priorities identified by residents. The community has told us that roads and pedestrian infrastructure are the highest priority, so we are investing \$4.693m in road construction, re-sheets, reseals and final seals, kerb and channel and footpaths (both maintenance and capital works).

The total amount to be raised by general rates and charges in 2025/2026 is \$10.336m which is an increase of \$0.294m from 2024/2025. The Revenue and Rating Plan includes differentials for farms and commercial/industrial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount) and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty).

Under Council's Community Engagement Policy, the 2025/2026 Budget, updated Revenue and Rating Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan was made available for public inspection and the receiving of submissions for the period Thursday 8 May 2025 to Wednesday 10 June 2025. One submission was received at the time of preparing this report, alongside a request from a Council Community Asset Committee.

Discussion:

At the Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2025, Council resolved to give notice of the draft 2025/2026 Annual Budget (incorporating the draft Long-Term Financial Plan for 2025/2026 to 2034/2035 and the draft Revenue and Rating Plan) and invite public submissions from Thursday 8 May 2025 to Wednesday 10 June 2025 (extended at the 28 May 2025 Council meeting).

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Council is required under Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to prepare a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June each year or any other date fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.

The budget has been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory requirements, including the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

A requirement of the Act is that all Victorian Local Governments adopted a Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June 2021. The Revenue and Rating Plan was developed and adopted on 23 June 2021 and has been revised in conjunction with preparation of the 2025/2026 Budget. The Revenue and Rating Plan was developed to retain the current differentials for farm and commercial/industrial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount) and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty).

The 2025/2026 budget has been developed to balance the retention of existing community service levels, maintenance and renewal of assets, as well as new initiatives to improve amenities and make Hindmarsh a better place to live. It replicates the format of the four Key Results Areas used in the 2021-2025 Council Plan, namely;

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

The budget has been prepared based on available information to inform forecasts and assumptions.

The 2025/2026 Annual Budget includes capital works expenditure of \$7.033m.

Key Initiatives for 2025/2026 include:

- Roads
 - Undertake unsealed road construction on Boyeo Tarraginnie Rd, Boyeo; Yanac South Rd, Yanac; Peakes Three Chain Rd, Woorak; and Propodollah Extension Rd, Propodollah.
 - Undertake sealed road construction including major stabilised patching on Nhill Rainbow/Lush Rd, Nhill; Rainbow/Three Chains Rd; Woorak-Ni-Ni-Lorquon and Glenlee Lorquon Rd; Broughton Kaniva Rd, Nhill; Rainbow/Kruger Rd and Nhill-Rainbow/Solly Rd. A number of these road works will only be undertaken subject to a successful funding application.
- Footpaths
 - Whitehead Avenue, Nhill (including pedestrian crossing), Park St, Nhill and MacPherson St, Nhill
- Kerb & Channel



- Lloyd St, Dimboola

Tourism and economic development are another significant community priority, and we're excited to be delivering several projects that improve tourism and recreation infrastructure for locals and visitors. The 2025/2026 budget includes:

- Installation of studio cabins at Nhill Caravan Park
- Improvements to Dimboola Swimming Pool
- Continuation of construction at Davis Park including the grandstand.

Submissions:

Under Council's Community Engagement Policy and the *Local Government Act 2020*, the draft 2025/2026 budget incorporating the revised Rating and Revenue Plan and the draft Long Term Financial Plan was made available for public inspection and the receiving of submissions for the period Thursday 8 May to Wednesday 10 June 2025.

Several consultation sessions were held, including farmer consultation in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill, Rainbow and Yanac prior to the development of the draft budget and budget drop-in sessions in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow during the consultation period. Community members were encouraged to view the draft Budget online and provide submissions via the Have Your Say Hindmarsh page. At the meetings, there were no requested actions that required a material change in the draft document, with most requests able to be handled as Customer Action Requests or through existing budget allocations.

The draft 2025/2026 budget incorporating the revised Revenue and Rating Plan and draft Long Term Financial Plan was also made available for public inspection at Council's Customer Service Centres, at Council Libraries and online on Council's website via the Have Your Say Hindmarsh page. There were 67 views of the draft 2025/2026 budget incorporating the reviewed Revenue and Rating Plan and the draft Long Term Financial Plan via the Have Your Say Hindmarsh page.

One submission was received through the Have Your Say Hindmarsh platform at the time of preparing this report. The submission was received from the Nhill and District Sporting Club and is detailed below with Officer's response.

Submission	Officer Response
Priority upgrades for Davis Park. Given the Federal result, a new community function centre is not likely. However, lighting upgrades for both football and netball should be achievable. Maintenance budget for buildings at Davis Park may need increasing as the building is slowly falling apart. Budgeting for electronic locks to reduce key requirements would also be useful. Allocating some seed money for future Davis Park projects such as new clubrooms or new netball facilities, so we are prepared at the next State or Federal elections.	Council has applied for funding for masterplan development for several facilities across the municipality, including Davis Park. Future infrastructure development and upgrades will be based on this. Council allocates a budget for co-contributions for grant-funded projects – these are utilised as funding becomes available for projects identified in masterplans, strategic plans or the Council Plan. Significant co-contributions will need to be jointly funded by both Council and clubs going



	<p>forward due to the Council's limited financial capacity.</p> <p>Council also allocates funding for maintenance and renewal of Council buildings. The recent valuation on Council land and buildings provided Council with a detailed list of all maintenance requirements on every Council building. This has identified priority areas for Council to focus maintenance and renewal expenditure on across all buildings.</p>
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Rates and Charges:

In May 2025, the Victorian Valuer General updated the valuation of land for Hindmarsh Shire Council to take effect from 1 January 2025. The total value for all properties within the Shire differed between the preliminary valuations that have been published in the the draft Budget, and the final valuations detailed in this report. This change does not impact the overall value of rates collected by Council across all property classes. This change in valuations has been taken into consideration for the differentials as set out below.

The rates and charges calculated for 2025/2026 are based on revaluation figures as at 1 January 2025. The Revenue and Rating Plan includes differentials for farms and commercial/industrial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount), and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty).

The total amount to be raised by general rates and charges in 2025/2026 is \$10.336m (\$10.043m in 2024/2025).

The following table summarises the rates to be determined for the 2025/2026 year. A more detailed analysis of the rates to be raised is contained in the budget document under item 4.1.1 Rates and Charges. The rate in the dollar has changed slightly from that originally advertised in the draft budget due to changes in the CIV as provided by the Valuer General in May 2025.

Type or Class of Land		Budget 2024/2025 \$	Budget 2025/2026 \$	Change
Residential	Cents/\$ CIV	0.00193870	0.0019954	2.92%
Farm Land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.00174490	0.0017958	2.92%
Business, Industrial & Commercial land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.00174490	0.0017958	2.92%
Recreational & Cultural land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.00096940	0.0009977	2.92%
Urban Vacant land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.00387750	0.0039907	2.92%
Municipal Charge	\$/property	\$200.00	\$205.00	2.5%
Kerbside waste/recycling collection charge	\$/property	\$465.00	\$478.00	2.8%



Capital Works:

The 2025/2026 budget includes capital works expenditure of \$7.033m.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability

Financial Implications:

The 2025/2026 budget is consistent with the parameters set out in Councils' ten-year financial plan.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	The preparation of a budget that incorporates long-term financial planning is a key pillar of Council's financial sustainability risk management program.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Community Budget Drop-In sessions were held in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow between 20 May and 27 May 2025.

Gender Equality Implications:

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this decision does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

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, Chief Executive Officer

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

Author – Heather Boyd, Manager of Finance

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



Communications Strategy:

Council must give notice of the adoption of the Budget 2025/2026 incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. A public notice will be published in the Dimboola Banner, Rainbow Jeparit Argus, Nhill Free Press and Weekly Advertiser advising of the adoption of the Budget 2025/2026.

Copies of the adopted Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan will be placed on Council's website and hard copies will be made available from Hindmarsh Shire Council Customer Service Centres.

Next Steps:

As above.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***adopts the 2025/2026 Budget, incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and the Long-Term Financial plan pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020 and;***
2. ***gives public notice of the decision to adopt the 2025/2026 Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan and makes the document available for public inspection on Council's website and at Council's Customer Service Centres and libraries; and***
3. ***having considered submissions to the proposed 2025/2026 budget, Council declares the following rates and charges:***
 - a. ***that an amount of \$10,336,263 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates by the application of differential rates, the annual service charge (kerbside waste / recycling collection charge), municipal charge (all described later in this Recommendation, and Windfarms in lieu of rates, which amount is calculated as follows:***

General rates	\$8,132,030
Municipal charge	\$765,765
Kerbside waste / recycling collection charge	\$1,293,468
Windfarms in lieu of rates	\$145,000
Total	\$10,336,263

- b. ***that it be further declared pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020, that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates having regard to the objectives of each differential rate and characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring each differential rate as set out in Section 4 of the Budget 2025/2026:***

Type of Rate	Rate in Dollar on Capital Improved Value Cents / \$CIV
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Residential Land	0.0019954
Farm Land	0.0017958
Business, Industrial & Commercial Land	0.0017958
Recreational and Cultural Land	0.0009977
Urban Vacant Land	0.0039907

- c. *that it be confirmed that the differential rates for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined by multiplying "Capital Improved Value" of each rateable land by a percentage specified as the percentage of each uniform rate (which percent may be alternatively expressed as cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value); and*
- d. *that Council adopts the return of the revaluation of all properties within the Hindmarsh Shire as at 1 January 2025 from the Victorian Valuer General.*

MUNICIPAL CHARGE

- e. *that pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020, a Municipal Charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026;*
- f. *the Municipal Charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council;*
- g. *the Municipal Charge be the sum of \$205.00 for each rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied. and*

ANNUAL SERVICE CHARGE (KERBSIDE COLLECTION / RECYCLING CHARGE)

- h. *that, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020 an Annual Service Charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026;*
- i. *that the Annual Service Charge be made for the collection and disposal of refuse and that this Charge be referred to as the "Kerbside waste / recycling collection charge";*
- j. *that the Annual Service Charge for "Kerbside waste / recycling collection charge" be the sum of \$478.00 for each rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which services charges may be levied and where the services listed in section 3.b above are available; and*

4. INTEREST ON UNPAID RATES AND CHARGES

authorises that interest, at the rate prescribed in the Local Government Act 2020, be payable in respect of any of the aforesaid rates and charges which are not paid by the dates fixed pursuant to the Act by the date specified for their payment; and

5. AUTHORISATION TO LEVY AND RECOVER

authorises the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the aforesaid rates and charges in accordance with the Act; and

6. SUBMISSIONS

having considered all submissions received, Council thanks those took the time to provide a submission and community members who attended recent drop-in sessions to discuss the draft 2025/2026 Budget.

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr J Barry

That Council:

- 1. adopts the 2025/2026 Budget, incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and the Long-Term Financial plan pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020 and;**
- 2. gives public notice of the decision to adopt the 2025/2026 Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan and makes the document available for public inspection on Council's website and at Council's Customer Service Centres and libraries; and**
- 3. having considered submissions to the proposed 2025/2026 budget, Council declares the following rates and charges:**
 - a. that an amount of \$10,336,263 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates by the application of differential rates, the annual service charge (kerbside waste / recycling collection charge), municipal charge (all described later in this Recommendation, and Windfarms in lieu of rates, which amount is calculated as follows:**

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Windfarms in lieu of rates	\$145,000
Total	\$10,336,263

- b. that it be further declared pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020, that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates having regard to the objectives of each differential rate and characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring each differential rate as set out in Section 4 of the Budget 2025/2026:**

Type of Rate	Rate in Dollar on Capital Improved Value Cents / \$CIV
Residential Land	0.0019954
Farm Land	0.0017958

<i>Business, Industrial & Commercial Land</i>	<i>0.0017958</i>
<i>Recreational and Cultural Land</i>	<i>0.0009977</i>
<i>Urban Vacant Land</i>	<i>0.0039907</i>

- c. *that it be confirmed that the differential rates for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined by multiplying “Capital Improved Value” of each rateable land by a percentage specified as the percentage of each uniform rate (which percent may be alternatively expressed as cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value); and*
- d. *that Council adopts the return of the revaluation of all properties within the Hindmarsh Shire as at 1 January 2025 from the Victorian Valuer General.*

MUNICIPAL CHARGE

- e. *that pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020, a Municipal Charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026;*
- f. *the Municipal Charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council;*
- g. *the Municipal Charge be the sum of \$205.00 for each rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied. and*

ANNUAL SERVICE CHARGE (KERBSIDE COLLECTION / RECYCLING CHARGE)

- h. *that, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020 an Annual Service Charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026;*
- i. *that the Annual Service Charge be made for the collection and disposal of refuse and that this Charge be referred to as the “Kerbside waste / recycling collection charge”;*
- j. *that the Annual Service Charge for “Kerbside waste / recycling collection charge” be the sum of \$478.00 for each rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which services charges may be levied and where the services listed in section 3.b above are available; and*

4. INTEREST ON UNPAID RATES AND CHARGES

authorises that interest, at the rate prescribed in the Local Government Act 2020, be payable in respect of any of the aforesaid rates and charges which are not paid by the dates fixed pursuant to the Act by the date specified for their payment; and

5. AUTHORISATION TO LEVY AND RECOVER

authorises the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the aforesaid rates and charges in accordance with the Act; and

6. SUBMISSIONS

having considered all submissions received, Council thanks those took the time to provide a submission and community members who attended recent drop-in sessions to discuss the draft 2025/2026 Budget.

CARRIED



10.2 PROPOSED CHANGES TO PURPLE GLASS BIN COLLECTIONS

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

1. 2025 06 03 Survey Responses Report Proposed Changes to Purple Glass Bin Collections Redacted [10.2.1]

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval from Council to alter the kerbside glass collection frequency from 8-weekly to 12-weekly. This is to maximise the utilisation of service that is currently utilised at a very low rate. The recent bin audit suggested that the bin presentation rate on a collection night was at 21%.

The feedback on the proposal was sought via Council's "Have Your Say" page between 3 May 2025 to 2 June 2025. Over two thirds of the respondents said that they do not put their purple glass bin out every eight weeks and agreed that there would be enough capacity to change to a 12-weekly collection. The proposal will take effect after currently scheduled 24 October 2025 glass collection day.

Discussion:

Hindmarsh Shire Council currently provides kerbside glass collection services to residents on an 8 weekly collection cycle. Rolling out glass bins and removing glass from recycling is part of the Victorian Government's circular economy policy and plan - Recycling Victoria: a new economy and has been in place in Hindmarsh since 2023. A recent review of bin presentation rates suggested that an average of only 21% of total bins are put out on collection day.

Community feedback was sought via Council's "Have Your Say" Page from 3 May 2025 to 2 June 2025. The purpose of the consultation and the review of this service is to optimise use and maximise efficiency within this service.

Recent audits show contamination rates have decreased significantly within the recycling stream since introduction of the glass bins and the container deposit scheme (CDS). Both services have proved effective, however with decreased presentation rates, a review of the Glass service is required.

Out of 68 submissions received, 46 (67%) of respondents did not put their bin out regularly on an 8-week collection cycle. Moreover, 45 respondents agreed that their glass bin will have enough capacity to hold the glass for additional 4 weeks if the service frequency was changed to a 12-weekly collection cycle.



Further analysis of comments suggested that over 23% of respondents suggested that they could accept longer collection cycle than the proposed either due to low glass production in the household or better utilisation of container deposit scheme.

The majority of respondents said they have no concerns, and some would prefer a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin over glass bins. A few respondents were concerned that the collection date will be hard to remember. Council will ensure reminders of collection dates will be provided to residents via Facebook post and e-newsletters.

Some of the residents have indicated that there will not be enough capacity to hold glass for 12 weeks. Officers will be in contact with those respondents to develop a solution. The solution can include dropping excess glass to nearest transfer station or drop off points or even providing an additional glass bin.

If approved changes to the glass collection service would come into effect after the 24 October 2025 collection, as there is already a collection schedule circulated within the community. Under the revised collection schedule, the first collection date after 24 October 2025 would be 9 January 2026, coinciding with the end of the Christmas and New Year period.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

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

Environmentally sustainable practices

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability

Financial Implications:

Changing the service from its current eight-week collection to 12 weeks provides savings of approximately \$13,000 annually in collection and processing fees. This saving will reduce the increase that would have been required for kerbside waste and recycling collection in 2025/2026 due to the State Government's significant increase to the landfill levy.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs Environmental Sustainability	Community engagement has shown community needs will be met if change to the service is made. Environmental sustainability will be positively affected as there will be less collections meaning less trucks on the road and less diesel being used.



Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

Community Engagement:

Community engagement was undertaken through Council's "Have your say" page, advertised on Council's digital platforms and in local newspapers in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Gender Equality Implications:

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this decision does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

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 – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Mick Henderson, Manager Assets & Facilities

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

Communications Strategy:

Council officers to notify Hindmarsh residents of the change by publishing a media release on Council's website, publishing in Council's newsletter and publishing posts on Council's Facebook page. Council officers will liaise with community members directly to discuss alternative arrangements if required.

Next Steps:

If approved, the proposed change will be implemented after 24 October 2025 collection day. Council officers will notify the relevant contractor to implement the schedule change, and implement the communications strategy with residents.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves the alteration to glass bin collection frequency from an 8-weekly cycle to 12-weekly cycle effective after the 24 October 2025 collection.



MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr J Barry

That Council approves the alteration to glass bin collection frequency from an 8-weekly cycle to 12-weekly cycle effective after the 24 October 2025 collection.

CARRIED



11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Jeparit Township Advisory Committee Minutes 12 May 2025 [11.1.1]

Introduction:

One Hindmarsh Shire Council Advisory Committee held a meeting on the following date:

- **Jeparit Township Advisory Committee**
General Meeting on 12 May 2025

A copy of the minutes for the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 May 2025 is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

Next Steps:

Advisory Committee minutes will be published on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. *notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:*
 - a) *Jeparit Township meeting held on 12 May 2025; and*
2. *approves the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee's request to allocate \$2,500 (excl GST) to engage a band to perform at the Jeparit Town Committee's 2025 NYE Concert.*

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Barker

That Council:

1. *notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:*
 - a) *Jeparit Township meeting held on 12 May 2025; and*
2. *approves the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee's request to allocate up to \$2,500 (excl GST) to engage a band to perform at the Jeparit Town Committee's 2025 NYE Concert.*

CARRIED



11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

No Community Asset Committee business presented to Council.

12 LATE REPORTS

No late reports.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.



15 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. 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, and following consideration of item 15.1 close the Council meeting:

15.1 CEO Professional Development – 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 as it pertains to CEO employment matters”.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Barker

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, and following consideration of item 15.1 close the Council meeting:

15.1 CEO Professional Development – 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 as it pertains to CEO employment matters”.

CARRIED

16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No late confidential reports.

17 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 3:52pm.



Our Ref: [REDACTED]

14 April 2025

Ms Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Hindmarsh Shire Council
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Dear Ms Revell

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Monica', is written over the typed name 'Ms Monica Revell'.

Report on the 2024 Hindmarsh Shire Council general election

In alignment with Regulation 83 of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*, I am pleased to enclose the Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC) election report for the Hindmarsh Shire Council general election. A hardcopy of this report will be provided to you.

The VEC is also preparing a consolidated report to Parliament on the conduct and execution of the local government elections across all councils. The report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the second half of 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for your support and contribution to the successful delivery of your election.

If you have any questions about the enclosed election report, please contact Robert Wall, 2024 Local Government Program Manager on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bluemmel', is written over the typed name 'Sven Bluemmel'.

Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

Encl.

Level 11, 530 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria
3000 T 03 8620 1100

info@vec.vic.gov.au
vec.vic.gov.au





Our Ref: F351-011
19 June 2025

Dear Mayor

Re: Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is very disappointed that legislation for the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) Levy has passed through the Victorian Parliament in a rushed way, and without a full assessment being undertaken of its impacts on rural and regional communities and local government areas.

Council writes to you seeking that you unite as a collective alongside all Victorian councils, the Municipal Association of Victoria and Rural Council's Victoria to oppose the collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy.

The ESVF Levy will have a significant negative financial impact on the Macedon Ranges community, in particular the farming and business sectors.

Council acknowledges the capping of the ESVF Levy at the 2024/25 rate for all primary producers for the coming financial year. However, it does just pause the pain for a year, and this will have to be confronted, on the back of a drought affected season for the sector.

In addition to the significant increases that most sectors of our community will experience from the introduction of the new ESVF Levy, we expect there will be a substantial additional burden on Council administration in managing – and enforcing – this new process.

Many of these changes will lead to additional costs being incurred by Council, with the impact further borne by ratepayers in the form of reduced available funds to do Council's own work. It must be noted that Council's finances and program delivery will be significantly affected if residents choose to pay the Council rates portion only and exclude the ESVF Levy (as many have indicated to us) because Council still needs to submit the proportional funds through to the State.

The full resolution from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Meeting on 28 May 2025 is as follows:





That Council:

1. Notes the significant negative financial impact the Emergency Services Volunteers Fund Levy will have on the Macedon Ranges Shire community, in particular the farming and business sectors.
2. Requests the mayor and the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Victorian Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Emergency Services, Leader of the Opposition, and Shadow Treasurer and the Local Member for Macedon, to advise that Macedon Ranges Shire Council:
 - (a) Objects to the introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy in its current form, due to the significant impacts it will have on the shire's farming, commercial and industrial sectors.
 - (b) Considers that this new levy has been rushed through without a full assessment being undertaken of its impacts on rural and regional communities and local government authorities, to avoid or reduce negative consequences.
 - (c) Calls for the levy to be administered fully by the State Revenue Office, with no role for local government in its collection.
 - (d) Requests that, if the Victorian Government proceeds with implementing this new levy and requires local government authorities to administer it, then:
 - (i) A realistic timeframe for its implementation be negotiated with the local government sector;
 - (ii) Full initial and ongoing funding support for its administration be provided to local government authorities; and
 - (iii) The State funds and implements an extensive communications campaign to update ratepayers and volunteers on the rationale of the new Emergency Services and volunteer Fund levy and how it will be administered.
3. Requests the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer to write to all Victorian Councils, Rural Councils Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria seeking them to unite, and as a collective, oppose the collection of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy.

If you have any questions in relation to the above matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Chief Executive office on 5422 0308.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Sullivan".

Bernie O'Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dom Bonanno".

Councillor Dom Bonanno
Mayor





20 June 2025

Mayor Ron Ismay
Hindmarsh Shire Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Ismay

Re: ALGA National General Assembly – support for Sunshine Coast Council motions

As you are no doubt aware, the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly (NGA) is being held in Canberra between 25 and 27 June 2025.

Should you be attending the NGA, on behalf of Sunshine Coast Council, I seek your support for the three motions we have put forward.

Motion 44.6 – Financial Assistance Grants

This motion calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Restore funding of the Financial Assistance Grant program to at least 1% of Commonwealth Taxation revenue.
2. Reset the payment cycle to ensure a full year's Financial Assistance Grant is received in each year;
3. Compensate for the historical bringing forward of Financial Assistance Grant payments by making a one-off payment to local governments; and
4. Review the annual indexation methodology for Financial Assistance Grants to reflect all cost drivers

I'm sure you will agree local governments are chronically under-funded. When combined with the impacts of cost-shifting from successive State and Federal Governments as well as the effects of rising inflation and climate change, this means local governments are increasingly asked to do more, with less.

This motion seeks to address these impacts and ensure local governments are able to continue to provide the essential services that support our communities.

Motion 169 - Roadside litter management

This motion calls on the Australian Government to increase funding to local governments for litter management programs to address the environmental, amenity, and financial impacts of

[REDACTED]

roadside litter by targeting products or services which generate common roadside waste such as plastics, wrappers, cigarettes and vapes.

This is an issue of increasing concern to our communities and which, I've no doubt, is experienced in local government areas across Australia.

Motion 173 - Eradication and suppression treatment of Fire Ants

This motion calls on the Australian Government to expand the support provided to local governments in fire ant eradication and suppression treatment areas. This includes financial assistance for resources allocated to meeting general biosecurity obligations for fire ants.

Those local governments that are currently impacted by the presence of fire ants (including Sunshine Coast Council) are not resourced sufficiently to respond with eradication and suppression treatments to land under their control.

The eradication and suppression of fire ants is of national significance to ensure environmental protection, public health and safety, and to limit economic impacts. Fire ants cause extensive damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and households, with potential economic losses projected to reach \$2.5 billion annually by 2035ⁱ.

I hope to see you at the NGA and urge you to support these motions which seek to assist local governments across Australia.

If you would like further information on these motions, please contact Victoria Nelson on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosanna Natoli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rosanna" and the last name "Natoli" clearly distinguishable.

MAYOR ROSANNA NATOLI

ⁱ [Fire ants economic bite underestimated in government modelling: \\$2.5b per year in costs by 2035 - The Australia Institute](#)



Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Veterans
Minister for Youth
Minister for Small Business and Employment

GPO Box 4509
Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9651 9999

Ref: CMIN-2-25-26552

Ms Monica Revell
CEO
Hindmarsh Shire Council

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Revell, *Monica*

Thank you for your letter dated 29 May 2025 requesting substitute public holiday arrangements within Hindmarsh Shire in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day 2025.

I have made a declaration in the Victorian Government Gazette that Tuesday 4 November 2025 is not a public holiday for the localities of Rainbow, Albacutya, Kenmare, Broughton, Yanac, Netherby, Lorquon, Nhill, Glenlee, Kiata, Gerang Gerung and Little Desert within Hindmarsh Shire.

As a substitute for this day, Tuesday 14 October 2025 is appointed a full-day public holiday for the localities of Rainbow, Albacutya and Kenmare, and Thursday 16 October 2025 is appointed a full-day public holiday for the localities of Broughton, Yanac, Netherby, Lorquon, Nhill, Glenlee, Kiata, Gerang Gerung and Little Desert within Hindmarsh Shire.

A copy of the notice has been attached for your records.

If you require further information, please contact Ylva Carosone, Executive Director, Small Business and Migration, in the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

I wish all the very best for the local businesses and communities celebrating the Rainbow Show on Tuesday 14 October 2025 and the Nhill Show on Thursday 16 October 2025.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP
Minister for Small Business and Employment

Date: *18/6/2025*





Borough of Queenscliffe
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

27 June 2025

Cr Di Rule, Mayor
Borough of Queenscliffe
PO Box 93, Queenscliff VIC 3225

Dear Mayor

RE: Seeking support for united opposition to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

I write to you on behalf of the Borough of Queenscliffe Councillors seeking support to join us in collective advocacy against the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 25 June 2025, it was unanimously resolved:

That Council:

1. *Expresses concern regarding the implementation of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) by the Victorian Government and its anticipated adverse impacts on local government operations, the delivery of community services, and the financial burden placed upon ratepayers.*
2. *Notes with concern the significant administrative and financial impost on councils, who are required to act as collection agents for the ESVF on behalf of the State Government, without adequate compensation for administrative costs and debt recovery processes.*
3. *Raises the issue of financial risk to councils arising from the requirement to remit the State Government's share of partial payments received from ratepayers, potentially resulting in substantial revenue shortfalls and a reduced ability to fund essential local services.*
4. *Highlights the disproportionate impact of the ESVF on rural and regional communities, particularly farmers and landholders who often serve as volunteer emergency responders. The 150% increase in the variable rate for primary production land—from 28.7¢ to 71.8¢ per \$1,000 of Capital Improved Value (CIV)—represents a significant financial burden amidst broader economic and environmental pressures.*
5. *Supports the advocacy position of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), which has resolved to oppose the collection of the ESVF by councils and advocates for the responsibility to be assumed by the State Government. Council commits to collaborating with the MAV and other Victorian councils in exploring legal, advocacy, and policy avenues to challenge the implementation of the levy.*
6. *Acknowledges widespread community opposition to the ESVF, evidenced by:*
 - a. *A petition with 38,338 signatures (as at 13 June 2025),*

50 Learmonth Street (PO Box 93)
Queenscliff, Victoria, 3225

P 03 5258 1377
F 03 5258 3315

E info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au
www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au

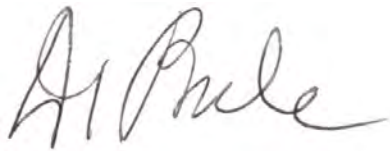
ABN 47 294 157 406

- b. Large-scale rallies involving volunteer firefighters and farmers,*
 - c. Significant correspondence to Members of Parliament,*
 - d. Growing community advocacy and social media mobilisation.*
- 7. Requests the Victorian Government provide greater transparency and accountability regarding the use of funds collected through the ESVF, ensuring such funds are directed to frontline emergency services, including local CFA brigades, and not diverted to general State revenue or non-emergency-related expenditure.*
- 8. Asserts that the funding of emergency services is a fundamental responsibility of the State Government and should be funded through general taxation revenue, not through additional levies on property owners who already contribute through existing taxation.*
- 9. Notes the significant rate increases under the ESVF, which will impact cost-of-living pressures and local economic conditions, including:*
 - a. Residential variable rate: increasing from 8.7¢ to 17.3¢ per \$1,000 CIV,*
 - b. Commercial rate: increasing from 66.4¢ to 133¢ per \$1,000 CIV (100.3% increase),*
 - c. Industrial rate: increasing from 81.1¢ to 133¢ per \$1,000 CIV (64% increase).*
- 10. Further resolves to:*
 - a. Write to the Victorian Government requesting that it repeal or significantly amend the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (ESVFL);*
 - b. In the event the ESVFL receives Royal Assent and becomes law, ensure that any such levy collected by Council:*
 - a. Is clearly itemised as a separate line item on Council rate notices;*
 - b. Is labelled explicitly as a State Government Levy;*
 - c. Is accompanied by a footnote clarifying that the levy is collected on behalf of the State Government and not retained by Council.*
- 11. Requests the Mayor write to:*
 - a. All Victorian councils, Rural Councils Victoria, and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), seeking their support in opposing the implementation and collection of the ESVF.*
- 12. Requests officers provide relevant information regarding the ESVF available on Council's website including:*
 - a. A comparative table of ESVF and former Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) charges;*
 - b. A plain-English summary explaining the structural changes introduced by the ESVF;*
 - c. An outline of how collected funds will now flow into State Consolidated Revenue, and the implications for emergency services funding transparency.*

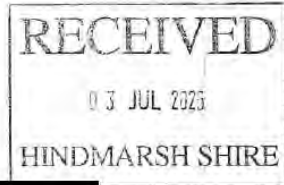
3

We respectfully request that your council considers a similar resolution and joins this important advocacy effort.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Di Rule', written in a cursive style.

Cr Di Rule
Mayor, Borough of Queenscliffe



Ted Davis
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

30 June 2025

Councillor Ron Ismay
Mayor, Hindmarsh Shire Council
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Dear Mayor Ismay,

I am writing to you as you may be interested in the attached copy of my suggested new flag for your state. As you can see, it depicts Victoria's basically triangular shape between the rest of Australia and the waters of Bass Strait. It should therefore be very easily recognisable as representing your state.

As you can see in the second attachment, I had correspondence from your council in May last year regarding my suggested slogan for Nhill. This suggested slogan being **EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF NHILL**.

I would like to enquire if you would be interested in mentioning my suggested new flag in any publications that you distribute to residents of your council area.

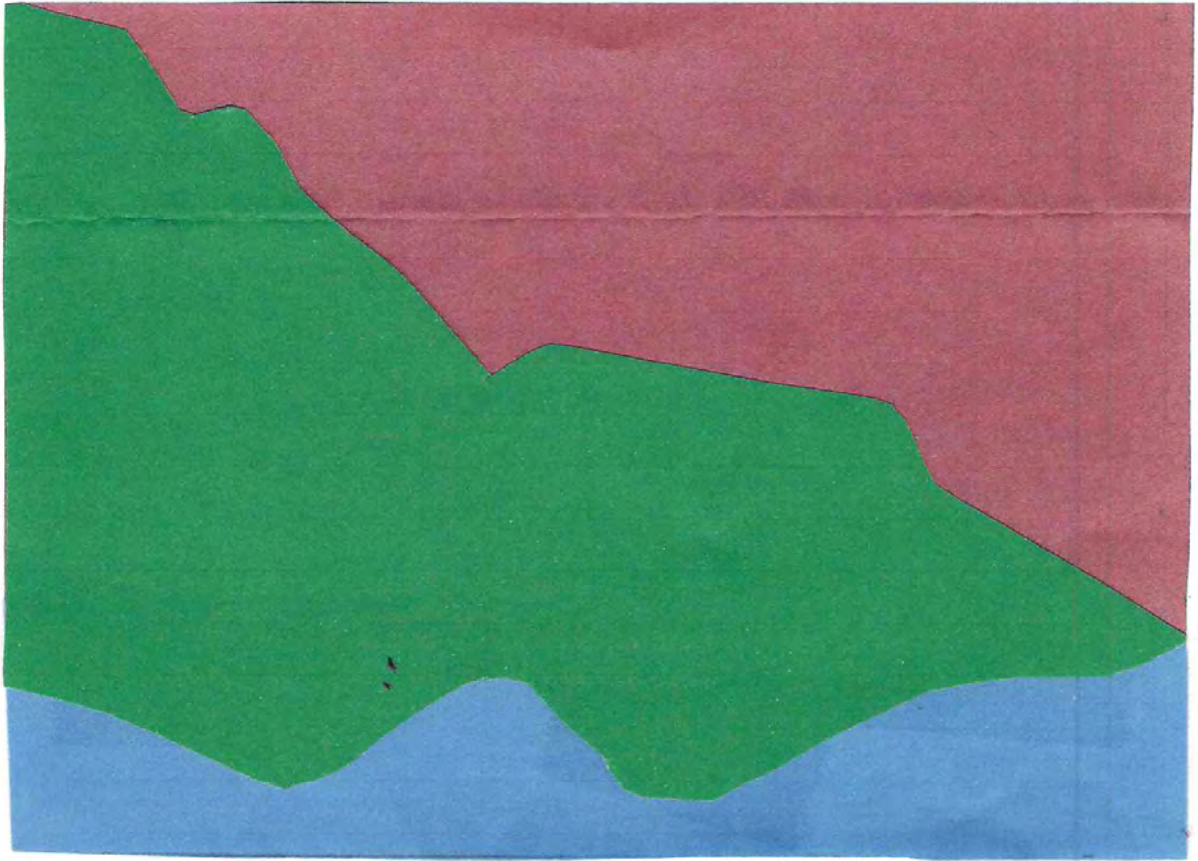
Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ted Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'D'.

TED DAVIS

↑

SUGGESTED NEW FLAG FOR VICTORIA





**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

20 May 2024

Mr Ted Davis

Dear Ted

Re: Suggested Nhill Slogan

Thank you for your recent correspondence and suggested slogan for the town of Nhill.

Nhill is part of the Wimmera Mallee region and is transitioning to a new organisation, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, of which Hindmarsh Shire is a member. We are currently working through a new Destination Management Plan as part of the transition and your input will be forwarded to the consultant for consideration as part of this strategy development.

It is wonderful to hear that you have enjoyed your time in the region and obviously Nhill made an impression. As a Shire, we are incredibly proud of the standards of our towns and the great events and activities that many of our community members lead.

I thank you for taking your time and sending in your suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



Hindmarsh
Shire Council

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19 June 2025

Josh [REDACTED]

Via email [REDACTED]

Dear Josh

Re: Budget Submission

Thank you for your submission via Have Your Say Hindmarsh regarding the draft 2025/2026 Budget. Council considered your feedback and adopted the 2025/2026 Budget at the Council meeting held on 18 June 2025.

While there was no material change to the budget based on your requests, the following response was provided (written below) and was discussed during the meeting from the 19-minute timestamp onwards.

Submission	Officer Response
Priority upgrades for Davis Park. Given the Federal result, a new community function centre is not likely. However, lighting upgrades for both football and netball should be achievable. Maintenance budget for buildings at Davis Park may need increasing as the building is slowly falling apart. Budgeting for electronic locks to reduce key requirements would also be useful. Allocating some seed money for future Davis Park projects such as new clubrooms or new netball facilities, so we are prepared at the next State or Federal elections.	Council has applied for funding for masterplan development for several facilities across the municipality, including Davis Park. Future infrastructure development and upgrades will be based on this. Council allocates a budget for co-contributions for grant-funded projects – these are utilised as funding becomes available for projects identified in masterplans, strategic plans or the Council Plan. Significant co-contributions will need to be jointly funded by both Council and clubs going forward due to the Council's limited financial capacity. Council also allocates funding for maintenance and renewal of Council buildings. The recent valuation on Council land and buildings provided Council with a detailed list of all maintenance requirements on every

	Council building. This has identified priority areas for Council to focus maintenance and renewal expenditure on across all buildings.
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Meeting recording link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6edcluGwHs>

I also understand that, as communicated to you by Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services, your request for electronic locks has been accepted and will be accommodated within the existing budget.

We genuinely appreciate your commitment to this facility and to the community sports and events that it enables. We hope to continue to build on our working relationship and find ways to continue to develop Davis Park into a brilliant community facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email [REDACTED] or phone 03 5391 4444 if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



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03 July 2025

Mr Ted Davis

Dear Ted

Re: Suggested New Victorian Flag

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 June 2025 suggesting a new flag for the state of Victoria.

We can see your design includes an image of the State of Victoria, which varies from the current Victorian flag which is based on the British Blue Ensign and includes the Union Jack in the top left hand corner and the Southern Cross on the right side. The stars of the Southern Cross, also displayed on the Victorian flag, have differing numbers of points representing their varying brightness. In 1901 following the accession of Edward VII, the crown was changed to the St. Edward's Crown, which also remains on the current design.

The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner, is responsible for officially changing the Victorian State Flag. The process involves a proclamation by the Governor, signifying the official adoption of a new design, with the Victorian Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet involved in managing flag protocols.

I thank you for taking your time and sending in your suggestion on the new Victorian flag.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor



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07 July 2025

Julie Woolcock

Nhill Agricultural & Pastoral Society

Dear Julie

Re: Request for substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for Nhill Show Day 2025

Thank you for your letter requesting a public holiday for Nhill and surrounding localities for Nhill Show Day in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.

At the meeting held on Wednesday 28 May 2025, Council resolved to write to the Minister for Small Business requesting that a substitute public holiday be observed on Thursday 16 October 2025, in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for the Nhill Agriculture and Pastoral Society Show Day for the localities of Broughton, Yanac, Netherby, Lorquon, Nhill, Glenlee, Gerang Gerung and Little Desert within the Shire.

Council has received confirmation from the Minister that this request has been approved, and Thursday 16 October 2025 has been gazetted by the Minister as a public holiday for these districts. This is in place of Melbourne Cup Day no longer being declared for Nhill and surrounding districts.

I am pleased that the Nhill Agricultural and Pastoral Society will be able to hold this event again this year and wish you all the best for your preparation for the 2025 Nhill Show. I trust that it will be a successful day.

