



21 May 2025

## AGENDA

### Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting

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**Date:** Wednesday 28 May 2025

**Time:** Commencing at 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*



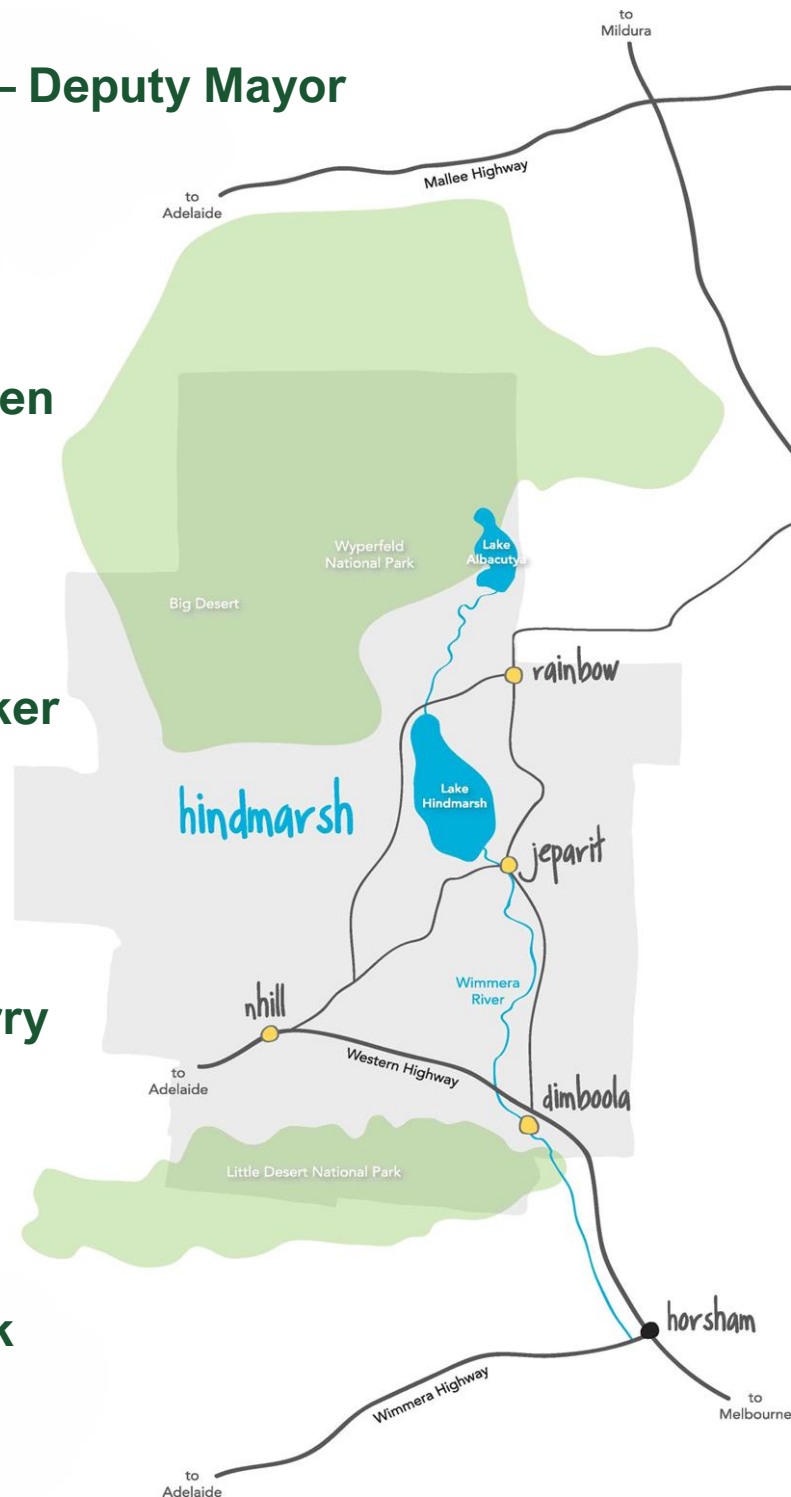
**Cr Rosie Barker**  
*West Ward*



**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.

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## 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](http://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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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

*Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges 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.*

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### 1.2 LIVESTREAMING STATEMENT

#### **Live Streaming Statement**

*This meeting is being broadcast on the internet and the recording of the meeting will be published on Council's YouTube Channel and linked to Council's website.*

*As a visitor in the public gallery, you may be filmed. By remaining in the public gallery, you consent to being filmed and for the recording of you to be made publicly available by Council.*

*A copy of Council's Live Streaming and Recording of Council Meetings Policy is available at the back of this room and on Council's website. Please speak with one of our staff members if you have any questions.*

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### 1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

#### **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.*

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## 2 APOLOGIES

### 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.

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### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

#### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

**Attachments:**

1. 2025 05 07 Council Meeting Minutes - MEDIA [4.1.1]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2025 05 07 Council Meeting Minutes [4.1.2]



## 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.	Media Release currently being prepared.	In Progress
7 May 2025 Item 10.2	Council officers to prepare the draft 2025/2026 budget, draft Revenue and Rating Plan and draft Long Term Financial Plan for public consultation.	Published on Have Your Say for public consultation.	Complete
7 May 2025 Item 10.4	That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Council Advisory Committee Policy, Hindmarsh Shire Council Pride Committee Terms of Reference and Hindmarsh Shire Council Advisory Terms of Reference with slight changes.	Policy and Terms of Reference have been updated and published on Council's website, made available to Councillors and community notified.	Complete
7 May 2025 Item 10.5	That Council adopts the Councillor Gifts and Hospitality Policy.	Councillor Gifts and Hospitality Policy published on Council's website, made available to Councillors and community notified.	Complete
7 May 2025 Item 10.6	That Council provides funding to Midnight Toast to create a documentary on "The Old Man and the Silo" for promotional use on the Llew Schilling Silo project.	Council officers notified Leigh Schilling of outcome.	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](mailto:info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) or delivered in person to a council customer centre but are limited to two questions and 100 words including any pre-amble. Offensive, trivial and repetitive questions, questions which have been recently answered, or questions that may contain defamatory comments, may be excluded at the discretion of the Mayor.

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

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## 6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

### COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 29 April 2025 – 19 May 2025

#### 6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
07-05-2025	Council Briefing	Nhill Council Chambers	
07-05-2025	Council Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	
13-05-2025	Nhill Town Committee Meeting		
14-05-2025	Deliberative Panel Session	Dimboola	
15-05-2025	MAV State Council Dinner	Melbourne	
16-05-2025	MAV State Council	Melbourne	
18-05-2025	GWM Renewable Energy Facility Official Opening	Nhill	
19-05-2025	Volunteer Breakfast	Nhill	

#### 6.2 CR CHAN UOY, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
02-05-2025	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Discussion Panel	Grampians Grape Escape – Halls Gap	Represented the wimmera.
04-05-2025	Little Desert Bushfire Volunteer Thank You	Winiam Hall	
07-05-2025	Council Briefing and Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	
08-05-2025	AGM Local Learning and Employment Network	Federation University Horsham	
09-05-2025	Wimmera SOuthern Mallee LLEN Lead and Elevate Workshop	Horsham Church of Christ	Inspiring Year 11 students in two workshops.
12-05-2025	BLAZE AID Community Dinner	Nhill Showgrounds	
14-05-2025	Council Plan Deliberative Panel Session	Dimboola Civic Hub	

### 6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
05-05-2025	Youth Council Meeting	Jeparit Museum	
08-05-2025	Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
12-05-2025	Men's Shed Community Barbecue Open Day	Rainbow	
19-05-2025	Rainbow Town Committee	Rainbow	
27-05-2025	Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	

