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18 December 2025

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 17 December 2025

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

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

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 Rosie Barker – Deputy Mayor
West Ward



Cr Roger Aitken
North Ward



Cr James Barry
East Ward



Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



Cr Chan Uoy
East 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.

Our Vision

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

Our Values

We value:

- Engaging, listening 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



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

Officers:

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) Ms Cherylee Shandley (Manager Planning and Environment) item 10.4 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 the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Cr Ron Ismay read the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Cr Roger Aitken read the Councillor Statement of Values.

2 APOLOGIES

No 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.

Cr James Barry declared a general conflict of interest in confidential item 15.1.

Cr Tony Clark declared a general conflict of interest in confidential item 15.1.

Cr Roger Aitken declared a general conflict of interest in confidential item 15.1.

Cr Chan Uoy declared a general conflict of interest in confidential item 15.1.

Cr Ron Ismay declared a general conflict of interest in confidential item 15.1.



4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at the 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr T Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at the 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2025 11 26 MINUTES Council Meeting [4.1.1]
2. 2025 11 26 MINUTES Council Meeting - MEDIA [4.1.2]



4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
29 October 2025 Item 10.1	Council officers to publish Annual Report 2024/2025 on Council's website and copies to be made available at each of Hindmarsh's Customer Service Centres and Libraries.	The Annual Report 2024/2025 will be published on provision of the signed Auditor's report.	In Progress
26 November 2025 Item 7	Council officers to prepare a letter of support for Menzies Symposium Committee.	Council officers have prepared the letter and sent it back to the committee.	Complete
26 November 2025 Item 10.1	Council officers to prepare advert and share social media posts notifying the community of the 2026 Council Meeting Dates.	Advert has been prepared and will be published in local newspapers in December and January. Social Media posts will also be circulated at this time.	Complete
26 November 2025 Item 10.2	Council officers to publish draft Volunteer Policy on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation.	Council officers have published the draft Volunteer Policy on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation.	Complete
26 November 2025 Item 10.3	Council to consider submitting a motion to the 2026 MAV State Council.	The 2026 MAV State Council will call for motions early in 2026. Officers will submit the motion resolved at the 26 November 2025 Council meeting and seek support from neighbouring Councils.	In Progress
26 November 2025 Item 10.4	Council officers to complete applications for	Council officers have submitted applications	Complete



	upgrades to crossing and link pathways to St. Patrick's School on Leahy Street, Church Street, James Street and Woodward Street in Nhill and intersection upgrade of Broughton Kaniva Road and Block 40 Road. Applications to be submitted prior to the deadline on 28 November 2025.	for both proposed upgrades.	
26 November 2025 Item 10.5	Council officers to submit an application for upgrades to Nhill Bowling Club facilities under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.	Council officers worked closely with Nhill Bowling Club to prepare the application which was submitted on Monday 1 December 2025.	Complete
26 November 2025 Item 11.1	Council officers to publish Advisory Committee minutes on Council's website.	Minutes for the Advisory Committees meetings published on Council's website.	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: 18 November 2025 – 8 December 2025

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
18/11/2025	Nhill Town Committee Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
19/11/2025	Online Meeting with Michaela Settle MP re Wild Dogs	Council Chambers, Nhill	John Bennett also in attendance.
21/11/2025	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting	Docklands, Melbourne	
25/11/2025	Presentation of Wimmera Southern Mallee Draft Readiness Strategy	Online via Teams	
26/11/2025	Mayor / Deputy Mayor CEO Meeting	CEO's Office, Nhill	
26/11/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers Nhill	
28/11/2025	End of Year Staff Celebration	NMCC	Great day, where staff were presented various awards. Phil King's last day as well – Phil has been a vital part of Council for many years.
01/12/2025	Meeting discussing Menzies Symposium with Steve Black	Jeparit	
02/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Rainbow	A very colourful event!
03/12/2025	Briefing Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
04/12/2025	Tour of Llew's Silo with members of RDV	Rainbow	
08/12/2025	WHAG Sub Committee Discussion	Online via Teams	
08/12/2025	Youth Councillors Interviews	Nhill	
08/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Dimboola	



6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
18/11/2025	MAV Health and Wellbeing Advisory Panel	Online	Creating State advocacy through MAV.
18/11/2025	Nhill Town Committee	Council Chambers, Nhill	
19/11/2025	CEO Drop-In Session	Nhill Library	
25/11/2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Draft Readiness Strategy	Online	Meeting to be briefed on potential advocacy for our region.
26/11/2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	Discussed Australia Day nominations and Volunteer Policy for HSC.
26/11/2025	Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
27/11/2025	Mary Rogers Awards	Parliament House Melbourne	Nominated for Emerging Woman Leader as recognition of the challenges woman face to lead in local government. Proud to stand in recognition of how professional Rural councils are and how we can lead in the future.
02/12/2025	Shared Table: Regional Heroes	Melbourne	This powerful documentary, created by CALD Community Voices, shines a light on regional stories of refugee settlement – including those from Nhill. I was especially moved by the interviews with Karen refugees, particularly Thablay Khinshwe, and her mentor, former Councillor and Deputy Mayor Wendy Bywaters, whose dedication and compassion have helped shape such an inspiring chapter in our town’s journey. We know that the Karen refugee journey was really the brainchild of John and Margaret Millington who were keen to support the resettlement of the Myanmar refugees and fulfil the



			<p>employment needs of our Luv-a-Duck processing plant in Nhill. It was a win-win idea. The film also highlighted the Karen women now working at the cooperative Paw Po retail store, still supported by Tracey Deckert and Annette Creek, which continues to support Karen refugees from Myanmar who supply handmade materials for unique products enjoyed by tourists visiting Nhill and our Nhill residents!</p> <p>Our current Councillor, Chan Uoy, former Deputy Mayor, also featured in the documentary, sharing his journey as a Cambodian refugee.</p> <p>To see Nhill and Dimboola represented alongside other regional voices on the big screen was a proud and emotional moment. The film reminds us that when communities open their hearts, extraordinary resilience and connection can flourish.</p> <p>Shared Table: Regional Heroes is more than a documentary – it’s a celebration of courage, collaboration, and the power of storytelling. We are working with the producers to bring this film to Nhill so that everyone can share in its message of hope and community.</p>
03/12/2025	HSC Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	Councillors were briefed about various pertinent subjects, in particular: Haven Home Safe regarding social and affordable housing projects and Council’s Planning frameworks for



			deeper understanding of planning processes.
08/12/2025	Youth Councillors Interviews – Nhill	Nhill Library	It was wonderful to meet the students from Nhill who were motivated about our community and had such informative ideas for engagement and fun activities. Inspirational.

6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
04/12/2025	Youth Councillors Interviews	Jeparit	

6.4 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
25/11/2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Resource Ready North-Western Victoria Energy & Mining Impact & Readiness Strategy Meeting	Online via Zoom	Billions of dollars on these future developments, we can only hope that enough research is being done so it works out best for all involved and not one sided by politics.
26/11/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
03/12/2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
08/11/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Dimboola Soundshell	Annually run event focusing globally on ending violence against women and girls.



6.5 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
17/11/2025	Pigick CFA Training and Informal Meeting		
21/11/2025	CEO Drop-In Session	Rainbow Library	
24/11/2025	Yurunga Homestead Meeting	Rainbow	
24/11/2025	Friends of Rainbow RSL AGM and General Meeting	Rainbow	
26/11/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
02/12/2025	Financial Training Session	Rainbow	
02/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Rainbow	
03/12/2025	Council Briefing Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
04/11/2025	Youth Councillor Interviews	Jeparit	

Cr Tony Clark attended the Youth Councillor Interview in Jeparit on 04/12/2025, listed incorrectly as 04/11/2025.