Yours sincerely

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



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07 July 2025

Norelle Eckermann

Rainbow Agricultural & Pastoral Society

Dear Norelle

Re: Request for substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for Rainbow Show Day 2025

Thank you for your letter requesting a public holiday for Rainbow and surrounding localities for Rainbow Show Day in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day public holiday.

At the meeting held on Wednesday 28 May 2025, Council resolved to write to the Minister for Small Business requesting that a substitute public holiday be observed on Tuesday 14 October 2025, in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for the Rainbow Agriculture and Pastoral Society Show Day for the localities of Rainbow, Albacutya and Kenmare within the Shire.

Council has received confirmation from the Minister that this request has been approved, and Tuesday 14 October 2025 has been gazetted by the Minister as a public holiday for these districts. This is in place of Melbourne Cup Day no longer being declared for Rainbow and surrounding districts.

I am pleased that the Rainbow Agricultural and Pastoral Society will be able to hold this event again this year and wish you all the best for your preparation for the 2025 Rainbow Show. I trust that it will be a successful day.

Yours sincerely

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Council Briefing Session

Date: Wednesday 18 June 2025

Time: 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Assembly Location: Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill.

Present:

CRS Ron Ismay (Mayor) items 1 to 10, Chan Uoy (Deputy Mayor) items 1 to 10, Roger Aitken items 1 to 10, Rosie Barker items 1 to 10, and James Barry items 1 to 10.

Apologies:

Cr Tony Clark

In Attendance:

Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 10, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 6 to 10, Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 6 to 10 and Ms. Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer) item 10.

Declaration by Councillors or Officers of any Material or General Interest in any item on the Agenda:

- Material; or
- General.

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

Councillors:

No interests declared.

Officers:

No interests declared.



Matters Discussed:

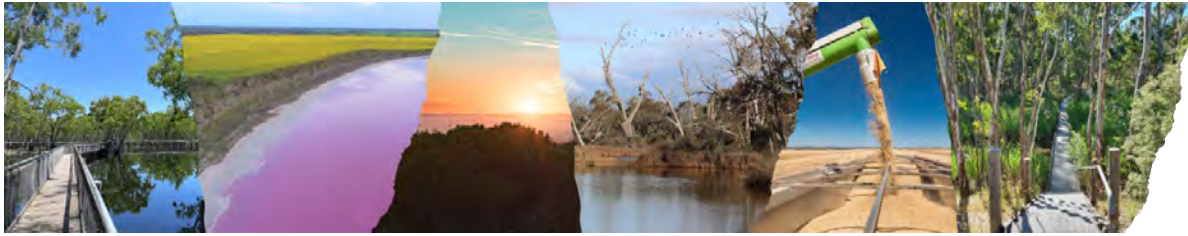
No.	Detail
1.	LUNCH
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
3.	APOLOGIES
4.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
5.	CEO ONLY
6.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
6.1	HINDMARSH OUTDOOR POOLS SERVICE REVIEW 2025/2026 SEASON
6.2	COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY
6.3	DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029
7.	COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME
8.	BREAK
9.	PREPARE FOR MEETING
10.	COUNCIL MEETING

Monica Revell

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 18 June 2025

The record must be kept for four years from the date of the assembly and be made available for public inspection at Council Offices for 12 months after the date of assembly.



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Council Briefing Session

Date: Wednesday 9 July 2025

Time: 12:00pm – 5:30pm

Assembly Location: Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill.

Present:

CRS Ron Ismay (Mayor) items 1 to 6, Chan Uoy (Deputy Mayor) items 1 to 6, Roger Aitken items 1 to 6, Rosie Barker items 1 to 6, and James Barry items 1 to 6.

Apologies:

Cr Tony Clark

In Attendance:

Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 6, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 5.3 to 6, and Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 1 to 6.

Declaration by Councillors or Officers of any Material or General Interest in any item on the Agenda:

- Material; or
- General.

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

Councillors:

No interests declared.

Officers:

No interests declared.



Matters Discussed:

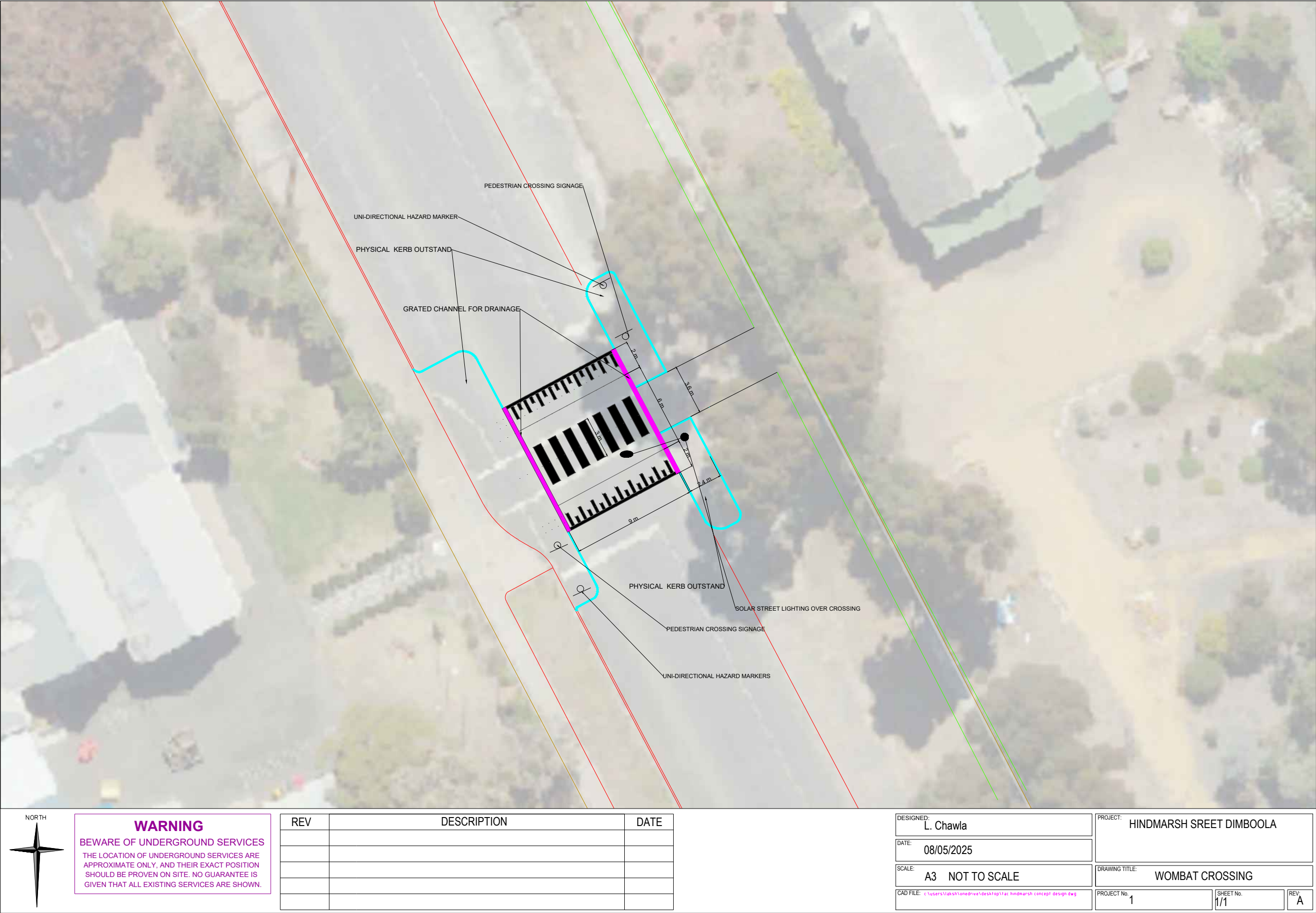
No.	Detail
1.	LUNCH
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
3.	APOLOGIES
4.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
5.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
5.1	ARTERIAL ROADS IN HINDMARSH – DTP
5.2	GRAMPIANS WIMMERA MALLEE TOURISM
5.3	POOLS – PUBLIC ACCESS MODEL
5.4	TAC LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION – RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IIN HINDMARSH STREET DIMBOOLA
5.5	WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE DEVELOPMENT
5.6	ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE
5.7	COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLANS YEARS 1-4
6.	COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Monica Revell

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 10 July 2025

This record must be kept for four years from the date of the assembly and made available for public inspection at Council Offices for 12 months after the date of assembly.



Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan *Annual Actions* 2025–2029

Incorporating Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Actions



Council Plan Annual Actions

To ensure the Council Plan remains flexible and responsive to new opportunities and challenges, Council prepares annual Actions – these are the specific projects and services that we will deliver for that financial year.

We have mapped out proposed Actions for each year to show how projects might progress over time and how we will build on each priority every year.

While we have proposed Annual Actions beyond 2025/2026, we will still consult with the community to update and revise the Actions for the upcoming year.

How to read the Council Plan Annual Actions

<p><i>This is the Theme from the Council Plan</i></p> <p>1 Our Community</p> <p><i>This is the Goal from the Council Plan</i></p> <p>1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.</p>				
Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
This is the Priority item taken directly from the Council Plan.	These are the Actions that we're committing to in 2025/2026. We'll report on these each quarter at Council meetings and publish information on our progress.	These are the proposed Actions that we're planning for the 2026/2027 financial year.	These are the proposed Actions that we're planning for the 2027/2028 financial year.	These are the proposed Actions that we're planning for the 2028/2029 financial year.
<p><i>We'll consult with the community before the start of each financial year to give opportunity to provide input on any changes we need to make for the upcoming year.</i></p>				

1 Our Community

1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Create and maintain shared spaces	Complete the Centenary Park projects as part of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan	Promote the WRDT as a location for walking, riding and geo-caching	Host Youth Events in maintained public halls outside of townships to promote their preservation and use	Raise awareness of DDA compliance with businesses, and update Local Laws permit conditions to better reflect DDA compliance
	Assist the Rainbow Trailblazers with the establishment of a bike track	Adopt and commence implementation of the Playground Strategy	Partner with community groups and schools to complete enhancement of the Nhill Dog Park, including signs and artwork	Host a regional event or activity that promotes use of the Wimmera River Discovery Trail and active living
	Complete and officially open the Wimmera River Discovery Trail	Develop plan for community input into enhancement of the Nhill Dog Park	Prepare project scope in preparation for application for funding a dog park in Dimboola	
	Review the Youth Strategy, including a plan for sustainable regular out-of-school hours activities that promote use of public facilities and reserves	Establish one pilot community garden project in the Shire		
Provide accessible programs for all ages and abilities	Continually diversify the resources, activities and services provided by libraries to be innovative, inclusive and meeting community need – focus year 1: Cultural Diversity	Conduct an audit of policies, procedures and guidelines creating a priority list of those that directly impact accessibility and inclusion	Source and promote leadership programs that will inspire younger people to be involved in local government	Work with Hindmarsh Pride to prepare an application for funding to deliver a regional pride event as part of the Midsumma Festival
	Adopt a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy	Develop engagement plan that focuses on 18–35 year olds	Work with the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly to bring a FIDA Western Conference game to a Hindmarsh ground	Ensure all-abilities representation on the Deliberative Panel for the Council Plan 2029–2033
	Through the FFVLGP, work with local sporting clubs to improve participation rates for women and girls		Commence drafting a sustainability plan for all-ages programs that support continuity should funding cease for positive aging and youth	Deliver and facilitate programs, services and events that address loneliness through supporting social connectedness and positive mental health
Support local events that bring people together	Collaborate with Luv-a-duck on a regional festival	Review Council Community Action Grant Guidelines and amend to enable support for sporting clubs to deliver safe social activities for young people	Collaborate with existing seniors groups to enable activities across the Shire and region	Collate and promote external grant opportunities that community groups and organisations can access to deliver community events
	Delivery bi-monthly movies at the Nhill Cinema that are targeted at adults	Implement a refined, simplified events approvals process	Support or deliver volunteer training activities and support events to show appreciation, build professionalism and create collaboration	Identify key community members and organisation that could facilitate events, and empower them to deliver activities that promote varied interests, skill building, social inclusion and healthy living (i.e. archery, rifle-shooting, biking, drone photography)
	Audit commonly used Council-managed spaces and facilities to ensure that relevant amenities and services are maintained		Deliver or support one new residents event in Nhill, Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola	
	Ongoing Regional Community Events Grants Program, Fee Waiver Policy and reduced fees for Council Facilities Hire for community groups.			

1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Attract new residents and encourage multicultural inclusion	Commence drafting New Residents Guides for the Shire and specific localities	Complete and circulate New Residents Guides for the Shire and specific localities	Undertake a review of how public spaces are used across CALD and religious communities, considering whether Council could play a role in facilitating religious and cultural activities	Connect with refugee organisations and develop a briefing to Council on pathways for new residents
	Participate in Careers Expos within the region that attract young workers to the Shire	Partner and support multicultural groups in events and activities	Develop a set of guidelines that can be utilised by the community when planning inclusive and welcoming events	Deliver events in local areas to provide opportunity for cultural experiences and accessible connections across the community
	Develop calendar of key events and activities that are important to our CALD community in, collaboration with residents	Review and adopt the draft Reconciliation Action Plan		Cross-collaborate with schools and healthcare providers to deliver a joint campaign, highlighting the Shire's liveability
Invest in liveability and town planning	Deliver activities contained in the Cultural Inclusion Review			
	Review Hindmarsh Council's Local Laws and consider amendments that encourage innovative living options	With State Government approval, reduce the speed limit in more local streets across our towns	Create communications that promote Hindmarsh as a 'tiny home' friendly community	Create a briefing document for Council that identifies Council's role in community transport
Strengthen ties between towns through events and shared goals	Complete the Safer Local Roads Project in MacPherson Street, Nhill	Conduct a survey that determines interest in Council investment in lifestyle villages/developments for semi-retirees and retirees		Prepare 'walkability plan' that assesses key walking links between services, shopping precincts and nature within towns
	Review Council Grant Guidelines and amend to encourage cross-community collaboration	Promote Jeparit – Dimboola as a tourism corridor	Enhance, elevate and promote the 'events calendar' section of Council's website to be a shared community calendar	Develop and publish a 'week in Hindmarsh' visitor package that guides tourists and locals through a Shire-wide experience
	Host an annual Town Committee/Progress Association Summit that brings together volunteers from across the Shire to collaborate and plan for the year	Review Advisory Committees and Working Groups policies and procedures to emphasise collaboration, relationships and networking between towns	Identify key community programs, organisations and groups from across towns that may benefit from collaboration and shared services/equipment and support these connections	Engage a collaborative group of community members from across the Shire to review Council's Vision
Showcase new lifestyle and development possibilities	Offer transport options between towns for major Council-run events	Ensure representatives from across the Shire are on the Youth Council		Consider focus groups that could be formed to better advise on delivery of the Council Plan across the Shire for 2029–2033
	Create a webpage on Council's website for developers to access information on Council's development opportunities and processes	Allocate funding/resources to develop a Council-branded campaign that highlights rural living, affordability, nature and investment opportunities	Complete and publish a Council-branded campaign that highlights rural living, affordability, nature and investment opportunities	Develop a process for profiling residents, business owners, professionals and returnees who enjoy our rural lifestyle
	Draft policy and procedure for showcasing completed/approved subdivisions on Council's channels to establish Council as pro-development	Map broadband connectivity and public-Wi-Fi zones to promote digital-friendly lifestyles and remote working	Allocate funding/resources to develop a 'relocation pack' that provides information on schools, childcare and lifestyle, utilising real estate agents and other agencies to promote	
	Increase Council publications around service providers, including WWHS, aged care, early years and long-daycare centres	Adopt policy/procedure for showcasing completed/approved subdivisions on Council's channels	Join or pilot programs aimed at attracting skilled migrants and professionals to the area	

1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Collaborate with regional partners and networks to achieve greater impact through collective effort	Develop a draft Political Engagement Plan, identifying key contacts and priorities for advocacy	<i>Seek out and welcome external event providers (for profit) who are interested to present/create events in our region that will increase tourism</i>	<i>Work with health and community service providers to identify gaps for services that support victims of gender-based violence</i>	<i>Develop a process that elevates the role of Councillors as delegated members of external committees, including priorities and reporting</i>
	Develop a schedule of meetings between Councillors and regional partners and networks to ensure connection and collaboration	<i>Explore co-delivery, job-share and shared service options with neighbouring Councils</i>	<i>Support partner and local community organisations, groups and clubs, to deliver initiatives that encourage the cessation of vaping and smoking</i>	<i>Engage early with regional networks in the development of the Council Plan to best enable strategic collaboration</i>
	Engage and work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council on projects within our Council area	<i>Collaborate with sporting event schedules to ensure our region is included</i>	<i>Partner with health providers to deliver an annual plan of services to Hindmarsh, including the mobile women's health clinic and the Shane Warne Legacy Health Check</i>	
Explore flexible and innovative services	Undertake a scoping plan for unstaffed access to Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools	<i>Develop a project scope for upgrades to the Nhill Customer Service Centre, creating a space that is welcoming and accessible</i>	<i>Identify key services that can be transitioned to digital-first options and develop transition plans</i>	<i>Consider co-location with other key service providers</i>
	Complete service reviews for Local Laws, Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools, Customer Service and Libraries, Planning and Building	<i>Complete service reviews for tourism, economic and business development, youth, and early years</i>	<i>Complete an audit of software and systems used across the organisation, identifying duplication and considering efficient alternatives</i>	<i>Develop a training model that enables staff to be multi-skilled so they can work across departments and services as needed</i>
	Adopt a Generative AI Policy	<i>Increase use of the Library Van to deliver resources to remote, at risk and vulnerable communities</i>	<i>Develop scoping document for 'place-based planning' that encourages service design around each town's specific needs</i>	<i>Develop a list of key services that may require access, information or support out-of-hours and investigate alternative options</i>
Ensure community needs shape future service planning	Develop a project management framework that best positions Council to succeed in applications for grants for community-identified projects	<i>Draft a Community Engagement Plan that considers the diversity of our community</i>	<i>Complete and adopt the Community Engagement Plan</i>	<i>Deliver a comprehensive deliberative engagement process in the development of the Council Plan 2029-2033</i>
	Leverage RCCC to begin implementing a CRM, incorporating complaints management	<i>Leverage RCCC to complete implementation of a CRM, incorporating complaints management</i>	<i>Seek out businesses identified in the 'business landscape' review and encourage investment in Hindmarsh</i>	<i>Complete a 'future needs report' and present to Councillors</i>
	Develop a Service Promotion Plan that sets out when key services will be promoted, explained and reviewed	<i>Implement Service Promotion Plan</i>	<i>Commence development of a 'future needs report' project scope</i>	<i>Conduct a review of the implementation of the Council Plan 2025-2029 to date, identifying learnings and recommendations to be incorporated into the next Council Plan, and incorporating community feedback</i>
	Review Advocacy Strategy in preparation for the 2026 State Election	<i>Develop a 'business landscape' review that identifies key industries and businesses that support current and future economy</i>		

2 Built and Natural Environment

2.1 We care for and connect with our natural environment.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Complete and promote walking and cycling trail networks	Install signage for the Wimmera River Discovery Trail	Invest in improved directional and informative signage for the WRDT	Undertake a review of Council parks and open spaces considering the Heart Foundation "Healthy Active by Design" guide to develop a schedule for creating a network of walkable, appealing and public open spaces that help meet the community's recreational, play and social needs	Identify key walking and cycling networks across the Shire and prepare a 'guide to walking and cycling' for distribution for locals and visitors
	Create a portfolio of media showcasing cycling and walking trails, to utilise on Council platforms	Support Walk to School activities throughout the Shire		
	Investigate viability of Council supporting Park Run establishment in Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola	Prepare scoping for lighting of key walking trails across the Shire to be shovel-ready for future grant applications		
Maintain and enhance recreational spaces	Complete Masterplans for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Davis Park Precinct and Jeparit Riverbank Tennis Court / Caravan Park Precinct	Develop single priority list of actions across all master plans developed in year 1. Develop a list of key upcoming grant opportunities that relate to projects identified in the Masterplans	Repair historic lights in Goldsworthy Park and consider budget allocation for replica lights in Centenary Park Complete service reviews for public amenities and park maintenance, providing recommendation to Council on service alterations Complete project scoping for priority actions identified in master plans	Advertise Council's public and recreational spaces as places that can be hired and used for wellbeing, social and community activities Seek funding to implement activities recommended by adopted Masterplans
	Complete the Davis Park Changeroom and Tiered Seating upgrades			
	Commence Dimboola Swimming Pool accessibility upgrade and wet deck			
Support environmental tourism and stewardship	Update Council's website to link to existing information around birdwatching opportunities within the Shire	Deliver a tourism campaign that promotes Jeparit's natural environment	Promote 'leave no trace' messaging in tourism campaigns, signage and communications	Develop a set of operational guidelines that support installation of environmentally friendly infrastructure around towns and tourism assets
	Advocate for the re-opening of the Little Desert National Park and continued investment in its tourism opportunities	Seek out new tourism services and/or support new business development in areas such as birdwatching, eco-tourism, dark sky, geo-caching	Investigate process for fast-tracking business permits for operation of low-impact operators (hiking tours, wildlife photography etc)	Create increased opportunities for businesses to learn about local biodiversity and cultural landscapes, including school-led eco-tours and Country walks facilitated by Traditional Owners
	Advocate for appropriate management of trees on and in the Wimmera River	Create a scoping document that considers Council delivering bird-watching tours throughout the Shire	Review Business Assistance Grants with a focus on supporting businesses to develop eco-friendly experiences	
Manage wild animals and invasive weeds on Council owned and managed land to maintain ecological balance and protect local biodiversity	Engage with WWAG, Landcare and other pertinent community groups to attend briefings and talk to Councillors and Council about what they see is required in this area	Explore resource sharing with neighbouring Councils and Landcare groups to enhance pest management plans	Develop a digital map for weed and pest infestation areas in partnership with local land care groups	Implement ecology study into the planning scheme
	Design the Roadside Pests and Weed Management Plan in collaboration Landcare groups	Explore option to combine weed management with native revegetation	Seek funding to commence ecology study	
	Publish education material to support property owners to 'do their bit' to manage pests and weeds	Ensure Council priorities are considered in future of Landcare Facilitator funding within Hindmarsh	Consider an Ecology study - Study of species listed in the Flora and Fauna Act and Environment Protection Act and implement clauses in our Environment Protection Overlays that include greater protection for indigenous species	

2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Focus on maintenance that prioritises function for our farming network	Host sessions with stakeholders and farmers that identify and resolve issues and opportunities relating to local agricultural road networks	<i>Review strategic farm access routes in conjunction with Heavy Freight and Transport Working Group</i>	<i>Work with the farming community to identify opportunities to open Council's road network to suitable vehicles</i>	<i>Implement tree canopy clearance program</i> <i>Continue to maintain strategic property access roads as a priority within the capital works program</i>
	Ongoing inspections and maintenance of road and footpath networks to meet the requirement set in Road Management Plan		<i>Partner with neighbouring Councils to undertake Ottaseal trial on strategic gravel road networks</i>	
	Adopt the Asset Management Plan		<i>Develop a tree canopy clearance program on strategic farm-access roads for large agricultural machineries</i>	
Invest in essential infrastructure that supports our townships and agricultural industries	Leverage the Road Management Plan to identify key footpaths used by our ageing community, and develop and communicate a maintenance plan	<i>Develop a list of Council Assets identified for disposal or reduced maintenance and present to Council</i>	<i>Commence process of disposing of low-use or end-of-life assets that don't meet community need</i>	<i>Develop and implement an underground drainage maintenance program following condition assessment</i>
	Maintain the condition of existing road infrastructure within the municipality by prioritising capital investment on renewal over new and upgrade projects (ongoing)	<i>Develop at least one scoping report for submission to the Federal Blackspot program targeting places with a history of crashes</i>	<i>Continue to undertake drainage asset condition inspections to support the early detection of damage and deterioration</i>	
	Complete the Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study	<i>Seek State and Federal funding to upgrade strategic freight network within the municipality</i>		
Plan for climate resilience and risk mitigation	Work with key community, government and emergency management stakeholders to build community capacity and resilience to support response and recovery	<i>Develop a project plan that encourages tree planting on private property</i>	<i>Utilise Council's platforms to publish information on the value of trees, green spaces and native vegetation</i>	<i>Increase planting of drought resistant trees across the Shire</i>
	Deliver a communications campaign in the lead-up to summer to educate about emergency planning, vulnerable persons and keeping informed	<i>Invest in developing or commissioning information that assists agricultural businesses in climate readiness</i>	<i>Implement FOGO waste stream</i>	
	Implement activities from the Climate Adaption Strategy	<i>Investigate implementation of Climate Impact Assessments and present report to Council on proposed process</i>		

2.3 We support development that enhances needs-based growth.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Engage with developers, community stakeholders, and Traditional Owners to ensure inclusive, well-planned growth	<p>Meet with representatives from Traditional Owners Groups to improve understanding of Cultural Heritage Overlays and Cultural Heritage Management Planning</p> <p>Host information sessions regarding subdivision, shed construction and re-zoning</p>	<p>Develop a co-investment business case that prioritises return-on-investment</p> <p>Attract and seek out developers who are interested to create homes or sub-divisions for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workers • lower socio-economic demographics • disability sector supported housing • mental health supported housing <p>Seek funding for GIS mapping and ordinance changes to implement most recent flood study</p>	<p>Implement mapping and ordinance changes of the most recent flood study into the planning scheme</p> <p>Seek funding for further heritage study work</p>	<p>Community education on recent changes to flood mapping</p> <p>Undertake heritage study (subject to funding)</p>
Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable, and affordable	<p>Promote and enable subdivision opportunities in central areas of townships</p> <p>Seek funding to undertake Settlement Strategy within the municipality</p> <p>Refine anomalies amendment for implementation into Planning Scheme</p>	<p>Develop Settlement Strategy</p> <p>Statement of Commitment to Cultural Diversity implemented within the Planning Scheme</p> <p>Development of Structure Plans for each township within the municipality</p> <p>Implement anomalies amendment into the Planning Scheme</p>	<p>Implement Settlement Strategy</p> <p>Implement Structure Plans in the Planning Scheme</p>	<p>Deliver community education programs on the Settlement Strategy</p> <p>Deliver community education programs on Structure Plans</p>
Invest in essential infrastructure upgrades to support new housing developments and population growth	<p>Investigate cost-effective ways to upgrade Council infrastructure to support housing developments</p>	<p>Development of 'Development Contribution Plan' to ensure downstream infrastructure is upgraded and maintained</p>	<p>Implement the Development Contribution Plan into the Planning Scheme</p>	<p>Seek funding to upgrade infrastructure to support developments within townships throughout the Shire</p>

3 Competitive and Innovative Economy

3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Reduce red tape and simplify planning and business approval processes through engagement with current and future applicants	Produce simple fact sheets on starting a hospitality business, the planning process, and other relevant topics Develop business workshop plan for year 2 that covers budgeting, forecasting, finance and procurement	<i>Host information sessions on key development target areas identified through survey outcomes and volume of queries/applications</i> <i>Deliver coordinated business workshops</i> <i>Stimulate Training and Assistance for business owners and employees</i>	<i>Develop a survey that provides feedback on planning processes</i> <i>Develop an action plan based on the completed survey to improve planning processes</i>	<i>Explore possibilities for how AI can be used in Council permit approval processes</i>
Support local procurement and small business networks	Review the Procurement Policy and amend to strengthen local supply provisions Finalise the additional Goods and Services Panel of Suppliers, supporting applications from local businesses Publish 'shop local' campaigns in the lead up to Christmas, to encourage people to purchase gifts locally	<i>Facilitate cooperation and collaboration between businesses especially in areas of common concern/interest i.e. permits, insurance, wages, rules, union awards, disciplinary procedures, recruitment and culture</i>	<i>Review contract requirements for small-scale projects to reduce barriers for small businesses competing for Council work</i> <i>Provide simple guidance documents for how to quote and tender to provide Council with goods and services</i> <i>Support local access to business and financial advisors</i> <i>Complete a Business Prospectus that promotes and facilitates new business development</i>	<i>Encourage businesses to participate in online directories and regional marketplaces</i> <i>Celebrate local business success stories through completed Business Assistance Grants programs</i> <i>Encourage industry support partnerships across the Shire (i.e. young farmers)</i>
Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation	Encourage and support community co-op entrepreneurship Develop a briefing document that considers use of the former Mechanics Workshop in Jeparit as a community co-op	<i>Establish a relationship with the Nhill Heritage Silo Project and investigate future plans</i> <i>Review Council's Business Assistance Grants Program with a view to support new businesses rather than established businesses</i>	<i>Partner with schools, universities, and TAFEs to provide business and innovation training</i> <i>Support initiatives that encourage young people to develop business ideas and proto types</i>	<i>Explore options of using libraries and public buildings as shared workspaces</i> <i>Develop tailored support for women, migrants, Indigenous entrepreneurs, and others facing barriers</i>

3.2 We attract investment that aligns with community values.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Promote regional strengths and investment readiness	Partner with GWMT to deliver LAAP for Hindmarsh	<p><i>Develop a research piece that considers development attraction, including input from developers who invest in rural communities</i></p> <p><i>Leverage regional partnerships and state government organisations to elevate Council's image in regional publications and events</i></p>	<p><i>Complete the research piece on development attraction, including key actions or recommendations to be considered</i></p>	<p><i>Seek out and engage with startups via universities and other business organisations to attract innovation and new businesses directly into our economy</i></p>
Explore joint ventures and development incentives	Commence working on a briefing piece that considers Council's potential involvement in joint ventures	<p><i>Present briefing piece to Council that considers Council's potential involvement in joint ventures</i></p> <p><i>Use economic development strategies and housing studies to identify where public-private collaboration can address key gaps (e.g. housing, aged care, retail, industrial)</i></p>	<p><i>Develop internal guidelines for when and how Council will enter joint ventures, ensuring transparency and risk management</i></p> <p><i>Develop briefing piece to Council that considers Council's options for development incentives, including reduced contributions or rates for projects delivering strategic public outcomes</i></p>	<p><i>Present briefing piece to Council that considers Council's options for development incentives, including reduced contributions or rates for projects delivering strategic public outcomes</i></p>
Support development that reflects local character	Welcome developers with an interest in creating retirement villages or diverse home developments that fit within town planning and community needs for new residents	<p><i>Investigate development of character statements that can be used to guide Council developments, outlining the unique qualities of different areas in the Shire</i></p>	<p><i>Complete development of character statements, including community consultation, that identify features that should be preserved and enhanced</i></p>	<p><i>Simplify planning controls and make them easy to understand; use clear language, graphics and examples to illustrate what is expected in terms of built form, scale, landscaping, and other design elements</i></p> <p><i>Regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness of planning controls and character statements, making adjustments as needed to ensure they remain relevant and effective</i></p>

3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Be leaders in positive change that creates investment in the direction of our community	Support activities and training with staff that encourages innovation and creative thinking for community benefit	<i>Actively identify and promote local opportunities to developers, entrepreneurs, and investors</i>	<i>Create a community story board of new ways of living in the 21st century</i>	<i>Develop briefing piece on the creation of a 'Place Brand Strategy' that positions Council as ambitious, welcoming and future-oriented</i>
	Deliver actions within the Economic Development Strategy	<i>Use Council platforms to bring visibility to local ideas, entrepreneurs and technologies</i>		
Explore community social enterprise opportunities and philanthropy	Develop a briefing document that considers use of the former Mechanics Workshop in Jeparit as a community co-op	<i>Identify underused public spaces, skills, and resources that could support social enterprise (e.g. vacant buildings, kitchens, land)</i>	<i>Promote social enterprises through Council platforms and encourage residents and local businesses to support them</i>	<i>Explore development of procedures that support Council co-investment alongside community donors or philanthropists with public benefit</i>
	Plan an information session for community members on what social enterprise opportunities could be possible within the Shire	<i>Research community challenges that could be addressed through a social enterprise model (e.g. youth unemployment, food insecurity, waste)</i>	<i>Review the Procurement Policy to support social enterprises</i>	<i>Recognise and celebrate local social entrepreneurs and impact-driven initiatives</i>
	Consider amending the Fees and Charges section of Council's budget or review fee-based policies to support access to Council spaces for this purpose	<i>Consider budget allocation to grants program that assists in pilot ideas or set-up costs</i>		<i>Publish annual updates showing the social, environmental and economic benefits created through Council-supported enterprises and philanthropy</i>
Foster industry collaboration and innovation	Identify networks of like businesses and industries, and explore options for collaboration, connection and innovation	<i>Explore partnerships with universities to enhance pathways to existing priority industries in the Shire</i>	<i>Invite industry collaboration in designing solutions to Council service changes and challenges</i>	<i>Recognise and publicise local businesses who are driving collaboration and innovation within the community/region</i>
	Expand farmer consultations to include industry collaboration opportunities relating to shared goals and issues	<i>Explore expanding Business Assistance Grants criteria to promote industry collaboration, education and upskilling</i>	<i>Establish a process/policy whereby Council assets (e.g., buildings, datasets, roads) can be used for real-world trials of emerging technologies</i>	<i>Involve local businesses in a review of the Economic Development Strategy</i> <i>Consider ways to share Council data and information with local businesses to support innovation and growth</i>
Showcase our history to create rich visitor experiences	Develop action plan to implement the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Masterplan	<i>Commence delivery of the action plan to implement the WMPM Masterplan</i>	<i>Develop a signage plan that identifies priority locations and information for tourism signage</i>	<i>Launch 'migration' storytelling campaign</i>
	Develop priority projects list for Yurunga and WMPM to be considered for project scoping	<i>Support BGLC in activities and events that celebrate and acknowledge our Shire's history prior to, and throughout, colonisation</i>	<i>Use storytelling, including First Nations perspectives, to bring local stories to life at Council events, social media pages and other platforms</i>	<i>Partner with Traditional Owners to tell cultural histories authentically</i>
	Support community efforts to deliver Heritage events, such as the Nhill Heritage Weekend	<i>Advertise heritage activities and sites throughout the Shire on Council's Facebook page, telling a story about who we are</i>	<i>Plan a 'migration' storytelling campaign for year 4 that ties to tourism experiences</i>	<i>Support community groups and businesses that wish to utilise heritage locations for visitor experiences</i> <i>Explore art activation opportunities that celebrate our history</i>

4 Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Provide regular updates on Council decisions and actions	Continue with the regular newsletters and social media posts that are communicated in plain language	<i>Continue and improve Council Meeting summary posts on Facebook and Instagram and extend to posters in community hubs</i>	<i>Deliver campaign to increase community familiarity and uptake of the Have Your Say Hindmarsh Platform</i>	<i>Community both with submitters and the wider community on how feedback was considered in decision-making</i>
	Promote our services, projects and activities throughout their lifecycle	<i>Implement processes where residents affected by major projects or decisions are updated directly</i>	<i>Establish operational processes that ensure that Have Your Say Hindmarsh is updated regularly</i>	<i>Consider opportunities for digital signage in high-pedestrian traffic locations</i>
	Mayor to record a short summary following a Council meeting to be published online	<i>Publish media releases that clearly explain key decisions made by Council</i>	<i>Link posts, articles and updates to Have Your Say Hindmarsh so there is a single source of truth for project progress</i>	
Improve follow-up systems and response times	Commence implementation of CRM	<i>Review the Complaints Management Procedure in line with updated Ombudsman best practice guide</i>	<i>Explore and increase utilisation of programs that enable real-time tracking of requests, applications and complaints</i>	<i>Train frontline staff in responding confidently, clearly and empathetically to customer enquiries, even if they cannot be resolved in the first instance</i>
	Undertake Complaints Handling training with the Victorian Ombudsman	<i>Update staff email signatures and autoreplies with expected response times to boost accountability</i>	<i>Review electronic document management processes to consider management of requests in consideration of urgency and importance</i>	<i>Encourage ownership culture- 'I'll find out and get back to you'- rather than transferring responsibility to other staff/departments</i>
	Review the Customer Service Charter	<i>Produce a report based on CRM that details performance against threshold response times</i>	<i>Establish process for analysing trends in enquiry types, complaint subjects and response delays to identify areas for improvement</i>	<i>Capture contact preferences in all forms and portals and communicate based on that advice</i>
Share decision-making processes in plain language	Ensure communication is transparent, even when the news is bad	<i>Provide training to employees to use plain-English in public facing communications</i>	<i>Ensure the Council website aligns with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines</i>	<i>Provide plain-English summaries of Council agendas, meetings and decisions – use a 'what is being decided and why it matters' format</i>
	Improve Have Your Say Hindmarsh processes to ensure project information is updated and published after a decision is made	<i>Publish accessible versions of key Council documents</i>	<i>Develop clear, visual summaries of key Council processes</i>	<i>Create a set of FAQs to publish when big decisions are being made so that people can understand how the decision may affect them</i>
	Update and adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Rules	<i>Update the Community Engagement Policy to enable a 'closed loop' system, where community members can discuss the outcome of a Council decision</i>	<i>Produce short videos explaining how Council decisions are made (captions included)</i>	

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Build capacity in staff and Councillors for engagement	Undertake authentic engagement training as part of the annual Councillor Professional Development training	Undertake training with staff on the Community Engagement Policy, including engagement tools, facilitation and consultation methods	Develop operational tools that can guide staff in undertaking engagement, including sample questions, plain language guides and templates	Train staff and Councillors to work respectfully with First Nations, CALD, LGBTQIA+ and all-abilities communities
	Support staff in undertaking de-escalation and managing difficult conversations training	Investigate process for including community members with lived experience in engagement activities (co-delivery)	Develop cultural and accessibility guidelines for engagement as an appendix to the Community Engagement Policy, informed by the people it impacts	Collaborate with regional Councils on effective engagement methods and learnings
	Review the Community Engagement Policy to ensure communication is clear around the outcomes that can and cannot be influenced by the engagement process	Provide Council with a review of engagement effectiveness and demonstrate identified process for continuous improvement		Include engagement responsibilities in position descriptions and annual performance and development reviews for staff
	Deliver Free From Violence/Primary Prevention Training with staff and Councillors			
Be present at community events and spaces	Councillors to demonstrate availability and engagement in activity reports	Attend popular community events and spaces and utilise existing meeting places to disseminate Council information	Identify key community events where Councillors and Council staff can practically volunteer their time to support activity logistics	Create and share a 'public availability calendar' where Councillors and staff will be available to meet with community members
	Support Councillor and Executive staff attendance at community markets	Prioritise attending community events as guests, to listen and build relationships	Reach out to schools and facilitate Mayoral or Councillor visits to hear from young people	Review processes to ensure that consultations, events, and listening posts have allocated time for listening and informal conversation
	Create a calendar of community events and identify a Council representative who is best positioned to attend	Develop calendar of informal meetings and chats at local cafes, libraries and meeting places	Identify and be present at culturally significant events, including NAIDOC week, Refugee week and Karen New Year	
	Publish a Councillor Out and About post to complement Councillors activity reports			
Use varied channels to reach diverse groups	Explore a partnership with local schools to enable Council content to be published in school newsletters	Identify list of key community representatives who can be leveraged to inform groups about Council information	Develop guide for staff around producing communications in tailored forms for CALD community members, youth, seniors and parents	Implement system for collecting data on how people heard about Council services and projects to analyse effectiveness of communication methods
	Contact key businesses, organisations and community groups to ensure that they can subscribe to Council communications	Trial supermarket pop-ups to promote Council consultations and projects	Record information around consultations so that people can watch videos rather than read complex program outlines	Review effectiveness of translation services in Council Customer Service Centres
		Review Social Media Policies to enable Hindmarsh Shire Council to participate and provide information on community noticeboard Facebook pages		Run sessions around key services that are tailored to target groups, including sessions in language for CALD communities

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Priorities	2025/2026 Actions	2026/2027 Proposed Actions	2027/2028 Proposed Actions	2028/2029 Proposed Actions
Explore revenue streams beyond rates	Complete the Industrial Land business case	<i>Formalise grant seeking and application process through official service platform</i>	<i>Increase the number of sites at Nhill Caravan Park</i>	<i>Explore hosting critical services, like green waste processing, that service neighbouring Councils and generate profit</i>
	Ensure processes enable effective use of developer contributions	<i>Undertake training for all Managers and Directors on grant applications, and consider use of consultants for priority applications</i>	<i>Create a grant calendar that aligns with strategic planning and project scoping</i>	<i>Review Local Laws in consideration of fair levies that don't disincentivise growth (i.e. short-term accommodation, event fees)</i>
	Develop a Sponsorships and Donations Policy that enables private investment in community events and initiatives	<i>Work with Nhill Vintage (the organisation that currently has old equipment on the bottom of the NCP land) to move current display to enable future expansion of Nhill Caravan Park</i>	<i>Consider Council assets to determine whether any hold profitable leasing potential and commence compliant leasing processes</i>	<i>Consider allocation of budget to trial income-generating projects throughout the Shire</i>
Prioritise spending aligned with community goals	Improve internal systems for prioritising completion of existing projects within community expectations, and communicate transparently about delays	<i>Design a considered, clear and improved budget consultation and submission process, providing information on the availability of discretionary funding</i>	<i>Review the assessment framework for projects and services to ensure criteria such as community demand, lifecycle cost and strategic alignment are considered</i>	<i>Create a process for analysing and reporting on how resources are distributed across the Shire and address any imbalances in future funding planning</i>
	Develop the Workforce Plan to account for the implementation of the Council Plan	<i>Include identified projects and service improvements in budget consultation to enable updated community input into prioritisation</i>	<i>Align spending categories and budget formatting with categories identified by the community</i>	<i>Ensure the Long-Term Financial Plan reflects not just asset renewal but long-term community priorities</i>
	Review, amend and adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Procurement Policy	<i>Review budget proposal and submission process to ensure that all proposals are aligned to the Council Plan and Vision</i>	<i>Critically review the annual allocation to Contributions to Grant Funded Projects to consider projects in pipeline and major infrastructure renewal</i>	<i>Use performance data, use trends, cost-benefit analyses and community satisfaction to inform and report on service reviews</i>
Report clearly on how money is spent and what value it delivers	Review the Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act and present to Council for adoption by 30 June 2026	<i>Develop and publish service mapping that explains how much of Council's budget is allocated to which services</i>	<i>Explore option of 'outcomes based' planning in budget preparation (for example, \$50,000 in stormwater drain upgrades that will protect 14 properties from flood damage)</i>	<i>Consider budget allocation that the community can propose and vote on use for, reporting back on outcome and implementation</i>
	Develop simple guides to financial reporting information that includes graphs and images to community budget and rating information to the community	<i>Develop publications that summarise, in an accessible manner, quarterly financial reports</i>	<i>Publish a quarterly capital works dashboard with timelines, costs and benefits, including status updates with reasons for any delays or variation</i>	<i>Create videos/explainers on annual budget processes and financial results that help the community understand Council's financial management</i>
	Publish information that explains how Council projects are funded, including own-source and grant-funded projects	<i>Publish an annual 'Council at a Glance' summary that showcases how rates and grants were spent for the calendar year</i>	<i>Include as BAU in social media strategy, that posts relating to projects provide the community information around how the project was funded and whether it is on, above or below budget, with explanations as to any variance</i>	



Main Office:

92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418

Phone: 03 5391 4444

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Postal Address:

PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that Hindmarsh Shire sits within the traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk people.