### 6.4 CR ROSIE BARKER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
07-05-2025	Council Briefing	Nhill Council Chambers	
07-05-2025	Council Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	
08-05-2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN	Federation University Horsham	AGM and guest speaker Luke Kennedy. Voted onto Management Committee to represent our Shire.
08-05-2025	ALGWA	Online	Susan Pelosi from Victoria Police presentation.
12-05-2025	BlazeAid Thank You Dinner	Nhill A&P Showgrounds	Magnificent turn out by Nhill and Hindmarsh Community to thank the volunteers of BlazeAid.
13-05-2025	Nhill Town Committee	Nhill Senior Citizens	No Quorum. Discussion Only.
14-05-2025	Councillor Mentoring	Online	Informative and professional.
14-05-2025	Council Plan Deliberative Panel Session	Dimboola Community Library	Well attended and inspiring community discussion.
17-05-2025	ABC Wimmera Radio	Via Phone	Advertising our Volunteer Breakfasts on radio with Rebecca.
18-05-2025	Nhill Lions Market	Jaypex Park	Representing HSC West Ward at the market and meeting with community for in-depth discussion.

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
19-05-2025	Nhill Volunteers Appreciation Breakfast	Goldsworthy Park	Great turn out in freezing weather to celebrate all the work that our volunteers do in our community.

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## 6.5 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
07-05-2025	Council Briefing	Nhill Council Chambers	
14-05-2025	Deliberative Panel Session	Dimboola	
21-05-2025	Volunteer Breakfast	Dimboola	
21-05-2025	2025-2026 Budget Drop-In Session	Dimboola	

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## 6.6 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
07-05-2025	Council Briefing	Nhill Council Chambers	
07-05-2025	Council Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	

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## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Introduction:**

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

**Inwards:**

- 2025/05/05 - Matthew Lundgren to Council re By Five Early Years Initiative Phase Two – Attachment Number: 7.1.1
- 2025/05/09 - City of Greater Bendigo to Council re Support for MAV State Council Motion – Attachment Number: 7.1.2

**Outwards:**

- No outwards correspondence.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council notes the attached correspondence.**

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## 8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. 2025 05 07 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]

**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.***

## 9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.

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## 10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

### 10.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate and Community Services

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Hindmarsh Advisory Committee Applications [10.1.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report recommends appointment of members to Hindmarsh Shire Council Town Advisory Committees for Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow as well as the Hindmarsh Pride Committee, for the term of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027.

Each Town Advisory Committee must have a minimum of four (4) members. This report recommends appointment of 10 members to the Jeparit Town Committee, six (6) members to the Rainbow Town Committee, four (4) members to the Hindmarsh Pride Committee and three (3) members to the Nhill Town Committee, noting that nominations will remain open for Nhill to ensure that minimum membership requirements are met.

**Discussion:**

Council called for nominations for the three Town Advisory Committees and the Hindmarsh Pride Committee from 24 March to 11 April 2025.

Advertising for membership was undertaken via advertisement in local newspapers, media release, posters and Facebook posts. At the conclusion of this period, as membership limits were not met across several Committees, it was decided to extend the nomination process through to 21 April 2025.

At the close of nominations on 21 April 2025, 16 nominations had been received for the Township Advisory Committees with 10 for Jeparit, two (2) for Nhill and four (4) for Rainbow. Hindmarsh Pride committee received three (3) nominations.

With two (2) of the four (4) committees not meeting minimum membership requirements it was decided to continue to accept applications and delay the appointment of members until the second Council meeting in May with the intention of attracting further applications, and after discussions with the existing committees.

The nominations received at the time of writing are as follows:



<b>Jeparit Town Committee</b>	<b>Nhill Town Committee</b>	<b>Rainbow Town Committee</b>	<b>Hindmarsh Pride Committee</b>
AnnMarie Werner	Natalie Farmers	Allira Roberts	Rhys Webb
Teresa Smith	Alison Dahlenburg	Norelle Eckermann	Wiremu Larkins
Mel Wagener	Lisa Olds	Graham Nuske	Craige Proctor
Cheryl Quinn		Colleen Petschel	Natalie Aguirre
Jason Hutson		Gregory Roberts	
Rebecca Schultz		Robert Koning	
Sharon Reilly			
Lauren Badua			
Wendy Werner			
Colin Moore			

The Terms of Reference for Town Advisory Committees and Hindmarsh Pride Committee set the minimum membership as four (4) (plus one appointed Councillor) and the maximum membership as 11. None of the advisory group nominations above exceed this membership limit, with three (3) of the committees meeting the minimum thresholds.