6.6 CR CHAN UOY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/11/2025	MAV Leadership in Advancing Gender Equality	Via Teams	There is still little diversity in many leadership groups.
21/11/2025	Vic Rural Council Planning Reform Webinar	Via Teams	The Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill – Councils must align schemes with the state planning policy. MAV states that transparency and trust at risk, unrealistic timelines without resourcing, and limited notice and appeal rights.
21/11/2025	Councillor Training	Dimboola Civic Centre	Authentic Engagement for Councillors.
25/11/2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Draft Readiness	Via Teams	Urban Enterprise was engaged by a group of nine Councils located in north-western Victoria to prepare this Impact and Readiness Strategy.
26/11/2025	Council Briefing & Meeting	Nhill Council Chambers	
26/11/2025	Rural Outreach Men's Night BBQ	Dimboola Men's Shed	The event is about connection, community, conversation, and taking a moment to check in with each other.
02/12/2025	Shared Table: Regional Heroes Documentary Premiere	Hoyts Melbourne Central	Nhill and Dimboola were featured in the film about multiculturalism in regional Victoria.
03/12/2025	Council Briefing	Nhill Council Chambers	
03/12/2025	Regional Development Victoria	Dimboola Civic Centre	Presentation about Dimboola's Revitalisation – Positive vibes attracting businesses.
03/12/2025	Pride Committee	Via Teams	No Quorum.
04/12/2025	Weekly Advertiser Mixx FM Christmas Party	Horsham Agricultural Pavillion	Networking.
08/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Dimboola Sound Shell	



6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
18/11/2025	Gaia Open Day	Creswick / Ballarat	Visiting Gaia's Creswick processing facility and Ballarat lab to view FOGO processing and testing.
18/11/2025	Nhill Town Advisory Committee Meeting	Online	
19/11/2025	Meeting with Michaela Settle MP	Online	Hindmarsh, along with Yarriambiack, Buloke, West Wimmera, and Horsham met with Parliamentary Secretary Michaela Settle MP to discuss Wild Dog impacts on farming community and solutions to protect stock.
19/11/2025	Meeting with Mayor & Deputy Mayor	Nhill	
19/11/2025	Meeting with GrainCorp, Emerge, Nhill College and Grain Grower Representative	Nhill	Meeting to discuss the Whitehead Avenue Raised Pedestrian Crossing.
19/11/2025	CEO Drop-In Session	Nhill	Deputy Mayor and Director Infrastructure Services attended.
19/11/2025	Meeting with Otto IT	Online	Meeting to discuss AI opportunities as part of the Microsoft Suite
19/11/2025	Meeting with Nhill CFA	Nhill	Deputy Mayor, along with representatives of Nhill CFA met to discuss future plans.
20/11/2025	Victoria's Updated 30 Year Strategy Webinar	Online	Webinar to Local Government on Victoria's updated 30 year strategy presented by Infrastructure Victoria.
20/11/2025	Child Safety Training	Dimboola	
21/11/2025	CEO Drop-In Session	Rainbow	Cr T Clark and Director Infrastructure Services attended.
21/11/2025	Planning Reform Webinar	Online	Hosted by Rural Councils Victoria, Maddocks presented on the planning reforms implications for Rural Councils.
21/11/2025	CEO Drop-In Session	Dimboola	Director Infrastructure Services attended.



21/11/2025	Meeting with VicGrid	Online	Local Government meeting hosted by VicGrid on the Renewable Energy Zone Declaration Process.
21/11/2025	Cr C Uoy Professional Development	Dimboola	Authentic Engagement for Councillors Professional Development with Cr C Uoy.
24/11/2025	Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Meeting	Nhill	
25/11/2025	Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting	Nhill	
25/11/2025	Webinar regarding Psychosocial regulations	Online	Swinburne Edge webinar on the new Psychosocial regulations.
25/11/2025	Director Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services
25/11/2025	Meeting re Draft Readiness Strategy	Online	Presentation by Northern Grampians CEO on the Draft Readiness Strategy.
26/11/2025	Meeting with Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Nhill	
26/11/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
26/11/2025	Meeting with Nhill CFA	Nhill	Meeting with Nhill CFA to discuss storage facility at Nhill Aerodrome.
27/11/2025	Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) Online Consultation Session	Online	FOGO consultation session for interested community members. Recording will be made available on Council's Facebook page.
28/11/2025	Meeting with Grantus	Online	Meeting with Grantus to discuss opportunities for utilising AI to create efficiencies.
28/11/2025	Hindmarsh Shire Staff End of Year Celebration	Nhill	Included presentation of 8 Staff Awards for 10 years, 15 years and 30 years of service to Hindmarsh, along with Movember judging, and a recap of 2025.
01/12/2025	Director Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Director Corporate & Community Services.
01/12/2025	Jeparit FOGO Drop-In Session	Jeparit	
02/12/2025	Senior Management Team Meeting	Online	



02/12/2025	Meeting with VORRA	Online	Meeting with VORRA Committee regarding future events.
02/12/2025	Rapid HR Training	Online	Update for staff in supervisory roles on new Psychosocial regulations.
02/12/2025	HR Planning Workshop	Nhill	Workshop on staffing requirements, vacant positions, and 2026/2027 staffing budget.
02/12/2025	Rainbow FOGO Drop-In Session	Rainbow	
02/12/2025	Cr T Clark Professional Development	Rainbow	Financial Literacy Training with Cr T Clark.
02/12/2025	Rainbow 16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Rainbow	Raising awareness for domestic violence. The attendees had a fantastic time, and both Councillors in attendance came away looking like rainbows.
03/12/2025	Council Briefing Meeting	Nhill	Presentation from Haven Home Safe. Professional Development on Land Use Planning, and Free From Violence Program.
08/12/2025	MAV CEO Meeting	Online	Meeting regarding Maternal & Child Health Services across Local Government
08/12/2025	Meeting with ELT and Assets & Facilities Team	Dimboola	Meeting to review recent condition assessment and report on Council buildings.
08/12/2025	Dimboola 16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Dimboola	Raising awareness for domestic violence.



7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 2025/11/21 - Hon. Kristy McBain MP to Mayor re Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2025/11/28 - Hon. Nick Staikos MP to Mayor re Model Statement of Secure Employment – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)
- 2025/12/05 - Seven News to Council re Complaint re Inaccurate Reporting – (Attachment Number: 7.1.3) CONFIDENTIAL

Outwards:

- 2025/11/27 - Council to Menzies Symposium Committee re Letter of Support – Menzies Symposium Project – (Attachment Number: 7.1.4)
- 2025/12/04 - Council to Seven News re Complaint re Inaccurate Reporting – (Attachment Number: 7.1.5)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr R Aitken

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

CARRIED



8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. 2025 11 26 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]
2. 2025 12 03 Assembly of Councillors Record [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 C Uoy/Cr J Barry

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

CARRIED

9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.



10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

10.1 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL YOUTH STRATEGY 2025-2029

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. Youth Strategy 2025 - 2029 [10.1.1]
2. Gender Impact Assessment Youth Strategy [10.1.2]

Executive Summary:

The report presents the Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025-2029 for adoption. The Youth Strategy builds on previous efforts to address youth needs, foster inclusion, and promote wellbeing through measurable actions and community partnerships. It was developed through data collection including research and surveys, youth and stakeholder input, and was endorsed by Council in October 2025 for a period of community engagement prior to adoption. As no additional feedback was received during the consultation period, no changes have been made to the strategy.

Discussion:

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025-2029 (the Strategy) builds on the Youth Strategy 2021-2025 in providing direction, information, and identifying gaps in youth opportunities and programs for young people, their families and carers, and Council.

The objective of the Strategy is to provide Council with a practical, achievable, and measurable plan to define Council's role in local and regional youth development. The Strategy will enable Council to better understand current and future needs of young people, potential barriers to inclusion and participation, and provide direction and measurable outcomes for youth sustainability and community liveability within Hindmarsh Shire.

The Youth Strategy's overarching objectives are to:

- Ensure that Hindmarsh Shire Council's processes and spaces welcome, involve and empower young people.
- Build partnerships with community groups and organisations to expand the potential of youth services.
- Create a community that is future-safe, ensuring young people have opportunities to live, learn, earn and contribute to their community.
- Understand and address the systemic and structural barriers to inclusion, participation and representation.
- Facilitate spaces and events that create opportunities for connection, expression and community.
- Advocate for young people to be able to access the health, wellbeing and support services that they need.



The Strategy has been developed by using the following methodology:

1. Data Collecting

Research and consultation, youth surveys, review of industry standards and relevant documents and procedures.

2. Analysis

Workshopping identified issues with young people, problem solving, continuing to receive feedback and ideas from social media surveys and Youth Council.

3. Development

Compiling information and data, identifying key actions and scope, development of document.

4. Review

The final document has been provided to community for feedback.

Whilst Council has an integral part to play in the development and growth of young people, communities and other agencies all have an opportunity under the Strategy to support the needs and aspirations of young people living within Hindmarsh Shire.

The Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council will continue to meet to review progress and discuss further initiatives, whilst keeping Council updated. This ongoing partnership between Youth Council, Council and community stakeholders is vital to ensure the Strategy remains relevant over the next four (4) years.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025-2029 was made available for community comment on Thursday 30 October 2025, with no submissions being received by the closing date on Friday 21 November 2025.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's Community Wellbeing and Youth Officer presented the document to the 2025 Youth Councillors and responses were positive, with Youth Councillors reflecting that it captured the values and needs of young people across Hindmarsh Shire.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.

1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.

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

Financial Implications:

Council budgets annually for activities and initiatives delivered as part of the Youth Strategy. Council receives funding through the Amplify and Engage! grant programs to deliver initiatives identified by Youth Council and youth team, as well as applying for grant funding for specific initiatives (such as FRRR and VicHealth) when they align with activities identified within the Youth Strategy.



Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The 2025-2029 Youth Strategy ensures that Council is identifying and responding to opportunities and programs that benefit young people in Hindmarsh Shire and is actively taking their views and interests into consideration when making decisions that impact young people. The strategy will provide a practical, achievable and measurable plan for Council's youth services over the next four years.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

The Youth Strategy Review was promoted through direct engagement with community groups and schools, a media release published on Council's website and social media pages, as well as shared with local media publications.