Council pays respect to their Elders, both past and present, and recognises their ongoing connection to this beautiful Country, with knowledge and stories that have been handed down since time immemorial.

In the delivery of this Council Plan, Council commits to genuine collaboration with Barengi Gadjin Land Council. We support the Recognition Settlement Agreement, granting Traditional Owners input over the management of public land and natural resources that are at the heart of their culture, past, present and future, and the deep knowledge and custodianship of the lands we live within.

Your Councillors.

Hindmarsh Shire Council comprises six democratically elected Councillors who represent our community. As the locally elected representatives, they advocate on behalf of residents and undertake critical tasks such as approving the Council Plan and Council Budget.

Councillors have a responsibility, as stewards of community resources, to manage Council's assets, promote a wide range of services and facilities and ensure finances are allocated in the best interests of the whole community.



Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor

West Ward
Elected November 2024
rismay@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0429 951 094



Cr Chan Uoy, Deputy Mayor

East Ward
Elected November 2024
cuoy@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0425 705 591



Cr James Barry

East Ward
Elected November 2024
jbarry@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0400 657 178



Cr Roger Aitken

North Ward
Elected November 2024
raitken@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0475 747 141



Cr Tony Clark

North Ward
Elected November 2024
tclark@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0475 101 458



Cr Rosie Barker

West Ward
Elected November 2024
rbarker@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0451 371 009

Mayor's Message.

Cr Ron Ismay



Welcome to Hindmarsh Shire Council's Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029. This plan represents our vision for the future of Hindmarsh Shire and sets our strategic direction over the next four years.

This document reflects our shared values, our aspirations and our commitment to building a more vibrant, inclusive and sustainable community for everyone.

The lands and waters within Hindmarsh and the greater Wimmera region have a rich history of language, narratives and knowledge, and have long been home to the oldest continuing culture in the world.

Hindmarsh is home to a strong agricultural sector, and we strongly value the role that farmers play in supporting our economy, local employment and providing critical resources to Australia and the world. The strong intergenerational connection to land and the local community is at the heart of who we are. We also have a vibrant community of new residents, and warmly welcome those from near and far who seek to make Hindmarsh their home.

This Plan has been shaped through extensive consultation with residents, businesses, community groups, and Council staff. It is a product of listening - listening to what matters most to you. From enhancing liveability and protecting our natural environment to fostering economic growth and ensuring social equity, this Plan sets clear priorities and practical actions to guide our decisions over the next four years.

We are also deeply aware of the financial pressures facing both our community and our organisation. Rising costs, funding constraints and growing demand for services mean we must do more with less. This Plan outlines our commitment to delivering cost-effective, high-quality services that make a real difference in people's lives. We are focused on being financially responsible - prioritising essential services, seeking efficiencies and investing wisely- to ensure every dollar spent delivers meaningful value for our community.

We are operating in a time of both great challenge and opportunity. The lasting impacts of global and local events remind us of the importance of strong leadership, community resilience and strategic planning.

This Council is focused on delivering real outcomes - improving services, investing in infrastructure and making Hindmarsh a place where everyone can thrive. The Council Plan integrates the priorities and objectives of existing strategies and plans that have been developed in consultation with our community and ensure we're delivering on what the community has asked for.

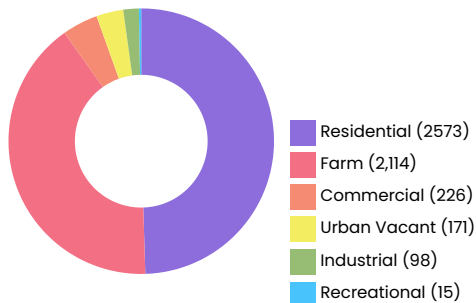
We want to thank Councillors, Council officers, and most importantly our community for contributing your time, your ideas and your energy. Your voice has been central to shaping this Plan.

Together, we are creating a future we can all be proud of.

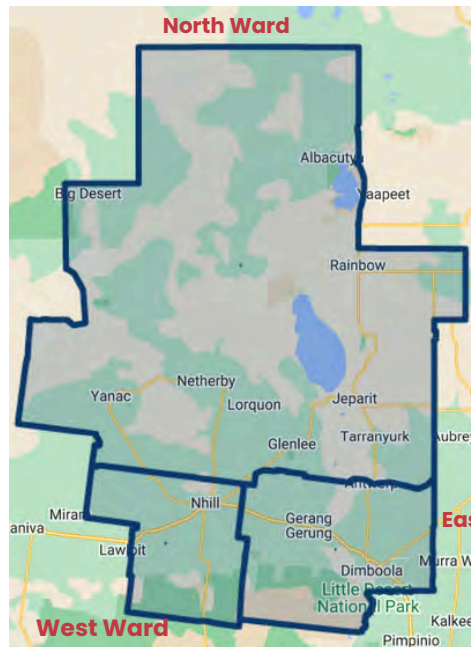
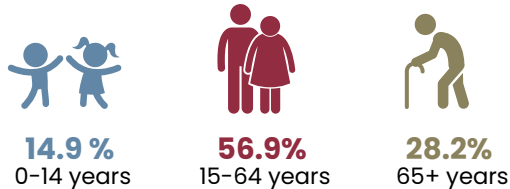
Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

Our Municipality.

5,197 rateable properties consisting of the following:



5,698 population total, 50.1% male, 49.9% female.



Ward Structure

Hindmarsh Shire has 3 wards with 2 Councillors in each ward. The community votes for Councillors to represent their ward only, but elected Councillors make decisions in the best interests of the whole Shire.



3

secondary schools



7

primary schools



4

outdoor pools



4

skate parks



4

libraries



4

early education centres

2,492 residents in the labour force

3,251 do unpaid domestic work



9,569

visitors used library services and facilities in 2024/2025



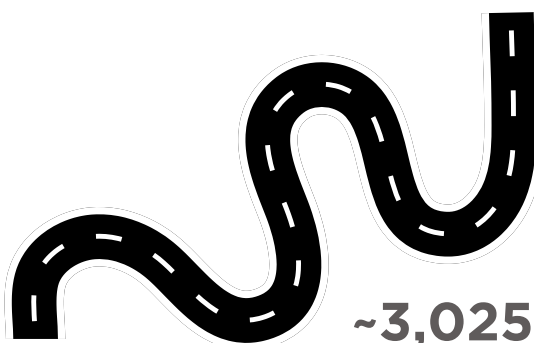
11,668

attendees at outdoor swimming pools in 2024/2025



29

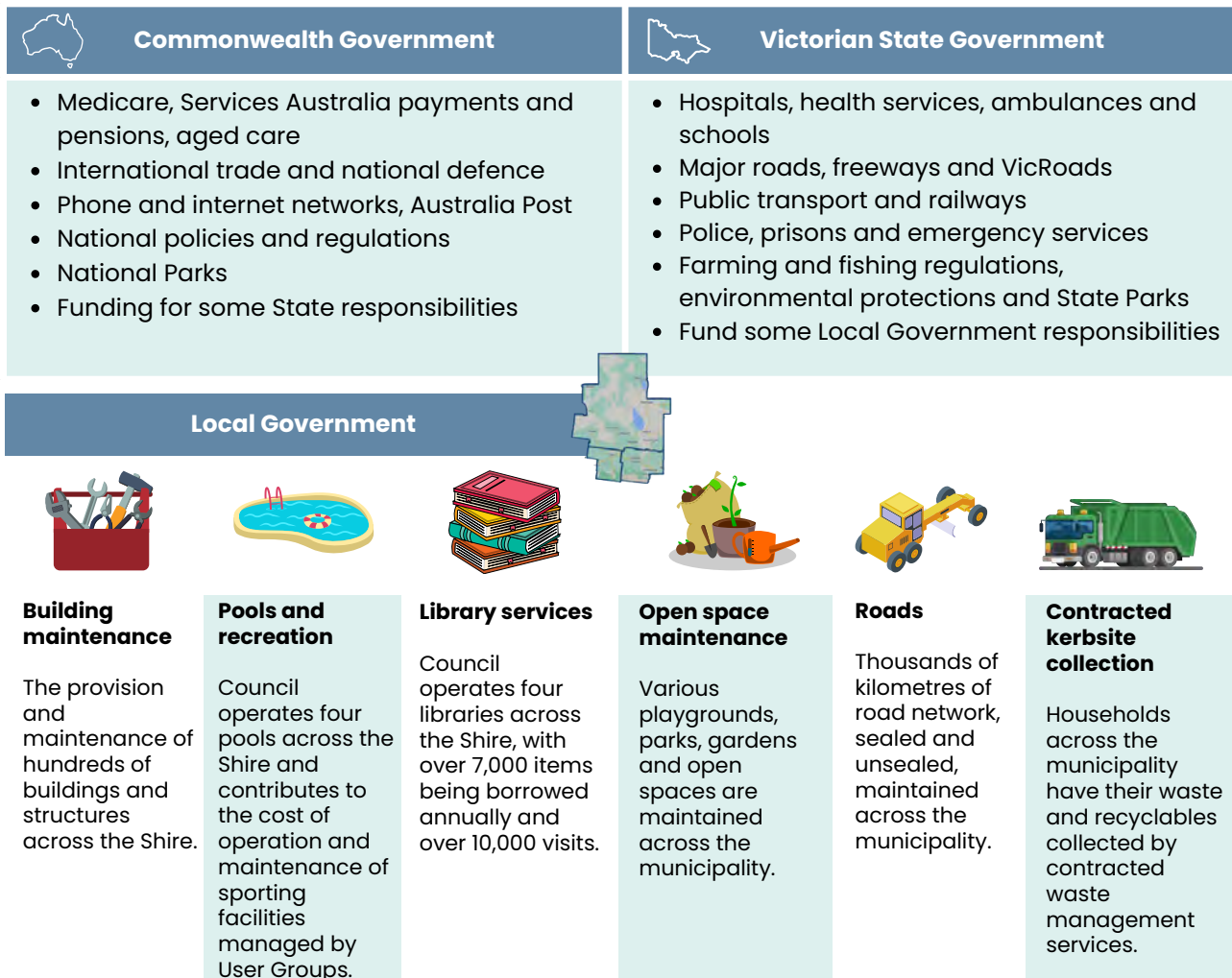
groups assisted by annual Council grants in 2024/2025



~3,025km

of sealed and unsealed Council-managed roads throughout the Shire

What we do.



Roads



In Victoria, VicRoads (now part of the Department of Transport) manages major arterial roads (A, B, and some C roads), while Councils are responsible for local roads.

A Roads	These are major arterial routes that connect significant destinations and handle high traffic volumes. Council may perform some maintenance work on arterial roads under contracts with VicRoads.
B Roads	These are important regional connectors that link towns and smaller communities to the A road network.
C Roads	Local connectors that support lower traffic volumes, linking smaller communities to the broader arterial network.

Hindmarsh Shire Council may perform some maintenance on arterial roads under contracts with VicRoads.

Council is responsible for **local roads** - these are the streets and roads that primarily serve residential neighbourhoods, local businesses and community areas. We know roads within the Shire are a priority for our community, and form a major part of Council's work plan over the next four years.

Your Input.

Listening Posts – what you said:

We want roadworks completed to a high standard in a way that makes sense for how that road is used	We want our streets and properties to be attractive to visitors and residents	We want Council staff and assets to be used effectively and efficiently – resources should not be wasted
Public facilities should be accessible to everyone – we want activities, resources and spaces that reflect the diversity of our community	We want tourism assets that bring people to our towns	We want Council to do more about roadside pests and weeds
We want our towns and properties to be safe from bushfires and natural disasters	We want roadworks sites and signs to be managed well to keep drivers safe and support efficient road use	We want Council to work with businesses and stakeholders to protect community interests
We want our streets to be safe and accessible for pedestrians, including children walking to school	The feral cat problem across the Shire is not acceptable	We want planning and building processes that support development, housing and business growth
We want Council to be responsive to community queries and expect amazing customer service, every time	We want Council to celebrate the history and heritage of our region	We want Council to act with integrity and be open to community feedback



Council Plan Survey

The Council Plan survey was conducted in early 2025 and enabled the community to tell us what services, projects and goals should be prioritised in the development of the Council Plan. Overwhelmingly, roads and local infrastructure were identified as the highest priority, alongside emergency management, pest and weed control, economic and business development and community projects.



Community Panel

The development of the plan included a deliberative community panel. The group, representing the diversity of our community, met to discuss, debate and decide on recommendations to Council on what should be included in the Council Plan, including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, in terms of the Council Vision, Goals and Priorities.



Plan on a Page.

Our 2025–2029 goals and priorities:

Our Community OUR SOCIETY	<p>Our community is active, healthy and connected.</p> <p><i>We support physical and mental well-being by providing accessible spaces, services and opportunities to connect.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain shared spaces • Provide accessible programs for all ages and abilities • Support local events that bring people together 	<p>Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.</p> <p><i>We celebrate diversity, support newcomers and plan for sustainable population growth.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract new residents and encourage multicultural inclusion • Invest in liveability and town planning • Strengthen ties between towns through events and shared goals • Showcase new lifestyle and development possibilities 	<p>Our community can access services when and where they need them.</p> <p><i>We advocate for and enable access to essential services that support daily life.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with regional partners and networks for greater impact through collective effort • Explore flexible and innovative services • Ensure community needs shape future service planning
Built and Natural Environment OUR WORLD	<p>We care for and connect with our natural environment.</p> <p><i>We provide access to nature and manage it for current and future generations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and promote walking and cycling trail networks • Maintain and enhance recreational spaces • Support environmental tourism and stewardship • Manage wild animals and invasive weeds on Council owned and managed land, to maintain ecological balance and protect local biodiversity 	<p>Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.</p> <p><i>We maintain infrastructure to a sustainable standard and plan for future community needs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on maintenance that prioritises accessibility and function for our farming network • Invest in essential infrastructure that supports our townships and agricultural industries • Plan for climate resilience and risk mitigation 	<p>We support development that enhances needs-based growth.</p> <p><i>We work to ensure that housing and development in Hindmarsh meets our current and future community needs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with developers, community stakeholders and Traditional Owners to ensure inclusive, well-planned growth • Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable and affordable • Invest in essential infrastructure upgrades to support new housing developments and population growth
Competitive and Innovative Economy OUR MODERNISATION	<p>Our local businesses are supported to grow.</p> <p><i>We create conditions that help existing businesses to thrive and new ones to succeed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce red tape and simplify planning and business approval processes through engagement with current and future applicants • Support local procurement and small business networks • Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation 	<p>We attract investment that aligns with community values.</p> <p><i>We position Hindmarsh as a region of choice for industries that reflect our identity and increase employment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote regional strengths and investment readiness • Explore joint ventures and development incentives • Support development that reflects local character 	<p>We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.</p> <p><i>We drive economic growth through encouraging diverse and bold investment opportunities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be leaders in positive change that creates investment in the direction of our community • Explore community social enterprise opportunities and philanthropy • Foster industry collaboration and innovation • Showcase our history to create rich visitor experiences
Good Governance and Financial Sustainability OUR COMMITMENT	<p>We are a transparent and responsive organisation.</p> <p><i>We keep our community informed and follow through on commitments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regular updates on Council decisions and actions • Improve follow-up systems and response times • Share decision-making processes in plain language 	<p>We engage our community with respect and openness.</p> <p><i>We listen well, follow up and value personal interaction.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity in staff and Councillors for engagement • Be present at community events and spaces • Use varied channels to reach diverse groups 	<p>We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.</p> <p><i>We make the most of what we have and invest in what matters most.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore revenue streams beyond rates • Prioritise spending aligned with community goals • Report clearly on how money is spent and what value it delivers

About this Plan.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework – Appendix 3

Purpose

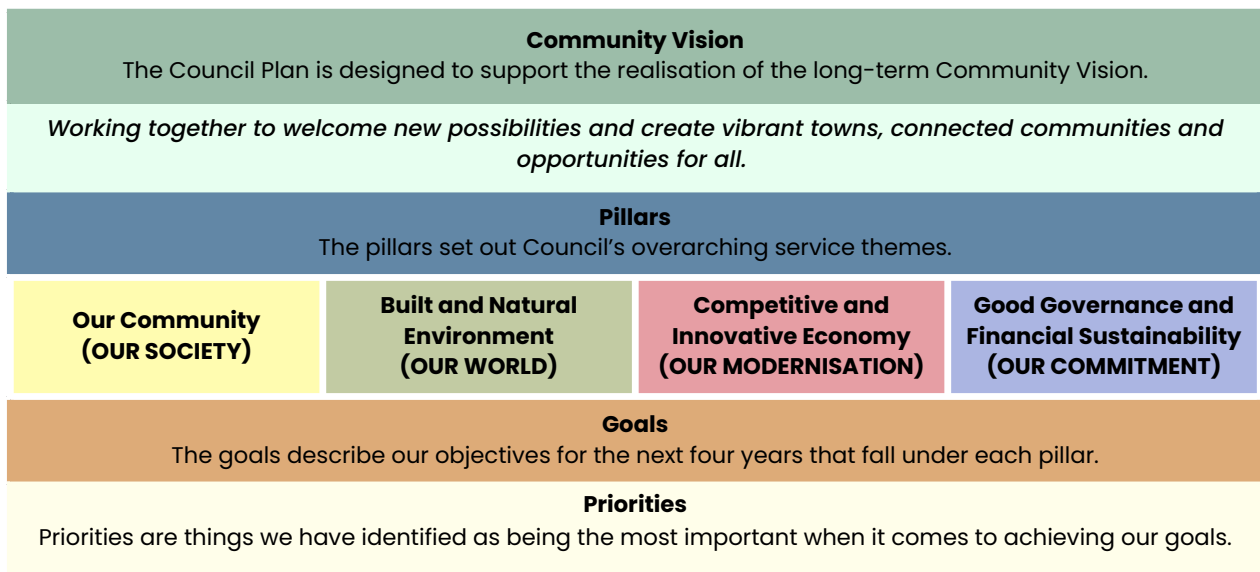
The Council Plan guides what Council does and how we do it over a four-year period. This Plan sets out the strategic objectives that drive us toward achieving our Community Vision; it also sets out ways to achieve the objectives through delivery of major initiatives and priorities. This Plan includes the kind of information and data we will use to measure our progress over the four years. It outlines how Council will protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the municipality.

To ensure the Council Plan remains flexible and responsive to new opportunities and challenges, Council will prepare and share annual Council Plan Actions. These Actions detail the specific projects and services that we will deliver in that year.

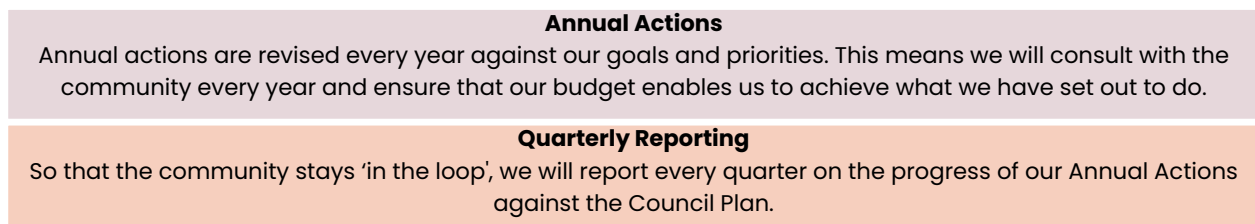
Alongside the Goals and Strategic Objectives, Council continues to deliver a wide range of ‘business as usual’ services, programs and projects that provide direct benefits to many members of our community.

Framework

Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029



Annual Budget



Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

We have included the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) in the Council Plan. The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (PHWA) requires Local Government to develop a MPHWP every 4 years, based on an analysis of health and wellbeing in the municipality. It is a legislative requirement for Councils to play a role in protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of its community members.

Throughout this plan, we have used  to signify **health and wellbeing** priorities. These will also have actions listed in the annual Council Action Plan.

Council recognises that health and wellbeing are shaped not only by individual genetics and behaviour but also wider social, economic and environmental factors.

Local Government is ideally placed to influence many of these through the local environment, as well as supporting individual choices and reducing health inequalities. We will work together with residents, communities and organisations to create supportive environments that enable people to lead healthy lives.

Our Health and Wellbeing Profile and Priorities are included in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Our Vision

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

Our Values

We **value**:

- engaging with, listening to and meeting people where they are at
- doing the best we can with the people and funding that we have
- showing respect and embracing diversity
- taking pride in our community and achievements
- being bold, creative and ambitious

Our Mission

Our **mission** is to be leaders in creating:

- positive change
- a safe environment where everyone feels heard and appreciated
- inclusive consultation

Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

1 Our Community

Goal	Our Services	Supporting Plans	2025–2029 Priorities
1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected. <i>We support physical and mental well-being by providing accessible spaces, services and opportunities to connect.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports and recreation Community Action Grants Community Wellbeing Parks and gardens maintenance Recreation reserve management Positive aging, youth and early years services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports and Recreation Strategy Community Action Plans Youth Strategy Fair Access Policy Action Plan Gender Equality Action Plan Masterplans for recreation reserves and public spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and maintain shared spaces Provide accessible programs for all ages and abilities Support local events that bring people together
1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing. <i>We celebrate diversity, support newcomers and plan for sustainable population growth.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wellbeing Strategic Planning Advisory Committees Youth Community Action Grants Tourism and Economic Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Projects Destination Management Plans/Local Area Management Plan Statement of Commitment to Cultural Diversity (TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract new residents and encourage multicultural inclusion Invest in liveability and town planning Strengthen ties between towns through events and shared goals Showcase new lifestyle and development possibilities
1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them. <i>We advocate for and enable access to essential services that support daily life.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management Libraries and public facilities Customer Service Planning advice Building advice Environmental Health services Local Law assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Strategy Community Engagement Policy Customer Service Charter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with regional partners and networks for greater impact through collective effort Explore flexible and innovative services Ensure community needs shape future service planning

Measures

- An increase in community satisfaction with Council's customer service
- An increase in community-led initiatives supported by Council
- An increase in community satisfaction with recreation and library services
- An increase in reported physical and mental health, community wellbeing and social connectedness
- An increase in volunteering opportunities taken up by the community
- A decrease in the percentage of adults who do no moderate physical activity
- Growing percentage of people who rate themselves as being in good or excellent health
- Increased number of cross-community events
- Total number of service reviews undertaken

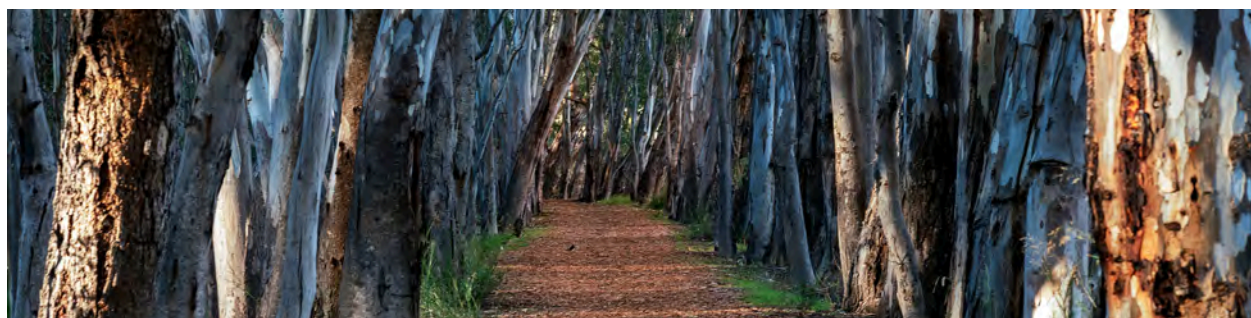


2 Built and Natural Environment

	Goal	Our Services	Supporting Plans	2025–2029 Priorities
2.1	We care for and connect with our natural environment. <i>We provide access to nature and manage it for current and future generations.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadside pest and weed management Parks and open space management Landcare (funded to 2026) Tourism Strategic Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Adaption Strategy Roadside Pests and Weeds Program Ecology Study (TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and promote walking and cycling trail networks Maintain and enhance recreational spaces Support environmental tourism and stewardship Manage wild animals and invasive weeds on Council owned and managed land to maintain ecological balance and protect local biodiversity
2.2	Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience. <i>We maintain infrastructure to a sustainable standard and plan for future community needs.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road maintenance, renewal and upgrades Public halls and buildings management Footpaths, kerbs and channels Downstream infrastructure is upgraded and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Management Plan Asset Management Plan Climate Adaption Strategy Development Contributions Plan (TBD) Masterplans for Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Jeparit Tennis Court / Caravan Park Precinct and Davis Park, Nhill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on maintenance that prioritises function for our farming network Invest in essential infrastructure that supports our townships and agricultural industries Plan for climate resilience and risk mitigation
2.3	We support development that enhances needs-based growth. <i>We work to ensure that housing and development in Hindmarsh meets our current and future community needs.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment attraction Buildings management Environmental Management Planning services Building services Achieve housing targets set-by state Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement Strategy (TBD) Structure Plans for each township (TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with developers, community stakeholders, and Traditional Owners to ensure inclusive, well-planned growth Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable, and affordable Invest in essential infrastructure upgrades to support new housing developments and population growth

Measures

- An increase in community satisfaction with roads and assets
- A decrease in % of roads requiring maintenance
- Increase in environmental tourism opportunities
- Faster planning approvals within statutory timeframes
- Number of meetings held with agricultural community per year
- Falling amount of waste to landfill per head from kerbside collections
- A decrease in complaints received relating to weed management and fire preparedness
- Decrease in illegal dumping of waste and asbestos
- Increase in innovative housing builds



3 Competitive and Innovative Economy

	Goal	Our Services	Supporting Plans	2025–2029 Priorities
3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow.	<p><i>We create conditions that help existing businesses to thrive and new ones to succeed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development and Tourism Business Assistance Grants Better Approvals Processes Statutory Planning Environmental Health Services Digital platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development Strategy Industrial Land Business Case (TBD) Destination Management Plans/Local Area Management Plans Environmental Health Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce red tape and simplify planning and business approval processes through engagement with current and future applicants Support local procurement and small business networks Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation
3.2 We attract investment that aligns with community values.	<p><i>We position Hindmarsh as a region of choice for industries that reflect our identity and increase employment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development and Tourism Visitor Economy Partnership Stakeholder partnerships Statutory and Strategic Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development Strategy Planning Scheme Structure Plans for each township (TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote regional strengths and investment readiness Explore joint ventures and development incentives Support development that reflects local character
3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.	<p><i>We build on the heritage of our region by developing talent, creativity and investment opportunities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development and Tourism Events and Community Activities Business support Asset Management – Yurunga Homestead and Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development Strategy Industrial Land Business Case (TBD) Destination Management Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be leaders in positive change that creates investment in the direction of our community Explore community social enterprise opportunities and philanthropy Foster industry collaboration and innovation Showcase our history to create rich visitor experiences

Measures

- An increase in the number of businesses and enterprises located in the Shire
- An increase in visitation rates
- An increase in the number of jobs within the Shire
- Decreased time taken for planning application outcomes
- Growing Gross Regional Product over time (REMPLAN)
- An increase in economic output from the Shire
- Increased number of local businesses on panels of suppliers and tendering for Council contracts
- Number of business networking sessions held
- Increase visitorship to Council tourism assets



4 Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

	Goal	Our Services	Supporting Plans	2025–2029 Priorities
4.1	We are a transparent and responsive organisation. <i>We keep our community informed and follow through on commitments.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters, e-news, local papers and social media communications Customer Action Requests Complaints management processes Community planning Governance and compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transparency Policy Customer Service Charter Complaints Handling Policy Community Engagement Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular updates on Council decisions and actions Improve follow-up systems and response times Share decision-making processes in plain language
4.2	We engage our community with respect and openness. <i>We listen well, follow up and value personal interaction.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Community Wellbeing Customer Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Policy Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy (TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity in staff and Councillors for engagement Be present at community events and spaces Use varied channels to reach diverse groups
4.3	We manage our resources responsibly and strategically. <i>We make the most of what we have and invest in what matters most.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and corporate planning Asset management planning Capital works planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term Financial Plan Procurement Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore revenue streams beyond rates Prioritise spending aligned with community goals Report clearly on how money is spent and what value it delivers

Measures

- An increase in community satisfaction with Council's engagement
- Decrease in the number of complaints lodged with Council relating to decision making
- An increase in meeting the response times within Customer Service Charter
- Increased engagement on Have Your Say Hindmarsh platform
- A balanced budget that is reported on quarterly
- Increased attendance at Council engagement events
- An increase in non-rates revenue ratios
- An increased number of publications relating to budgets, grants, project costs and how funding is used
















5 Our Advocacy Priorities

Priority	Focus Areas	
Sports and recreation reserves and facilities that meet community need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis Park precinct project completion • Lighting upgrades at high-use ovals • Masterplans for key sporting precincts 	
Improved and protected rail network and crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to the rail line for grain receipt and transport sites • Improved level crossings, including upgrading High Street, Dimboola, to improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles and be all-abilities friendly 	
Recreational water protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the Jeparit Weir • Commitment for water retention at Lake Hindmarsh and along the Wimmera River • Funding to enhance tourism opportunities at the Jeparit Weir Pool 	
Sustainable Local Government funding model that supports key infrastructure renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair allocation of Federal Assistance Grants and setting of the Rate Cap • Fair State Government levies • Grant co-contributions that Council can afford 	
Public amenities that support our diverse community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mecca all-abilities amenities • Changing Places facilities in key locations 	
Safer local roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced speed limits in central business districts and high pedestrian areas, like schools, that keep pedestrians safe • Increased funding for road maintenance and upgrades 	
Affordable and appropriate services for children and parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years centre at the Rainbow P-12 site • Childcare in Rainbow and Jeparit • Equitable access to education, pediatrics and other family services 	
Health and aged care services that are comprehensive and accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing local access to specialists and treatments that don't disadvantage the community through distance • Greater access to aged care and at-home support services 	
Communities that feel heard where state and federal decisions impact them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful engagement with communities around State levies and charges that are collected through Councils • Consultation with agricultural communities around the management of national parks that border farmland 	
A workforce that meets the needs of a growing region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with stakeholders about attracting and retaining skilled professionals in priority sectors • Contribute to the mapping of future workforce needs across industries • Promote the region as a place to live and work 	

Partnerships.

We know that the best outcomes for our community are a result of collaboration, teamwork and working with stakeholders, networks and other organisations in the Shire who serve the community. We've listed some of our partners throughout the region who will enable us to deliver on the outcomes in the Council Plan.

	Health Services	Council works with West Wimmera Health Service, Grampians Health, headspace, Grampians Community Health and other providers to promote, advocate and deliver public health and wellbeing services in Hindmarsh.
	Regional Councils	Hindmarsh partners with other regional Councils to collaborate on shared problems, identify mutual opportunities, deliver shared services and to save time and resources by sharing information, ideas and costs.
	Schools and Early Years Centres	Council's youth, libraries, supported playgroup and community wellbeing teams partner with schools and early years centres to design activities, spaces, programs and services that make Hindmarsh a brilliant place for young people to live, learn and have fun.
	State Government Departments	The State Government provides funding and support for key activities and projects, and also promotes regional development. We leverage our relationship with various State Government departments to advocate for the best outcomes for our community.
	Barengi Gadjin Land Council	Council works with Barengi Gadjin Land Council to protect and celebrate cultural heritage in our Shire, and support the self-determination, creativity and land custodianship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
	Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres	Council works with local neighbourhood houses and learning centres to promote adult education, social connection, upskilling and community building in both Rainbow and Nhill.
	Volunteer Organisations	Council both supports, and is strongly supported by, the work of volunteer groups and individuals in our community, who are the backbone to key community services, activities and events.
	Emergency Services	Council collaborates with local and regional emergency services to promote community resilience and preparedness, and response and recovery in emergency situations.
	Sporting Clubs	Council works with sporting clubs, enabling facility use through user agreements, facilitating grant applications for programs and infrastructure upgrades and ensuring that everyone in our community is included and has the opportunity to participate in sports.
	Businesses & Employees	Council works to encourage, support, elevate and promote businesses through the Shire that support locals, tourists and other key businesses and industries.
	Tertiary Education Providers	Council partners with tertiary education providers to promote opportunities for skill development in areas that the community needs most. We also work to provide workplace learning opportunities that develop locals into skilled professionals.
	Regulatory Bodies	Council partners with regulatory bodies, like the Environmental Protection Authority, to keep Hindmarsh a safe and healthy place for everyone to live.
	Water Managers	Council works with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, the State Government and Barengi Gadjin Land Council to manage environmental and recreational water in Hindmarsh.

Appendix 1: Our Municipality and Health Profile

Situated in the Wimmera region of Western Victoria, Hindmarsh Shire Council is the Local Government authority of the Hindmarsh municipality. We are governed by 6 elected Councillors from three wards- the North, West, and East wards.

Council takes pride in developing and strengthening our economic profile as well as the health, wellbeing, and safety of our community, for both residents and travellers. We are committed to using our resources and influence to make positive changes in the community and continue to support and celebrate the diversity of our landscape, opportunities and people.

We provide social, regulatory, infrastructure, development, tourism and an abundance of other services to residents and visitors to the region.

Hindmarsh Shire Council has two Directorates- Infrastructure Services (works and operations, assets and facilities management, regulatory services) and Corporate and Community Services (finance and customer service, governance and human services and community and economic development). Hindmarsh Shire Council has four Customer Service Centres and Libraries, located in Rainbow, Jeparit, Nhill and Dimboola.

Hindmarsh Shire has four main towns - Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. We are a closely linked community of approximately 5,698 people (2021 Census), with a median age of 50 years.

Hindmarsh Shire is rich in natural beauty such as the Wimmera River and Lake Hindmarsh, Pink Lake and Lake Albacutya. The economy is largely dependent on agriculture (primary and secondary), health services, manufacturing and retail. The median average weekly household income is \$1,159 with the median monthly mortgage repayments being \$750 and median rent \$180 per week.

50.1% of the population are male and 49.9% are female.

82.6% of people were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 86.0% of homes.

1.6% of Hindmarsh's population are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations being the recognised Traditional Owners of Country in the Wimmera region.



Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 213 people speaking Karen language at home. Hindmarsh is also home to a significant community of people who were born in Thailand and the Phillipines.

We work closely with our community to ensure that our Council Plan and Vision, alongside other community-based strategies, are reflective of the needs and aspirations of our diverse community. We are constantly working to ensure that all our activities increase opportunities for diversity, inclusion and access for all residents and visitors.