Nhill Town Committee remains below the minimum threshold required to form an Advisory Committee of Council. By appointing the listed three (3) nominated persons to the Committee they would have the ability to continue to meet post 1 July 2025 in an informal capacity until such time as membership requirements can be met. Council will continue to work with these members and the wider community over the next month to promote membership.

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

##### **Theme One: Our Community**

A community well informed and engaged

##### **Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability**

Strong governance practices

#### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications in appointing members to the Town Advisory or Hindmarsh Pride Committees.

#### **Risk Management Implications:**

<b>Strategic Risk Description</b>	<b>Risk Management Discussion</b>
Community Needs Governance	The appointment of Advisory Committees through a formal process ensures that the obligations within the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> are met and that Council can continue to build effective and efficient relationships with community representatives. Having robust Advisory Committees ensures that the reach and perception of Council services within the community can be strengthened and that projects,

	plans and strategies are effectively informed by identified community priorities.
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**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

It is not appropriate for community to be engaged in the appointing of members to a Council Advisory committee.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

Gender Impact Assessment Attached.

**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 – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Janelle Reichelt, Manager People & Performance

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council officers will advise the nominees who are appointed to the Advisory committees of their appointment and liaise with them to ensure all volunteer induction processes are completed prior to commencement from 1 July 2025.

**Next Steps:**

- Contact appointees and advise of their successful nomination to the relevant Advisory Committee.
- Set the July 2025 meeting where the Chairperson and Secretary will be elected and invite the outgoing Chairpersons to attend to give the newly formed Committee a handover report.
- Continue to seek Expressions of Interest for Nhill Town Committee membership to reach minimum requirements to retain the committee.
- Ensure volunteer induction processes are completed prior to commencement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council appoint the following members to***

***1. Jeparit Town Committee:***

***AnnMarie Werner  
Teresa Smith  
Mel Wagener  
Cheryl Quinn  
Jason Hutson  
Rebecca Schultz  
Sharon Reilly  
Lauren Badua  
Wendy Werner  
Colin Moore***

***2. Nhill Town Committee:***

***Natalie Farmers  
Alison Dahlenburg  
Lisa Olds***

***3. Rainbow Town Committee:***

***Allira Roberts  
Norelle Eckermann  
Graham Nuske  
Colleen Petschel  
Gregory Roberts  
Robert Koning***

***4. Hindmarsh Pride Committee:***

***Rhys Webb  
Wiremu Larkins  
Craig Proctor  
Natalie Aguirre***

## 10.2 MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY 2025

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate and Community Services

**Attachments:**

1. 2025 04 29 Nhill A and P Society to Council re Public Holiday Request for Nhill Show Day 2025 [10.2.1]
2. 2025 05 06 Rainbow A and P Society to Council re Public Holiday Request for Rainbow Show Day 2025 [10.2.2]

**Executive Summary:**

Council has received requests from Nhill A & P Society and Rainbow A & P Society to change the 2025 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday to their respective show days, being Tuesday 14 October 2025 for Rainbow and Thursday 16 October 2025 for Nhill. This report discusses the procedure for the declaration of substitute public holidays for Melbourne Cup 2025 and recommends writing to the Minister for small business expressing preference to substitute the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday in Nhill and Rainbow.

**Discussion:**

In 2011, the Victorian Government amended the *Public Holidays Act 1993* to give regional Councils the ability to request alternative local public holiday arrangements in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day. Council needs to request the change at least 90 days prior to Melbourne Cup Day.