During the first round of community consultation, Council received positive engagement through our 'Have your say Hindmarsh' channel and feedback from the Youth Council and schools. The endorsed Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025-2029 was made available for community comment on Thursday 30 October 2025, with no submissions being received by the closing date on Friday 21 November 2025.

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 – Nan Da San Bleh Dah, Community Development and Youth Officer

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



Communications Strategy:

The Youth Strategy review has been promoted through the following channels:

- Council's Facebook Page
- School E-Newsletters
- Media release distribution
- E-marketing to local businesses
- Face to face consultations

Next Steps:

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025 - 2029 will be published on Council's website, provided to key youth stakeholders and incorporated into Council's operational work plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025 – 2029.

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr T Clark

That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Strategy 2025 – 2029.

CARRIED



10.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. Youth Council Terms of Reference Current [10.2.1]
2. Youth Council Terms of Reference Updated [10.2.2]

Executive Summary:

This report outlines proposed amendments to the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Terms of Reference and recommends that Council adopts the revised Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference establish the Youth Council as an Advisory Committee and detail roles, responsibilities and functions. Proposed amendments include:

- Expanding the total number of members;
- Clarifying the interview process; and
- Formally changing the age criteria of members from 12 – 24 years to 12 – 18 years of age.

The revised Terms of Reference have been reviewed and endorsed by the current Youth Council.

Discussion:

The Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Terms of Reference reflects the purpose, roles, responsibilities and day to day operations of Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council. In accordance with outcomes from consultations with the 2024 and 2025 Youth Councillors, it is proposed to amend several items in the Terms of Reference to better reflect the cohort most actively engaged in Youth Council events and programs.

Member Limitations

Currently, the membership base is 12, plus the Hindmarsh Young Citizen of the Year. In previous years, we have had to turn away young people who have nominated and who would have benefited from the program and the leadership opportunities it provides. An increase to 16 members wouldn't be an unreasonable strain on the administration of the group, would broaden the number of young people who can access the program, and make planning events, special interest projects and other activities easier.

Interview Process

The interview process has been used in the past as an assessment tool for Councillors when deciding who will be appointed to Youth Council. As the Youth Council is intended to support both developing and existing leaders amongst Hindmarsh's youth, it is recommended that the assessment component of this meeting be reviewed. If a young person doesn't interview confidently in the formal process, Youth Council is an excellent opportunity to enhance their skills, confidence, and ability to handle interviews and complex social interactions. The



proposed change suggests an informal group interview, where Councillors can get to know the prospective Youth Councillors in a relaxed environment, as well as answer any questions about Council or the Youth Councillor role.

Age Range of Members

It is proposed to formally change the age criteria of members of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council from 12 – 24 years to 12 – 18 years of age. The original Terms of Reference age bracket was in accordance with the Victorian Governments FReeZA (now called Amplify) program that provides funds for events and activities for young people aged between 12 – 24 years.

Since the beginning of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Youth Council in 2015, Council has only received Youth Council nominations from secondary school aged young people. Changing the age criteria in the Terms of Reference will reflect most young people that typically engage with Youth Council and will lead to more age-appropriate activities and a stronger peer cohesion within the group. From a Child Safety perspective, Council also must consider supervision and other risk-factors when running events with both children and young people over the age of 18. Similarly, parents and guardians have expressed significant concern at events and programs involving people as young as 12 and people aged 20-24, so it is important to consider and respect these views and foster spaces and events where parent's feel comfortable and safe enough to support their young people attending.

The Community Wellbeing and Youth Officer has discussed the proposal with the 2024 and 2025 Youth Councillors who unanimously supported lowering the age from 24 years to 18 years. Youth Councillors believed that the interests and life experiences of anyone aged over 18 years is significantly different when compared to that of a 12-year-old. Likewise, in the Draft Youth Strategy 2025-2029 'Have Your Say' Hindmarsh consultation, young people have suggested that Council hold events that tailor to different age groups. E.g. 12 - 14 and 15 - 18 because junior and senior students have different interests and would attend events if the people of similar age groups surround them. Council is still funded to provide social activities and programs for young people aged 18 - 24 and will continue to plan and deliver these activities.

An additional change is the visual aspect of the document from an original word document to a more visual layout with different sections and colours to break up all the sections. This ensures that the document appeals to young people and makes it easier to read. The colour within the document reflects the Youth Council brand colours.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

- 1.1 Our Community is active, healthy, and connected.
- 1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.
- 1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them.



Financial Implications:

Council budgets annually for the administration of the Youth Council, with most activities also co- or wholly funded by Victorian Government youth grant programs.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Establishing the Youth Council and having relevant Terms of Reference ensures that young people have meaningful opportunities to engage and contribute to decisions that impact them.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020
Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005

Community Engagement:

Council has engaged with the Youth Council and young people throughout Hindmarsh in consideration of how to best plan and deliver age-appropriate events and run the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council. Changes to the Youth Council Terms of Reference were able to be made by the Director Corporate and Community Services on advice from the Youth Council, this has been changed to approval being required from Council as they are a Council-established Committee.

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 – Nan Da San Bleh Dah, Community Wellbeing and Youth Officer

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



Communications Strategy:

Council to clearly communicate the changes to the community and inform them of the updated eligibility criteria through a media release and social media posts.

Next Steps:

Council Officers will update the Youth Council Terms of Reference on Hindmarsh Shire Council's website, and will publicise them when seeking nominations in 2026. They will be provided to the 2025 Youth Councillors and the 2026 Youth Councillors when appointed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Terms of Reference.

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Terms of Reference.

CARRIED



10.3 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2025-2035

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 [10.3.1]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 for adoption.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 aims to provide a clear long-term plan to develop and promote sport and recreation within Hindmarsh Shire with the following priorities at the centre of proposed actions:

- Increase participation in sport and recreation;
- Support community wellbeing, including mental and physical health;
- Improve facilities and open spaces;
- Provide support for clubs and volunteers;
- Promote equity, diversity and inclusion; and
- Foster partnerships and collaboration.

The Sport and Recreation Strategy was developed by compiling community and stakeholder consultation feedback, including in-person sessions held at sporting clubs in 2024, and the Sport and Recreation Project Pipeline that has been informed by community action plans, masterplans, maintenance plans, and the Council Plan.

The draft Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 was made available for community feedback from Thursday 30 October 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025. No submissions were received in relation to the draft.

Discussion:

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 aims to provide a clear long-term plan to develop and promote sport and recreation within Hindmarsh Shire with the following priorities at the centre of proposed actions:

- Increase participation in Sport and Recreation
- Improve Facilities and Open Spaces
- Support for Clubs and Volunteers
- Promote equity, diversity and Inclusion
- Foster partnerships and collaboration

The Sport and Recreation Strategy was developed by compiling community and stakeholder consultation feedback, including in-person sessions held at Sporting Clubs in 2024, and the Sport and Recreation Project Pipeline that has been informed through identifying projects in



community action plans, masterplans, maintenance plans, and the Council Plan. Key components of the feedback from the community and stakeholders are detailed below.

Community Feedback

- Infrastructure investment is needed, especially in lighting, change rooms, and accessibility.
- Inclusive participation strategies should be prioritised, particularly to increase female and junior engagement.
- Club capacity building (policy adoption, governance support, use of ASC Game Plan) will strengthen sustainability.
- Event attraction potential exists if facilities are upgraded to meet higher-level competition standards.
- Membership retention and growth should be supported through both infrastructure and community development initiatives.

Club and Stakeholder Feedback

- Clubs vary widely in size, from fewer than 10 to more than 200 members.
- Membership is male-dominated, with adult and junior males making up most participants. Female and non-binary participation was minimal across surveyed clubs.
- Some clubs identified membership growth and retention as key challenges.
- 60% of clubs have plans (master plans, feasibility studies) for facility improvements. Top priorities include:
 - New or upgraded clubrooms, change rooms, and toilets.
 - Irrigation and surface upgrades.
 - Lighting improvements.
 - Accessibility upgrades (all-abilities access, ramps, disabled toilets).
 - Canteen and electrical upgrades.
 - Membership growth initiatives.

The Strategy contains the following sections:

1. **Vision and Goals** – this section considers the priorities listed above and identifies an overarching vision - To create a thriving local sport and recreation culture by growing participation, increasing opportunities, improving key facilities over time, and making smart, community-driven investments.
2. **Fair Access Principles** - the Fair Access Principles were developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, in consultation with representatives from local government and the state sport and recreation sector. The action plan considers the six principles in promoting equitable inclusion - inclusivity, full participation, equal representation, encouraging and supporting user groups, and prioritising user groups committed to equality.
3. **Understanding Community and Stakeholder needs** – this section considers the role of Council and key stakeholders and summarises feedback provided both within and outside the consultation period and highlighting the priority needs of each group.

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- 4. **Resourcing** – this section provides a realistic overview of how Council funds activities in the sports and recreation space, including through staffing allocations, budget allocations, grants and collaborations with clubs and other user groups.
- 5. **The Strategy** – this section details the specific actions and strategies that Council will undertake in the next ten years in support of the sports and recreation vision and priorities. It covers the different identified spheres of – priority precincts, small club support, major club support, informal sports and recreation, and advocacy.