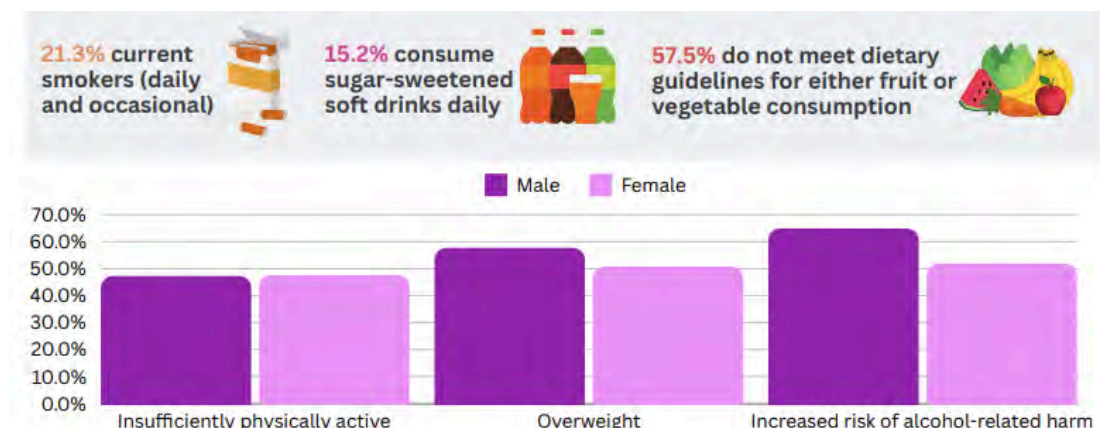


Health Profile

In 2023, West Wimmera Health Service published health profiles for areas within Hindmarsh Shire. Profiles were compiled with consideration of social determinants of health and the burden of disease. Findings are included below, but the full data set can be accessed via www.wwhs.net.au.

In Hindmarsh Shire:

- People have similar rates as the State for bowel and breast cancer screening participation, however lower rates for cervical screening participation
- The proportion of people ever having anxiety or depression is similar to the State
- The rate of females having anxiety or depression is higher than males, which is the same as the State
- Hospital admissions for preventable conditions is higher than the Australian average
- Police-recorded family incidents is similar to the State
- Children presenting with tooth decay at public services is slightly higher than the State
- There is a significant proportion of older adults who may have mobility issues or limited ability to participate in physical activity
- Most people work in the farming industry (especially grain farming) which due to the increase of machinery use has led to farmers being less active in their daily work
- Higher proportion of people live alone
- Significantly lower median income which can affect people's ability to access resources to support health and wellbeing, and can contribute to higher rates of unhealthy behaviours such as smoking



Source: West Wimmera Health Service, Community Health and Wellbeing Profiles – Jeparit, Nhill & Rainbow, 2023.

More information on gender-based health determinants has been compiled by Women's Health Grampians.

Health Profile – A Gender-based Lens

All evidence-based data below has been provided by Women's Health Grampians.

Mental Health

The impact of gender on mental health manifests in a multitude of ways. Gender stereotyping, inequality, sexual harassment, discrimination, sexualisation, gendered violence, economic disadvantage, women's disproportionate responsibility for unpaid caring and domestic work, and the marginalisation of women's health needs within the health and mental health service system all impact on mental health outcomes for women. Adverse childhood experience, in particular childhood emotional abuse, is also a significant risk factor for developing mental health disorders, and this risk is higher for women than men. Per 10,000 people, around 1,237 have a reported mental health condition in Hindmarsh, in comparison to around 829 men.



Tobacco

All people who smoke have an increased risk of developing cancers and heart disease, however women experience additional risks related to pregnancy, oral contraceptive use, and increased risk of cervical cancer. Hindmarsh currently has 17.8% of women and 17.9% of men who smoke.



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Sexual and reproductive health outcomes can impact all aspects of women's lives – finances, education, families and overall health. Access to comprehensive and timely services is fundamental for gender equality and women's participation in society. In Hindmarsh, there are 11 adolescent births per 1000 women, and in Hindmarsh, 2.5 early medical abortions per 1,000 women (half the national rate). There is also a shortfall of services for long-acting contraceptive based on local patient demand.



Healthy Eating

Societal, environmental and individual factors influence food availability and access for women, men and gender-diverse people. Overall diet quality among Australian men and women is poor. While Australian adult women (18–35 years) report having higher overall diet quality than males for the frequency of consumption and variety of fruit, vegetables, vegetarian protein sources, breads and cereals in their diets, the barriers to food access and availability differ. In Hindmarsh 38.3% of women and 34.4% of men met daily fruit intake guidelines, with 50.8% and 57.7% of men respectively being obese or pre-obese.



Active Living

Women's participation in physical activity is impacted by both gender expectations and biological factors. Women face numerous barriers to being physically active including: caring responsibilities; body image issues; fear of judgement; perceptions of safety; and lack of sporting facilities tailored to women. In Australia, 46.9% of adults describe their day as mostly sitting (sedentary); with males aged 18–64 years more likely than females to report mostly heavy labour or physically demanding work (19.4% compared to 6.8%). In Hindmarsh, 47.5% of women and 50.8% of men met daily physical activity guidelines, with only 55.2% of women, compared to 93.2% of men, feeling safe walking alone at night.



Appendix 2: Health and Wellbeing Priorities

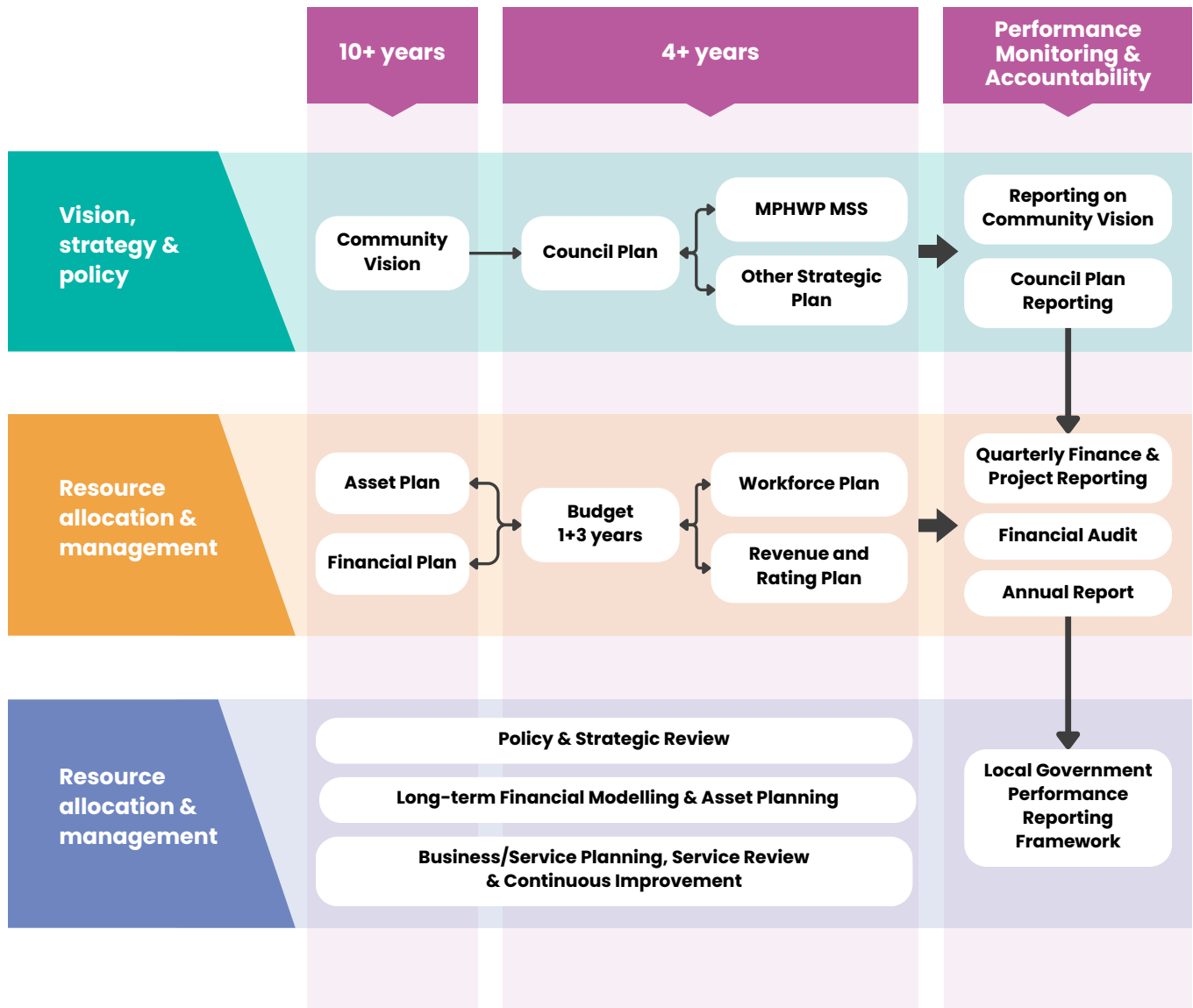
The health and wellbeing priorities captured in our Council Plan are detailed and expanded in the table below.

Priority	Objectives
Gender equality and the prevention of family violence	Develop and implement a comprehensive, community-wide approach to the prevention of family, sexual and gender-based violence across Hindmarsh. This approach will involve collaboration between Local Government, community organizations, service providers and residents to create a culture of safety, equality and inclusion. The goal is to ensure that every community member and visitor—regardless of their age, gender, cultural background, or personal circumstances—is treated with respect, dignity and fairness. By fostering awareness, promoting respectful relationships and supporting early intervention, Hindmarsh can become a model of a safe and inclusive community for all.
Tackling climate change and impacts on health	Enhance community resilience to the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change through inclusive, locally driven initiatives that build capacity, connection and preparedness.
Physical Activity	Ensure people of all ages have access to inclusive, affordable and safe opportunities to be active within their local community. Encourage greater use of active transport, such as walking and cycling, for local movement. Promote the natural environment, parks and open spaces as welcoming places for everyone to engage in physical activity.
Social Inclusion and Connection	To foster an inclusive community in Hindmarsh where individuals feel a sense of belonging and are connected to people, places, resources, opportunities and services that empower them to learn, work, participate and have their voices heard.
Food	Ensure everyone in Hindmarsh Shire has access to fresh, healthy, safe, affordable and culturally appropriate food, close to home. Increase education and awareness about healthy eating to help more people meet vegetable and fruit consumption guidelines, while actively supporting and promoting local food growing and swapping initiatives.



Appendix 3: Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The integrated planning and reporting framework (IPRF) for local governments in Victoria is a systematic approach to strategic planning, budgeting and reporting, ensuring that legislated plans are aligned and transparent, and that Council actions contribute to community aspirations. It emphasises the interconnectedness of our activities and their impact on community outcomes.



Appendix 4: Service Mapping







Main Office:
92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418

Phone: 03 5391 4444

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Postal Address:
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

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Feedback Form

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

03 May 2024 - 01 June 2025

PROJECT NAME:

Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools Post-Season Review



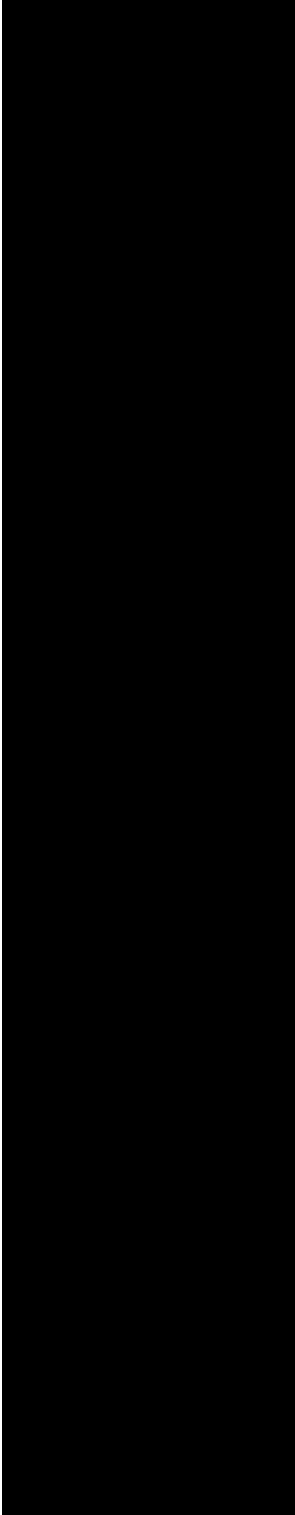
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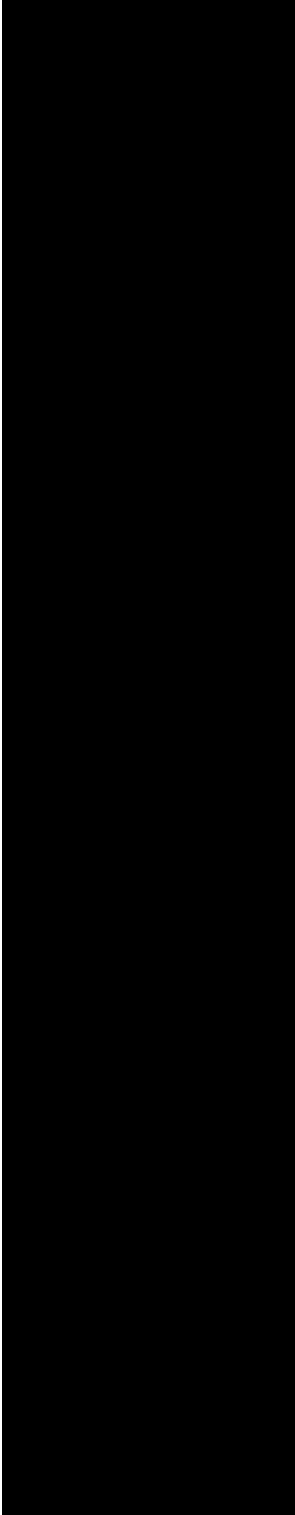


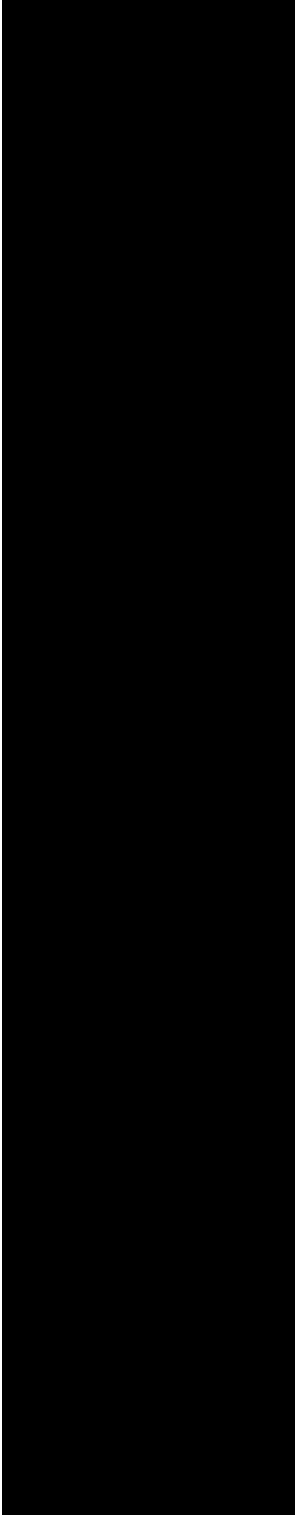
SURVEY QUESTIONS

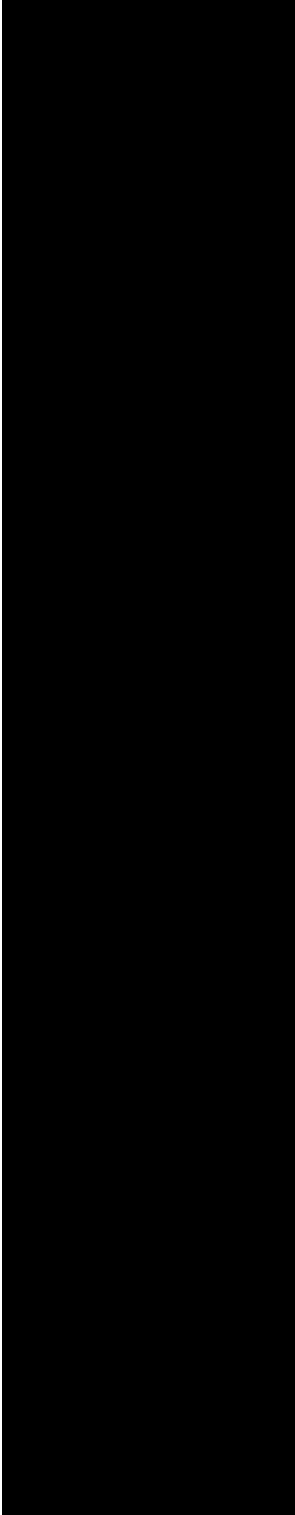
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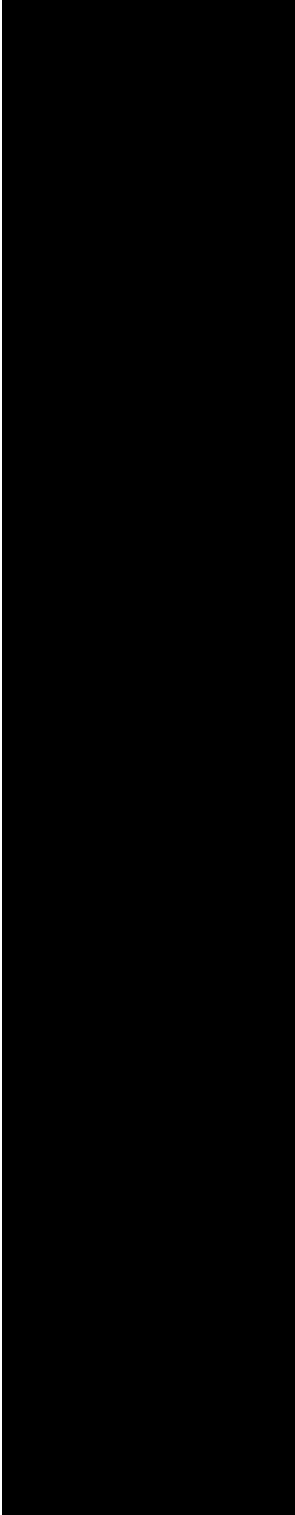
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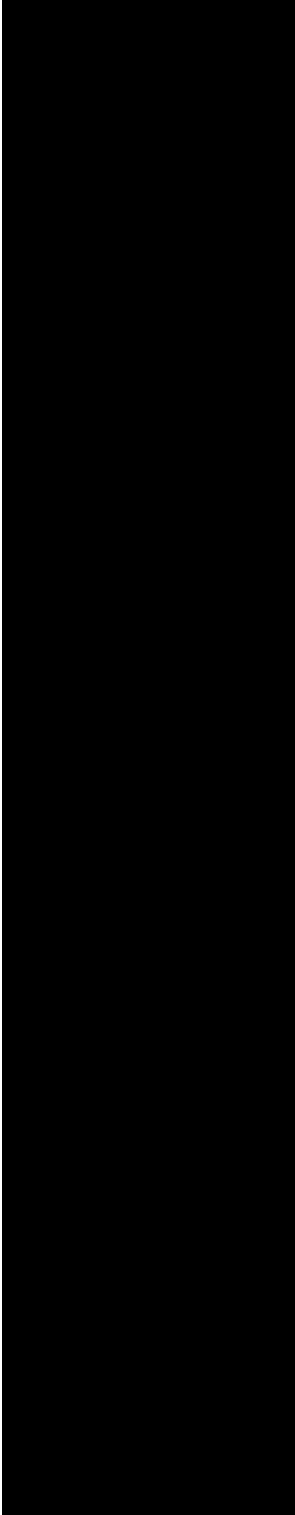
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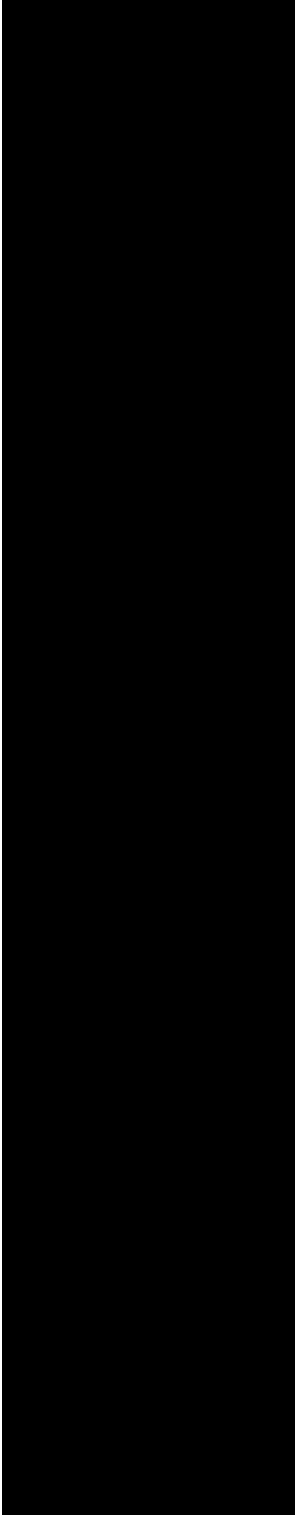
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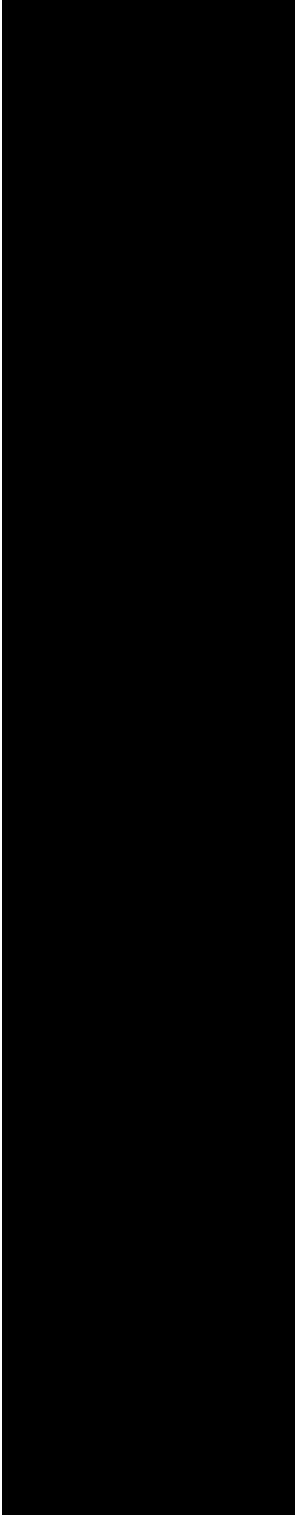
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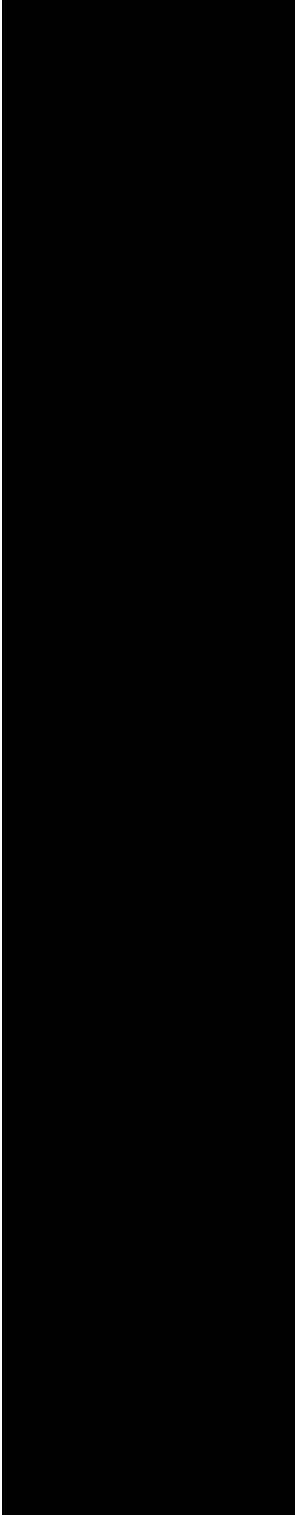
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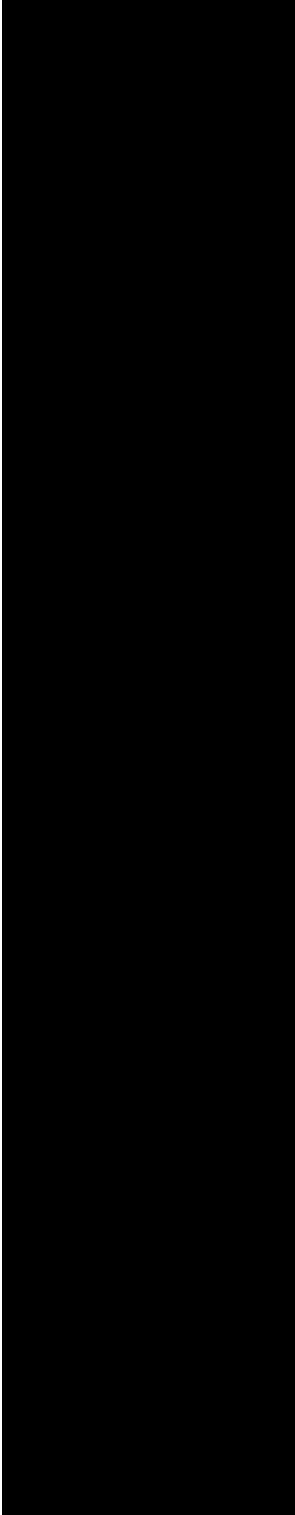
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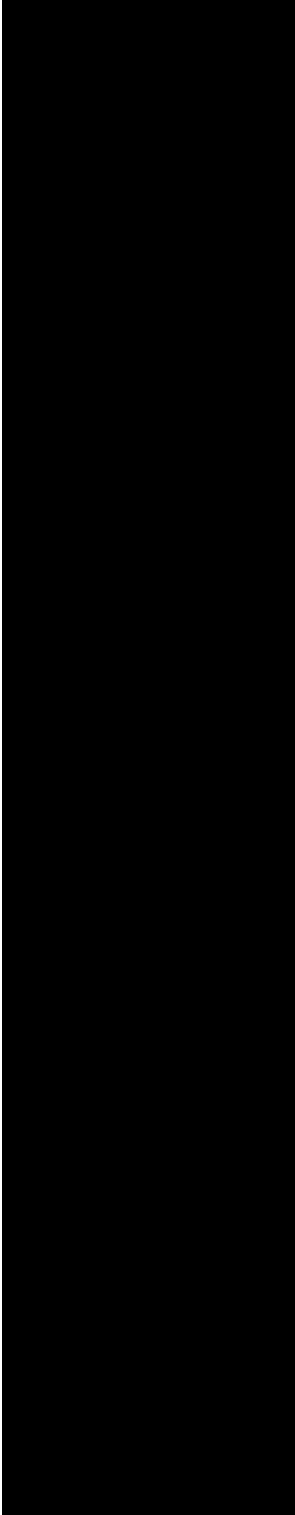
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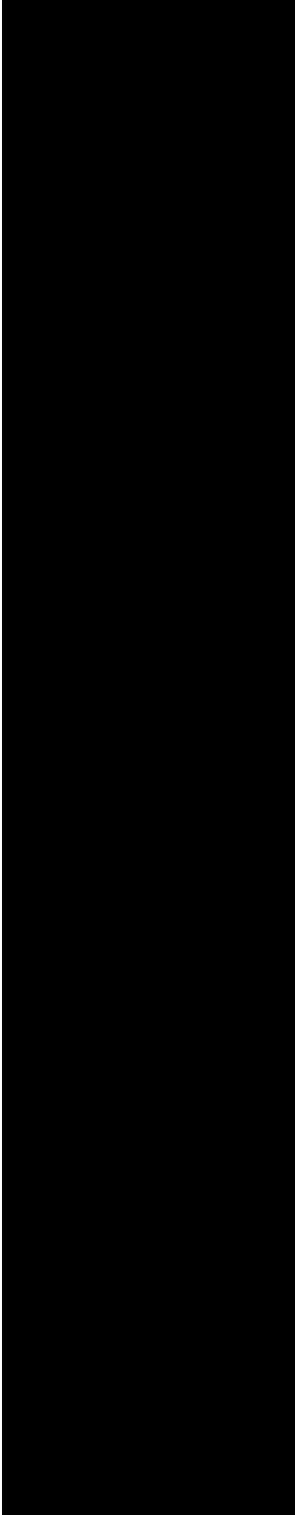
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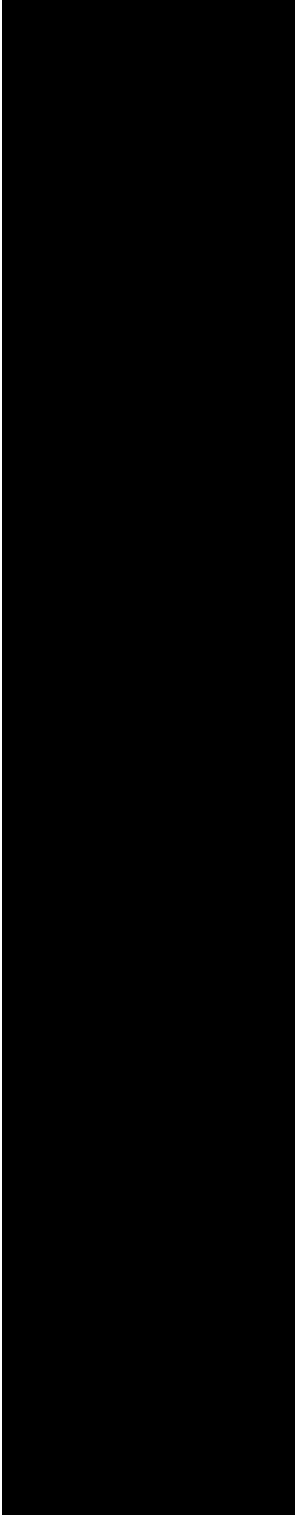
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Anonymous	
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Anonymous	
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Anonymous	
5/02/2025 09:29 AM	

Anonymous	
5/02/2025 10:13 AM	

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Anonymous
5/02/2025 10:17 AM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 12:08 PM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 12:56 PM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 04:43 PM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 06:10 PM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 06:33 PM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 08:25 PM

Anonymous
5/02/2025 08:47 PM

Anonymous
5/03/2025 07:50 PM

Anonymous
5/03/2025 09:21 PM

Anonymous
5/03/2025 11:40 PM

Anonymous
5/04/2025 09:20 AM

Anonymous
5/06/2025 05:00 PM

Anonymous

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

5/07/2025 08:07 AM

Anonymous

5/08/2025 07:17 AM

Anonymous

5/12/2025 08:32 PM

Anonymous

5/12/2025 09:47 PM

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:31 PM

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:32 PM

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:55 PM

Anonymous

5/17/2025 04:57 PM

Anonymous

5/21/2025 11:01 PM

Anonymous

5/26/2025 04:35 PM

Anonymous

5/27/2025 10:26 AM

Anonymous

5/27/2025 09:12 PM

Anonymous

5/27/2025 10:42 PM

Anonymous

5/28/2025 09:28 PM

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Anonymous

5/29/2025 06:56 AM

Anonymous

5/30/2025 08:25 AM

Mandatory Question (42 response(s))

Question type: Single Line Question

Q2 | Email address:

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:26 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:28 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:35 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:44 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:06 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:12 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:15 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:17 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:19 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:27 AM

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:34 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 09:29 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 10:13 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 10:17 AM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 12:08 PM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 12:56 PM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 04:43 PM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 06:10 PM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 06:33 PM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:25 PM

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:47 PM

Anonymous

5/03/2025 07:50 PM

Anonymous

5/03/2025 09:21 PM

Anonymous

5/03/2025 11:40 PM

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Anonymous

5/04/2025 09:20 AM

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:00 PM

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:07 AM

Anonymous

5/08/2025 07:17 AM

Anonymous

5/12/2025 08:32 PM

Anonymous

5/12/2025 09:47 PM

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:31 PM

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:32 PM

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:55 PM

Anonymous

5/17/2025 04:57 PM

Anonymous

5/21/2025 11:01 PM

Anonymous

5/26/2025 04:35 PM

Anonymous

5/27/2025 10:26 AM

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5/27/2025 09:12 PM

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

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5/27/2025 10:42 PM

Anonymous

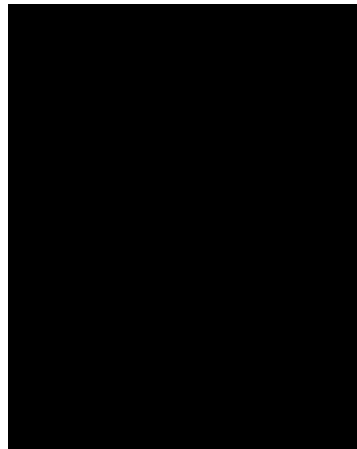
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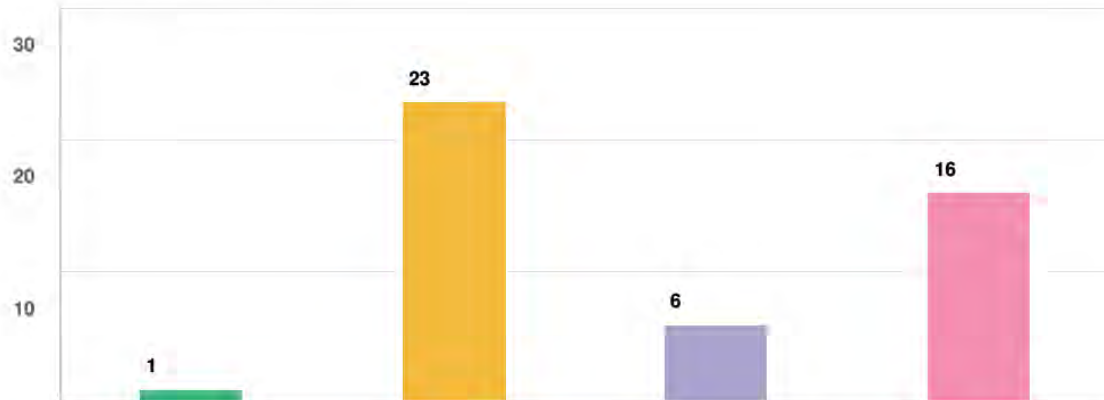


Mandatory Question (42 response(s))

Question type: Email Question

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Q3 Select your local pool:



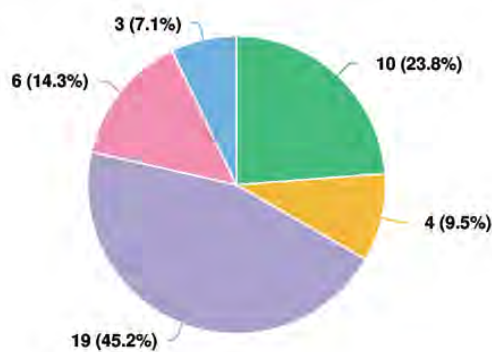
Question options

Jeparit Nhill Rainbow Dimboola

Mandatory Question (42 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 Pool usage:



Question options

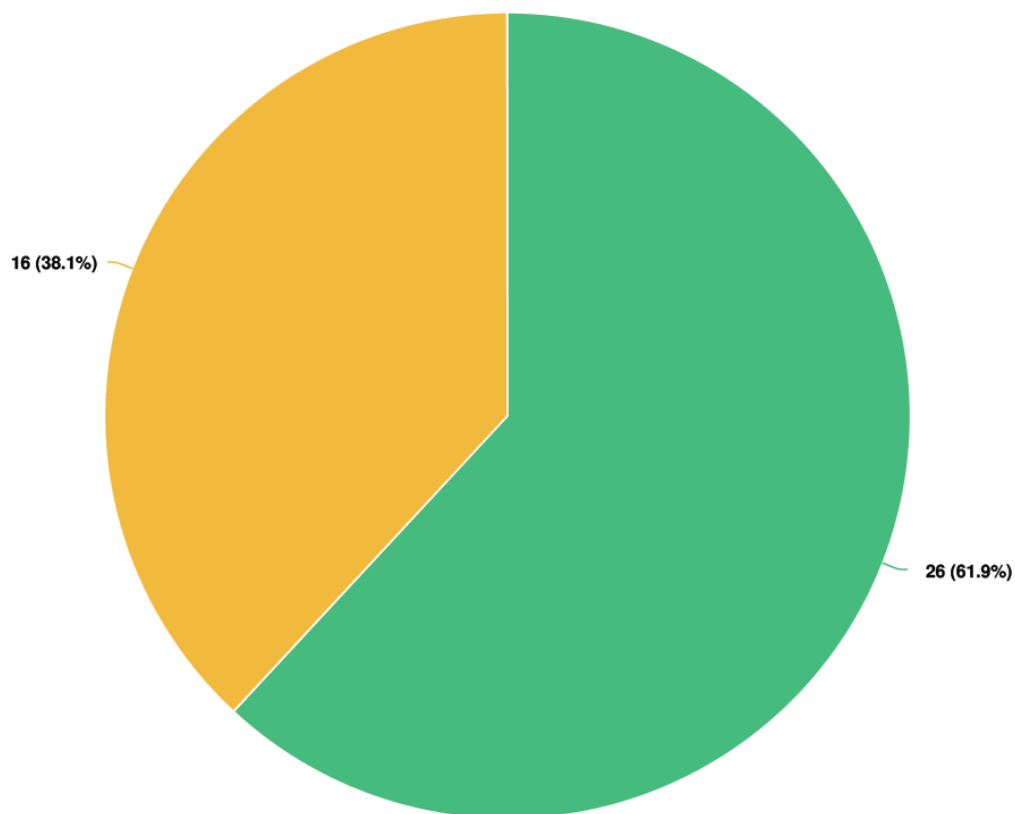
Single (regular use) Single (ad-hoc use) Family (regular use) Family (ad-hoc use)
Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (42 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Q5 Do you support the proposed changes?