The *Public Holidays Act 1993* Section 8A(1) states:

**Council may request substitute holiday for Melbourne Cup Day**

- (1) A non-metropolitan Council may request in writing that the Minister make a declaration under Section 8(1) -
- (a) That the day appointed under Section 6 being the first Tuesday in November (Melbourne Cup Day) is not in a specified year such a public holiday in the whole or any part of the municipal district of that Council; and
  - (b) That another day or 2 half-days (one half-day of which may be Melbourne Cup Day) be appointed as a public holiday or 2 public half-holidays in that year.
- (2) A request under subsection (1) must -
- (a) Be made at least 90 days before the Melbourne Cup Day to which the request relates; and
  - (b) Specify the day or 2 half-days of the substituted public holiday; and
  - (c) Specify the reasons for making the request
- (3) In making a declaration on a request under subsection (1), the Minister must not appoint a Saturday or a Sunday as a public holiday or a public half-holiday.
- (4) A public holiday or 2 public half-holidays appointed under Section 8(1) on a request under subsection (1) in respect of part of a municipal district of a Council applies or apply only in that part of the municipal district.

Since 2012, Hindmarsh Shire Council has successfully applied to the Minister for Small Business for substitute public holidays to Melbourne Cup Day for the Rainbow and Nhill agricultural shows, as these are held each year on weekdays. Dimboola and Jeparit districts continued to take Melbourne Cup Day as a public holiday, as their respective agricultural shows fall on a weekend.

The show societies have indicated they are planning to hold agricultural shows in 2025 on the following dates:

- **Rainbow** Tuesday 14 October 2025
- **Nhill** Thursday 16 October 2025
- **Dimboola** Saturday 18 October 2025
- **Jeparit** Sunday 19 October 2025

The Nhill Show public holiday incorporates the localities of Broughtan, Yanac, Netherby, Lorquon, Nhilla, Glenlee, Kiata, Gerang Gerung and Little Desert.

The Rainbow Show public holiday incorporates the localities of Rainbow, Albacutya and Kenmare.

**Link to Council Plan:****Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy**

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation

**Financial Implications:**

Not applicable.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Agricultural and Pastoral Society shows provide an opportunity for intergenerational connection, community connection, creativity and support of local businesses and volunteer groups. Having the date as a Public Holiday for Rainbow and Nhill means that students, businesses and workers can support the event.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Public Holidays Act 1993 Section 8A(1)*

**Community Engagement:**

By providing a public holiday for the Rainbow and Nhill Show this allows community members to attend and participate in the local show. The request is made by the A & P Societies on behalf of their member and communities.

**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 – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Following the approval of the Gazettal, Rainbow and Nhill A & P Societies will be contacted, and advertisements will be placed in each of the local papers advising the community of the public holiday substitution.

**Next Steps:**

Council Officers to prepare letters to the Minister for Small Business requesting the substitute public holiday.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council writes to the Minister for Small Business expressing a preference for the following:***

- 1. a substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for Rainbow Show (Tuesday 14 October 2025) for the localities of Rainbow, Albacutya and Kenmare within Hindmarsh Shire;***
- 2. a substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for Nhill Show (Thursday 16 October 2025) for the localities of Broughton, Yanac, Netherby, Lorquon, Nhill, Glenlee, Kiata, Gerang Gerung and Little Desert within Hindmarsh Shire; and***
- 3. Melbourne Cup Day for the remainder of Hindmarsh Shire.***

### 10.3 PROPERTY VALUATIONS - 2025/2026 BUDGET

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate and Community Services

**Attachments:**

Nil

**Executive Summary:**

This report provides Council with information regarding an amendment to the draft 2025/2026 Annual Budget due to revised valuations provided by the Valuer General and a proposed extension of the consultation period to account for this amendment.

Hindmarsh Shire Council charges rates annually based on the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of properties in Hindmarsh Shire, in accordance with the adopted Annual Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan. The CIV is the assessed market value of the property including both land (SV) and all improvements (such as buildings).

Valuation of land for rating purposes is carried out by the Victorian Valuer General, with the new values to take effect from 1 January each year and to be applied to rates calculated as at 1 July in the financial year following the valuation.

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.

The figures, and resultant changes in total rates charged by property type, are included in this report for Council noting.

**Discussion:**

Valuation of land for rating purposes is carried out by the Victorian Valuer General, with the new values to take effect from 1 January each year and to be applied to rates calculated as at 1 July in the financial year following the valuation.