The draft Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 was made available for community feedback in October and November 2025. As no feedback was received, no changes have been made to the draft document.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

- 1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.
- 1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them.

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

- 2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

- 4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.
 - 4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.
- Health and Wellbeing Priority

Financial Implications:

Council budgets annually for activities identified in the Sport and Recreation Strategy. Additionally, grant funded projects are delivered through FRRR, VicHealth and youth funding when they meet relevant criteria. Activities identified for action within the lifespan of the Strategy will be considered in annual budget preparation processes.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management Community Needs	The Sport and Recreation Strategy sets a clear strategic vision, identifying priorities to promote physical activity, enhance infrastructure and improve community wellbeing. This ensures that any future investment and planning from Council and the community is based on collaboratively developed plans and is consistently working towards the set vision.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020



Community Engagement:

In July 2024, Hindmarsh Shire Council Officers, CEO and Councillors attended Nhill & District Sporting Club, Dimboola Sporting Club and Southern Mallee Thunder Football/Netball Clubs to discuss ideas for future strategic and facility planning initiatives. Club members filled out questionnaires with ideas and feedback that has informed the development of this Strategy.

Council also received feedback from 'Have your Say' surveys which were available to community members and stakeholders. The draft Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 was made available for community feedback in October and November 2025 via Council's Have Your Say Hindmarsh platform.

Gender Equality Implications:

A Gender Impact Assessment was undertaken in relation to Council's Fair Access Policy, this was utilised to inform the development of the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

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 – Jennie Hauselberger, Coordinator Sports, Recreation and Community Development

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

Communications Strategy:

Promotion of the Sport and Recreation Strategy was via the following platforms:

- 'Have your Say Hindmarsh' Website
- Face to face consultations
- Council's Facebook Page
- Council Website
- Monthly Newsletter
- Fortnightly E-Newsletter
- Media Release



Next Steps:

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 will be published on Council's website, provided to key clubs and stakeholders and incorporated into Council's operational work plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035.

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr J Barry

That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035.

CARRIED



10.4 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (DAMP) 2026–2029

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

1. Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 [10.4.1]
2. Responses Summary Report Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 [10.4.2]
3. Have Your Say Engagement Report Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 [10.4.3]
4. VIC Hindmarsh Shire Council DAMP Submission - Animal Care Australia [10.4.4]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the Domestic Animal Management Plan for adoption.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is developed in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, which requires Councils to prepare a plan every four (4) years to manage cats and dogs within their municipality. The plan provides a framework for addressing issues such as registration, microchipping, nuisance complaints, and animal welfare, while promoting responsible pet ownership and community safety. It reflects local demographics, animal ownership trends, and specific challenges faced by the municipality, ensuring strategies are tailored to meet both legislative requirements and community expectations.

Council advertised for community feedback on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan for the period between 29 October 2025 and 28 November 2025. At the end of consultation period, four (4) submissions were received in relation to the DAMP which have been included as an attachment to this report, and a summary provided below which includes the officer's response.

Discussion:

Key Strategies and Initiatives

The plan outlines several core strategies: education programs to inform owners about responsible pet care, enforcement measures to ensure compliance with laws, and partnerships with veterinary services to provide subsidised cat desexing. A major focus is reducing stray cat numbers through mandatory desexing for cats over three months old before registration, supported by a mobile desexing service. Other initiatives include improving community safety by addressing barking dogs, roaming pets, and potential animal attacks, as well as collaborating with rescue groups to reduce euthanasia rates. These actions aim to balance animal welfare with public safety and environmental protection.

Long-Term Goals

The long-term goals of the DAMP include significantly reducing stray animal populations, achieving high compliance with registration and desexing requirements, and fostering a culture of responsible pet ownership across Hindmarsh Shire. The plan seeks to enhance public safety by minimizing animal-related incidents, improve animal welfare through



proactive management, and maintain the amenity of public spaces. By implementing these strategies consistently over the next four years, Hindmarsh Shire aims to create a sustainable and effective animal management system that benefits both the community and its pets.

The Draft Plan was advertised for community feedback between 29 October 2025 and 28 November 2025 through Council’s “Have Your Say Hindmarsh” page and various other media channels. The consultation page was visited 97 times, and four (4) community members choose to provide feedback. The community feedback is summarised in the table below:

Feedback Summary	Officer Response
Comments around pro-rata registration fee to the day compared to quarterly block.	Council’s payment system would not accommodate a system calculation of the fee to the date, and the manual calculation and input of variable fees is not in line with our finance standards and audit processes. The current calculation method is system-enabled and ensures the fee payable within those blocks is clear and consistent.
Concerns regarding enforcement of desexing and off-leash rules within municipality.	Desexing is not currently mandatory, but is promoted by offering cheaper registration fees and through past and planned desexing programs. Mandatory desexing of cats may be considered in future policies as a mechanism to prevent cat over-population and protect native wildlife. This decision would be informed through community consultation. Hindmarsh Shire Council’s Local Laws require that animals be under effective control – this usually means that the animal is leashed or contained to private property or a dog park. Council has published helpful information on effective control of animals on its website and via media releases.
Having local laws officer presence in each town.	Local Laws officers are generally mobile and will attend each town when an incident occurs or call is received. There can be delays at times if the officers are already dealing with a matter. Council does not have the financial ability to employ a local laws officer in each town.
Residents seeking a mechanism to report stray cat problems to Local Laws officers to fix stray cat problems.	Community members can report stray cat issues to Local Laws Officers through our Customer Service Centres or by



	telephoning 03 5391 4444. Cat traps are also available for community members to assist with capturing stray cats.
Comment about the size of the dog park (minimum 1000 m2) and dissatisfaction with the size of Nhill Dog Park.	Council understands that there has been some community dissatisfaction with the size of the Nhill Dog Park. The Nhill Dog Park was funded by both Council and the Tiny Towns program, and the project was aimed to create a useable dog park with quality containment and features on land that was fit for purpose. The Dog Park is well utilised, and the smells, trees and play features help make up for the smaller area. We have committed to working with the Nhill Town Committee to look for future opportunities to expand the Dog Park.
Cheaper desexing program	The plan includes offering desexing programs at reduced costs. Officers will be working with the Vet Project to offer subsidised desexing program.
Construction of more dog parks in other towns.	Officers are looking for opportunities where possible and when suitable grant programs are available. Council is currently looking to seek funding for dog park in Dimboola.
Education materials to be sent via newsletters, Facebook or with registration renewal or community newsletter.	The DAMP has been amended to include the production of educational material that will either be sent with registration renewals or included in Council newsletters and e-news.
Preference to receive updates via social media and newsletters.	This is currently in practice.
Transparency on how animals are handled once animals are impounded and approachable officers.	Council's priority is to return or re-home animals, and to get the best outcome for animals that are suitable to be pets. Council has started publishing lost animals on Facebook to increase the chances of getting them home, and promoting adoption opportunities. Council also works with local shelters to give animals a greater chance of being rehomed.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

- 1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.
- 1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them.

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

- 2.1 We care for and connect with our natural environment.



Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

Financial Implications:

Implementation of some of the tangible measures identified in the DAMP will be considered as part of Council’s annual budget process. Activities for year one (1) of the plan will be included in the 2026/2027 annual budget. Within the 2025/2026 budget Council will be able to commence the running of the low-cost cat desexing program through the Vet Project.

Animal registration fees are used to partially fund animal management services; however, the overall cost of the service is subsidised by Council funds. An annual levy is paid to the State Government of \$4.51 per registration in 2024/2025.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs Governance Environmental Sustainability	Lack of timely adoption of DAMP will mean that Council will not be compliant with the Act. The presence of at-large or poorly managed dogs and cats in the community can present risks to people, native wildlife, the environment and neighbourhood amenity. The DAMP aims to reduce the negative impacts pets can have by establishing compliance programs and services and promoting the value of responsible pet ownership to reduce these risks and enhance community safety. Ensuring sufficient resources to deliver programs and services will be a challenge for the duration of this DAMP.

Relevant Legislation:

Domestic Animals Act 1994

Community Engagement:

The Draft Plan was advertised for community feedback between 29 October 2025 and 28 November 2025 through Council’s “Have Your Say Hindmarsh” page and various other media channels. The consultation page was visited by 97 times, four (4) of them provided feedback. The engagement report has been included as an attachment for the information of Council.

In addition to the “Have Your Say” responses, Council also received a submission from Animal Care Australia. Animal Care Australia’s submission details practical, welfare-focused approaches to companion animal regulation, advocating for balanced policies that prioritize education, transparency, and responsible ownership rather than punitive measures. This aligns closely with the objectives of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2025–2029, which seeks to reduce nuisance behaviours, improve desexing rates, and promote



community engagement through initiatives like responsible pet ownership programs. Both documents share a commitment to evidence-based strategies that enhance animal welfare while supporting pet owners, highlighting the importance of collaboration between councils, advocacy groups, and the community to achieve the sustainable outcomes that the DAMP emphasizes. A copy of the Animal Care Australia submission has been included as an attachment for the information of Council.