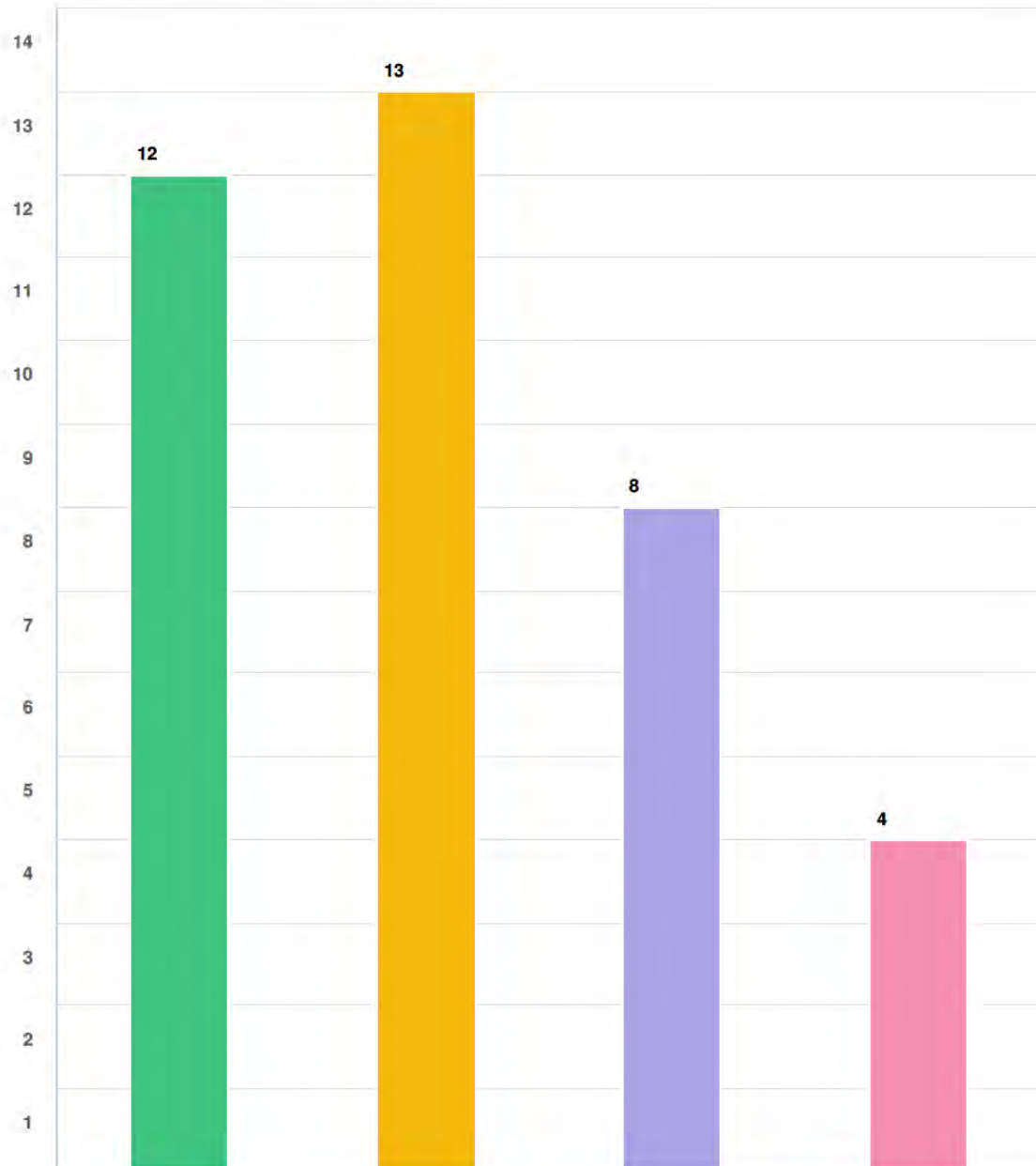
Question options

Yes No

Mandatory Question (42 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Q6 Which changes don't you support?



Question options

Weekday closure day Opening hours changes Minimum opening temperature Hot weather hours extension

Optional question (16 response(s), 26 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Q7 | Do you have any further comments on the proposed changes?

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:26 AM

I would prefer to see the weekday opening time be 3pm so I have time to be in the pool before the kids get there.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:35 AM

Also increase the age where children need to have an adult present. To many times we left early or decided not to enter as seen the same group of early teenagers there (ages 12-15) creating issues, misbehaving, not being mindful of lap swimmers nor littler kids (ie even would jump out of big pool and bomb in the littler pool), bullying fellow college students and distracting the younger lifeguards.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 07:44 AM

New changes sound good, it was a very cold season last summer so I feel the numbers may have been effected by that but if we have the ability to extend the hours when hot and being used i think the changes will be good. Not related to the survey but I feel not having a canteen was a disadvantage last season.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:12 AM

Some shade over the big pool in Dimboola would be great.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:17 AM

Suggestion if you are wanting to sell food again. Maybe ask the community to volunteer so lifeguards can focus on the patrons that are swimming

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:27 AM

Just wondering if although pools are closed to the public on a certain day for after school hours, are schools still able to use the pool for swimming lessons/PE programs during the day as a private session? Thank you

Anonymous

5/02/2025 09:29 AM

This last summer there has been a group of elderly ladies who have regularly attended the pool as a form of exercise and companionship. It's been very beneficial to our health and wellbeing.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 06:10 PM

I understand that keeping pools open 7/7s is expensive to staff & maintain and accept a closure day will assist.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 06:33 PM

Thank you for providing this service for the community. I think that the proposed changes are a great idea. I hope that the community makes the most of the service you have provided and express their

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

appreciation.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:25 PM

If the hot weather continues and is continually over a high temperature extend the length ie weeks the pool season is open. This yr the pool closed and we were still having temps in the 30s and it wasn't safe to swim in the river after the fires

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:47 PM

Love that the pools are now council operated and greatly appreciate that the are now free. This means on hot days I can pop in for a swim a couple of times through the day.

Anonymous

5/03/2025 11:40 PM

Please provide more longer hours so family members and children will enjoy swimming longer.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:00 PM

From a guest perspective, I think there was only a few handfuls of people that wish it opened earlier. That being said I think it worked for most.

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:32 PM

My only big recommendation would be for the weekends/ holidays when it's really hot i.e. 40c day, with the pool opening at 2pm it was really hot already. It would be helpful to have it open say around 11am whilst still very hot (usually mid 30s by then on those days), I prefer not having myself/ young kids out at 40c.

Optional question (14 response(s), 28 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q8 Please provide more information about why you don't support the proposed change/s, including what alternative changes you think should be made:

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:06 AM

While I am supportive of a closure day in principle, it would be good for there to be a concession where the pool could open on days of high temperatures, particularly during the school holidays.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:15 AM

As it is its not ideal for genuine lap swimmers, which is why I suspect more people dont swim laps. Id rather see an attempt to introduce a '1000 lap challenge' like Kaniva does, to encourage more lap swimmers to participate. Genuine lap swimmers don't care if the temp is below 25, we just want to be able to swim. I swam 3200 laps of the

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Nhill pool this season, and the BEST days where when it was below 25 as there were less kids jumping in the water in front of me, and cutting across the lanes. I do understand I am a minority, and its not worth opening 'just for me', but i can only speak for myself. Still, I'd rather see efforts to encourage more people to swim regularly than efforts made to stop it. Same with a closure day, what if it happens to fall on the best swimming day of the week? Shortening hours rather than promoting the use of the facility simply signals the beginning of the end. The pool may as well belong to the School. As it is we have to wait for the kids to be out of school before the pool opens and we can swim our laps.

Anonymous

5/02/2025 08:34 AM

Nhill aquatic Centre was already closed too much. It's not friendly for people that are working full-time. It certainly doesn't need to be closed more than it is now. We have to also consider holiday makers and travellers.. Nhill doesn't have another option like the Wimmera river in Jeparit and Dimboola. Nhill has the most population in the Shire. The Nhill aquatic centre needs to cater more to the diverse population that we have. You cannot treat all the pools the same as the towns are not all the same. The largest town in our Shire needs to have the pool open every day and longer when it's hot. This needs to be encouraged, not discouraged. To attract more people have multicultural swimming events, adult swimming events, all ability events. There are people in our community that don't swim and don't feel comfortable taking their children.. the free pool is a wonderful thing, maybe you could look at finding funding through multicultural or all abilities, Wind farms etc Most of your staff have been fabulous but some have made people feel like they don't want to be there. Staff education in this matter would be good. I understand that it's hard to find staff, but you don't want people that don't want to be there. Last suggestion would be a Community working group for each town. I'd be happy to help with gardening and event planning at Nhill. Give the Community some ownership..

Anonymous

5/02/2025 10:17 AM

The later hours allow for finishing work at 5:30, getting home then back to the pool for laps. I support the hours if lap swimmers are okay to swim outside of the hours

Anonymous

5/02/2025 12:08 PM

If the minimum had been 25° last year the pools would be closed for more than a week in November. Over summer people are often not thinking about going to the pool, particularly on very hot days until later in the day. I'd rather take the kids swimming in the evening than at 2-3pm.

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:07 AM

As patronage is weather dependent, chances are it would always be hot on a Monday. Use the weekly forecast as the guide to set opening hours for the week?

Anonymous

5/08/2025 07:17 AM

I'd like to see it open every day until at least 6:30pm. Could shut earlier Sundays. I'd also like to see another lap lane in place.

Anonymous

5/12/2025 08:32 PM

We go to the pool after 6pm because the UV index is less. And it's after work hours. We do lap swimming and the kids swim in the small pools. We go most days. I think the pool should be open until late every day. Put more effort into employing adequate staff to cover the shifts. And the times should be advertised so people know if the pool will be open late or not. It's very frustrating to drive into town for a swim and find a locked gate.

Anonymous

5/12/2025 09:47 PM

There should be no weekday closures as there are already enough cooler summer days when it is closed - at Dim the past season there were a lot of times 3 staff were on and 2 sat in canteen area. Suggest shorter hours (ie 330-630 weekdays and 2 to 6 weekends)

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:31 PM

The pool needs to be open longer hours, not reduced. The sun is still up when the pool closes and particularly on very hot days, it would be nice to go for an after dark swim. Morning swim/before work hours would be a great option as well!

Anonymous

5/17/2025 04:57 PM

Like to swim laps when the UV is not so intense. Usually take about an hour when I come which was between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Perhaps the pool could open at 4 pm and close at 6:30 pm. Appreciate why the pool would be closed one day a week.

Anonymous

5/21/2025 11:01 PM

6 pm closing is far too early for people who want to do daily exercise after work. (Not all users are School Children) What do regular patrons do for exercise on the day the Pool is closed. We are supposed to be encouraging exercise. Not curtailing it.

Anonymous

5/26/2025 04:35 PM

Like to see it open earlier for older people before kids get out school

Anonymous

5/27/2025 10:42 PM

You need to be open all week to ensure we can use

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Anonymous
5/29/2025 06:56 AM

My kids and I everyday, regardless of temp. I use the pool as a change of exercise for the summer.

Anonymous
5/30/2025 08:25 AM

The changes are limiting the availability of the pool for the community to use. The pool should be open until at least 7pm everyday, not just school holidays to allow people that are working time to access it. In regard to hot weather hours extension, something that has worked well in the past has been making the decision at 5pm (if the temperature at the Nhill Airport weather station is 30 degrees at 5pm then the pool stays open until 8.30 regardless of how many people are in the pool) then people can plan their visit to the pool knowing they will not be met with a locked gate. It also allows people to swim when the UV index is lower.

Mandatory Question (16 response(s))
Question type: Essay Question

Q9 Do you have any other feedback or comments about the pool season?

Anonymous
5/02/2025 09:29 AM

Just that the Dimboola pool has been a real bonus to the locals and visitors alike. The pool was always clean, and the staff were extremely pleasant.

Anonymous
5/02/2025 10:13 AM

Need the canteen back.

Anonymous
5/02/2025 10:17 AM

Lap swimming earlier in the morning or later in the evening

Anonymous
5/02/2025 04:43 PM

Dimboola pool should have a slide or something more for the kids!
Would be great to see!

Anonymous
5/02/2025 06:10 PM

Thank you for providing such a wonderful service to our community.

Anonymous
5/02/2025 08:25 PM

It was wonderful being free and dimi pool staff are lovely

Anonymous
5/02/2025 08:47 PM

Keep up the great work and thanks to the staff and volunteer life guards.

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Anonymous

5/03/2025 07:50 PM

I had grown very disappointed with the Rainbow pool in the past few years (cold water, corella feathers everywhere, leaves and bugs in the pool, dead grass) but this year I was really pleased with how it was maintained and managed. The water was always clean and warm and the surrounding were well looked after. The lifeguards did a great job and were very attentive. Thank you for the free entry scheme as well. Congratulations Hindmarsh and thank you.

Anonymous

5/03/2025 09:21 PM

That staff are not payed as much as they are it is well above the minimum wage.

Anonymous

5/03/2025 11:40 PM

N/A

Anonymous

5/04/2025 09:20 AM

Having a bit more of a canteen selection again would be good

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:00 PM

no

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:07 AM

I think it would help add to atmosphere if there was music.

Anonymous

5/12/2025 08:32 PM

Anonymous

5/12/2025 09:47 PM

Canteen was sorely missed Pool temp was great Facilities clean Lawn needed more regular mowing Pool water clean Need more activities (aerobics ect)

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:31 PM

Really valued the free pool season! The pool was generally fairly clean and the staff were very friendly.

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:32 PM

We enjoyed the times we went. Maybe some pool toys clearly labelled, sometimes they pulled them out but we were unsure if they were private toys or toys for the public to use as they weren't labelled.

Anonymous

5/16/2025 06:55 PM

I think making the pool free removed a lot of barriers for families - especially for low income families or those who dont have adequate

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

cooling in their homes. Also a safe place for kids who would rather not be home for whatever reason.

Anonymous

5/17/2025 04:57 PM

The operation of the pool was great. The staff were all friendly. The pool water was very clean, the temp very pleasant and the grounds in good order. I realise the facility is old but it is such a valuable asset in what it looking like a very dry upcoming season. Thanks for operating this public facility. I plan to swim more as an older person. Would be great if there was a water aerobics class offered a few times at each pool to encourage more adults to use the pool.

Anonymous

5/21/2025 11:01 PM

Open later and close later in the season. You are currently opening far to early before the weather has settled down with consistent warmer days.

Anonymous

5/26/2025 04:35 PM

Please think of older people, a lot would love to use the pool before kids get out school, kids don't care of older people

Anonymous

5/27/2025 10:26 AM

I think the proposed changes make seance for the usage of the pool. I would love to see some day lap swimming available. As a mum if we attend the pool after school or on weekends/holidays I am supervising my kids which means I don't get a chance to swim myself. I would love to see a time even once a week where the pool is open during school/kindergarten hours so mums can come and exercise without the kids. Keeping the pools slightly heated is also great. I believe they were a little warmer this year. And in the past we have had a few "pool parties" there was one summer 23/24 where there was a DJ and lions bbq, that was a great night and the kids had a ball, I'm unaware if one happened this last summer. But I would encourage nights like that

Anonymous

5/27/2025 09:12 PM

Have you considered opening a day or 2 a week DURING school hours? I feel like the elderly, and the younger kids would really take advantage of that. As a mum of 4, I would LOVE to have been able to take my littlies, who aren't in school or kinder, to go for a morning swim while siblings aren't there and the atmosphere is a bit calmer than having all school kids there.

Anonymous

5/30/2025 08:25 AM

Is there a reason why this feedback form has changed during the feedback response time?

Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 01 June 2025

Optional question (23 response(s), 19 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Hindmarsh Shire Council Council Plan 2021-2025 and Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 & Action Plan 2024/2025

Review



Council Plan Review 2021-2025

Blue items are *ongoing advocacy actions*.

Theme 1 : Our Community		
Objective	What we are going to do	Status
A community well informed and engaged	Use a broad range of communication and engagement techniques with information accessible in different languages	Delivered
	Redevelopment of Council's website to allow for easier navigation	Delivered
	Continue to engage with the community through Council-Community Conversations to provide an alternative avenue of engagement, consultation and promotion	Delivered
	Support and celebrate our volunteers	Delivered
	Provide opportunities for our LGBTIQ+ community to inform Council on barriers to accessing council services and facilities	Delivered
	Support local community organisations through the Community Action Grants Program	Delivered
Communities that feel safe and are resilient	Work with key stakeholders to develop and implement plans and policies that assist our communities to prepare and recovery from emergencies and natural disasters	Delivered
Provide arts and cultural activities that strengthen social connection	Facilitate and support arts, music, and cultural community events, celebrations and activities to build social connection.	Delivered
	Support significant days and events important to our multicultural community	Delivered
A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community	Further develop and provide library services to facilitate a range of activities for residents	Delivered
	Continue to support and facilitate Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council including the development and implementation of a Youth Strategy	Delivered
	Provide infrastructure and support to early years services within Hindmarsh	Delivered
	Advocate for a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages	Ongoing
	Advocate and lobby for improved mental health services for all ages in our community	Ongoing
Support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and	Provide Home and Community Care Services to enable our aged and vulnerable community to retain independence to remain in their homes for longer	Delivered until services ceased in 2023/2024
	Facilitate a range of events and activities to engage and support our elderly community	Delivered
A range of transport options	Advocate for improved public transport services, including the return of passenger rail to the Wimmera	Delivered



	Provide transport options for school holiday activities to ensure no student is disadvantaged	Delivered
Assist our Community to recover from COVID-19	Support a range of events and activities within Hindmarsh to bring communities back together	Delivered
A diverse community	Support and encourage refugee or migrants to relocate and invest in Hindmarsh	Delivered
	Provide opportunities for our Karen and all other multicultural communities to inform Council on barriers to accessing council services and facilities	Delivered
Recognise, respect and support Traditional Owners	Acknowledge and preserve Aboriginal values and culture through partnerships, land management practices and understanding in order to deliver positive outcomes	Delivered
	Consider our Indigenous heritage when planning for new community facilities, projects or spaces	Delivered
Digital connectivity to support learning and work	Promote the strength of digital connectivity in the Shire	Delivered
	Advocate for improved mobile phone coverage, including a telecommunications tower west of Rainbow	Ongoing
Theme 2 : Built and Natural Environment		
Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs	Maintain the condition of our existing local road network prioritising capital works investment into renewal on roads and road related infrastructure.	Delivered
	Upgrade parks and open spaces as funding stream are available, including lighting for increased night time use, safety and security.	Delivered
	Completion and installation of the pathways hierarchy and pathways expansion program to provide inclusive footpaths and kerbing.	Delivered
	Regularly review Council's asset management plans, and update the Assets Register	Delivered (Assetic Upgrade to be completed in 2025/2026)
	Advocate for the continuation of State and Federal Government funding to support the maintenance and upgrades of Council's extensive road network and infrastructure needs.	Ongoing
	Develop master plans for all Recreation Reserves, multi-use facilities and active outdoor open spaces.	Partially Delivered
	Develop and implement a strategic roads strategy to support agriculture and communities	RMP Adopted and Reviewed in 2025/2026
Environmentally sustainable practices	Implement a range of environmentally sustainable practices throughout the Shire including solar/wind powered infrastructure and water efficient appliances	Delivered
	Encourage the community to implement waste minimisation and management strategies through education and promotion	Delivered


	Continuous improvement of our waste management and transfer stations through upgrades and establishment of rural collection points for increased recycling use and waste services, including transition to a new waste strategy	Delivered
Attractive streetscapes	Maintain attractive streetscapes, open spaces, and public places	Delivered
	Encourage and support residents and ratepayers to maintain the cleanliness and good order of their properties.	Delivered
	Continue to replace and increase green space with regular tree planting in accordance with Council's adopted tree strategy and sustainable watering systems	Delivered
Theme 3 : Competitive and Innovate Economy		
Facilitating and supporting economic development	Review and implement Council's Economic Development Strategy	Delivered
	Facilitate business networking sessions and showcasing Hindmarsh businesses	Delivered
	Provide support to Hindmarsh businesses through buy local campaigns, Council purchasing locally and promote business assistance grants	Delivered
	Advocate for affordable and available rental accommodation through the Wimmera Development Association regional housing taskforce	Ongoing
	Actively participate in the Wimmera Development Association and Rural Councils Victoria	Delivered
	Review and update Council's town planning scheme to allow for urban and commercial development	Delivered
Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation	Promote Hindmarsh Shire as a destination of choice by increasing and improving tourism signage to encourage people to stop, stay and play in Hindmarsh Shire.	Delivered
	Develop master plans for all Council owned and operated caravan parks and seek funding to support the implementation of actions and upgrades including cabin accommodation	Delivered
	Establish camping facilities along the Wimmera River Discovery Trail phase 1 and advocate for funding for the completion of the whole trail	Delivered
	Online bookings and payment options available for Hindmarsh Shire managed caravan parks	Delivered
	Support community initiatives such as markets, pop up shops and appropriate events / activities	Delivered
Theme 4 : Good Governance and Financial Sustainability		
Strong governance practices	Ensure compliance with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	Delivered (Ongoing)
	Continue online streaming of Council meetings to uphold the principles of public transparency and accessibility	Delivered



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

Council Plan Action Plan 2024/2025 Review

Theme One – Our Community




Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Continue to implement and develop effective communication methods to ensure the community is engaged and informed about Council projects, plans and services, including e-news and newsletters, advertisements and media releases, website development and social media.	<p>We have continued producing monthly and quarterly newsletters and fortnightly e-newsletters. In total, 39 fortnightly, monthly and quarterly newsletters were circulated.</p> <p>In 2024/2025, we published over 1,035 Facebook posts across all Council managed pages, with reach of 124,000+ on the main Hindmarsh Shire Council page, and 223,000+ across all pages. We gained 520 followers on the main Hindmarsh Shire Council Facebook page</p> <p>122 media releases were published and circulated, keeping the community informed about Council decisions, projects and services.</p>	Delivered
Deliver community safety and education initiatives around Council's Local Laws as well as Fire Prevention and animal management.	<p>Local Laws communications plan developed for 2025 calendar year, tying with key enforcement periods, including the animal registration renewal period and fire danger period.</p> <p>This action will continue into the future, as actions form part of the revised Domestic Animal Management Plan.</p>	Ongoing
Continue to provide programs and services that promote the health and social engagement of our ageing community, including seniors concert and social connection activities, with a focus on ensuring activities are inclusive and accessible.	<p>Classic movies in each of the four towns were screened this year through funding from FRRR. The Council-funded Classic Movies also continued in Nhill, with 38 movies being screened in total across all cinema services (youth, early years, open).</p> <p>Concerts were held in all towns in June for Seniors, with fantastic feedback from the community and more than 270 total attendees.</p>  	Delivered


Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Support and coordinate the Volunteer Taxi Service in Nhill.	This service continued to be offered, with one new volunteer coming on board in the final quarter of the year. A review of this service is underway.	Delivered
Develop a Sports and Recreation Strategy to support sports infrastructure, sports organisations and active living in Hindmarsh Shire.	The Sports and Recreation Strategy project plan and engagement strategy have been developed, with the development timeline now extended into the 2025/2026 financial year. As Council is developing numerous strategies and plans in line with legislative requirements throughout 2025, it was determined that delaying this Strategy would enable alignment with the Council Plan 2025-2029 and ensure various Council engagements are spaced out to encourage community participation and engagement.	Delayed
Facilitate delivery of infrastructure projects in partnership with the Department of Education to provide four-year-old kinder services as of 2025 in Nhill and Dimboola.	Nhill and Dimboola Kindergartens completed and operational from day one of Term 1 2025. 	Delivered
Continue to advocate for after school care and an increase in childcare in Hindmarsh Shire.	Advocacy was undertaken in year for support of By-Five's funding extension, including communications and a letter to the Minister. Additional work has been undertaken between Council and By-Five, and local Federal and State representatives to increase childcare opportunities throughout the Shire, pushing for policy reform that broadens the ability for centres to operate in rural and regional areas.	Ongoing
Continue to deliver Council's youth program, including delivery of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy, school holidays activities and the Youth Council.	School Holidays programs were held in July, September/October and April 2025 with over 1,237 attendees throughout the year. Activities ranged from cinema screenings, physics, craft, yoga, tiny goats, sports and karaoke!	Delivered


Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
		
Support significant days/weeks for groups represented within the Shire, including International Day of People with a Disability and Harmony Day.	<p>Events to promote Harmony Day, and Cultural Diversity Week have been held in 2024/2025 along with celebrations around International Women's Day and Men's Health Week.</p> 	Delivered
Deliver service and document reviews, events, activities, and statements that promote reconciliation and advance the objectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the community.	<p>A Reconciliation Action Plan is in its final form, with adoption delayed due to Council elections. This will be revisited after the adopted of the Council Plan.</p> <p>NAIDOC Week was celebrated in July 2024 with an Art Exhibition in Dimboola.</p> <p>An interview with Tracey Rigney was published as part of Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day celebrations.</p>	Delivered
Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh	<p>Learning and development opportunities delivered as part of school holidays programs for young people, and in partnership with local Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres, including budgeting basics scheduled for early 2025/2026.</p>	Delivered

Theme Two – Built & Natural Environment

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Commence construction at Davis Park, Nhill, on the AFL compliant changerooms with undercover seating.	<p>The changerooms and tiered seating are well-underway, with construction has experienced slight delays with the completion of the concrete tiered seating area. This should be completed over the next 5-6 weeks and the project completed by the end of the first quarter 2025/2026.</p>	Delivered (to be completed in 2025/2026)


Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
	 <p>Davis Park Grandstand and Changerooms</p>	
Complete Nhill Aerodrome upgrades including drainage and pavement works.	<p>Completed in early 2024/2025.</p> 	Delivered
Continue to advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit.	Funding secured for feasibility study through CMA. A consultant has been engaged to undertake feasibility study.	Delivered (Ongoing)
Seek funding to install solar on Council buildings and halls.	Council is waiting for funding opportunities but has prepared proposals for Council's 5 highest power use buildings ready to submit with applications.	Delayed
Develop and implement an up-to-date Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.	<p>Onsite wastewater management plan was adopted in August 2024.</p> <p>https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Resources/Plans-and-Strategies/Onsite-Wastewater-Management-Plan</p>	Delivered
Explore funding options for installation of solar heating at the Dimboola Swimming Pool.	<p>Solar heating was installed at Dimboola Swimming Pool in time for the opening of the 2024/2025 swimming season.</p> 	Delivered

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Consider options for delivery of Weeds, Pest and Plant program following the changes to the Landcare network in the region.	This program is complete for 2024/2025. 116 Kms of road ripped for rabbit control and 174km of road treated for weed control.	Delivered
Adopt a Climate Adaption Strategy that supports community resilience, risk mitigation and reduced negative environmental impact within the Shire.	The Climate Adaption Strategy was adopted by Council on 28 August 2024.	Delivered
Increased building and planning enforcement activity to protect Council's environment.	This is progressed on an ongoing basis when the need arises. Having Manager of Planning and Environment and Planner position filled internally means that enforcement capability will keep increasing.	Ongoing
Facilitate Hindmarsh Heavy Transport and Freight Working Group.	The first meeting was held in June 2025, with the next meeting scheduled for September 2025.	Delivered
Successful delivery of Council's Capital Works program as contained within the 2024-2025 Hindmarsh Shire Council Budget.	Four projects have not commenced either due to lack of sufficient budget or lack of approval from other agencies. Two major projects are progressing due to them being multiyear projects. Some of the plant and fleet items are yet to be delivered but procurement has been finalised. Overall, it has been a good year. 	Delayed
Sealed road construction works on Dimboola Minyip Road (subject to funding).	Complete.	Delivered
Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee and Wimmera Regional Transport Group.	Director Infrastructure Services and Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay, represented Hindmarsh on the committee.	Delivered
Implement Assetic Cloud as an effective Asset Management software system, improving the financial efficacy, sustainability and usability of our asset management functions.	Data migration complete. Implementation of maintenance management system to commence in 2025/2026.	Delivered
Install recycling and glass collection bins in main	Complete.	Delivered

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
street in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.		
Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season.	Completed in September 2024.	Delivered
Work closely with conservation partners including the Wimmera CMA to educate the community on land management and conservation strategies.	Council worked closely with conservation partners including the Wimmera CMA to educate the community on land management and conservation strategies.	Delivered
Continued implementation of the Nhill Streetscape Plan.	Works have commenced to complete stage two of the project and expected to be completed in early 2025/26.	Delivered
Seek funding to upgrade Rainbow Public Amenities and install new all-abilities amenities and ramp into MECCA Supper Room.	Council continues to advocate for funding for this project and prepare plans to best position Council should a funding opportunity become available. This project was included in Council's Advocacy work leading up to the 2025 Federal Election.	Ongoing
Continue development and implementation of the Hindmarsh Playground Strategy.	The Playground Strategy is scheduled to be presented to Council in draft form in 2025.	Delayed
Complete construction of new Mechanics workshop at Jeparit Depot.	Construction completed.	Delivered
Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas.	Lighting posts included as part of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan Implementation at Centenary Park. Council will continue to seek additional opportunities to improve public lighting.	Ongoing


Theme Three – Competitive and Innovative Economy

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Participate in the Visitor Economy Partnership and commence development of Destination Management	Ongoing work with GWMT for regional marketing underway. Council staff and GWMT team attended caravan and camping show, also had representation (brochures/banner) at Grand Prix, and Ballarat camping show.	Delivered

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Plans and industry development activities.		
Continue delivery of Silo Art project at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow.	<p>The Silo Tower sections have arrived onsite, and cladding completed. Electrical upgrades for the elevator have been completed including installation of a new Mains board. Artist has been appointed to undertake Art Activation once construction allows. Tower will be erected early in first quarter of 2025/2026.</p> 	Delivered (to be completed in 2025/2026)
Deliver a Business Assistance Grants program responsive to the changing economic interests within the Shire.	2024/2025 Business Assistance Grants program fully expended.	Delivered
Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, play and stay.	Continued promotion of Hindmarsh as a tourism stopover.	Delivered
Host quarterly business networking sessions in Hindmarsh for businesses to come together, network and learn.	The second business networking session was cancelled due to low number of responses. Economic Development and Tourism staff will survey to work out what support businesses are looking for from Council.	Partially Delivered
Undertake a review of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme.	The review was adopted by Council at the meeting on the 5th of March 2025.	Delivered
Seek funding for continued development of Hindmarsh Shire Caravan Parks and implement upgrades to the Nhill Caravan Park as contained in the Nhill Caravan Park Masterplan.	Funding secured through the Regional Tourism Investment Fund for cabins at the Nhill Holiday Park.	Delivered
Commence implementation planning for Council's Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028.	Shopfront business list compiled with home-based business contact information currently being collected. Relationship development has been strong focus, as well as improving internal processes relating to business development and support. Industrial land project business case under development.	Delivered
Provide financial and in-kind support to regional community events held in	2024/2025 Regional Events Grants Program not fully subscribed. Council has requested more thorough reporting for attendance	Delivered

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Hindmarsh that increase economic benefit.	and financial benefits to inform improved design of events and grants processes.	
Actively seek funding to upgrade key freight routes for our agricultural economy.	Application submitted for Dimboola Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Rd under Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program. Secured funding for pedestrian crossing under TAC grant. Working with TAC to deliver \$2M Safer Local Roads and Streets Program.	Delivered

Theme Four – Good Governance & Financial Sustainability

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Deliver proactive activities aimed at encouraging candidature for the 2024 Council elections, including the MAV Stand for Council Program.	Completed in Q1-2. 	Delivered
Prepare for, and deliver, a compliant caretaker and election period for the 2024 Local Council Elections.	Completed in Q1-2.	Delivered
Review existing, and develop new, Councillor induction processes (including a training program) to facilitate compliant and effective transition into a new Council period.	Completed in Q1-2.	Delivered
Review and adopt critical Council policies as per Council's policy review cycle.	In 2024/2025, Council adopted the Councillor Expense Entitlements Policy, Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy, Councillor Gifts and Hospitality Policy and Advisory Committee Policy.	Delivered
Further develop and maintain a panel of preferred suppliers for critical services areas to ensure the efficiency of Council business.	Tendering opening for Panel of Approval Suppliers – Goods and Services in early July 2025.	Delivered
Continue to promote transparency and accessibility of Council meetings through streaming meetings online and including closed captioning where possible.	Technical issues experienced throughout 2024/2025 were rectified with new equipment, with Council taking all reasonable measures to ensure that meetings are livestreamed.	Delivered

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
Continue to consider trainee, apprenticeship, and work placement opportunities to providing bringing pathways to employment at Council.	Council has supported staff to train on-the-job through the Learning and Development Policy, including cadetships and structured workplace learning.	Delivered
Develop a guide to assist the community and to provide clarity on the process of public Council meetings and how to participate.	This will be completed in 2025/2026.	Delayed
Implement the Community Engagement Policy and provide appropriate consultation and engagement methods for policies, projects and plans.	Significant consultations have been delivered in this 2024/2025 including CEO drop-in sessions, Listening Posts, targeted engagement for the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the 2025/2026 Council Budget, including a deliberative panel.	Delivered
Develop and integrate organisation-wide framework for managing all complaints relating to Council's functions and services and framework for monitoring success of complaints management processes.	Complaints training and guidance documents produced and circulated to staff. Complaints Handling Policy under review and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee. Customer Relationship Management System planned for implementation in 2025/2026.	Delayed
Update Council's Long Term Financial Plan.	The long-term financial plan is to be prepared in conjunction with the 2025/2026 budget and will be presented to Council in June 2025.	Delivered
Continue implementation of Gender Equality Action Plan.	A gender equity lens is applied to the development of all internal and external programs, policies and procedures that have a direct and significant impact on the community. The results of Council's performance against the gender equality indicators has been published.	Delivered
Continue to collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council and Loddon Shire Council to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project.	Collaboration formalised through an extended MOU that will enable delivery of a Standard Operating Environment program through 2025/2026. Considerable shared work has been undertaken with upgrading our Financial Management System and creating payroll and accounting efficiencies. Online timesheets and community engagement will be rolled out when they become available through the software supplier. Standard Operating Environment and CRM system implementation project plans under development for 2025 implementation.	Delivered
Maintain the Business Continuity Plan as an active document, ensuring that it is responsive to changing risk environments.	Business Continuity Plan updated annually, provided to the Audit and Risk Committee for endorsement in September 2024.	Delivered
Enhance the organisations information, communications and technology (ICT) capabilities and systems,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Email Phishing Campaigns initiated to regularly test users' ability to recognise potentially malicious emails and record statistics on 	Delivered

Action Item	Q3 Update	Progress
including strengthening our cyber-security capability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Physical Firewall Infrastructure Capabilities with a plan to update and replace existing hardware with higher capacity equipment to ensure not drop in system capabilities. Additional Physical Firewalls added to external/remote sites to increase the security and capacity for users at each site. Removing reliance on end user-based VPN connectivity Review and Changes to password policy to add complexity and decrease the frequency of required changes to be more in line with current best practices. 	
Deliver actions within the Hindmarsh Shire Council Cultural Audit to improve the accessibility of Council services and the diversity of our workforce.	Key documents continue to be translated into Karen. Inclusive photo gallery in process for use in Council communications. Access, Equity and Priority Policy to be developed and adopted in 2025/2026.	Delivered
Engage local sporting clubs in the development and implementation of the Fair Access components of the Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation and Use Policy.	Council engaged with Sporting Clubs in Q1 to inform the Fair Access Policy Action Plan. Sports and Recreation Strategy scheduled for development in 2025 – this will involve additional engagement and incorporation of Fair Access Action Plan objectives.	Delivered
Undertake review of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Workforce Plan.	Council has engaged a facilitator to consult with staff and develop the Workforce Plan in line with legislative timelines.	Delivered



Hindmarsh Shire Council



Road Management Plan 2025-2029

Version 1.1

Review history 2013 to 2025

Issue	Date	Details	By
Draft			
No. 4	21/10/2004	Draft Road Management Plan issued for public comment	ADTS
No. 5	01/12/2004	Road Management Plan adopted by Council	ADTS
No. 6	20/04/2009	Draft 2009 Road Management Plan issued for public comment	ADA
No. 7 - Final	19/05/2009	Road Management Plan adopted by Council	ADA
No.1	30/3/2016	Draft Road Management Plan issued for public comment	AM
No.2	25/01/2017	Draft Road Management Plan issued for Council endorsement prior to public consultation	AM
Final	17/05/2017	Road Management Plan approved by Council	AM
No.1	09/06/2021	Draft Road Management Plan issued for Council endorsement prior to public consultation	DE
Final	04/08/2021	Road Management Plan approved by Council	DIS
Version 1.0	14/05/2025	Road management plan draft for community consultation	DIS
Version 1.1	23/05/2025	Road Management Plan adopted by Council	DIS

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Definitions

The Act	Refers to Road Management Act 2004
Arterial Road	means a road which is declared to be an arterial road under section 14 of the Road Management Act 2004.
Co-ordinating road authority	The organisation which has the responsibility to co-ordinate works. Generally, if the road is a freeway or arterial road, this will be Head Transport for Victoria. Generally, if the road is a municipal road, this will be Council.
Council	Refers to the Hindmarsh Shire Council
Demarcation agreement	A formal agreement between Council and another organisation that defines areas of responsibility.
Motor vehicle	Refers to a vehicle that is propelled by an in-built motor and is intended to be used on a roadway. This does not include a motorised wheelchair or mobility scooter which is incapable of travelling at a speed greater than 10 km/h and is solely used for the conveyance of an injured or disabled person.
Municipal road(s)	means any road which is not a State road, including any road which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) is a road referred to in section 205 of the Local Government Act 1989; or (b) is a road declared by VicRoads to be a municipal road under section 14(1) (b) of the RMA; (c) is part of a Crown land reserve under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 and has the relevant municipal council as the committee of management.
Non-road infrastructure	Refers to infrastructure in, on, under or over a road, which is not road infrastructure. This includes (but is not limited to) such items as gas pipes, water and sewerage pipes, cables, electricity poles and cables, tram wires, rail infrastructure, bus shelters, public telephones, mailboxes, roadside furniture and fences erected by utilities, or providers of public transport.
Other roads	Include roads in state forests and reserves, and roads on private property. Municipal councils are not responsible for the inspection, repair or maintenance of these roads.
Pathway	Refers to a footpath, bicycle path, shared path or other area that is constructed or developed by Council for members of the public (not motor vehicles) to use.
Plan	Refers to this Road Management Plan.
Public Road	As defined by the Road Management Act 2004 and includes a freeway, an arterial road, a municipal road declared under section 14(1) of the Act and a road in respect of which Council has made a decision that it is reasonably required for general public use and is included on the Register of Public Roads.
Road	Has the same meaning as in the Road Management Act 2004, being inclusive of any public highway, any ancillary area and any land declared to be a road under section 11 of that Act or forming part of a public highway or ancillary area.
Road infrastructure	means the infrastructure which forms part of a roadway, pathway or shoulder, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) structures forming part of the roadway, pathway or shoulder; (ii) materials from which a roadway, pathway or shoulder is made;

Road-related infrastructure	Refers to infrastructure installed or constructed by the relevant road authority to either facilitate the operation or use of the roadway or pathway, or support or protect the roadway or pathway.
Road Reserve	Refers to the area of land that is within the boundaries of a road. Example: any nature strip, forest, bushland, grassland or landscaped area within the road reserve would be roadside.
Roadside	Refers to any land that is within the boundaries of the road (other than shoulders) which is not a roadway or pathway. This includes land on which any vehicle crossing or pathway, which connects from a roadway or pathway on a road to other land, has been constructed. Example: any nature strip, forest, bushland, grassland or landscaped area within the road reserve would be roadside
Roadway	Refers to the area of a public road that is open to, or used by, the public, and has been developed by a road authority for the driving or riding of motor vehicles. This does not include a driveway providing access to a public road, or other road, from adjoining land.
Shoulder	Refers to the cleared area, whether constructed or not, that adjoins a roadway to provide clearance between the roadway and roadside. This does not refer to any area that is not in the road reserve.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

This Road Management Plan describes how Hindmarsh Shire Council manages its road and related assets in accordance with the requirements of the Road Management Act 2004 (the Act), and associated Regulations and Codes of Practice. The Plan is applicable to road and road related infrastructure, as defined under the Act, for which Council is responsible.