Council received the preliminary valuations in March 2025 and new, updated property valuations from the Victorian Valuer General on 9 May 2025. These property valuations, which are the Capital Improved Valuations for properties within the Shire, are used by Council to calculate the differential rate in the dollar to be applied to rates for the 2025/2026 financial year. The March preliminary valuations were included in Hindmarsh Shire Councils Draft Budget 2025/2026.

A change in valuations will not affect the total value of rates raised in the 2025/2026 financial year but will affect the rate in the dollar that Council charges for each property class.



The total value of the properties based on the preliminary valuations was \$4.443m, with the change to the total CIV across the Shire being an increase of \$13.232m. The table below shows the changes to the differentials for 2025/2026.

Type/Class of Land	Preliminary Valuations as at 01/01/2025	2025/2026 Rate In \$	2025/2026 Total Rates \$	New Valuations as at 01/01/2025	New 2025/2026 Rate in \$	New Total Rates \$	Change in Rates by Differential
General/ Residential	608,704,500	0.0020011	1,218,068	608,704,500	0.0019954	1,214,586	(\$3,482)
Farm	3,734,840,50	0.0018010	6,726,351	3,747,808,500	0.0017958	6,730,415	\$4,064
Commercial/ Industrial	74,653,500	0.0018010	134,449	74,682,500	0.0017958	134,117	(\$332)
Recreational	3,038,000	0.0010005	3,040	3,038,000	0.0009977	3,031	(\$9)
Urban Vacant	12,524,000	0.0040022	50,123	12,499,000	0.0039907	49,880	(\$243)

The change in the valuations and subsequent unit rate will be updated in Hindmarsh Shire Council's draft budget prior to the budget being presented to the Council for adoption on 18 June 2025. While this change is minor, it is the Officer recommendation to update the document that has been made available for public comment and extend the consultation period for one week, to now close at 11:59pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

#### Link to Council Plan:

#### Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Long-term financial sustainability

#### Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications relating to this decision.

#### Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	Council is required to enact this change as it is the legislated mechanism by which Council's calculates annual rates. Failure to do so would be acting outside of our obligations and risk the implementation of the 2025/2026 budget.

#### Relevant Legislation:

*Local Government Act 2020*

#### Community Engagement:

The draft Annual Budget 2025/2026 is currently available for community feedback via Council's consultation processes. The amendment will be published within the draft document and the engagement period extended.

**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 – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Heather Boyd, Manager Finance

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council will amend the Have Your Say Hindmarsh page relating to the budget consultation detailing the amendment and publish in newsletters and social media an update regarding the amendment.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers will amend the Draft Budget in line with Council's decision and implement the Communications Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATION:*****That Council:***

- 1. notes the changes in the valuations provided by the Victorian Valuer General for properties in Hindmarsh Shire and the effect this will have on the rates charged against each of Councils type or class of land;***
- 2. updates the draft Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Budget 2025/2026 (incorporating the Long-Term Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan) to reflect the changes in valuations; and***
- 3. extend the draft Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Budget 2025/2026 (incorporating the Long-Term Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan) community engagement period to 11:59pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.***

## 10.4 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2025

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

1. Draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 V 1 [10.4.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council endorsement for public consultation on the Road Management Plan 2025 – 2029 (RMP) as per the requirement of *Road Management Act 2004* (Act) for a minimum period of 28 days.

The purpose of the 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 review is in-line with directions set in *The Road Management (General) Regulation 2016* which specifies that the review must commence within four (4) years of last review and completed within five (5) years of last review date.

The plan was reviewed using the template and guidance supplied by MAV insurance with the intention of simplifying the document as well as ensuring consistency across the region. The service levels in this plan are similar or better than the previous plan.

This plan will be available for public submission for minimum period of 28 days. The public submissions will be incorporated in the plan (where practicable) and considered at the next available Council meeting.

**Discussion:**

The purpose of the review, consistent with the role, functions and responsibilities of the Council as a road authority under the Act, is to ensure that the standards in relation to, and the priorities to be given to, the inspection, maintenance and repair of the roads and the classes of road to which the Council's RMP applies are safe, efficient and appropriate for use by the community served by the Council.