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 – Cherylee Shandley, Manager Planning and Environment

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

Communications Strategy:

The communications strategy for the adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029 aims to inform the community about the plan, promote responsible pet ownership, and ensure compliance with key requirements such as registration and mandatory cat desexing. The focus is on clear messaging about the benefits of the plan, affordable options for desexing, and the importance of compliance for animal welfare and community safety. Communication tactics include:

- **Council Website:** Updates to the Responsible Pet Ownership page to include the adopted DAMP.
- **Social Media:** Regular posts on domestic animal issues, development of a “Lost Pets of Hindmarsh” page.
- **Local Media:** Newsletter articles explaining animal regulations and law changes.
- **Direct Mail/Email:** Registration reminders and program updates.
- **Community Talks:** Information sessions at schools, and with community groups to promote responsible pet ownership.



Next Steps:

Council Officers to submit the adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 to the State Government as required by legislation. Council Officers to publish the DAMP on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. adopts the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029;***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to submit the adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan to the State Government as required by legislation; and***
- 3. acknowledges and thanks the community for their contributions to the Domestic Animal Management Plan throughout the community engagement period.***

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Aitken

That Council:

- 1. adopts the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to submit the adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan to the State Government as required by legislation; and***
- 3. acknowledges and thanks the community for their contributions to the Domestic Animal Management Plan throughout the community engagement period.***

CARRIED



10.5 VOLUNTEERS POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. C010 Volunteers Policy [10.5.1]

Executive Summary:

Council’s Volunteers Policy has been reviewed, with a new Volunteer Code of Conduct added as an Appendix to the policy. This draft was endorsed by Council on 26 November 2025 and has been available for community consultation via Council’s Have Your Say Hindmarsh platform for the period 27 November to 10 December 2025. Two (2) submissions were received, one (1) of which agreed with the proposed amendments, and the other provided feedback on volunteer induction processes and Council’s volunteer management framework. Based on the submissions, no changes are proposed, and the Volunteers Policy including Volunteer Code of Conduct is now presented to Council for adoption.

Discussion:

Council values the important role that volunteers play in contributing to the community and recognises its obligations to provide a safe and supportive environment. Whilst Council has an Employee Code of Conduct, the Volunteer Code of Conduct centres around the roles and responsibilities of volunteers and clearly defines the obligations and expectations for volunteers in performing the duties for which they have been engaged. Council is committed to being an ethical organisation with transparent processes and the Volunteers Policy incorporating Volunteer Code of Conduct gives clear guidance if circumstances of inappropriate behaviour should occur.

The draft policy was endorsed for public consultation and has been available for submissions from 27 November 2025 – 10 December 2025. During the period of public consultation, two (2) submissions were received. One (1) submission stated that no amendments were required, with the second submission stating that amendments were required. The submission is detailed below:

Submission Summary	Officer Response
<p>This submission raised several concerns regarding the Policy and Council’s volunteer management procedures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the policy being too general in nature and not addressing specific induction requirements of individual volunteer opportunities; - The framework around volunteering not being volunteer-friendly and not utilising volunteer-friendly language; - Council not providing adequate support for volunteers. 	<p>Council’s formal policies often benefit from being clear, concise and formally written, as they form the basis of corporate understanding of a community function. The ‘one size fits all approach’ should be seen as providing a whole-of-Council understanding of the fundamental components of volunteering with Hindmarsh, with additional documentation and processes produced that are more accessible and relevant for volunteers.</p> <p>Specific volunteer roles should have processes and documentation in place that support</p>



	<p>induction, onboarding, celebrating volunteer achievements and role understanding. Council will work with existing volunteer groups and Committees to review, update and develop the referenced volunteer position descriptions and induction procedures.</p> <p>Already, Council has worked to simplify onboarding procedures, including WWCC and police check processes, developing guidelines for specific committees, ensuring staff representatives are sent to Committee meetings either regularly or on request, and that volunteer achievements are publicly celebrated. Council staff will reach out to the respondent to discuss their submission and any additional ideas and considerations around these processes.</p>
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Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

Financial Implications:

Volunteers provide significant benefit to Hindmarsh Shire. Council incurs minor expenditure for the administration of volunteer programs – e.g.: insurance, WWCC, administration of applications and staff attendance at volunteer meetings and activities.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs Governance	Ensuring that Council’s volunteer management documents and processes are clear and relevant supports Council’s relationship with volunteers and ensures the mutually beneficial role of volunteers in Council service delivery. This policy and Code of Conduct also ensure Council’s compliance with relevant policies and legislation in the management of volunteer activities.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government Act 1989



Community Engagement:

Following Council endorsement, the draft policy was available for review and community consultation for the period of 27 November – 10 December 2025. The consultation was conducted in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. Feedback was sought through Have Your Say Hindmarsh. During this period, several people viewed the policy with two (2) formal submissions being received.

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 – Janelle Reichelt, Manager People and Performance

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

Communications Strategy:

If adopted, the Volunteers Policy incorporating Volunteer Code of Conduct will be published on Council's website, made available to Councillors via SharePoint and the community will be notified via social media and Council's newsletters. The Policy will also be circulated to all existing volunteers via email and provided to future volunteers on commencement.

Next Steps:

As above, incorporating actions in the Officer's response to the submission.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Volunteers Policy incorporating the Volunteer Code of Conduct.



MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr R Aitken

That Council adopts the Volunteers Policy incorporating the Volunteer Code of Conduct.

CARRIED



11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Jeparit Town Committee Minutes 10 November 2025 [11.1.1]
2. Rainbow Town Committee Minutes 17 November 2025 [11.1.2]
3. Nhill Town Committee Minutes - 18 November 2025 [11.1.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Nhill Town Committee Financial Report - 30 November 2025 [11.1.4]
5. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report - 30 November 2025 [11.1.5]
6. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report - 30 November 2025 [11.1.6]

Introduction:

The following Hindmarsh Shire Advisory Committees held meeting on the following dates:

- **Jeparit Town Committee**
General Meeting on 10 November 2025
- **Rainbow Town Committee**
General Meeting on 17 November 2025
- **Nhill Town Committee**
General Meeting on 18 November 2025

A copy of the minutes for each meeting is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

A copy of the financial statements for the month of November for the following committees have been included as confidential attachments for the information of Council:

- **Jeparit Township Advisory Committee**
- **Nhill Township Advisory Committee**
- **Rainbow Township Advisory Committee**

Next Steps:

Advisory Committee minutes will be published on Council's website. Council Officers will notify the Rainbow Town Committee of the outcome of funding allocation request. Council Officers will prepare a letter thanking the Nhill Town Committee for their contribution towards proposed renovations at Goldsworthy Park, Nhill.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
 - a) Jeparit Town Committee meeting held on 10 November 2025;***
 - b) Rainbow Town Committee meeting held on 17 November 2025;***
 - c) Nhill Town Committee meeting held on 18 November 2025;***
- 2. approves the request for Rainbow Town Committee to allocate \$2,000 (excl. GST) to the Oasis Committee for the 2026 Big Sky Festival; and***
- 3. notes Nhill Town Committee's donation of \$5,000 (excl. GST) towards proposed renovations at Goldsworthy Park, Nhill.***

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr C Uoy

That Council:

- 1. notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
 - a) Jeparit Town Committee meeting held on 10 November 2025;***
 - b) Rainbow Town Committee meeting held on 17 November 2025;***
 - c) Nhill Town Committee meeting held on 18 November 2025;***
- 2. approves the request for Rainbow Town Committee to allocate \$2,000 (excl. GST) to the Oasis Committee for the 2026 Big Sky Festival; and***
- 3. notes Nhill Town Committee's donation of \$5,000 (excl. GST) towards proposed renovations at Goldsworthy Park, Nhill.***

CARRIED



11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 23 October 2025 [11.2.1]
2. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 21 October 2025 [11.2.2]
3. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 18 November 2025 [11.2.3]

Introduction:

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

- **Yurunga Homestead Committee**
General Meeting on 23 October 2025
- **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee**
General Meetings on 21 October 2025 and 18 November 2025

A copy of the minutes for each meeting has been included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:

1. *Yurunga Homestead meeting held on 23 October 2025; and*
2. *Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meetings held on 21 October 2025 and*
3. *18 November 2025.*

MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr T Clark

That Council notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:

1. *Yurunga Homestead meeting held on 23 October 2025; and*
2. *Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meetings held on 21 October 2025 and*
3. *18 November 2025.*

CARRIED



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 items 15.1 to 15.2 close the Council meeting:

- 15.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2026 – 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”; and**
- 15.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL 2026 NOMINATIONS – 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”.**

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr T Clark

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 items 15.1 to 15.2 close the Council meeting:

- 15.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2026 – 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”; and**
- 15.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL 2026 NOMINATIONS – 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”.**

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 4:16pm.



22 January 2026

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 21 January 2026

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

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

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>.



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.

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



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

Officers:

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services), Ms Heather Boyd (Manager Finance) 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 3:03pm and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Cr Ron Ismay read the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Cr Tony Clark read the Councillor Statement of Values.