The Act was introduced to establish a statutory framework for the management of the road network to facilitate the coordination of the various uses of road reserves for roadways, pathways, infrastructure and similar purposes.

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this Road Management Plan is to establish a management system for Council to inspect, maintain and repair its public roads based on policy and operational objectives having regard to available resources.

The key elements of the Road Management Plan include:

- definition of Council's maintenance responsibilities on various infrastructure.
- the management system that Council employs for the inspection, maintenance and repair of its roads.
- inspection standards that document the nature and frequency of different type of inspections (i.e. reactive and proactive).
- maintenance standards that document intervention levels, maintenance response requirements, and maintenance response times.

For the avoidance of doubt, this Plan is a road management plan for the purposes of s.39 of the Road Management Act 2004.

1.3. Legislation guiding this Plan

In addition to the Road Management Act 2004, the plan also considers the following Acts, regulations and codes of practice:

- Local Government Act 2020
- Ministerial Codes of Practice
- Road Management (General) Regulations 2016
- Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) Regulations 2015
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Wrongs Act 1958.

1.4. Scope

The provisions of this Road Management Plan apply to those public roads listed in the Register of Public Roads for which Hindmarsh Shire Council is the coordinating road

authority, and roads or parts of roads¹ that Council maintain under agreement with another road authority.

This plan applies to road infrastructure including.

- Roadways (refer to Act definition)
- Pathways (footpath and shared paths)
- Shoulders
- Bridges and culverts
- Road related infrastructure (refer to the definition in Act)
- Line marking
- Safety barriers
- Ancillary areas

This Plan does not apply to non-road infrastructure and non-Council owned assets. This includes assets related to water, telecommunications, gas, electricity and railway functions which is the responsibility of other authorities. The exclusion also applies to any bridge or culvert over a water supply channel, sewer or drain, other than a bridge or culvert owned by Council.

1.5. Review of the Plan

This Plan must be reviewed within a set period following a Council election. Outside of this cycle, changes may be required from time to time.

The following process will be used to manage these changes:

- If material changes are made to standards and specifications, a report will be presented to Council, along with a brief explanation as to why such changes are necessary. The review process must follow the steps as set out in the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 Part 3 – Road Management Plans.
- When changes do not alter these technical aspects of road management, changes will be approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

1.6. Exceptional Circumstances

Council will make every effort to meet its commitments under its Plan.

However, there may be situations or circumstances that affect Council's business activities to the extent that it cannot deliver on the service levels of the Plan. These include but are not limited to natural disasters, such as fires, floods, or storms, or a prolonged labour or resource shortage, due to a need to commit or redeploy Council staff and/or equipment elsewhere or due to the effects of pandemic and or government intervention.

1.6.1. Suspension of the Plan

In the event that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Council has considered the impact of such an event on the limited financial resources of Council and its other conflicting

¹ In accordance with the Code of Practice – Operational Responsibility for Public Roads – 2017, Council utilises some of the arterial roadsides within the urban boundary as parking lanes. Those parking lanes are maintained by the Council as per this plan.

priorities, and determined that the Plan cannot be met, then pursuant to Section 83 of the Wrongs Act 1958, the CEO will write to Council's Officer in charge of the Plan and inform them that some, or all, of the timeframes and responses in Council's Plan are to be suspended.

1.6.2. Reinstatement of the Plan

Once the scope of the event/s have been determined, and the resources committed to the event response have been identified, then there will be an ongoing consultation between Council's CEO and Council's Officer responsible for the Plan, to determine which parts of Council's Plan are to be reactivated and when.

1.6.3. Communication and documentation around Plan suspension

Council will provide information/statements to residents about the suspension or reduction of the services under its Plan, including:

- How the work that will be done has been prioritised; and
- The period for which it is likely to be affected.

This information will be provided by the Council on its website where its Plan is located and other channels as appropriate such as press releases or social media.

Where Council has suspended, in part or whole, its Plan, associated documents (e.g. communications, meeting minutes, schedules, etc.) will be recorded and stored.

1.6.4. Inspections and repairs during suspension of Plan

The suspension of the Plan will not necessarily mean that all inspections and repairs halt. However, it may mean that only certain categories of inspections and repairs are undertaken. These will be based on a risk assessment and resources available to the Council, taking into account the resources needed to address the impact of the trigger event. For example, some reactive inspections may take place and repair (temporary or permanent) of roads/footpaths which pose a high risk may be undertaken, depending on the resources available to the council and the accessibility of each asset.

1.7. Responsibility for the Plan

Overall responsibility for administering and implementing the Plan rests with the Manager of Works and Operations

2. Rights and Responsibilities

2.1 Public Roads

Public roads are defined in the Road Management Act 2004 as including:

- a freeway
- an arterial road
- a road declared under section 204(1) of the Local Government Act 1989
- a municipal road declared under section 14(1) of the Road Management Act 2004
- a road in respect of which Council has made a decision that it is reasonably required for general public use and is included on the Register of Public Roads.

2.2 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders impacted by this Plan include:

- the general community (for recreation, sport, leisure and business)
- residents and businesses adjoining the road network
- pedestrians
- vehicle users with motorised vehicles, such as trucks, buses, commercial vehicles, cars and motorcycles
- users of smaller, lightweight vehicles, such as pedal-powered bicycles, motorised buggies, wheelchairs, prams and so on
- tourists and visitors to the area
- emergency agencies (Victoria Police, Country Fire Authority, Ambulance Victoria, State Emergency Services)
- the military (in times of conflict and emergency)
- traffic and transportation managers
- managers of the road network asset
- construction and maintenance personnel, who build and maintain asset components
- utility agencies using the road reserve for infrastructure (water, sewerage, gas, electricity, telecommunications)
- state and federal governments, who periodically provide funding for roads.

2.3 Coordinating & Responsible Road Authority

Section 35 of the Road Management Act 2004 provides that a road authority has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions under the Act.

Section 36 of the Road Management Act 2004 outlines which road authority is the coordinating road authority. According to subsection (c), the coordinating road authority is:

If the road is a municipal road, the municipal council of the municipal district in which the road or part of the road is situated.

However, there are instances where several authorities are responsible for components of the road within the road reserve. Section 37 of the Road Management Act 2004 identifies who is the responsible road authority in particular circumstances.

2.4 General Functions of a Road Authority

The general functions of a road authority are described within Section 34 of the Road Management Act 2004.

A road authority has the following general functions—

- to provide and maintain, as part of a network of roads, roads for use by the community served by the road authority.
- to manage the use of roads having regard to the principle that the primary purpose of a road is for use by members of the public, and that other uses are to be managed in a manner which minimises any adverse effect on the safe and efficient operation of the road and on the environment.
- to manage traffic on roads in a manner that enhances the safe and efficient operation of roads.
- to coordinate the installation of infrastructure on roads and the conduct of other works in such a way as to minimise, as far as is reasonably practicable, adverse impacts on the provision of utility services.
- to undertake works and activities above.

In seeking to achieve its functions, a road authority should—

- consult with the community and disseminate information in relation to the exercise of those functions.
- take steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure the structural integrity and safety of public roads in accordance with the Act.

2.5 Rights of the Road User

The rights of public road users, which are legally enforceable, are set out in Sections 8 to 10 of the Road Management Act 2004.

2.6 Obligations of Road Users

2.6.1. General Usage

The common law requires that a road user must take reasonable care for their own safety (see *Ghantous v Hawkesbury City Council*)

The *Road Safety Act 1986* sets out obligations on road users, including section 17A which requires that a person who drives a motor vehicle on, or uses, a highway must drive in a safe manner have regard for all relevant factors, including without limiting their generality, the following:

- (a) physical characteristics of the road
- (b) prevailing weather conditions
- (c) level of visibility
- (d) the condition of any vehicle the person is driving or riding on the highway
- (e) prevailing traffic conditions
- (f) the relevant road laws and advisory signs
- (g) the physical and mental condition of the driver or road user.

Section 17A of the *Road Safety Act 1986* also requires that a road user must take reasonable care:

- (a) to avoid any conduct that may endanger the safety or welfare of other road users.
- (b) to avoid any conduct that may damage road infrastructure and non-road infrastructure on the road reserve.
- (c) to avoid conduct that may harm the environment of the road reserve.

2.6.2. Incident Claims

If a person proposes to make a claim in relation to a public road or infrastructure for which Council is the responsible road authority, that person should contact Council and Council will initiate respective investigation and insurance reporting processes.

In accordance with Section 110 of the Road Management Act 2004, Council is not legally liable for property damages where the value of the damage is equal to or less than the threshold amount.

In cases where the claim relates to assets Council does not own or is not responsible for on the road reserve, the person who proposes to make a claim must refer the claim to the other authority or person responsible for those assets.

2.6.3. Permits for work within a road reserve

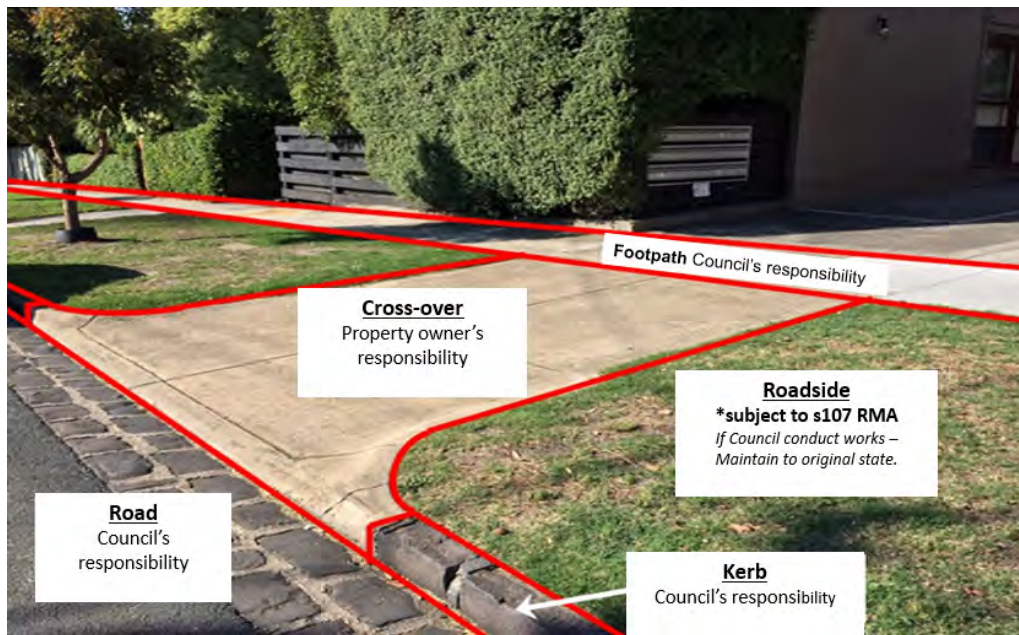
In cases where an individual or organisation proposes to carry out works within the road reserve that may impede public access, or interfere with road infrastructure, they must apply for a 'works within road reserve' permit. There are some exemptions, as noted in the Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) Regulations 2015.

A fee is applicable to cover the costs of the administration and inspection of the work.

2.6.4. Obligation of others

There are several assets within the road reserve that we do not have an obligation to inspect and/or maintain. These include:

- **Non-road infrastructure** – This includes (but is not limited to) such items as gas pipes, water and sewerage pipes, cables, electricity poles and cables, tram wires, rail infrastructure, bus shelters, public telephones, mailboxes, roadside furniture and fences erected by utilities, or providers of public transport.
- **Vehicle driveways** – the vehicle crossing (including Cross-over), located between the carriageway and the property boundary, must be maintained by the adjoining property owner. However, Council is responsible for the portion of the driveway where the constructed pathway is reasonably required by the public in accordance with the following diagram.

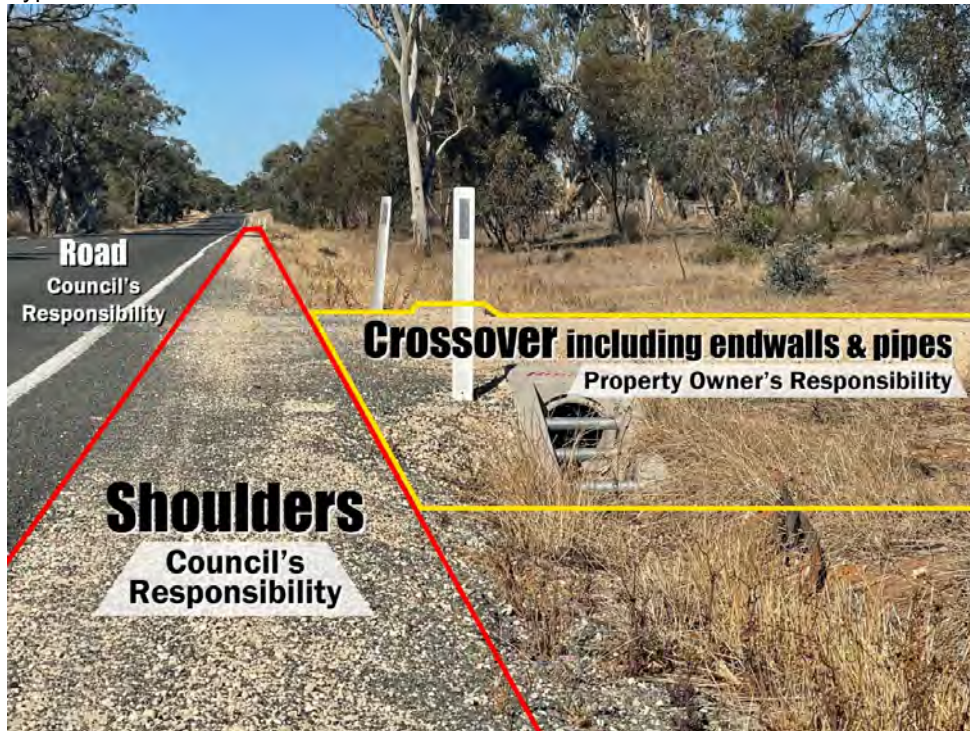


- **Single property stormwater drains** – for drains constructed within the reserve that carry water from a single property to an outlet in the kerb, or other drain.
- **Utilities** – including, but not limited to, telecommunication, power, water, gas and rail authority assets.
- **Roadside** – as per Section 107 of the Road Management Act, Council has no “*statutory duty or a common law duty to perform road management functions in respect of a public highway which is not a public road or to maintain, inspect or repair the roadside*”, described as “*any land that is within the boundaries of the road (other than shoulders) which is not a roadway or pathway*”. This includes landscaped tree plots within the footpath/pathway where the surface of the tree plot is not constructed with the intention of providing a trafficable pedestrian surface.

In the rural area, the typical crossover may consist of a crushed rock pavement, or sealed pavement, often including a reinforced concrete pipe or culvert and should include drivable endwalls. All elements are the responsibility of the landowner, including general maintenance and cleaning of the pipe.

Roadside maintenance in rural areas where the speed zone is 100 kilometres per hour is the responsibility of the road authority. If landowners wish to do works in the road reserve, they should contact Council to arrange appropriate approvals.

Typical rural crossover



Section 107 of the Road Management Act 2004 provides that Council is under no statutory duty to inspect, maintain or repair private vehicle crossings (driveways) and pathways on road reserves that provide access to land adjoining a road. This responsibility rests with the adjoining landowner.

Vehicle crossovers on Council roads must comply with Council's specifications and standards. Landowners must obtain a Consent to Works within Road Reserves permit (CWWRR) and comply with permit conditions and Council specifications when constructing vehicle crossovers.

Proposed new or altered cross overs to properties adjoining Arterial Roads (RZ1) require a Planning Permit under the Planning and Environment Act 1986 before any works can commence.

Where Council becomes aware of a hazard created by the defective condition of assets / infrastructure owned by another party, Council may at its absolute discretion:

- If located within assets / infrastructure for which Council is responsible (e.g. footpaths, road surfaces, etc.), or otherwise presents an immediate and significant risk to members of the public, undertake temporary measures to reduce the risk to members of the public until such time as the respective owner can implement permanent repairs (subject also to Council's available resources),
- Report in writing (e.g. email or letter) the presence of the hazard to the responsible party and request that repairs be implemented within a reasonable timeframe.

- Where repairs are not completed by the responsible party within the respective timeframe, Council may complete necessary repairs and invoice the responsible party for the costs.

However, where another party has a duty in relation to the asset / infrastructure, and Council has a discretionary power to take remedial action in relation to that matter, only that other party with the duty is liable in a subsequent proceeding, in accordance with s.104 of the Road Management Act 2004.

3. Road Management Systems

3.1. Background and Process

Road asset management involves managing both physical assets, and uses and operation that have the potential to impact their condition. It applies to all road assets, including:

- the road – pavement and surface, as well as footpaths, kerb and channel
- structures – bridges, culverts and traffic management devices
- road infrastructure – traffic signals and on-road electrical assets.

The aim of our road management system is to deliver a safe and efficient road network and meet community needs to the best of our ability, within available resources.

To create a road asset management system that would best meet our needs when inspecting, maintaining and repairing public roads, we used the following nationally recognised asset management frameworks:

- International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) 2015, IPWEA
- IPWEA National Asset Management Systems (NAMS+)
- Other references, as listed in Technical References.

The system is designed to set the direction for our asset management activities. It is also linked to the annual business planning cycle.

3.2. Asset Hierarchies

All roads and footpaths within the municipal road network are classified according to a hierarchy that takes into account how they are used, who uses them and how often. The hierarchy classification is used to determine the levels of service required, prioritise works programs and determine defect intervention responses. The three levels in the hierarchy are:

Urban road network

The road network within the township boundaries of various towns in the municipality is defined as urban road network.

This is further divided into four categories, as follows:

- Category 4U: Collector or Through Roads

- Category 5U: Residential Primary Access
- Category 6U: Property Secondary Access

See Attachment 1 for more information

Rural road network

The road network outside of the township boundaries of various towns in the municipality is defined as rural road network.

This is further divided into four categories, as follows:

- Category 3R: Link Road
- Category 4R: Collector Road
- Category 5R: Residential Access Road
- Category 6S: Strategic Property Access Road
- Category 6R: Property Access Road

See Attachment 2 for more information

Pathway network

This is further divided into following categories:

Footpaths

- Commercial Footpath
- Residential Footpath

Constructed Paths

3.3. Maintenance Management System

3.3.1. Maintenance Management

Council has responsibilities to road users and the community to maintain public roads to a reasonably safe and suitable standard, within our available funds and resources. By developing long-term maintenance programs for our assets, we are better able to plan how we do this.

The following maintenance requirements shape our annual program and budget:

Routine maintenance standards

Standards vary across the network depending on the asset type and relevant risk factors, such as traffic volumes and composition, operating speeds, the susceptibility of assets to deterioration and the cost effectiveness of repairs. Competing priorities for funding are also relevant.

Defect intervention levels have been established using the *VicRoads Standard Specification Section 750* and adapting it to local conditions.

The standards will be reviewed periodically to make sure they are adequate (see section 1.5).

Repair and maintenance works

Works must be completed within a specified time, depending on the severity and location of the defect. Response times are determined using local knowledge and experience and past performance as a guide.

Response times are monitored and will be periodically reviewed (see section 1.5).

Temporary mitigation measures

These are temporary works designed to reduce the risk of an incident, until such time as repair or maintenance works can be completed.

Response times and safety measures – for example warning signs, flashing lights, and safety barriers – are determined by reference to the risk to safety, road type and traffic volume.

Emergency works

Works that result from emergency incidents and must be undertaken immediately, for the safety of road users and the public.

Emergency works might include traffic incident management, responses to fires, floods, storms and spillages, and any assistance required under the Victorian State Emergency Response Plan and Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

3.3.2. Asset Management Plans

Our asset management plans guide the development of long-term asset renewal programs, helping us to plan and finance asset renewal and replacement.

3.3.3. Maintenance Surveys and inspections

A four-tier regime is used to inspect our road network assets. It covers safety issues, incidents, defects and condition inspections.

1. Reactive inspections (Customer Action Request or CAR)

These inspections are conducted in response to requests from the community. The inspection is carried out by a Council employee and assessed according to the Hazard intervention levels, contained within Attachment 6.

2. Proactive Inspections

Regular timetabled inspections that are scheduled depending on traffic flow, the types of defects likely to impact the asset and the perceived risks of these defects.

3. Condition Inspections

These inspections identify structural integrity issues which, if untreated, are likely to adversely affect the network overall. These issues may impact short-term serviceability, as well as the ability of the asset to perform for the duration of its intended life span.

These inspections are carried out in accordance with the Council's asset management plans. They are undertaken by Manager of Assets and Facilities on a four yearly schedule.

3.3.4. Maintenance responsiveness and performance targets

The following information is recorded when we receive a Customer Action Request (CAR) from the community:

- Date the request was received
- Details of the request, including the location and nature of the reported hazard/defect (including any specific measurements if provided), name of the person making the request, copies of any photographs provided, etc.
- The personnel / department to which the request has been assigned for action
- Date by which the request must be actioned (based on the target response times specified in Attachment 6)
- Date when the request was actioned and/or completed (this typically involves someone carrying out an RFS inspection, as described in section 3.4.3, followed by any necessary repair works conducted).

By recording this information, we can monitor compliance against target response times – that is, the time it takes from receiving a request to carrying out an inspection and ultimately completing necessary works.

Customer requests will be inspected and assessed in accordance with timeframes specified in Attachment 6. Following are some possible outcomes from a reactive inspection:

- If a defect identified exceeds a *Description / Intervention Levels* specified in Attachment 6, a work ticket would be created with a date for completion of works in line with respective specified repair timeframes.
- If repairs are significant – for example, rehabilitation works are required – temporary mitigation measures may be undertaken to reduce the risk posed by the hazard/defect until the proper works can be undertaken (and subject to available resources).
- If the defect is assessed as below the *Description / Intervention Level* specified in Attachment 6, it would be noted (including why), but no remedial action will be conducted.

In all cases, the action taken would be noted against the original request.

Target response times and intervention times are based on 'normal' conditions. The same level of service would not apply in cases where the Plan has been suspended, under Section 1.6.

3.4. Asset Levels of Service

Five elements are taken into account when determining appropriate levels of service for the road network. These are:

- Community expectations;
- Technical standards;

- Organisational capacity;
- Performance measures and targets;
- Safety of road and footpath users.

4. Register of Public Roads

Council maintains a register of public roads – called the Register of Public Roads – with the details of all public roads and ancillary areas for which we are responsible.

The Register of Public Roads is available on Council's website. A hard copy is made available at our Customer Service Centre, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, upon request.

4.1. Maintenance Demarcation (Boundary) Agreements

Where there are boundary agreements between us and other road authorities or private organisations, the schedule of roads affected, and agreements are listed in the Municipal Road Register.

We have agreements with the following road authorities:

- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Yarriambiack Shire Council
- Mildura Rural City Council

4.2. Roads not listed on the Register

The following roads are not listed on our Register of Public Roads:

- Roads which are the full responsibility of the state government, or a private enterprise.
- Unused roads for which we have not accepted responsibility.
- Roads drawn out on a plan of subdivision, until such time that we accept responsibility for these roads.
- Roads which we have not determined are reasonably required for general public use.

The Department of Transport and Planning is the coordinating road authority for national and state arterial roads within Victoria.

- Arterial roads within the municipality are:
 - Western Highway
 - Borung Highway
 - Dimboola Rainbow Road
 - Jeparit Warracknabeal Road
 - Birchip Rainbow Road
 - Hopetoun Rainbow Road
 - Nhill Netherby Road
 - Nhill Yanac Road
 - Nhill Harrow Road
 - Nhill Jeparit Road

- Horsham Road, Dimboola
- High Street, Dimboola
- Lloyd Street, Dimboola (High Street to Western Highway)

5. Technical References

- i. AS ISO 31000:2018 – Risk Management – Guidelines
- ii. Integrated Asset Management Guidelines for Road Networks (AP-R202) 2002, Austroads Inc.
- iii. International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) 2015, IPWEA
- iv. VicRoads Risk Management Guidelines
- v. VicRoads Standard Specification Section 750 – Routine Maintenance

Attachment 1: Road Hierarchy – Urban Roads

Category	Description
Category 4U <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collector or Through Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unclassified roads linking parts of the townships or leading to the town centre. Would be sealed or surfaced all weather roads.
Category 5U <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residential Primary Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unclassified road providing access to occupied residential, industrial or commercial properties. Would be sealed or surfaced all weather roads.
Category 6U <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Property Secondary Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roads or laneways providing alternate access to occupied properties or access to vacant land. Would not necessarily be all weather construction.

Attachment 2: Road Hierarchy – Rural Roads

Category	Description
Category 3R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclassified roads connecting two towns, villages or districts. May be sealed or formed and surfaced.
Category 4R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclassified road linking residence and property access roads into higher class roads. May be sealed or formed and surfaced.
Category 5R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Access Road 	Unclassified road providing all weather access to occupied houses in rural or rural residential areas.
Category 6S <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Property Access Road 	Roads providing access to rural properties for farming properties and considered strategic due to high use by agricultural implements and harvest traffic, and maintained more regularly
Category 6R Property Access Road Bus Routes	<p>Roads providing access to rural properties for farming purposes. Would not necessarily be an all-weather road.</p> <p>Bus routes are roads that are used by school buses for transportation of students to and from school. Bus routes may change from year to year depending on the residential address of current primary and secondary school students.</p> <p>The hierarchal classification of a road does not change if the road is designated as a bus route. Inspection levels, however on Class 4R, 5R, 6R, 4U and 5U Bus Routes are higher than those same classifications which are not bus routes.</p>
Tourist Routes	<p>Tourist routes are roads that are identified by Council as providing access to significant tourist attractions within the Shire. Tourist routes may change from time to time depending on the operation of private tourism operators.</p> <p>The hierarchal classification of a road does not change if the road is designated as a tourist route. Inspection levels, however on Class 4R, 5R, 6R, 4U and 5U Tourist Routes are higher than those same classifications which are not tourist routes.</p>

Attachment 3: Pathway Hierarchy

Footpaths

Category	Area	Description*
High Use	High-use Areas	The category of 'highest use' that includes all footpaths in Central Business Districts and select shopping, hospital and school precincts.
Low Use	Moderate - low use Areas	Medium to low use footpath in residential area and other area excluding high use locations

Constructed Trails

There are the trails constructed in the river precinct or recreation reserve for recreational walking or cycling purposes.

Attachment 4: Inspection Requirements

Inspection Type	Purpose	Inspection and Reporting Requirements
Reactive – Customer Action Request (CAR)	Reactive inspections are designed to confirm the nature of defects/hazards reported by members of the public or Council employees and identify any that exceed the intervention levels specified in Attachment 6.	Performed by a Council representative with knowledge of Description / Intervention Levels (Attachment 6) and road maintenance techniques who may then call in a higher level of expertise if necessary. All Reactive inspections are conducted on foot or a slow-moving vehicle, with defects measured and photographed where required. The report is required to identify specific safety defect, time first reported, time inspected and by whom, subsequent action and time of completion.
Proactive Inspection	These inspections are undertaken in accordance with the schedule specified in Attachment 5 to monitor asset condition and asset defects against stated intervention levels as outlined in Attachment 6. The inspection frequencies for roads have been determined on the basis of road hierarchy.	Proactive Inspections of roads are conducted via a slow-moving vehicle, while Proactive Inspections of all other asset types are conducted on foot, with defects measured and photographed if required. Performed by a dedicated Asset Inspector.
Night Inspections	Inspection undertaken in accordance with a formal programmed inspection schedule to assess the reflectivity of road signage, and roadside guideposts, and the visibility of line marking at night.	Conducted via a slow-moving vehicle with standard driving lights (low beam), with visibility/legibility/reflectivity assessed by eye from distances specified respective of each asset defect type. Performed by a dedicated asset inspector.
Incident Inspection	Inspection carried out to comply with the requirements of the Road Management Act (Division 5 – Claims Procedure, Clause 116); This inspection enables and incident condition report to be prepared for use in legal proceedings and the gathering of information for the analysis of the causes of accidents and the planning and implementation of road management and safety measures.	Performed by a council officer on foot, with evidence gathered and measured, and photographed.

Attachment 5: Inspection Frequencies

Asset Group	Hierarchy Category	Reactive Inspection – Emergency response	Reactive Inspection - CAR	Proactive Inspection Frequency	Night Inspections
Rural Road	Category 3	24 Hours	1 week	6 Months	12 Months
	Bus and Tourist Routes	24 Hours	1 week	6 Months	12 Months
	Category 4	24 Hours	2 Weeks	12 Months	24 Months
	Category 5	24 Hours	4 Weeks	12 Months	24 Months
	Category 6S	24 Hours	4 Weeks	12 Months	NA
	Category 6R	24 Hours	4 Weeks	24 Months	NA
Urban Road	Category 4	24 Hours	2 Weeks	6 Months	12 Months
	Category 5	24 Hours	4 Weeks	12 Months	12 Months
	Category 6	24 Hours	4 Weeks	12 Months	NA
Footpaths and trails	Footpaths - Commercial	24 Hours	2 Weeks	6 Months	NA
	Residential	24 Hours	2 Weeks	12 Months	NA
	Constructed Trails	24 Hours	2 Weeks	As required	NA
Bridges	Level 1 Bridge Inspections	24 Hours	2 Weeks	12 Months	NA

* If a Proactive Inspection Frequency elapses on a Weekend or Public Holiday, the actual due date will be the next Working Day.

Attachment 6: Defect Intervention Levels and Repair Timeframes

NOTES:

* If a Repair Timeframe elapses on a Weekend or Public Holiday, the actual due date will be the next Working Day.

** In cases where a defect is not due to be repaired in less than 4 weeks, temporary measures, such as installing warning signage, erecting barriers, or painting the defect with a bright contrasting colour, may be implemented at the time of identification to reduce the risk as much as is reasonably practicable until permanent repairs can be completed in line with the specified Repair Timeframes.

Sealed Roads

Defect type	Description / Intervention Level	Repair timeframes by hierarchy WD = Working Days W = Weeks M = Months			
		Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5	Cat 6
Pothole	Potholes in sealed pavement greater than 75mm in depth and more than 450mm in diameter	1W	3W	2M	6M
Edge break	Edge breaks laterally more than 125mm over a 5m or greater length from the nominal seal line	2W	1M	3M	12M
Edge / shoulder drop	Edge drops onto an unsealed shoulder greater than 100 mm in depth over a 50m or greater length	3W	6W	3M	6M
Regulation of Wheel Ruts and Depressions	Depression / deformations in the traffic lane of a sealed pavement greater than 75mm in depth under a 3m long straight edge	2W	1M	3M	12M
Pavement Failure	Surface disruption is more than 75mm over area more than 20m ² .	2W	1M	3M	12M
Kerb and Channel	Vertical Displacement greater 50mm or horizontal displacement greater than 50mm.	3M	6M	12M	NA
Missing pit lids	Missing Council drainage pit lids	1WD	2WD	3WD	4WD
Damaged pit lids	Damaged Council drainage pit lids	1W	2W	3W	4W
Roadside Vegetation – Overhead clearance	Vegetation intruding into the road envelope providing less than 5m over the trafficable portion of the road	3M	6M	12M	12M

Roadside Vegetation – Obstructing sightlines	Vegetation that is obstructing sightlines to intersections or regulatory, warning and hazard signs when viewed from the following distances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed Limit – <=50km/h = 30m • Speed Limit – 60km/h = 40m • Speed Limit – 70km/h = 55m • Speed Limit – 80km/h = 65m • Speed Limit – 90km/h = 80m • Speed Limit – 100km/h = 95m 	1M	3M	3M	6M
Culverts/includes separated Culverts	Silting or 50% obstruction of cross section.	3M	6M	12M	24M
Roadside Signage/Guide Posts	Illegible or missing warning signs or missing guideposts at culverts.	2W	1M	3M	6M
Roadside Grass Cutting	Inadequate visibility at intersections or on curves.	1M	3M	6M	12M

Unsealed Roads

Defect type	Description / Intervention Level	Repair timeframes by hierarchy			
		WD = Working Days W = Weeks M = Months			
		Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5	Cat 6
Pothole	Potholes and corrugations are more than 600mm diameter and 150mm deep	1M	2M	6M	12M
Wheel ruts / scouring	Wheel ruts or scouring on an unsealed road greater than 100mm in depth	1M	2M	6M	12M
Corrugations	Corrugations on an unsealed road greater than 75mm in depth and greater than 500m in length	1M	2M	6M	12M
Pavement Failure	Area of failed pavement is more than 20m ² in area.	1M	2M	6M	12M
Table Drains	Any obstruction that significantly obstructs free flow of water.	12M	12M	12M	NA
Culverts	Silting or 50% obstruction of cross section	3M	6M	12M	12M
Loose Sand	Loose sand greater than 150 mm deep and greater than 10 m long	6M	12M	12M	12M
Roadside Vegetation – Overhead clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation intruding into the road envelope providing less than 5m over the trafficable portion of the road 	3M	6M	12M	12M
Roadside Vegetation – Obstructing sightlines	Vegetation that is obstructing sightlines to intersections or regulatory, warning and hazard signs when viewed from the following distances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed Limit – <=50km/h = 30m Speed Limit – 60km/h = 40m Speed Limit – 70km/h = 55m Speed Limit – 80km/h = 65m 	3M	6M	12M	12M

Traffic Control Devices

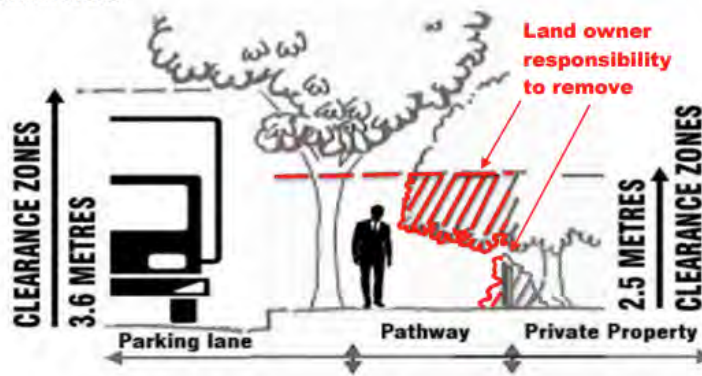
Defect type	Description / Intervention Level	Repair timeframes by hierarchy			
		WD = Working Days W = Weeks M = Months			
		Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5	Cat 6
Missing / Damaged Signage	Regulatory, warning and hazard signs missing, illegible or damaged making them substantially ineffective when viewed from the following distances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed Limit – <=50km/h = 30m • Speed Limit – 60km/h = 40m • Speed Limit – 70km/h = 55m • Speed Limit – 80km/h = 65m • Speed Limit – 90km/h = 80m • Speed Limit – 100km/h = 95m 	1M	1M	2M	6M
Missing / Damaged Guard Rail or fencing	Guard rail/fence damaged or missing making them substantially ineffective	1M	1M	2M	6M
Missing / Damaged Pavement Markings	Pavement markings which are missing or faded making them substantially ineffective	1M	1M	2M	6M

Footpaths

Defect type	Description / Intervention Level	Repair timeframes by hierarchy	
		WD = Working Days W = Weeks M = Months	
		High Use	Low Use
Vertical Displacement	Vertical Displacement greater than 25mm in height	4W	2M
Cracking	Cracking in footpaths greater than 25mm wide	4W	3M
Undulations	Undulations (depressions / bumps) greater than 75mm in depth/height under a 1.5m straight edge	4W	6M
Dislodged / missing pieces / potholes	Dislodged or missing pieces or potholes greater than 150mm in length/width and greater than 25mm in depth	4W	6M
Missing pit lids	Missing Council drainage pit lids	1WD	2WD
Damaged pit lids	Damaged Council drainage pit lids	1W	2W
Vegetation overhead clearance	Vegetation intruding into the footpath envelope: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Less than 2.5 meter over footpath surface	4W	2M
Dislodged / missing tactile indicator	Damaged or missing	4W	3M

* Pram crossings / ramps providing transition between road and footpath levels are treated as part of the footpath for the purposes of the application of description / intervention levels.

Example of vegetation clearance zones required from private property in urban areas



Constructed Paths

Defect type	Description / Intervention Level	Repair timeframes by hierarchy WD = Working Days W = Weeks M = Months
		All
Vertical Displacement	Vertical Displacement greater than 25mm in height	3M
Cracking	Cracking perpendicular to path of travel greater than 30mm wide Longitudinal cracking greater than 20mm wide	3M
Undulations	Undulations (depressions / bumps) greater than 75mm in depth/height under a 1.5m straight edge	3M
Dislodged / missing pieces / potholes	Dislodged or missing pieces or potholes greater than 150mm in length/width and greater than 25mm in depth	3M
Missing pit lids	Missing Council drainage pit lids	2WD
Damaged pit lids	Damaged Council drainage pit lids (such that they are potentially structurally unsound)	2W
Vegetation overhead clearance	Vegetation intruding into the pathway envelope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 3.5m over shared pathway surface and greater than 50 cm beyond each edge 	3M

* Pram crossings / ramps providing transition between road and pathway levels are treated as part of the pathways for the purposes of the application of description / intervention levels.