The current Hindmarsh Shire Council RMP has been under constant review over a period spanning several years. The results of this process are now ready for endorsement so that they can be released for community consultation prior to adoption. A draft document is attached to this report.

The current draft Road Management Plan has been developed using MAV Insurance Road Management Plan template that intends to:

- Ensure that all important content is included and wording of key contents are in line with the current best practice and legal advice.

- Enable councils to adopt a clear and measurable set of standards such that compliance can be clearly monitored and, when necessary, demonstrated through records of respective activities, and
- Ensure councils remain able to determine their own standards respective of resources within a range that has been determined to be reasonable through benchmarking analysis and comprehensive legal advice.

Once the Road Management Plan has been endorsed by Council, a process of public consultation can commence. This will include making the document available for Public Viewing.

A notice of the Draft Road Management Plan will be advertised in the local newspaper, plus additional notice in the Victorian Government Gazette as soon as practicable after the endorsement by the council.

Public submissions received will then be reviewed and the RMP be updated as required and formally adopted and formally gazetted.

Subsequently if no objections or comments are received the Council will be requested to formally adopt the Road Management Plan 2025-2029 at the next available council meeting allowing notice of adoption of the Road Management Plan to then be formally gazetted in the Victorian Government Gazette and advertised in local newspapers.

**Link to Council Plan:**

**Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment**  
Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs

**Financial Implications:**

The Road Management Plan has no direct impact on Council's budget. However, the changes made on service levels may impact Council's future budgets.

This document sets out the service standards for the Hindmarsh Shire Council Road network and changes made to the Plan will affect Council's financial commitment to the maintenance, renewal and upgrade of road infrastructure into the future.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management	The review of the Road Management Plan address risk across the municipal road network by placing roads of similar risk into urban and rural road classes which are then allocated corresponding levels of service and defect inspection regimes.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Road Management Act 2004*

**Community Engagement:**

Following the endorsement of the draft plan by the council, community engagement process will commence in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy and requirements of *Road Management Act 2004*.

**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 – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Section 54 of the *Road Management Act 2004* requires that upon amending a road management plan the road authority must give notice in the Government Gazette and in a local newspaper concerning the purpose and amendments to the road management plan, where a copy can be obtained or inspected, and advising that any person who is aggrieved by the proposed road management plan may make a submission on the proposed RMP. The road authority must allow at least 28 days after the notice as a public submission period.

**Next Steps:**

A notice of the Draft Road Management Plan will be advertised in the local paper (Weekly Advertiser, Nhill Free Press, Dimboola Banner, and Rainbow Jeparit Argus, plus additional notice in the Victorian Government Gazette as soon as practicable after the endorsement this plan by the Council for community consultation. The feedback will be sought via council's Have Your Say page. The feedback received will be incorporated, where practicable, into the plan and presented to the next available council meeting for adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION:*****That Council***

- 1. endorses for public consultation the draft Road Management Plan (as required by Section 54(5) of the Road Management Act 2004); and***
  - 2. undertake public consultation for a minimum period of 28 days.***
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## 11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Jeparit Town Committee Minutes 30 April 2025 [11.1.1]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2025 05 12 Alina Rosenthal Nhill Town Committee Resignation [11.1.2]

**Introduction:**

One (1) Hindmarsh Shire Council Advisory Committee held a meeting on the following date:

- **Jeparit Township Advisory Committees**  
General Meeting on 30 April 2025

A copy of the minutes for the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 30 April 2025 is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

**Committee Membership:**

Alina Rosenthal wrote to Council on Monday 12 May 2025 advising their resignation from the Nhill Township Advisory Committee. This has been attached as a confidential attachment for the information of Council.

**Next Steps:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes***

- 1. the minutes of the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 30 April 2025; and***
- 2. the resignation of Alina Rosenthal from the Nhill Township Advisory Committee and sends a letter thanking them for their service.***

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### 11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

No Community Asset Committee business presented.

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## **12 LATE REPORTS**

No late reports.

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## **13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motions.

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## **14 OTHER BUSINESS**

## **15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

No confidential reports.

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## **16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

No late confidential reports.

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## **17 MEETING CLOSE**

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