2 APOLOGIES

No 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.

No interests declared.



4 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

4.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2024/2025

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. 2024/2025 Performance Statement [4.1.1]
2. 2024/2025 Financial Report [4.1.2]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the adjusted Financial Statement and Performance Statement for 2024/2025, after changes required by the VAGO Audit were implemented.

The annual Financial Statement and Performance Statement (Statements) have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Following completion of the 2024/2025 audit by Council's auditors, Crowe, the management representation letter was issued, and officers were notified they could present the draft Statements to the Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) and subsequently to Council. Following presentation of the draft Statements to Council on 13 October 2025, the 2024/2025 Financial Statement and Performance Statement were sent to VAGO for issuing of the Independent Auditor's Report. VAGO identified discrepancies in the Financial Statements (and therefore the Performance Statement) due to an error in the application of useful life of pavement-based components of sealed and unsealed roads, and misallocation of building components following the implementation of Assetic software during the 2024/2025 financial year. Council officers have worked with VAGO, and VAGO are now satisfied with the treatment of depreciation for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The adjustment to depreciation is reflected in the Comprehensive Income Statement, and does not alter the Cashflow Statement (being the cash and cash equivalents held at 30 June 2025) or Statement of Capital Works.

Discussion:

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year. The Annual Report includes the annual Financial and Performance Statements (Statements) and have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Following completion of the 2024/2025 audit by Crowe, Council presented the draft documents to the Audit and Risk Committee on 17 September 2025 and 23 September 2025, with the Committee carrying a motion to recommend Council approval of the



Performance Statements and Financial Statements pending no material changes on 13 October 2025. The Final Management Letter has been provided by Crowe, VAGO's representative and was circulated to Audit and Risk Committee members at this time.

At the Council meeting on 15 October 2025, it was carried that -

That, pending no material changes to the Statements, Council:

- 1. approves in-principle the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025; and***
- 2. authorises Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Cr Rosie Barker to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.***

When the signed documents were provided to VAGO, it was identified that significant discrepancies in the Financial Statements (and therefore the Performance Statement) were attributed to both an incorrect calculation of depreciation (due to an error in application of useful life of pavement-based components of sealed and unsealed roads), and misallocation of building components. While there were other minor errors, this matter is the primary discrepancy that, while requiring material adjustments to the Financial Statements, did not influence the cash result. The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the adjusted reports, and Council was notified by the Chair that the Committee had recommended by circular motion that Council approves the Financial Report and Performance Statement for 2024/2025 on 13 January 2026.

The adjustment to depreciation of roads accounted for a \$2.19m adjustment to total depreciation. This item adjusted the Income Statement resulting a surplus of \$1.272m where previously there was a deficit of \$0.918m. The reclassification of building assets resulted in a \$5.423m transfer from furniture and fittings to buildings.

The 2024/2025 Financial Statements show an operational surplus of \$1.272 million with a comprehensive result of \$81.845 million. The comprehensive result includes a net asset re-evaluation gain of \$80.573 million.

Total revenue for the financial year was \$26.525 million, an increase of \$6.958 million from the previous financial year. The increase is due to Council receiving all of the 2024/2025 Financial Assistance Grant and the early payment of 50% of the 2025/2026 Grant in 2024/2025, as well as receipt of other grants to deliver programs and services like Landcare, Kindergarten Central Enrolment, and the Roadside Pests and Weeds Program.

Total expenditure for the 2024/2025 financial year was \$25.253 million, an increase of \$4.430 million from the previous financial year. The increase can be attributed to Council resolving to resume management of the Nhill Caravan Park, directly managing the swimming pools, increased waste and recycling management and disposal costs, a significant increase in



maintenance on Council roads, footpaths, bridges and drainage, and an increase in the cost of insurance.

Capital works expenditure was \$8.181 million for 2024/2025, an increase of \$0.942 million from 2023/2024. This is due to new grants for the fit out of the new Nhill and Dimboola kindergartens on school sites, work undertaken on roads using Roads to Recovery funding, as well as projects carried forward from 2023/2024, including the Dimboola Soundshell extension, the Jeparit Workshop and commencement of the Davis Park changerooms and tiered seating.

The Performance Statement provides Service Performance Indicators, Financial Performance Indicators, and Sustainable Capacity Indicators. Service performance indicators include aquatic facilities, animal management, food safety, governance, libraries, roads, statutory planning and waste management.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

Financial Implications:

There are no unbudgeted financial implications in this process. The statements outline financial performance for the previous year but costs for their production are part of normal operating expenditure.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Completion of end of year financial auditing and reporting processes ensures Council is both compliant with legislation and appropriately managing the adopted budget.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Not applicable.

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 – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

The Statements will be published in Council’s Annual Report and made available to the community via Hindmarsh Shire Council’s website and Customer Service Centres.

Next Steps:

Councillors to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement, and documents to be then included in Council’s Annual Report for 2024/2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, pending no material changes to the Statements, Council:

- 1. approves in-principle the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025; and*
- 2. authorises Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Deputy Mayor Cr Rosie Barker to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.*

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr J Barry

That, pending no material changes to the Statements, Council:

- 1. approves in-principle the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025; and*
- 2. authorises Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Deputy Mayor Cr Rosie Barker to sign the End of Year Financial Report and Performance Statement in their final form.*

CARRIED

5 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 3:20pm.



The Hon Nick Staikos MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Local Government

Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

[Ref: BMIN-250800222]

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor
Hindmarsh Shire Council



By email: [Redacted]

Dear Mayor,

Councils play a significant role in meeting the needs of their local communities as well as providing people across the state with access to important and meaningful jobs.

The Victorian Government is committed to minimising insecure work in the local government sector, including minimising outsourcing, labour hire and casualisation.

In accordance with this commitment, I am implementing changes to local government annual reporting requirements to include a new Statement of Secure Employment.

This initiative is designed to reinforce secure employment practices within the local government sector by providing greater transparency of secure employment outcomes. Developing this dataset over time will also assist individual councils, the sector, and the Victorian Government to make evidence-based decisions about any future programs or reforms designed to improve secure employment outcomes for local government workers.

Noting that the 2025–26 reporting period has already commenced, the Statement of Secure Employment will be voluntary for this period. My department has prepared the enclosed 'Local Government Statement of Secure Employment – Model template' to assist you in preparing this information for the 2025–26 reporting period. It will also be included in the annual DGS Report of Operations Good Practice Guidance, which will be issued early in 2026 for the 2025–26 reporting period.

My department will progress the regulatory changes to bring this initiative into effect as a mandatory requirement for the 2026–27 reporting period onwards. To ensure these changes are practical, effective and implementable, I invite you to provide your feedback on the model statement to Local Government Victoria by emailing [Redacted] by 22 December 2025.

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address.



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I trust you share my ambition for councils to be recognised as employers of choice that primarily directly employ the staff who provide critical services to local communities. In preparation for the statutory rollout of this reporting requirement, I encourage you to participate in the voluntary adoption phase by including a Statement of Secure Employment in your 2025–26 Annual Report.

If you have questions about the model statement or need further information, please contact Dan Harper, A/Executive Director, Local Government Victoria at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



The Hon Nick Staikos MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Local Government

27 / 11 / 2025

Enc: Model Statement of Secure Employment Template

Cc: Ms Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer, Hindmarsh Shire Council



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Government
Services

Local Government Statement of Secure Employment – Model template

[Insert Council Name] is a major employer in the municipality/shire.

[Insert Council Name] is committed to providing a safe and secure work environment for its employees.

The following information is provided on [Insert Council Name]'s secure employment indicators for the reporting period 2025/26. It is to be read in conjunction with Section 4 in the Report of Operations component of the Annual Report that reports on the human resources of [Insert Council Name].

Indicator	2025-2026 Result	2026-2027 Result	Council commentary on results
Permanent staff			
Number of Council staff (headcount and FTE) employed on a permanent basis at the end of the reporting period			
Total expenditure on Council staff employed on a permanent basis			
Consultants			
Total spend (\$) on consultants			
Description of professional services procured			

1 Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx

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Contractors and Labour hire

Total spend (\$) on outsourced workforce (including labour hire, day hire and contractors)

Ratio between expenditure on direct council employees and outsourced workforce

Number of Council staff (headcount and FTE) engaged through labour hire

The top 5 outsourced functions¹ or departments, based on total spend

% of total Council staff on fixed term contracts

Number of Council staff in fixed-term roles converted to ongoing employment

Apprentices and Trainees

Number of new apprentices and trainees engaged

% of total full time equivalent Council staff made up by apprentices and trainees

Number of staff that completed their apprenticeship or traineeship with the Council

The top 5 occupation streams where these apprenticeships

¹ As defined in the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission's Questionnaire Manual for the same reporting period

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or traineeships were completed, based on number of completions.

Number of staff employed at the council who have completed an apprenticeship or traineeship at the council within the preceding 5 years.