Summary Report

03 May 2024 - 26 June 2025

Have Your Say Hindmarsh

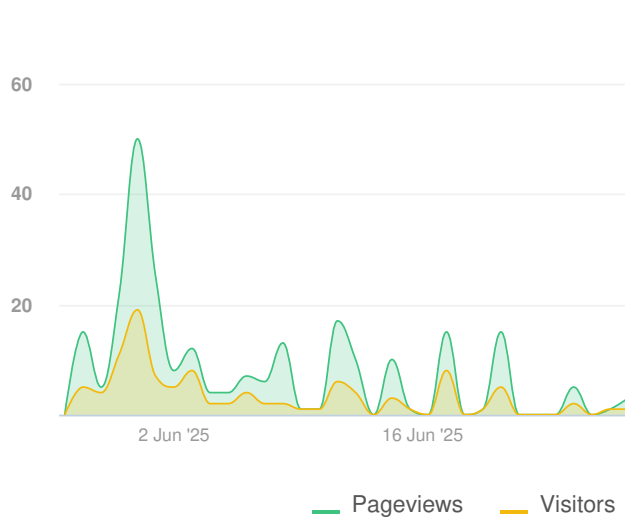
PROJECTS SELECTED: 1

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029

FULL LIST AT THE END OF THE REPORT



Visitors Summary

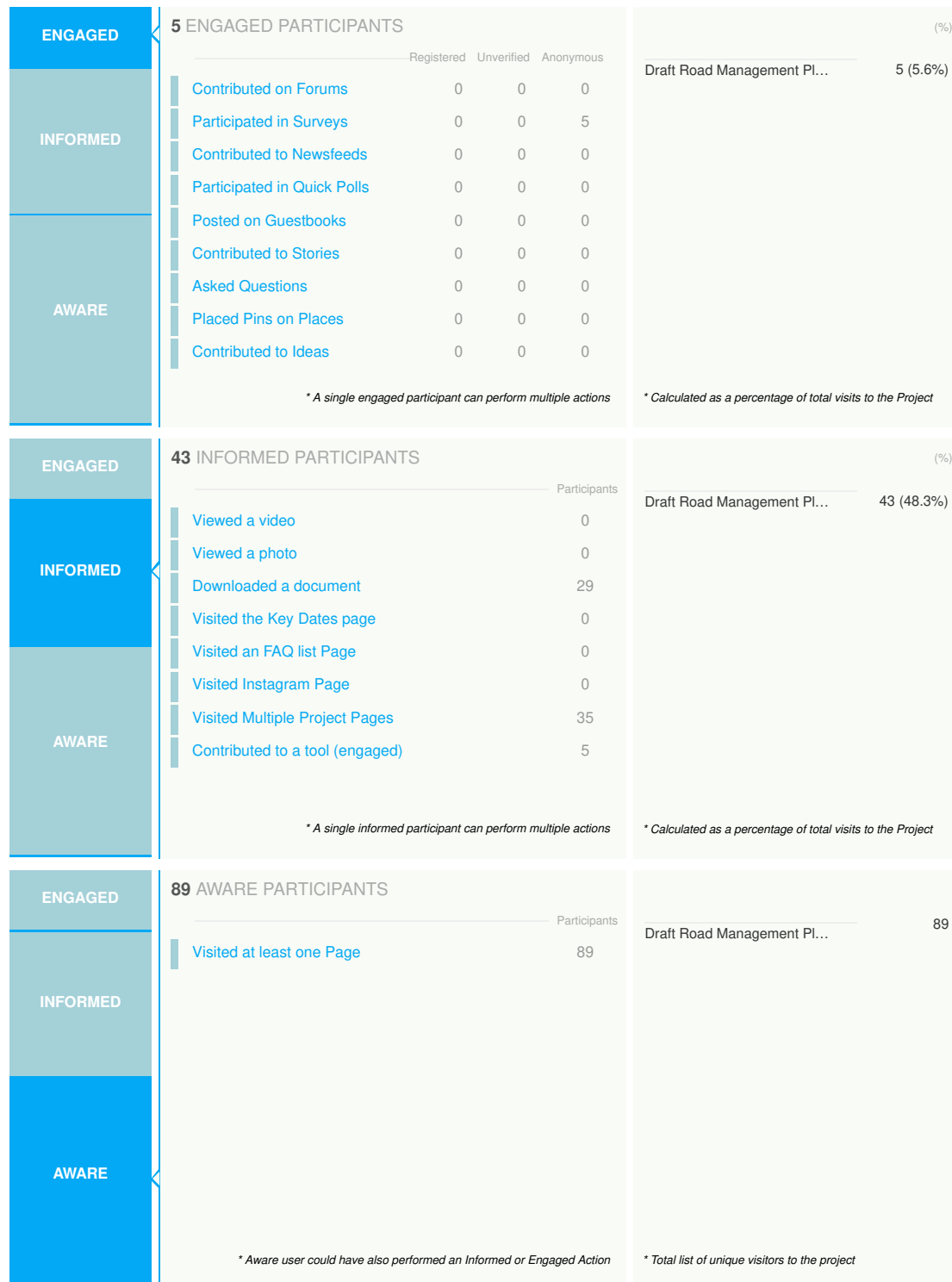


Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	115	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	19
NEW REGISTRATIONS	0		
ENGAGED VISITORS	5	INFORMED VISITORS	43
		AWARE VISITORS	89

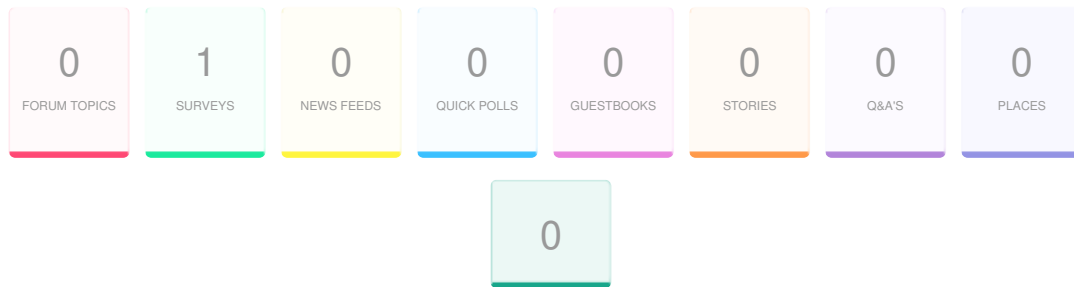
Have Your Say Hindmarsh : Summary Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

PARTICIPANT SUMMARY



Have Your Say Hindmarsh : Summary Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

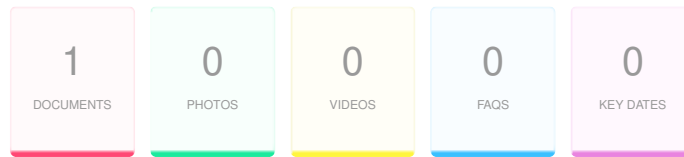
ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



SURVEYS SUMMARY	TOP 3 SURVEYS BASED ON CONTRIBUTORS
1 Surveys	5 Contributors to
5 Contributors	Draft Road Management Plan
5 Submissions	2025-2029

Have Your Say Hindmarsh : Summary Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



DOCUMENTS	TOP 3 DOCUMENTS BASED ON DOWNLOADS
1 Documents	38 Downloads
29 Visitors	Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029.pdf
38 Downloads	

Have Your Say Hindmarsh : Summary Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
m.facebook.com	9
www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au	9
lm.facebook.com	8
l.facebook.com	5
www.google.com	4
statics.teams.cdn.office.net	2
www.bing.com	1

Have Your Say Hindmarsh : Summary Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

SELECTED PROJECTS - FULL LIST

PROJECT TITLE	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029	89	43	5

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

03 May 2024 - 26 June 2025

PROJECT NAME:

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029



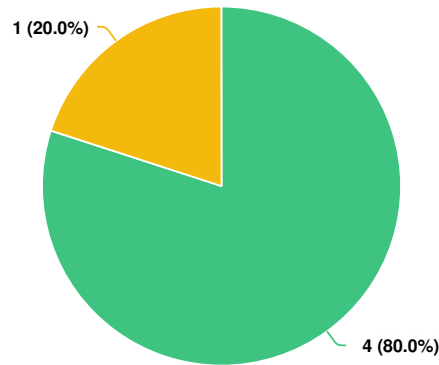
Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q1 | Please indicate whether you think the Draft Road Management Plan requires amendments?



Question options

- ☒ I think amendments are required ☐ I think amendments are not required

*Mandatory Question (5 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q2 | If you would like to explain the amendments you think are needed, or provide any other comment, you can do so here:

Anonymous

5/30/2025 06:11 PM

I dont think that the proposed response times to a defect are realistic. The Shire doesn't have the resources to adequately fix the defects in the proposed timelines. You can inspect every Cat 5 road in the shire every 12 mths but every road that is inspected will need attention because of natural wear and tear without any natural weather event. You cannot fix or maintain every cat 5 road that needs attention in 6 mths. There are roads that have had defects identified more than 24 months ago that are only now getting the defects fixed. Too many roads with defects and not enough resources or finance to fix them

Anonymous

6/07/2025 06:58 PM

Expand on performance targets so the public can see what is expected of council workers

Anonymous

6/13/2025 05:33 PM

More investment required in local roads

Anonymous

6/13/2025 09:10 PM

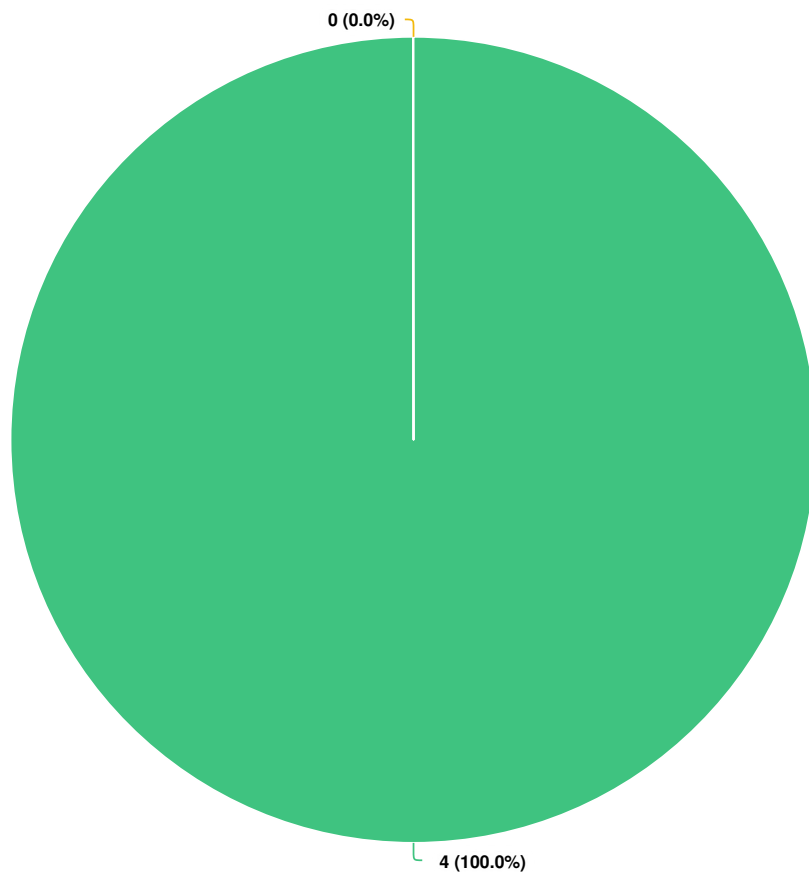
It is all very well to re surface roads but they need widening too. The roads are far too narrow. I have also noticed that they are spending too much money on 'patching' along our road in particular being Mackay Street. My question is when is Maddern Street going to be re surfaced. It is an absolute disgrace when dry as a dust bowl and when wet you slide all over the road. They have re surfaced Fraser Street, what about Maddern Street. patching'

Optional question (4 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q3 Would you like to speak to your submission at the next available Council Meeting?



Question options

☒ No ☐ Yes

*Optional question (4 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q8 What is your age?

Anonymous 60
5/30/2025 06:11 PM

Anonymous 45
6/07/2025 06:58 PM

Anonymous 54
6/13/2025 05:33 PM

Anonymous 75
6/13/2025 09:10 PM

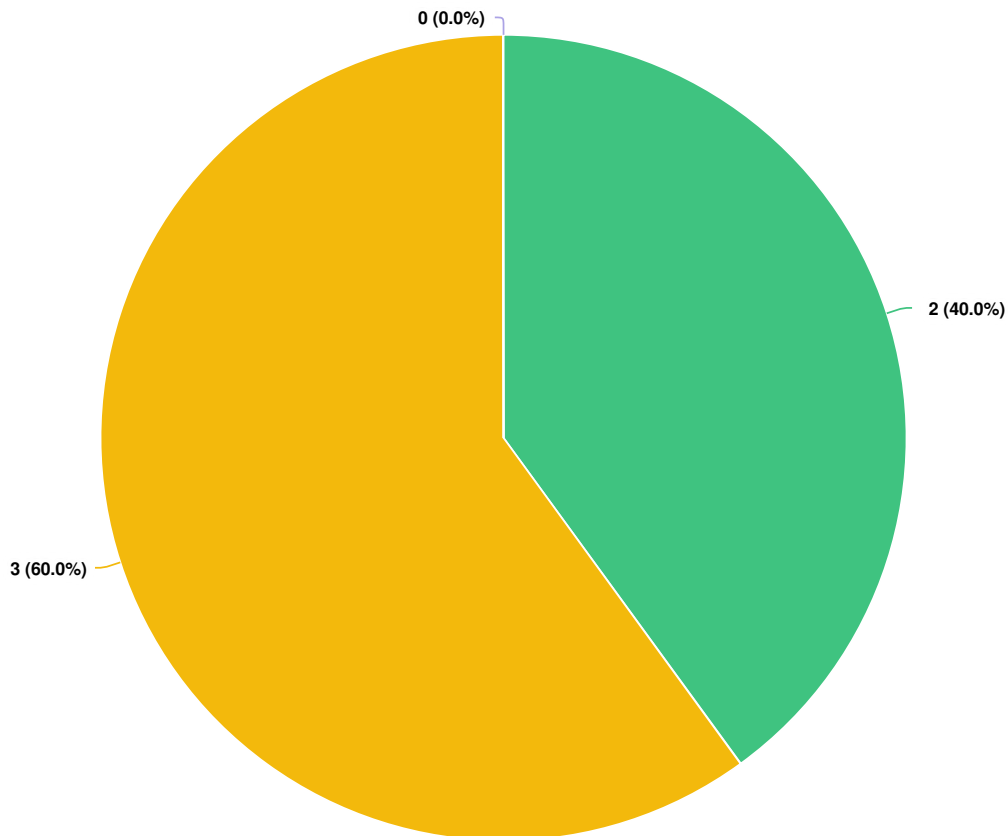
Anonymous 64
6/13/2025 09:56 PM

Optional question (5 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q9 What is your gender?



Question options

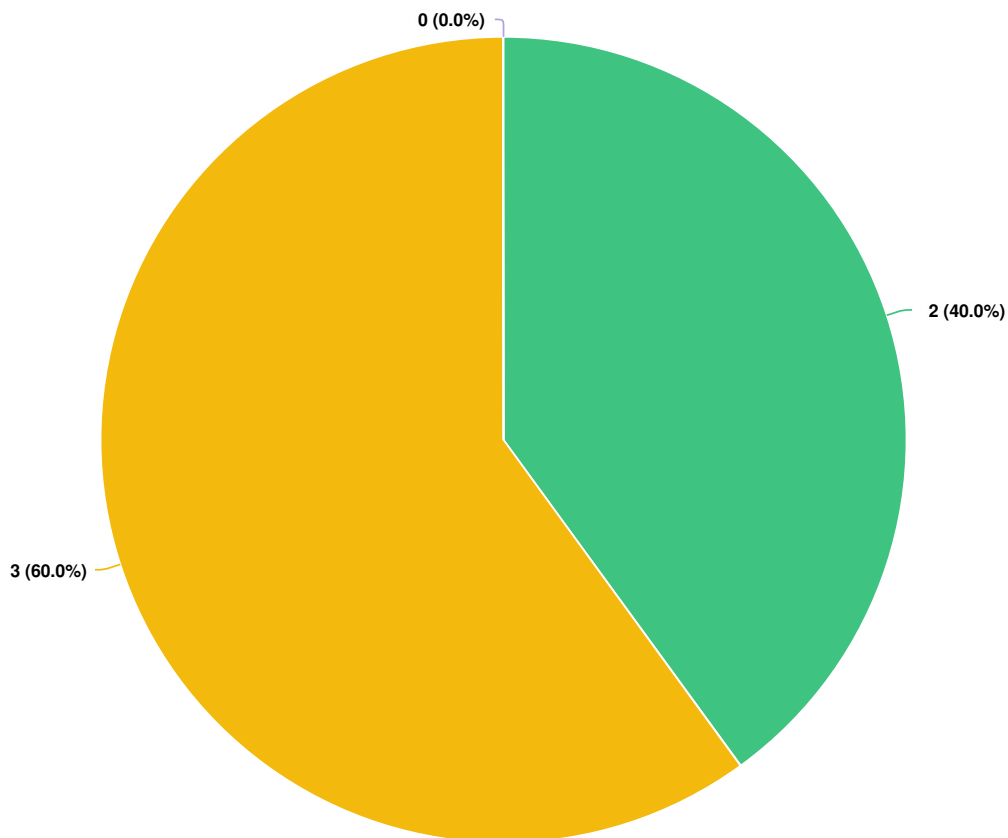
● Woman ● Man ● Self-described (please specify below)

Optional question (5 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q10 Would you like to subscribe to Council's fortnightly e-newsletter?



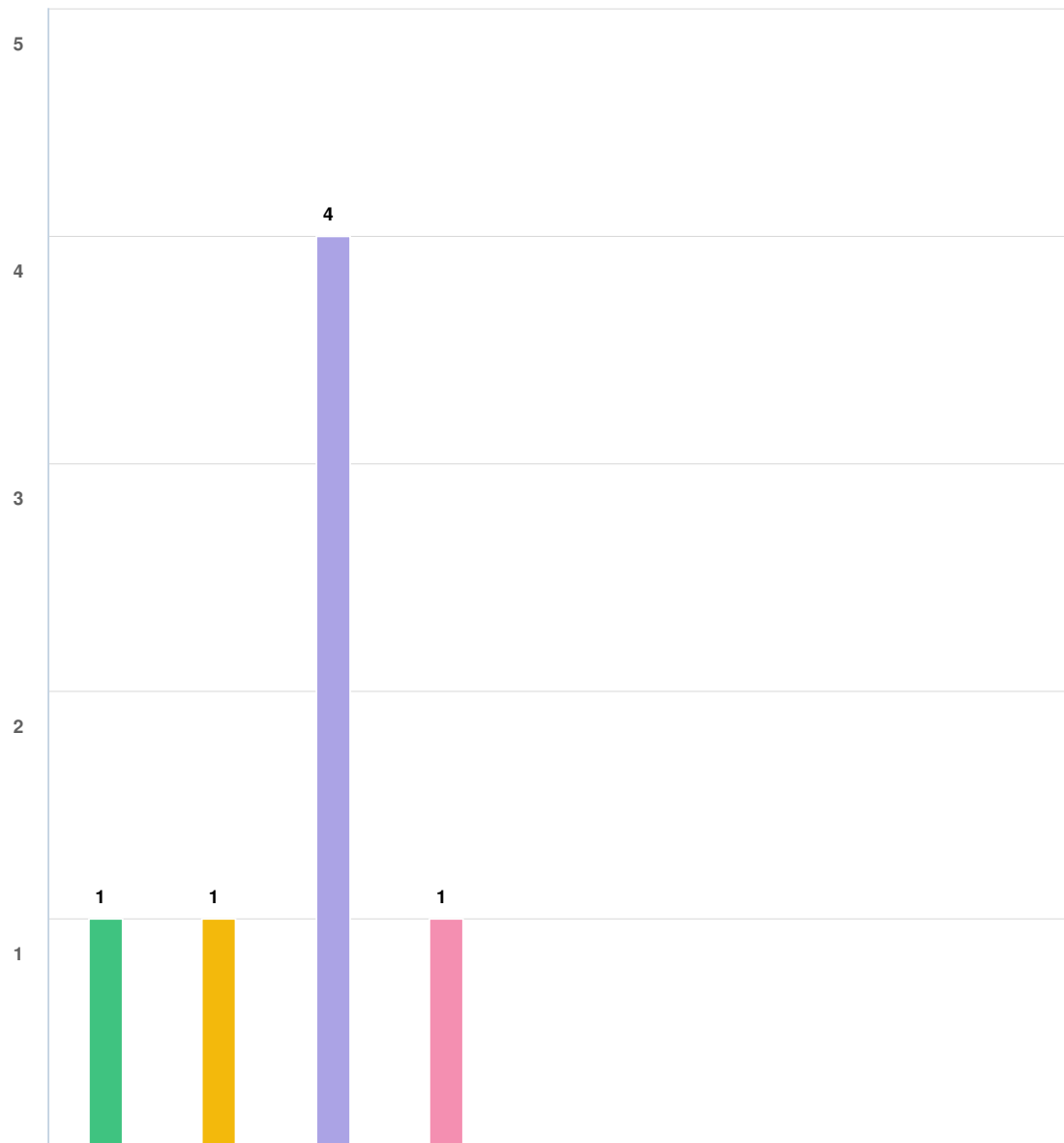
Question options

☐ No ☐ I'm already subscribed ☐ Yes

*Optional question (5 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 26 June 2025

Q11 How did you hear about this consultation?

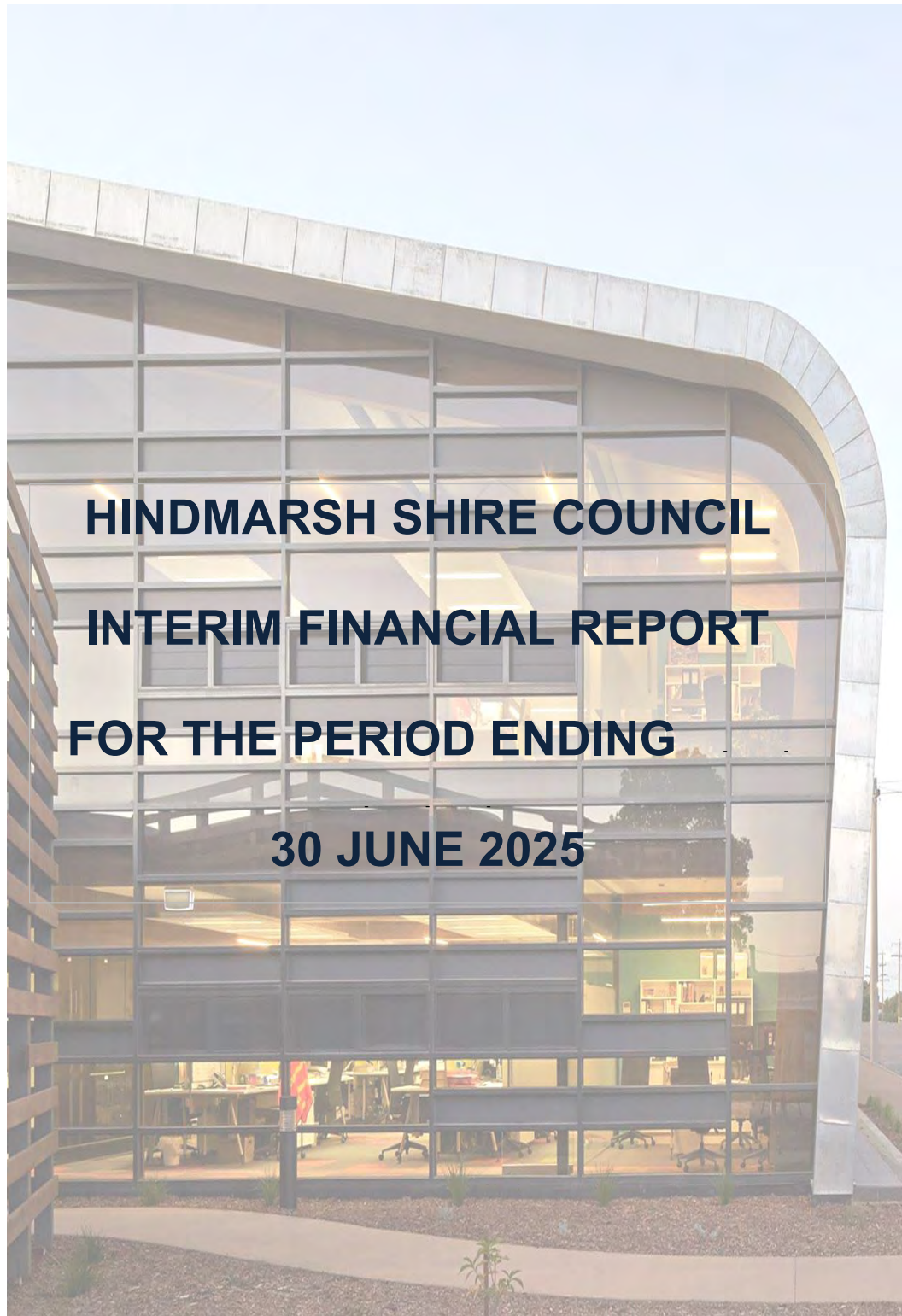


Question options

- Council's Facebook page
- Council's Website/Have Your Say Webpage
- Fortnightly E-newsletter
- Word of Mouth
- Monthly Hardcopy Newsletter
- Local Newspaper
- Posters around town
- Council meeting
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (5 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question



**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Interim Management Financial Report
For the period ending 30 June 2025**

COMMENTARY

General

This interim report is for the period ending 30 June 2025.

The Financial report provides financial reporting and variances against budget. This report incorporates Year to Date actual and variance figures up to 30 June 2025.

This interim report was prepared on 11 July 2025 and is subject to end of financial year adjustments and auditing. The End of Financial Year Report will be presented to Council at the September 2025 meeting.

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 provide 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 2020*. 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 2024 to 30 June 2025 of \$5,769,415 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$1,029,469.

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 30 June 2025 shows a balance of \$13,180,751.

Capital Expenditure

This report shows Capital works expenditure for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

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."



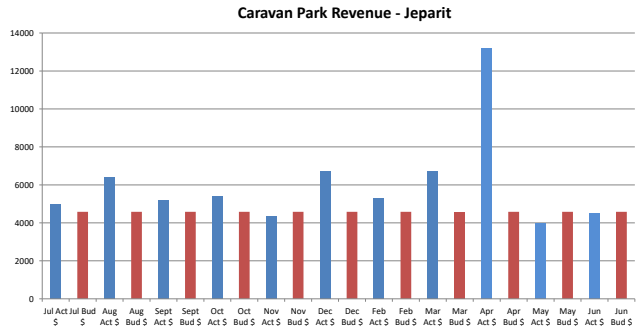
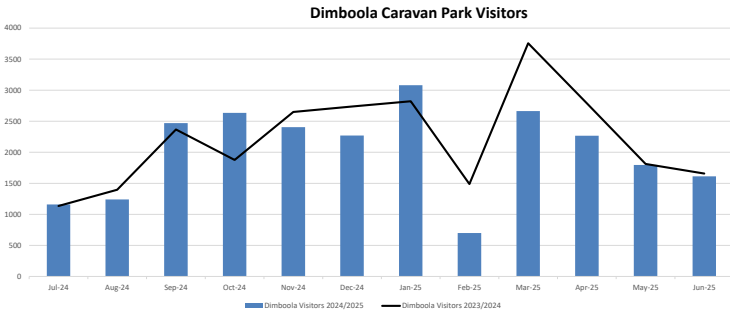
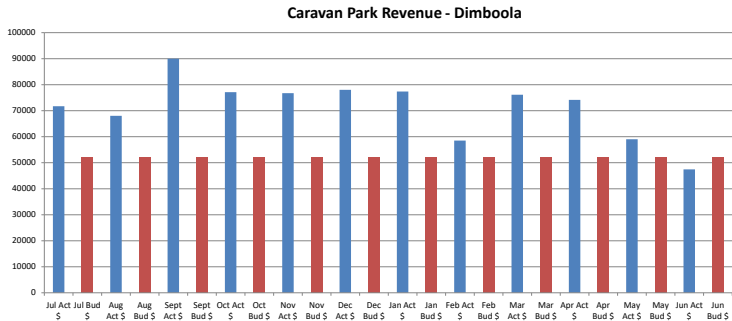
Hindmarsh Shire Council Performance Dashboard
For the period ending 30 June 2025





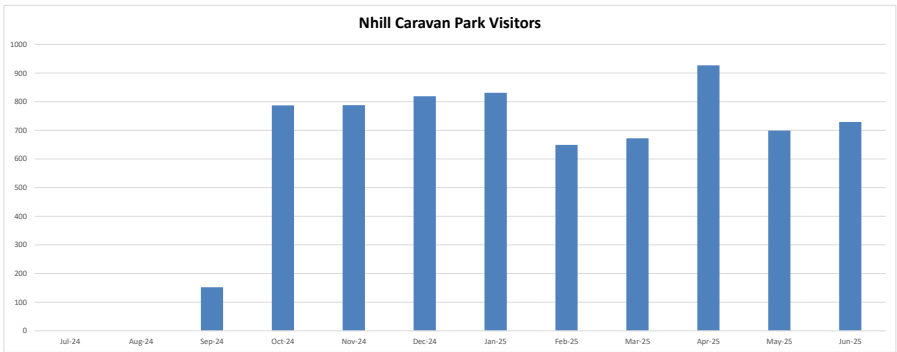
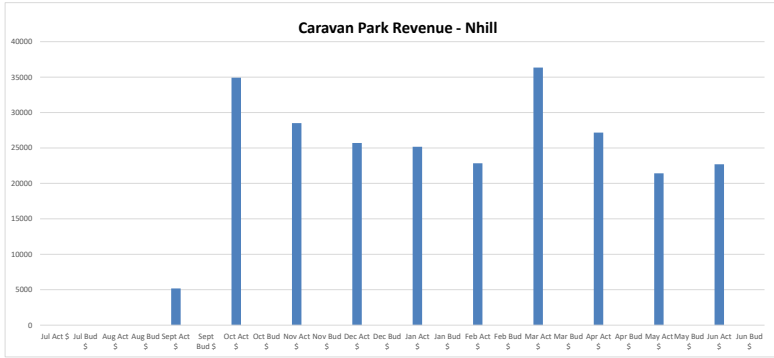
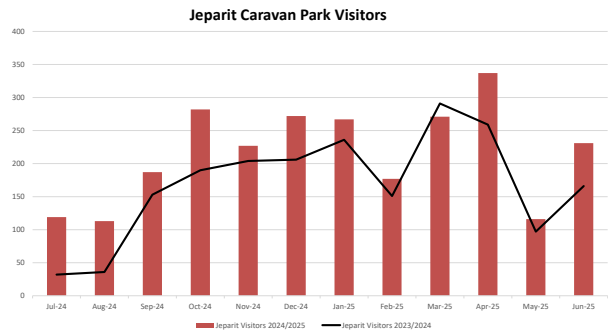
Hindmarsh Shire Council Performance Dashboard
For the period ending 30 June 2025

Caravan parks

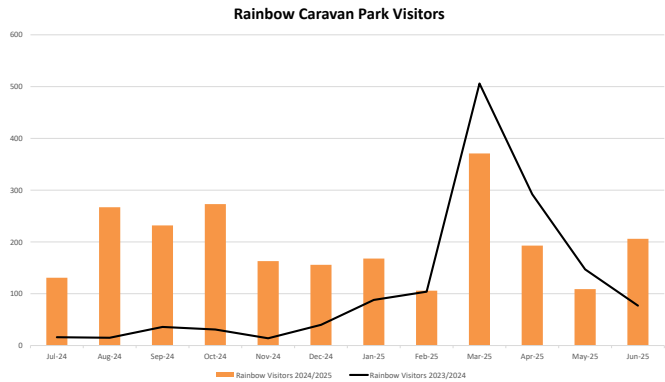
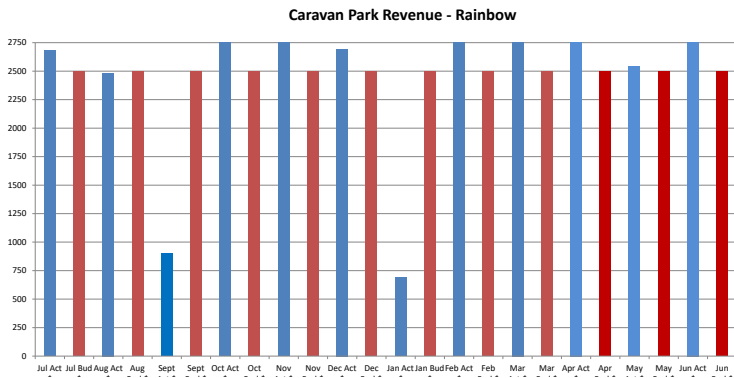


Little Desert Fire resulted in a reduction in Dimboola Caravan Park Visitors in February 2025.

Caravan Parks



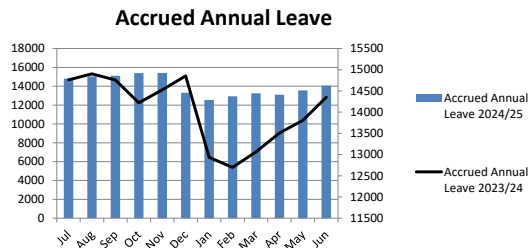
Caravan Parks





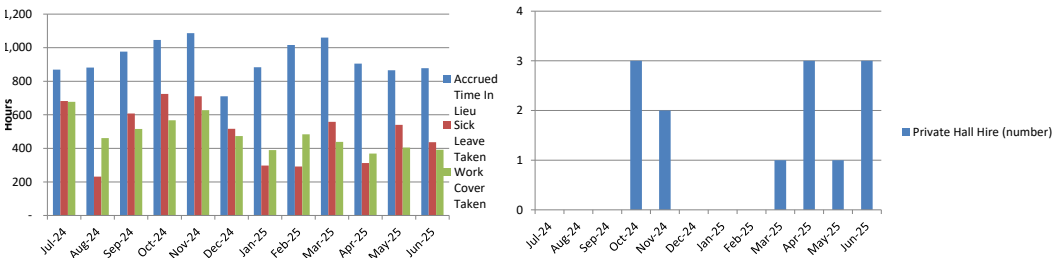
Hindmarsh Shire Council Performance Dashboard
For the period ending 30 June 2025

Accrued Annual Leave



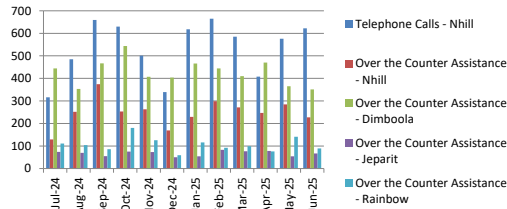
Hall Hire

Private Hall Hire



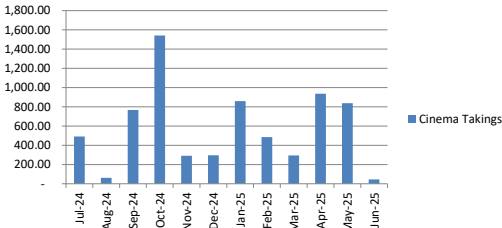
Customer Services

Customer Services

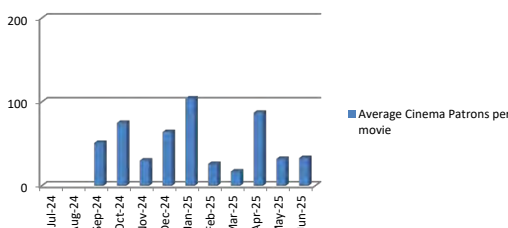


Cinema

Cinema Takings



Average Cinema Patrons per movie



**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Executive Summary
As at 30 June 2025**

	Actual YTD June 2025	Budget YTD June 2025	Indicator
Rates & Charges Collected	10,040,124	10,042,615	
Income Statement Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	5,769,415	1,029,469	
Adjusted Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)	2,609,565	(828,165)	
Cash & Investments	13,180,751		
Rates Debtors	620,943		
Sundry Debtors	263,694		
Infringement Debtors	213,765		
Balance Sheet Working Capital	13,186,409		
Total Operating Revenue	29,081,078	23,751,623	
Total Operating Expenditure	23,311,663	22,722,154	
Capital Works Expenditure	8,496,623	6,171,711	

Indicator Legend

	No action required
	Requires active monitoring
	Immediate action required

**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Ratio Summary
As at 30 June 2025**

	Actual YTD	Budget	Indicator
Working Capital (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.)	586%	107%	
Asset Renewal (This ratio identifies councils expenditure renewing assets compared to the depreciation of the asset)	147%	42%	
Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's ability to cover its costs through its own revenue efforts.)	64%	63%	
Operating Surplus Ratio (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.)	39%	7%	
Liquidity (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's current assets compared to current liabilities.)	485%	118%	
Unrestricted Cash (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's cash compared to current liabilities.)	572%	530%	
Indebtedness (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue.)	3%	22%	
Rates Concentration (This ratio is the measurement of a Council's rate revenue compared to total revenue.)	35%	49%	
Cash Expense Ratio (months) (This ratio indicates (in months) how long Council can continue to undertake operations without any revenue being received.)	8.83		

Indicator Legend

	No action required
	Requires active monitoring
	Immediate action required

**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Comprehensive Income Statement
For the period ending 30 June 2025**

	YTD Actual \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Ref
Income				
Rates and charges	10,033,495	10,042,615	(9,120)	1
Statutory fees and fines	26,342	27,250	(908)	
User fees & Reimbursements	2,036,186	1,633,250	402,936	2
Contributions - cash	137,603	8,500	129,103	3
Grants - operating (recurrent)	8,942,399	5,532,296	3,410,103	4
Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	114,303	151,530	(37,227)	5
Grants - capital (recurrent)	1,899,635	1,828,843	70,792	6
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	2,378,807	1,697,634	681,173	7
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	781,043	160,000	621,043	8
Interest	708,500	430,000	278,500	9
Other income	2,022,764	2,239,705	(216,941)	10
Total Income	29,081,078	23,751,623	5,329,455	
Expenses				
Employee costs	9,103,358	8,727,113	376,245	11
Materials and services	7,361,197	7,205,255	155,942	12
Depreciation	5,390,947	5,107,378	283,569	13
Other expenses	1,456,162	1,682,408	(226,246)	14
Total expenses	23,311,663	22,722,154	589,509	
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures accounted for by the equity method	-	-	-	
Surplus (deficit) for the year to date	5,769,415	1,029,469	4,739,946	
Net asset Revaluation increment / (decrement)	-	-	-	
Comprehensive result	5,769,415	1,029,469	4,739,946	

Comprehensive Income Statement
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 June 2025

Variance		
Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Rates and charges	Rates and charges are slightly below budget due to changes from supplementary rates and revaluation adjustments after 1 July 2024.
2	User fees & Reimbursements	User fees and charges are above budget due work undertaken on the Nhill Truck Exchange. Transfer station fees are significantly higher than budgeted which is based on user demand. Caravan park fees are higher than budgeted due to Council assuming management of the Nhill Caravan Park in the financial year and a significant increase in patronage at Riverside Holiday Park Dimboola. Income from Rural Roads Victoria for provisional items is below budget due to the timing of invoices. Council also received fees in relation to emergency management including for the Little Desert Fire as well the demolition of a fire damaged building.
3	Contributions - cash	Contributions is higher than budgeted due to a contribution towards the Dimboola Sports Stadium following the closure of a community bank account. Funds were also received for Australia Day and the ALIA Aged Care Reform Hub as well as internal transfers of funds towards the town committees. A contribution was also received towards the Rainbow Fishing Pontoon from Victorian Fisheries.
4	Grants - operating (recurrent)	Operating grants - recurrent is higher than budgeted as Council received 50% of the 2025/26 Financial Assistance Grant in June 2025. Free From Violence Local Government Program, Kindergarten Central Enrolment, Landcare Facilitator and Roadside Weeds and Pest funding were higher than budgeted due to recognition of grant funding carried forward from 2023/2024. Funding has also been received for the Multicultural Storytime which is being delivered through Wimmera Southern Mallee Development across Hindmarsh and Horsham Rural City Council.
5	Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	Grants - operating (non-recurrent) is lower than budgeted as the Free From Violence and Landcare Facilitator grants were recognised in grants operating (recurrent) due to their longerterm funding arrangements. Non-recurrent grants received also includes VicHealth, Seniors Festival Active Living, Tiny Towns - Jeparit Streetscape, Education from Sustainability Vic and a grant for the Jeparit Weir Design.
6	Grants - capital (recurrent)	Funding from the Roads to Recovery program for 2024/2025 was slightly higher than budgeted.
7	Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	Non-recurrent capital grants are higher than budgeted due to the receipt of funds for the new Kinder on School Sites fit out at Nhill and Dimboola as well as recognition of funding received in 2023/2024 for committed to capital projects undertaken during 2024/2025.