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4 Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx Attachment D - Model Statement Of
Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template
2025-26.docx Attachment D - Model Statement Of Secure Work Template 2025-26.docx

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12 December 2025

Ms Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Hindmarsh Shire Council



Dear Monica

Overview of how the VLGA supports councils

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information as to how the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) supports Victoria's councils and the broader local government sector.

The VLGA currently represents 53 of the 79 Victorian councils, and more than 400 councillors. We actively engage with and support our member councils and councillors at every stage of their journey during the council term.

For more than 30 years we have been an advocate and representative voice for councillors and councils, as well as a key provider of professional development and broad range of member networks for councillors and officers.

As a member-run, apolitical and independent organisation we are the only peak body nationally that has a singular focus on good governance and supporting councils to change culture, improve conduct and demonstrate good local governance.

We offer direct support, professional development, events, networks and resources to our members and carry out research, policy analysis and advocacy on behalf of the entire sector.

Member councils have access to a broad range of free, member exclusive programs and services. For a full list of member benefits please see our [Membership Prospectus](#). You may also be interested in reviewing our [2024-25 Annual Report](#) and a [short video](#) of our work over the past twelve months.

In short, member councillors are able to access our:

- member portal
- bi-monthly Lunch and Learn sessions (Fridays from 12 – 1pm) that cover aspects of mandatory councillor training requirements, such as managing Conflicts of Interest and the role of Audit and Risk Committees
- Global Executive Panel online workshops, held in partnership with the Local Government Information Unit from the United Kingdom, focussing on the key issues facing local government around the world
- monthly newsletters and member updates
- [Young Councillors Network](#) (for councillors under 40 years of age)
- [Victorian Local Government Women's Charter](#) Champions Network.

Member councillors also have the opportunity to take a leadership role across the sector by standing for a position on the VLGA's Board to help deliver our strategic plan, along with shaping our advocacy efforts and supports into the future.

The VLGA is an independent governance organisation supporting councils and councillors





Member council officers are able to access our:

- member portal
- suite of model governance policy templates and guidance
- Officer networks such as the [Governance Advisory Network \(GAN\)](#), [Local Government Working Group on Gambling \(LGWGOG\)](#) and [Child Friendly Cities and Communities \(CFCC\)](#)
- The new supports we are developing through our new initiative, known as the Gov Xchange, for governance and councillor support staff (see below).

Councillor Professional Development

VLGA member councils receive a **50% discount** on our councillor professional development (CPD) programs.

Our councillor induction program saw us deliver more than 50 sessions to Victorian councils between November last year and February this year. Our [CPD program](#) builds upon this success and ensures councillors complete all aspects of their mandatory training obligations.

We offer a range of models for the design and delivery of CPD, aimed at minimising costs while maximising flexibility to meet the needs of your councillor group.

For example, some councils have chosen multi-day intensive workshops for their Year 1 CPD, while others have requested a series of online workshops as part of their councillor briefing schedule.

Our highly credentialed and [Faculty of Facilitators](#) assist with the delivery of deliver our mandatory CPD modules.

Importantly, we meet with council staff, CEOs and/or Mayors to ensure our Facilitators are fully briefed on any local issues or elements you wish to be covered in the CPD program, ensuring what we deliver is relevant to your Councillor group. This process has been particularly useful in dealing with conduct or role issues that have arisen since the start of the 2024 term.

We are currently reviewing the program for Year 2, with a focus on:

- assessing the particular needs of a council and individual councillors through a questionnaire / self-assessment
- ensuring that the skills, knowledge and professional development already in place during Year 1 is built upon, not replicated
- a broader range of adult learning options, including self-paced learning modules
- options to minimise costs by partnering with other councils in your region, with the added benefit of informal networking opportunities.

Mayoral Professional Development

The mandatory requirements for mayors and deputy mayors are met through our [Mayoral Leadership Program](#), which is held in November to ensure completion within the one month timeframe from their election. Member councils receive a **50% discount** to this event.

The VLGA is an independent governance organisation supporting councils and councillors

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Record keeping

The VLGA will keep attendance records at all sessions and provide a report to the Shire's Chief Executive Officer attesting to the completion of the professional development training by each councillor and how it aligns with the mandatory requirements.

Contingencies for Councillor inability to attend workshops

Should a councillor face unexpected personal circumstances that results in them being unable to attend a workshop in person or online at the time of delivery, we would require prior notice to ensure we can record the session.

We do, however, note that the Local Government Victoria (LGV) guidance around Councillor Professional Development mandates that there must be an element of in person attendance when completing mandatory training.

Further, we advise that there are some modules that require in person attendance due to their very nature and content, which are:

- Renewing councillor group commitment to work as a team
- Effectively participating in council meetings
- Effective communication.

Other free of charge benefits

Through the [VLGA Connect](#) online series we bring together thought leaders and experts to provide insight and guidance on the key issues facing the sector. The [Local Government News Roundup](#), presented regularly by Chris Eddy, is sponsored by the VLGA and provides a news style bulletin covering sector issues around the nation and beyond.

This year we also launched the [VLGA Alumni](#), a network for former councillors .

Advice and support hotline

When you are a councillor or officer at a VLGA member council, councillors or officers may also contact us at any time for support and advice. Please note that this service is not designed to replace the role of the CEO, mayor or governance staff. Rather, we find that governance staff often seek guidance as to best practice when dealing with issues arising during council meetings, how to comply with aspects of legislation (such as conflicts of interest, personal interest returns).

2024 and 2025 Councillor Census

Earlier this year we launched the findings of our first-ever *VLGA Victorian Councillor Census*, undertaken in the final year of the 2020 term. This groundbreaking work has helped inform, influence and lead important conversations across the Local Government sector.

The Census has allowed the VLGA to address a significant information gap and provides some great insights into how the sector can be better placed to support and empower councillors to be successful in their roles in the future.

The VLGA is an independent governance organisation supporting councils and councillors





Pleasingly, around 330 councillors from across the state have just participated in the 2025 Councillor Census. While we purposefully kept many of the questions the same, so we are able to monitor trends over time, we also focussed on the efficacy of mandatory candidate training and induction programs.

This empirical data means that we can not only ensure our programs and supports meet the sector's needs, but that we can provide empirical evidence to the Victorian government and decision makers around the key issues and challenges facing councillors and councils.

The Gov Xchange

The VLGA is acutely aware of the need to provide support and professional development to governance staff. We know there has been a marked loss of experienced practitioners from the sector over recent years and note the challenges faced by regional councils in recruiting experienced governance staff.

One of our aims over the next 12 months is to work with governance staff and experts across the state to develop professional development, mentoring networks and other services such as regional governance groups to support councils' governance functions.

This is a key new initiative in supporting good governance across all council administrations and elected councillor groups.

We have established a Steering Committee from our Governance Advisory Network to assist with the development of these supports and would welcome a staff member of Hindmarsh Shire Council to join this Committee should you wish to become involved.

Pro rata membership offer

Given we are halfway through this financial year, the VLGA would like to extend to you the offer of a pro rata membership for the rest of the year – that is a 50% discount on the annual membership fee of \$3,515.67 (incl GST).

This means that the fee for 2025/26 is \$1,757.85 (incl GST). We believe this offers great value to both the elected council and organisation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of the above in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathryn Arndt'.

Kathryn Arndt
Chief Executive Officer

The VLGA is an independent governance organisation supporting councils and councillors

A solid black horizontal bar used to redact information from the document.



Mr Rhys Webb

Secretary Nhill RSL Sub Branch

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

The CEO and Mayor

Hindmarsh Shire

Nelson , Nhill, 3418

12/01/2026

Re: ANZAC Day 2026

Dear Monica and Counsellor Ismay,

On behalf of our Sub Branch we would like to thank you for the ongoing support your organisation shows us each year.

We would like to invite you and your fellow counsellors to be involved in our annual ANZAC day parade and wreath laying ceremony. On 25th April 2026 we will meet 1015am at the Nhill information centre, Victoria Street, Nhill with a march to then lay a wreath at the tribute to the fallen.

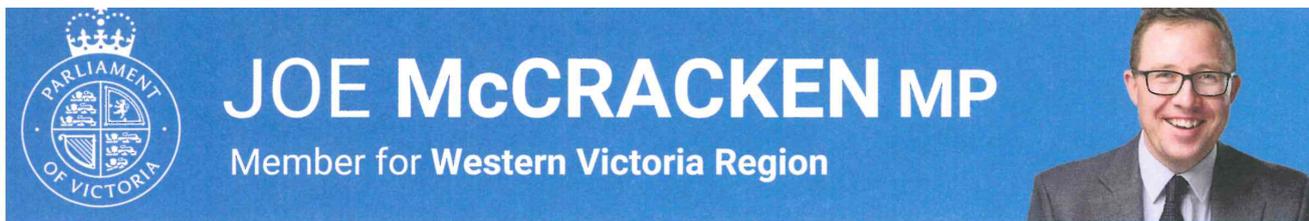
Paw Po make beautiful wreaths for us each year which cost approx. \$60.00. We are happy to order one for you which can be reimbursed or you can organise your own wreath.

We would like to also invite yourself or a representative to attend as our MC for the 11am commemorative service at the Nhill Memorial Centre.