8	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Net gain/loss on disposal of plant and assets for 2024/2025 will be reconciled at the end of the financial year. Income currently reflects the amount received on sale of items of plant and buildings.
9	Interest	Revenue from interest is higher than budgeted due to Council holding higher cash than anticipated due to a number of capital works projects still to be completed, as well as receiving the full 2024/2025 Financial Assistance Grants payment in July 2024.
10	Other Income	Other Income is higher than budgeted as Council has received insurance recoupments for tree damage at Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park and damage to Yurunga homestead.

Comprehensive Income Statement
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 June 2025

11	Employee Costs	<p>Employee costs are higher than budget due to Council taking the following decisions after the adoption of the budget, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Council resolved to bring swimming pools back in house for the 24/25 summer season, these were budgeted as a contractor.* Council resolved to resume management of Nhill Caravan Park in September 2024. The staffing costs are offset by revenue. <p>Council also saw an increase in the Workcover premium, and additional staffing costs were incurred during the Little Desert Bushfire in January 2025 including overtime during the height of the bushfire. Significant increase in patronage at Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park also increased the staffing requirements. The increase in staffing costs at RHP are offset by revenue.</p>
12	Materials and Services	<p>Materials and services are above budget as due to expenses for grant funded projects including Multicultural Storytime, Early Years Enrollment, Engage, Reconnecting Communities through small events, . Urgent maintenance work was undertaken on Council buildings including the Nhill office. Reserve maintenance was higher than budgeted due to urgent works being required. There were increased costs for the transportation of waste to the Dooen Landfill. Council resumed operations of the Nhill Caravan Park in September with additional expenditure in the area offset by and increase in income from users of the park.</p>
13	Depreciation	<p>Depreciation for 2024/2025 will be reconciled as part of the end of financial year processing.</p>

**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2025**

	YTD Actual 2024/2025 \$	Actual 2023/2024 \$	Ref
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	13,180,751	11,612,997	1
Rates and other receivables	1,411,518	1,553,250	2
Other assets & Inventories	1,309,992	1,287,633	3
Total current assets	15,902,260	14,453,880	
Non-current assets			
Investments in associates by equity method	219,464	219,464	
Infrastructure, Property and Plant and Equipment	197,040,920	202,431,866	
Capital Expenditure 2024/2025	8,496,623	0	4
Trade and other receivables	2,207	2,207	
Total non-current assets	205,759,212	202,653,536	
Total assets	221,661,473	217,107,416	
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	598,641	1,896,797	5
Trust Funds and Deposits	151,787	147,647	6
Provisions	1,965,423	1,876,896	7
Total current liabilities	2,715,851	3,921,341	
Non current liabilities			
Provisions	499,139	509,008	7
Total non-current liabilities	499,139	198,473	
Total liabilities	3,214,991	5,219,581	
Net assets	218,446,482	214,127,311	
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	83,065,484	83,961,743	
Surplus/(Deficit) for period	5,769,415	1,029,469	
Asset revaluation reserve	129,611,580	129,611,580	
Total equity	218,446,479	214,127,311	

Balance Sheet
Explanation of material variations
As at 30 June 2025

Variance			
Ref	Item	Explanation	
1	Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash and Cash Equivalents reflects a number of large capital works projects not being completed by 30 June and the receipt of 50% of the Financial Assistance Grant for 2025/2026 being received in June 2025.	
2	Rates and Other Receivables	Rates and other receivables recognise total rates raised for the 2024/2025 financial year less the amount of payments received. Rates outstanding at 30 June 2025 is slightly lower than than at 30 June 2024. Sundry debtors outstanding in 2024/25 is also less than was outstanding in 2023/24.	
3	Other Assets & Inventories	Other assets and inventories represent the amount of stock on hand to undertake operations and capital projects. This includes buildings held, in which two were sold in 2024/25.	
4	Capital Works	Capital Expenditure as at 30 June 2025 is \$8,496,623. 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 30 June 2025.	
6	Trust Funds and Deposits	As at 30 June 2025 Council holds \$147,703 for the Fire Services Levy which will be remitted to the State Government during the in July 2025.	
7	Provisions	Provisions represents the amount held for Long Service and Annual Leave as well as quarry and landfill restoration. A full reconciliation will be completed as part of year end processes.	

**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ending 30 June 2025**

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Receipts	
Rates & Charges	10,040,124
Statutory Fees and Fines	9,794
User Fees	2,171,565
Interest	667,161
Contributions - Cash	137,603
Grants - Recurrent	9,056,703
Net GST refund/(payment)	40,913
Grants - Non Recurrent	3,051,387
Trust	(20,501)
Other Revenue	2,022,764
Payments	
Employee Costs	(9,024,699)
Other Expenses	(1,542,222)
Suppliers	(7,327,259)
	<hr/>
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	9,283,334

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Payments for Property Plant and Equipment and Infrastructure	(8,496,623)
Proceeds from sale of Property Plant and Equipment	781,043
Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities	<hr/> (7,715,580)
Cash flows from Financing activities	

Net cash inflow (outflow) from financing activities	<hr/> -
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Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	1,567,754
Cash at beginning of the period	11,612,997
Cash at end of the period	<hr/> <hr/> 13,180,751

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Capital Works
For the period ending 30 June 2025

	YTD Actual \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Ref
Property				
Land	-	-	-	
Total Land	-	-	-	
Buildings	2,103,888	150,000	(1,953,888)	1
Total Buildings	2,103,888	150,000	1,953,888	
Total Property	2,103,888	150,000	1,953,888	
Plant and Equipment				
Plant, machinery and equipment	698,880	922,000	223,120	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	380,058	90,000	(290,058)	3
Total Plant and Equipment	1,078,938	1,012,000	(66,938)	
Infrastructure				
Roads	2,790,250	4,278,829	1,488,579	4
Bridges	18,500	50,000	31,500	5
Footpaths and cycleways	81,203	70,000	(11,203)	6
Drainage	12,083	68,486	56,403	7
Other infrastructure	2,411,760	542,396	(1,869,364)	8
Total Infrastructure	5,313,796	5,009,711	304,085	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	8,496,623	6,171,711	(2,324,912)	
Represented by:				
New asset expenditure	2,076,102	458,579	(1,617,523)	
Asset renewal expenditure	5,685,066	5,543,132	(141,934)	
Asset expansion expenditure	77,258	70,000	(7,258)	
Asset upgrade expenditure	658,197	100,000	(558,197)	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	8,496,623	6,171,711	(2,324,912)	

Capital Works
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 June 2025

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	A number of building projects were undertaken during 2024/2025 including projects carried forward from 2023/2024. The building projects included restoration works at Yurunga Homestead, completion of the Dimboola Soundshell extension, building renewal at Nhill Historical Society, completion of the Jeparit Workshop and commencement of the Davis Park changerooms and tiered seating building.
2	Plant, machinery and equipment	Items of plant and equipment, such as the emulsion tank and spreader trailer which require specialist manufacturing have been delayed due to supply issues. There were two town trucks delivered during 2024/2025 which were ordered in 2023/2024.
3	Fixtures & Fittings	During 2024/25 Council received grant funding to complete the fit out of the new Dimboola and Nhill Kinder on School Sites which were not budgeted.
4	Roads	Council budgeted to undertake two large upgrade projects to be funded by grants, unfortunately we were not successful with the funding applications.
5	Bridges	Capital works on bridges is under budget due to the delay to engage a contractor to undertake works on the Dimboola bridge, guardrail renewal was undertaken on Albacutya bridge following a truck clipping and damaging the rail.
6	Footpaths and cycleways	Work has been completed on the Wimmera Discovery Trail using carried forward grant funds.
7	Drainage	Drainage expenditure is under budget due to additional focus on culvert maintenance during 2024/25.

**Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 June 2025**

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Theme 1: Our Community				
Community Development	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	252,578	299,541
		Operating Revenue	247,252	90,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	5,326	209,541
		Capital Expenditure	187,087	-
Maternal and Child Health Centres	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	5,362	4,886
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	5,362	4,886
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Kindergarten Services	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	159,734	145,296
		Operating Revenue	440,157	64,784
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(280,423)	80,512
		Capital Expenditure	323,549	-
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing of and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	166,022	162,875
		Operating Revenue	134,251	42,750
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	31,771	120,125
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Aged & Disability Services	Council ceased to provide in-home aged care services on 30 June 2023. Costs related to Aged Care include Social support.	Operating Expenditure	82,194	103,833
		Operating Revenue	12,889	2,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	69,305	101,833
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	186,233	216,275
		Operating Revenue	48,572	38,500

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Health Promotion	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	NET Expenses (Revenue)	137,661	177,775
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Community Transport		Operating Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	-	-
		Capital Expenditure	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill, and improving services to Jeparit and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	246,147	357,293
		Operating Revenue	139,531	129,256
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	106,616	228,037
		Capital Expenditure	30,711	40,000
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	93,236	151,190
		Operating Revenue	20,578	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	72,658	146,190
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	Operating Expenditure	68,532	15,418
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	68,532	15,418
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Public Order & Safety	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	195,043	178,500
		Operating Revenue	87,197	81,250
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	107,846	97,250
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Early Years	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	Operating Expenditure	9,685	41,672
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	9,685	41,672
		Capital Expenditure	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Theme 2: Built & Natural Environment				
Local Roads & Bridges	<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"> 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. 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. 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. 	Operating Expenditure	4,827,719	4,502,393
		Operating Revenue	1,928,439	3,526,477
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	2,899,280	975,916
		Capital Expenditure	2,764,186	4,328,829
Drainage Management	Well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	Operating Expenditure	536,514	478,961
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	536,514	478,961
Paths & Trails	Well maintained pedestrian access, including disabled access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	Capital Expenditure	12,083	68,486
		Operating Expenditure	235,387	248,033
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	235,387	248,033
Tree Management	Conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens, and recreation reserves.	Capital Expenditure	81,203	70,000
		Operating Expenditure	258,415	370,577
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	258,415	370,577
		Capital Expenditure	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Town Beautification	Maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	1,024,882	798,543
		Operating Revenue	29,155	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	995,727	798,543
		Capital Expenditure	94,752	-
Council Buildings	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled buildings, and support of communities that undertake these activities on behalf of Council. To protect and enhance the health of the community.	Operating Expenditure	346,617	321,205
		Operating Revenue	1,189	400
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	345,428	320,805
		Capital Expenditure	24,787	-
Recreation Facilities	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	1,417,939	1,007,278
		Operating Revenue	329,001	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,088,938	1,007,278
		Capital Expenditure	2,042,856	350,000
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	1,807,447	1,684,833
		Operating Revenue	1,521,108	1,435,290
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	286,340	249,543
		Capital Expenditure	403	-
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	Operating Expenditure	267,143	345,257
		Operating Revenue	245,539	400,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	21,603	(54,743)
		Capital Expenditure		
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	Operating Expenditure	61,246	77,655
		Operating Revenue	34,688	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	26,559	77,655
		Capital Expenditure	1,626	-
Environmental Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	Operating Expenditure	213,641	222,296
		Operating Revenue	114,855	146,530
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	98,787	75,766
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
	Identification of potential fire hazards and prevention of loss of life	Operating Expenditure	110,282	125,988
		Operating Revenue	11,856	23,000

Service area	Description of services provided	YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Fire Prevention	Identification of potential fire hazards and prevention of loss of life and property caused by fire.	NET Expenses (Revenue) 98,426	102,988
	Capital Expenditure	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Theme 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy				
Economic Development	Facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for residents to access employment.	Operating Expenditure	178,942	324,800
		Operating Revenue	2,426	6,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	176,516	318,800
		Capital Expenditure	1,200	50,000
Tourism	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	Operating Expenditure	345,544	388,521
		Operating Revenue	1,461,704	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(1,116,160)	388,521
		Capital Expenditure	1,305,504	162,396
Private Works	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	252,098	368,632
		Operating Revenue	226,770	453,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	25,328	(84,368)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	Operating Expenditure	1,200,761	713,778
		Operating Revenue	1,451,440	735,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(250,679)	(21,222)
		Capital Expenditure	141,459	30,000
Land Use Planning	To ensure that any development that occurs in Hindmarsh Shire is carried out in accordance with relevant planning policies, principals and controls.	Operating Expenditure	254,763	296,275
		Operating Revenue	64,526	70,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	190,237	225,775
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community	Operating Expenditure	229,517	241,208
		Operating Revenue	29,801	39,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	199,716	201,708
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	107,640	101,425
		Operating Revenue	60,694	5,000

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome	NET Expenses (Revenue)	46,946	96,425
		Capital Expenditure	238,585	-

Service area	Description of services provided	YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Theme 4: Good Governance & Financial Sustainability			
Civic Governance & Leadership	To ensure that Council provides effective leadership and that its decisions are transparent, inclusive and based on sound recommendations and advice.	Operating Expenditure	1,212,638
		Operating Revenue	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,212,638
		Capital Expenditure	-
Customer Service Centres	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	560,254
		Operating Revenue	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	560,254
		Capital Expenditure	67,365
Council Elections	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council.	Operating Expenditure	97,430
		Operating Revenue	6,249
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	91,181
		Capital Expenditure	-
Financial Management	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	357,108
		Operating Revenue	10,004,325
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(9,647,217)
		Capital Expenditure	-
Rating and Valuations	Management of Council's rating system, including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges.	Operating Expenditure	220,163
		Operating Revenue	8,718,501
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(8,498,338)
		Capital Expenditure	-

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Records Management	Effective and efficient recording, storage, retrieval and disposal of records in line with the standards of the Public Records Office of Victoria.	Operating Expenditure	90,830	115,658
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	90,830	115,658
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	516,662	509,131
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	516,662	509,131
Risk Management	Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure.	Capital Expenditure	68,348	85,000
		Operating Expenditure	625,574	795,126
		Operating Revenue	64,907	40,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	560,667	755,126
Contract Management	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	181,687	212,843
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	181,687	212,843
Payroll and Human Resources Services	Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of Human Resources services to management.	Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	352,475	376,857
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	352,475	376,857
Emergency Management	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	181,745	92,699
		Operating Revenue	36,543	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	145,202	92,699
Depots & Workshops	Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment.	Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	1,582,283	1,252,214
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,582,283	1,252,214
		Capital Expenditure	737,651	636,000

Service area	Description of services provided		YTD Actuals 2024/2025	Budget 2024/2025
Asset Management	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.	Operating Expenditure	369,053	375,959
		Operating Revenue	4,619	1,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	364,434	374,959
	• 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.		-	-
		Capital Expenditure	-	-
Fleet Management	Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is management, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and efficient way possible.	Operating Expenditure	235,235	290,871
		Operating Revenue	77,093	85,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	158,142	205,871
Accounts Payable	Payment of invoices in an efficient and timely manner.	Capital Expenditure	373,270	386,000
		Operating Expenditure	78,183	76,757
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	78,183	76,757
Accounts	Receival of payments from debtors in an efficient and timely manner.	Capital Expenditure	-	-
		Operating Expenditure	(16,143)	10,529
		Operating Revenue	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(16,143)	10,529
		Capital Expenditure	-	-

[illegible]

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES



19th May 2025

To Committee Members,

NOTICE is hereby given that a Rainbow Township Advisory Committee Meeting of the Hindmarsh Shire Council will be held at the Civic Centre Small Meeting Room on Monday 19th May 2025 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 |
| 7. Events |
| 8. General business as notified to the Chair
1. Llew's silo – documentary and future advertising – financial support
2. Sculpture acquisition
3. Caravan entrance gates
4. unkempt blocks
5. Christmas street party – traders |
| 9. Councillor Report |
| 10. Officer Report |
| 11. Urgent business |

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

12. Finance report

13. Decisions to be made

14. Meeting Closed

15. Council Officer Authorisation

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

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

Allira Roberts, Graham Nuske, Norelle Eckermann, Roger Aitken, Greg Roberts, Belinda Eckermann & Colleen Petschel

APOLOGIES

Phil King & Ron Ismay

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

- General conflict of interest; or
- Material conflict of interest

Declaration of general or material conflict of interest must also be advised by Committee Members at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

Belinda Eckermann for agenda item 2 (she left the room during discussions)

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the RTAC Committee Meeting held on Monday March 17th at the Civic Centre Meeting Room, circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed. Allira/Norelle AiF C

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

NA

6. CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD

- Murra Warra Wind farm community grants program 2025
- Volunteer Week Shire Breakfasts
- Turbo gallery letter

RECOMMENDATION

That the Inward Correspondence noted. **Graham/Belinda AiF C**

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

7. EVENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greg provided a summary of the Welcome to New Residents Event. - The committee was disappointed that the new residents could not go through Yurunga (unless at an extra cost). - This was seen as a missed opportunity to showcase Yurunga.

Event:		Location:		Date	
<i>Relevant documents</i>					
	Responsibility	Due date	Status		
Risk assessment					
Food permit					
Local Law permit					

8. GENERAL BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

8.1 Llew's silo – documentary and future advertising – financial support

- A documentary about Llew and the silo is underway
- It is called "old man & the Silo"
- It is planned to release the documentary at the opening of the silo and have it screening inside the silo when it is open
- They would also like to do more filming to advertise the silo
- There is a request for financial support of this venture
- The RTAC has \$7400 set aside for Rainbow Silo Art
- The Shire has contributed \$2800 and an anonymous donor has provided another \$1800.
- **MOTION : the RTAC would contribute \$2000 to the project ...with the following provisions**
 - **The world premiere of the documentary would be in Rainbow on/at the silo (weather permitting)**
 - **More information is provided on the medium & how it will be distributed**

Moved Graham/Norelle AiF C

2. Sculpture acquisition

- *Belinda left the room during discussions*
- There was lengthy discussion on the request to contribute sponsorship/prize money for a sculpture competition
- The committee deemed that the Turbo Gallery was a private enterprise and that this would set a dangerous precedent for future request from private business.
- **MOTION : The RTAC would not support the request as the main focus of the committee should be on community projects not private enterprise.**

Norelle/Allira AiF C

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

3. Caravan entrance gates

- Great news included in the Officer's report with the awarding of \$50,000 to the project.
- Our task is to look for designs and share them with everyone before the next meeting (try to include elements from around the area)
- Hopefully we will have more info at the next meeting.
- The RTAC had lots of questions about how the project will be managed including:
 - Who is in control of the funds?
 - Who else is on the project control group?
 - Does the RTAC have a final say in the design?
 - What is the timeline? (the shorter the better)

4. Unkempt blocks

- There still seems to be no noticeable action on a number of unkempt blocks
- Is the process outlined to the RTAC being followed?
- Main blocks are the Skinner house in Darts Ave and Petter Dunne's (?) corner
- Would like an update on progress in this area.

5. Christmas street party – traders

- No action - Colleen still waiting for someone to get back to her from the Trader's group.

9. COUNCILLOR REPORT

- major clean up at Llew's silo to prepare the site
- Steel works should arrive during the week

10. OFFICER REPORT

- Written report presented at the meeting

11. URGENT BUSINESS

NA

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 Summary of Balances in Finance Report.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Yurunga invoice for new resident's evening | \$700.00 |
| • Learning group invoice for 20 info booklets | \$241.50 |

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance Report as of 30/04/2025 as provided with this Agenda be approved.

Moved Belinda/ Allira 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

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

Creditor	Value \$	Description of Goods or Services
Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee	\$700	Catering for Welcome for new residents on 8 th April 2025
Rainbow learning Group	\$241.50	Printing & binding of 20 Information booklets for new residents event
TBC (unsure at this stage)	\$2000	Towards documentary for Llew's Silo

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	

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

10	Officer's Report	Written report tabled
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 20:17

15. COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

*to be completed by the Council Officer

I Philip King accept the following recommendations made by the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee at this meeting held on 19 May 2025:

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.

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

I Philip King advise that the following items:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
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.

- Need to be referred to a Council Meeting / CEO for a decision
- Require more Information
- Do No align with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan

SIGNED:



Council Officer. Philip King

Dated: 16 June 2025

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES



16th June 2025

To Committee Members,

NOTICE is hereby given that a Rainbow Township Advisory Committee Meeting of the Hindmarsh Shire Council will be held at the Civic Centre Small Meeting Room on Monday 16th June 2025 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**
- 7. Events**
- 8. General business as notified to the Chair**
 - [1. Caravan entrance gates](#)
- 9. Councillor Report**
- 10. Officer Report**
- 11. Urgent business**
- 12. Finance report**
- 13. Decisions to be made**

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

14. Meeting Closed

15. Council Officer Authorisation

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

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

Allira Roberts, Phil King, Ron ismay, Graham Nuske, Roger Aitken, Greg Roberts, Rob Koning & Colleen Petschel

Greg welcomed Rob Koning onto the committee as a new member.

APOLOGIES

Norelle Eckermann

Apologies be moved and accepted Graham/Allira AiF C

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

- General conflict of interest; or
- Material conflict of interest

Declaration of general or material conflict of interest must also be advised by Committee Members at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the RTAC Committee Meeting held on Monday May 19th at the Civic Centre Meeting Room, circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed. (in principle as a signed copy was not presented) Graham/ Allira AiF C

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- A discussion was held on the logistics of the viewing of Llew's silo documentary in Rainbow (shire to keep the RTAC updated on progress of documentary)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

NA

7. EVENTS

NA

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

Event:		Location:		Date	
<i>Relevant documents</i>					
	Responsibility	Due date	Status		
Risk assessment					
Food permit					
Local Law permit					

8. GENERAL BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

8.1 Caravan entrance gates

- Graham provided an example from Wedderburn that was received well
- Phil passed around a couple of examples from Horsham businesses
- The funding has not been signed off yet...but should be very soon
- Completion date for the project is December 2026 - so we have time to do it properly!
- Rob mentioned that the entry of the Enduro complex could be an option...discussion of consistency throughout the town
- The use of limestone was discussed as there is plenty around the area that could be used
- Discussed the potential of boom gates and lights
- All agreed that a combination of different materials would look great.
- Funding so far... Grant : \$50,000 – Shire : \$38,000 – Horsham Sports - \$5000 = **\$ 93,000** (and RTAC has \$\$\$ set aside as well!)
- Decision was made to set aside the **AUGUST meeting** to the topic of the Caravan Entrance (people can collect ideas etc and send them through to Allira who will create a presentation for the night)

9. COUNCILLOR REPORT

- Llew's silo – the framework for the lift has arrived, cladding has started
- Discussion on the ownership/location of the weighbridge..surveyor working on this at the moment

10. OFFICER REPORT

Rainbow Town Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday 16 June 2025
Officer Report – Phil King, Manager Community Wellbeing

Items
Rainbow Silo (Llew Schilling Silo) Cladding of 3 tower sections underway this week. There was an issue with the initial delivery of Colorbond, so it had to be replaced and arrived on Friday.

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

<p>Crane will be back onsite soon to rotate the towers (to allow the ground facing sides to be clad) and to also start work on cutting the penetrations into the Silo for the platforms. Our Artist responsible for the external Art Activation visited the site last week and is excited to get going. No exact date yet but he is likely to be onsite in August for about 2-3 weeks. Internal Artist onsite timing is still to be determined (relying on completion of construction for access to the western bin).</p>
<p>Rainbow Lake Jetty installation recently completed (ahead of schedule) and has been well received by all who have visited. The Lake Committee are taking on the construction of a pathway and ramp to provide All Abilities Access. As a part of the project we were able to purchase 2 motion activation solar lights which will be mounted on poles at the jetty.</p>
<p>Rainbow Men's Shed The approval of a contribution of \$2,800.00 from the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee to the Rainbow Neighbourhood House / Rainbow Men's Shed for the purchase of materials and construction of an outdoor area to enable hot works (welding) was discussed at Council's 5 May 2025 Council Meeting. Council have requested clarification regarding the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the amount quoted, \$2,746.87, for materials only or for materials and construction? • Can you provide a copy of the quote for the above please? • Will the Men's Shed / Neighbourhood House be seeking advice regarding if a Building Permit is required for the works or not? <p>An email has been sent to Bernard Young asking for the above information.</p>
<p>Rainbow Caravan Park Entrance Project Council has been advised that our funding application was successful, and we have been awarded a grant of \$50,000. Although the outcome has been published on the Regional Development Victoria website, Council has been asked to delay any publicity until such time as the funding agreement has been signed. We should be able to start detailed planning at the June RTAC meeting or alternatively we would be happy for RTAC to nominate one or two members to be part of a project control group.</p>
<p>2025 Seniors Concerts A series of concerts will be held across the shire for seniors. Rainbow – Friday 27 June 2025 11.00am – 12.30pm at the MECCA. Doors open 10.30am. Featuring Acoustic Box Duo. Registrations from Rainbow and Jeparit are very low.</p>
<p>2025 – 2029 Council Plan / Community Health and Public Wellbeing Plan A draft 2025 – 2029 Council Plan / Community Health and Public Wellbeing Plan is currently being prepared and will be available for community consultation in June.</p>
<p>July 2025 School Holiday Program Quite a few activities for Rainbow as below. Monday 7 July. Science with Ellen, Rainbow Library. 11.00am – 12.00noon Thursday 10 July. Make your own Kokedama, Rainbow MECCA Supper Room. 2.30pm – 4.30pm Wednesday 16 July. Badminton. MECCA Rainbow. Primary School Age, 10.00am – 11.00am. Secondary School Age, 11.30am – 12.30pm</p>
<p>Hindmarsh Sport & Recreation Strategy 2025 – 2035 Planning underway to commence the development of a new Sport and Recreation Strategy during the second half of the year. More details to follow,</p>

All reports moved and accepted Graham/Roger AiF C

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

11. URGENT BUSINESS
NA

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 Summary of Balances in Finance Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance Report [to be sent out to committee members.](#)

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

Creditor	Value \$	Description of Goods or Services

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

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes in principle
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	Written report tabled
11	Urgent Business	
12.1	Finance Report	Sent out in email after the meeting
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	
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 20:24

15. COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

*to be completed by the Council Officer

I Philip King accept the following recommendations made by the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee at this meeting held on 16 June 2025:

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	

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

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.

I Philip King advise that the following items:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
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.

- Need to be referred to a Council Meeting / CEO for a decision
- Require more Information
- Do No align with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan

SIG



Philip King, Council Officer

Dated:

28 June 2025



9th June, 2025

MINUTES OF THE JEPARIT TOWNSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 9TH JUNE, 2025 at the Memorial Hall, Roy Street, Jeparit at 7.30pm.

Present: Teresa Smith (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Quinn (Sec), Craige Proctor (CM), Sharon Reilly (CM), Annemarie Werner (CM), Mel Wagener (CM) - including Community Members Wendy Werner, Colin Moore, and Tony Simpson.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

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. APOLOGIES

Mr. T. Clarke (HSC), Mr. P. King (HSC), Jason Hutson (Chair-Person), and Bec Schultz, (Committee Members)

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

- General conflict of interest; or
- Material conflict of interest

Declaration of general or material conflict of interest must also be advised by Committee Members at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

NIL.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the JTAC Committee Meeting held on 12th May, 2025 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Roy Street, Jeparit, circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed
(Attachment: 1)

Moved: Craige Proctor

Seconded: Annemarie Werner

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1 6.21 Date of outward correspondence reads 30/3/25
(correction - date of correspondence should read 30/5/25)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD:

- 6.1 P. King (HSC) Murra Wurra Wind - 13/5/25
- 6.2 P. King (HSC) JTAC meeting report - 16/5/25
- 6.3 P. King (HSC) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 19/5/25
- 6.4 P. King (HSC) Auto Response - 19/5/25
- 6.5 Craige P (CM) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 21/5/25
- 6.6 Craige P (CM) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 24/5/25
- 6.7 Craige P (CM) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 24/5/25
- 6.8 P. King (HSC) Draft of JTCA Meeting - 27/5/25
- 6.9 P. King (HSC) July Meeting dates - 29/5/25
- 6.10 P. King (HSC) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 29/5/25
- 6.11 GWMT Industry News 30/5/25
- 6.12 P. King (HSC) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 2/6/25
- 6.13 P. King (HSC) Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 3/6/25

OUTWARD:

- 6.14 C. Members - Murra Wurra Wind - 13/5/25
- 6.15 P. King (HSC) JTAC Draft of Minutes - 19/5/25
- 6.16 P. King (HSC) July Meeting date - 29/5/25
- 6.17 C. Members - Minutes of May Meeting 2025 - 29/5/25
- 6.18 S. 86 (HSC) & T. Clarke (HSC) Minutes of May Meeting 2025 - 29/5/25
- 6.19 C. Members Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 3/6/25
- 6.20 C. Members Jeparit Hall Centenary Celebration - 3/6/25
- 6.21 C. Members GWMT Industry News 30/5/25
- 6.22 C. Members Agenda for JTAC Meeting June - 3/6/25
- 6.23 T. Clarke (HSC) & P. King (HSC) - Agenda for JTAC Meeting June - 3/6/25

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

Moved: Sharon Reilly

Seconded: Mel Wagener

Carried

7. EVENTS

Event:	NYE	Location:	River Precinct	Date	31/12/25
Relevant documents					
	Responsibility	Due date	Status		
Risk assessment	(HSC)	15/12/25			
Food permit	N/A		Bring own food		
Local Law permit	(HSC)	15/12/25			

8. GENERAL BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

8.1 Teresa Smith discussed item of 7 of meeting Events - Investigation into two other bands Head Rush and/or Acoustic Box (60's music) availability and cost being investigated.

8.2 Reminder to members to inform others that the event in Jeparit, on 27th June needs to be booked. Currently very few bookings.

8.3 Despite weather Garage Sale provided extra people to the township, Supermarket found the day extra busy and the Local hotel opened for a few hours during the day. Disappointing that the vehicle/wheel display did not proceed.

8.4 Memorial hall Centenary function on Friday afternoon 6th June 2025 provided entertainment for approx. 40 people.

8.5 Craige Proctor briefly discussed the new direction of the WMPM and Jeparit's Historical following.

9. COUNCILLOR REPORT

N/A

10. OFFICER's REPORT

N/A

11. URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 Summary of Balances in Finance Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance Report as provided be approved.

Financial Report NOT Provided at Meeting

Moved:

Seconded:

Carried

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

Moved:

Seconded:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION

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

Moved: Sharon Reilly (Meeting 12/5/25)

Seconded: Annemarie Werner (Meeting 12/5/25)

Carried

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
8.1	NYE Band	\$2,500.00 plus

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	Nil
6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	NYE Function
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 & 8.5.
9	Councillor's Report	N/A
10	Officer's Report	N/A.
11	Urgent Business	Nil
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report was N/A at meeting.
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	Nil
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised (above \$2,000)	NYE Event

14. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 8.17pm
Next JTAC Meeting scheduled for Monday 14th July 2025.

15. COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

*to be completed by Council Officer

I, Phil King accept the following recommendations made by the JTA Committee at this meeting held on 9th June, 2025

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Business Arising from Minutes	Nil
6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	NYE Function
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 & 8.5.
9	Councillor's Report	N/A
10	Officer's Report	N/A .
11	Urgent Business	Nil
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report was N/A at meeting.
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	Nil
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or more)	NYE Event

I, Phil King advise that the following items:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION

- Need to be referred to a Council Meeting / CEO for a decision
- Require more Information
- Do No align with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan

SIGNED:



Council Officer

Dated: 18 June 2025

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum

Minutes of monthly general meeting May 20th 2025

Thanks to Don Pedder for minuting the meeting.

1. President welcomed attendees and fully acknowledged and paid Respect to First Nations Traditional Owners past, present and future.
2. **Additional Agenda items:** Nil
3. **Declaration of interest:** Nil
4. **Present** were: Wendy Werner, Pres. Don Pedder, Clem and Mary-Anne Paech, Wendy Zanker, Colin Moore, Peter Pumpa, Tige Mannington, Christa Robnik, Mark Fletcher HSC and on screen Craige Proctor Acting Sec.
Apologies: Jeff Woodward, Peter Robson, Cr Roger Aitken, Natalia Aguirre. **Motion to accept apologies,**
Moved: Mary-Anne Paech **Seconded:** Wendy Zanker. Carried.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting on April 15th 2025.**
Motion to accept them as read: **Moved:** Tige Mannington **Seconded:** Don Pedder. Carried.
6. **President's Report:** (Emailed 17th of May, Attached)
Wendy thanked the 5 participants of the May 10th working Bee. Updated tyre quote (Don Pedder) sent to HSC for approval. (since approved pending official paperwork from supplier)
Stationary engine start up day taking shape thanks to Tige and Craige. (since postponed due to prior engagement of visiting participants.) On the 5th of May the Shire Youth Council held a meeting in the Museum at the Detpa School. They were welcomed by Craige Proctor and Wendy Werner of the Museum. Wendy Zanker, Pres. of the Jeparit Historical Society, each giving an introductory talk, Shire CEO Monica Revell, AnnMarie Werner and Theresa Smith of the Town Advisory Committee. Wendy thanked Monica for posting on Facebook, Wendy Zanker for an inviting afternoon tea and Craige for organising the visit.
The Brief is ready for expressions of interest for Curatorial support, working title: Re-imagining Wimmera Mallee Pioneer museum.
Mathew Polack's video on the life of John Coppock of Albacutya Station is completed and will screen at the Museum on June 7th.
Wendy thanked everyone for their time and effort and urged us to continue.
7. **Correspondence/Secretary's report.**
Inwards:
HSC (Berni O'Loughlin) re prospective new member, Louise Dillon.
WVAHS Western Historian newsletter.
Joseph Petrie re donation of cream separator.
Michelle Donaldson, *Wimmera Mail Times* re promoting Rally
HSC Mark Fletcher-Curator Brief
HSC Jeff Woodward-updated tourist brochure.
HSC Nan Da San Bleh Dah, Community Co-ordinator, Youth Council visit
Ongoing communication with HSC re Youth Council meeting
Outwards:
To HSC: Notice to hold an event and follow up Risk Assessment and other paperwork.
Motion to accept outward correspondence and note the inward Correspondence.
Moved Clem Paech Seconded Mary-Anne Paech.
Business arising from Correspondence.
Check for Separator in Museum, decision next meeting.
8. **Treasurer's Report.** Mary-Anne Paech
NB: Cash total of \$446.45 not banked in April will appear on next statement.
Purchases/Finances as tabled
Account Balance **\$65,259.66**
Volunteer Hours: 294.5
Purchases: Meeting microphone???
Visitors: 18 Adults, 38 Concession, 1 Student. 3 Families, (Incl. 3 Children)
Outstanding A/C for Volunteer Badges \$302.50, (Promotional Products)
Advance booking: 24th October, Cardwell's Coaches, 15-20 Seniors.
Motion to accept report and pay A/C, Moved: Mary-Anne Paech. **Seconded:** Wendy Zanker.

9. HSC Update: Mark Fletcher

OH&S. Hazard Identification Report Booklet available. Members to identify work suitable for volunteers or Council, to guide patrons safely through, roping off etc. Discussion for next meeting.
Conditions of entry sign at entrance and on site map.
Roped off no go zones with signs at congested areas.
Brochures, Emergency Response S.O.P. and site plan being printed.
Electrical and plumbing upgrades to be followed up, also outstanding keys.

10. HSC Update: Cr Roger Aitken. No update due to Cr Aitken's absence.

11. Purchase of new electric Blower and Trimmer

Colin has chosen a Blower with battery and charger @ \$599.00.

A Trimmer @ \$299.00, plus battery and charger @ \$299.00. Total \$1,197.00

Motion to Purchase: Moved: Clem Paech. **Seconded:** Colin Moore. Carried.

Wendy Werner asked Mark Fletcher if HSC would supply gloves, ear and eye protection for the above to which he agreed. Discussion re managing of chargers, decided best done by volunteers in office, who, Mary-Anne asserted would be happy to oblige.

12. Volunteer Badges

Colin: Badges are ready to collect from Promotional Products in Horsham. Clem and Mary-Anne volunteered.

13. Curatorial support / Management

Wendy referred to Craige's email re some concerns with the Collection Policy. Craige suggested a small working group be formed to consider acceptance and removal of items. This was agreed and Wendy W, Mary-Anne, Craige and Mark (HSC) will be the group put forward for Shire approval.

Wendy W. thanked Mark and Jeff Woodward for preparing the Brief for the Curatorial position. Mark replied that it would now be released for expressions of interest.

In reply to Craige's enquiry re composition of the brief Mark responded that it is based on the User plan/Master plan. Discussion ensued re selection criteria. Selection Panel (yet to be determined), budget constraints etc.

Tige Mannington expressed concern from previous experience that the \$20,000.00 funding may be reduced by insurance fees. Mark confirmed that suitable applicants would have their own cover.

14. Shire Youth Council Visit 5th of May.

The Shire Youth Council held its May meeting in the Detpa School. (Ref. President's report) Craige added that the visit went well and hopes the experience will inspire their future involvement and encourage them put their skills to good use in Historical societies etc. Nan Da San had informed him that one youth councillor was already producing websites.

Discussion re volunteering age, Mark to confirm. The young councillors were fascinated by the venue. Wendy Zanker's afternoon tea was highly praised.

15. Mathew Polack Film Premiere

To be held at 6pm Saturday 7th of May. Discussion about organising portable screen, lights, heating, chairs etc. Town Hall or Merritt shed as wet weather option. Bollards ropes and fairy lights as guide. Entrance fee discussed, **moved to charge \$10 pending Matt's approval. Moved** Wendy Werner. **Seconded** Colin Moore
Question from Craige re screen.

16. Tyre replacement project. Plans for preservation, replacement and exploring alternatives.

17. Stationary engine display, repair and rationalisation of display. Preparation: moving tractor shed items for rear 2 bays. On the day: bunting; safety protocols. DSO and others not available on June 7 weekend. Significant insurance issues.

18. Grounds upgrade. Extend Albacutya garden. Picnic area between Werrap and Blacksmith's. Billabong area.

19. Fundraising. High teas etc. (NA) WMPM Memberships (WW). Further discussion needed. More unique Merchandising? How do we diversify merchandising?

20. Ongoing Activities for 2025 – as determined at AGM (not for discussion; just a reminder)

Rabbit proofing perimeter - progress

Development of Educational Kit

Marketing and promotion – FB posts

Cataloguing collection – Christa, Natalie, Colin

Wayfinding signage

Additional Storyboards

Prioritising Maintenance - Briarley

Resolving OH&S issues

Event planning - compliance

Investigating firearms safety options - curator

Curatorial support – scoping document

21. Budget Initiatives and Submission for 2025-2026

1. Ongoing Curatorial Support \$20,000 1:1 HSC/WMPM
2. Reimagine Briarley Homestead – visitor entrance – first nations info & mural \$5,000 HSC
3. Uniforms for volunteers - \$2,000 HSC
4. Merrett Shed Mural – Point of interest and visual promo to road. Potentially Gail Newcombe, horse mural \$20,000 HSC

Total request from Hindmarsh Shire Council \$37,000

Co-contribution from WMPM \$10,000 towards curatorial support.

22. Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 June 2025, 4.00 p.m. AGM: Tuesday 15 July, 4.00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.