Once again thank you for your continued support of our organisation and we look forward to hearing to you.

Kind regards

Mr Rhys Webb Secretary Nhill RSL Sub Branch



22 January 2026

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor
Hindmarsh Shire Council

RECEIVED

28 JAN 2026

Dear Cr Ismay

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2026, regarding Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers and the future of rail freight in Victoria.

I have also had contact from John Hearsch, President of Rail Futures Institute Inc, in Carlton, who wishes to discuss proposals regarding rail freight, and the retention of the Sunshine Regional Crossovers. I am hoping to organise to meet with Mr Hearsch when I am in Melbourne for the next sitting of the Victorian Parliament from 3 February 2026.

The future of rail freight is, I agree a very important issue as the collapse of rail freight means even more heavy trucks will impact the already dismal state of Victorian roads.

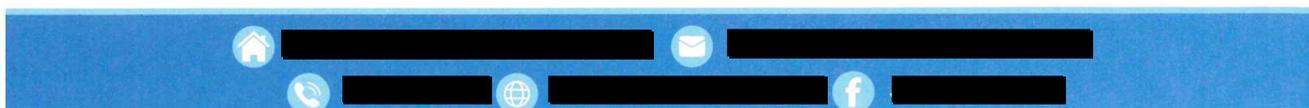
I have also been contacted by others concerned about the future of the Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers, and will be discussing the importance of this with my parliamentary colleagues.

After these discussions with Mr Hearsch, and a number of others, I will be pleased to contact you again.

Thank you for your strong interest in the future of rail freight in Victoria.

Yours sincerely

Joe McCracken MP
Member for Western Victoria Region





Hindmarsh
Shire Council

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15 December 2025

Chris Harrison
Chair
Barengi Gadjin Land Council
Via email: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Chris

Re: Wotjobaluk Nations Festival

Thank you for the invitation to the Wotjobaluk Nations Festival on Saturday 13 December 2025. Councillors and Officer are grateful for the opportunity extended to Hindmarsh Shire Council to join the community on Country at Horseshoe Bend Campground, near Dimboola.

We appreciate the thoughtful program for Mob, Kin and invited guests during the day, and the way the broader community was welcomed to the evening celebration honouring Community, Culture and Country.

Please pass on our congratulations to the organising committee for a well organised event. Cr Barker thoroughly enjoyed the activity where she was able to make her own Clapsticks.

Hindmarsh Shire Council values the ongoing partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Thank you again for inviting us to share in this important occasion.

Yours sincerely

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



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15 December 2025

The Hon Nick Staikos MP

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Hon Nick Staikos MP

Re: Statement of Secure Employment

We refer to your letter dated 01 December 2025. As with all Victorian councils, Hindmarsh Shire Council supports secure employment and supports the Victorian Government's ambition to minimise insecure work.

Council has considered the proposed Statement of Secure Employment model reporting template and provides the following submission regarding its application. We are fundamentally concerned that this reporting framework may unfairly disadvantage rural and regional councils by failing to consider the operational and financial contexts that necessitate our current arrangements – arrangements that are designed around community service, financial sustainability, and fair employment practices.

We agree with the position on the Municipal Association of Victoria on the following points:

- The proposed reporting framework does not accurately reflect the nature of secure and insecure work and may fuel misinformation.
- It risks conflating several things such as consultancy and insecure work, or contingent labour and labour hire.
- There are services for which the only viable option is for councils to deliver through contingent or contracted labour.
- In a financially constrained sector, criticism for contributing to insecure work may contribute to councils exiting services entirely.

Contingent Labour

In rural and regional Councils, flexibility within the workforce is much more of a challenge than in larger metro councils, as most staff are already deployed across several grouped service and reporting functions. Contingent labour is used to backfill positions that fulfil statutory or critical roles while recruitment is underway or where recruitment has failed. Seasonal work, niche services, and fluctuating service demands needs also contribute to consideration of both contingent labour, fixed term, and consultancy arrangements in line with financial governance and sustainability principles.

Fixed Term Engagement

Council receives short, medium, and long-term funding to deliver important services with the knowledge that ongoing funding is not guaranteed. In these instances, fixed-term staff are engaged to deliver the project or service, and such engagement is managed under the *Secure Jobs, Better Pay Act 2022*. As grant funding is dependent on the political environment and policy, often grants are extended or apparently indefinite, and permanent staff may be appointed.

Council previously received funding through HACCPYP, CHSP, and RAS to deliver aged care services, employing a mix of part-time, casual, and permanent staff. Following the introduction of aged care reforms, it became impractical for a rural council of our size to meet the required clinical governance standards, resulting in the transition of service delivery to health service providers. This change imposed significant costs on ratepayers, including redundancy payments, employment support, and counselling services. Given the ongoing uncertainty associated with funded services, permanent positions are advertised with careful consideration to balance budget constraints and the need to meet community service requirements.

Consultancy

As stated by MAV, engaging external providers or contracting out services is often a strategic decision to achieve operational efficiencies and cost savings, especially given the pressures of restricted revenue and rising expenses. Consultancy arrangements should not be equated with insecure employment, as councils routinely require specialised expertise - such as legal, engineering, or audit services - that cannot be sustained internally.

With rates and charges revenue of only \$10.2m, assets valued at over \$280m including over 3,000kms of roads, and covering an area of 7,500sq km, delivering the services our community requires and maintenance of assets is becoming increasingly difficult. We face significant challenges recruiting permanent staff due to our small population and location and often have no option but to utilise contractors. To ensure legislated services are delivered Council has to contract out Waste Services, Municipal Building Services, and Strategic Planning Services.

The current reporting model presumes councils are insufficiently committed to secure employment and increases public accountability, without addressing the broader systemic factors that limit the development of sustainable and appropriately scaled service and employment models. This position reflects ongoing advocacy by councils across Victoria for funding

frameworks that are tailored and sustainable, ensuring councils are adequately resourced to serve their communities.

In the absence of substantial reform to guarantee the financial sustainability of local government, councils such as Hindmarsh must continue to rely on casual roles, shared services, and, when necessary, labour hire, consultancy or contracted services. These measures are essential to manage the variability created by financial uncertainty, fluctuating grant terms, compliance requirements, and the delivery of state-mandated services.

We agree with MAV's recommendation to report initially on:

- Beginning and End of year headcount and FTE for permanent staff.
- Budgeted and Actual figures for permanent staff expenditure.
- Budgeted and Actual figures for contingent labour expenditure (casual, temporary, agency).
- The top 5 functions by contingent labour expenditure.
- Number of new apprentices and trainees engaged.
- % of total FTE represented by apprentices and trainees at beginning and end of year.
- Number of apprentices and trainees that completed their qualification.

We also agree that these matters should be incorporated into existing processes.

We would welcome any discussion or request for clarification on our submission to assist you in better understanding the challenges of a rural council. I can be contacted via email [REDACTED] or telephone 03 5391 4444.

Yours sincerely



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

cc: [REDACTED]



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17 December 2025

Phil King


Dear Phil

Re: Thank you

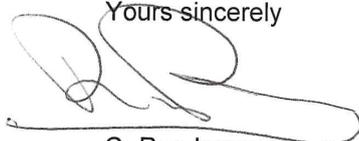
On behalf of Council and the community we write to thank you for your almost 20 years of service to the Hindmarsh Shire.

We are certain when you commenced with Council in 2006 as a Community Facilitator on a contract basis you never could have imagined the positive impact you would have on our community over the years working with Council.

Your ability to work with community, write grant applications, receive the funding and deliver the countless projects throughout all of Hindmarsh needs to be acknowledged and commended. At least 75 projects that have had a positive impact on the liveability of every person in the Shire from bowling greens to walking trails, dump points to changerooms, skateparks to shade structures and streetscapes, large projects including new libraries, upgraded clubrooms, pavilions, and the Nhill cinema upgrades are a testament to your understanding of community needs.

We wish you all the best in your retirement and enjoy a quieter pace, although we are sure you will find plenty of projects to keep you busy.

Yours sincerely



**Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor**



**Cr Rosie Barker
Deputy Mayor**



**Cr Roger Aitken
Councillor**



**Cr James Barry
Councillor**



**Cr Tony Clark
Councillor**



**Cr Chan Uoy
Councillor**



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18 December 2025

Alison Dahlenburg
Chairperson
Nhill Town Committee
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Alison

Re: Nhill Town Committee's Donation for Proposed Upgrades at Goldsworthy Park, Nhill.

I refer to the minutes of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 November 2025 where the committee moved the following:

- **Item 7.2** That the Nhill Town Advisory Committee donate \$5,000 towards renovating the Toilet and Information Centre Building in Goldsworthy Park.

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025, Hindmarsh Shire Council noted Nhill Town Committee's donation of \$5,000 (excl. GST) towards proposed renovations at Goldsworthy Park, Nhill.

Hindmarsh Shire Council thanks the Nhill Town Committee for their donation for the proposed renovations at Goldsworthy Park, Nhill. It's wonderful to have a committee that is committed to improving important facilities within Nhill.

Should you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Petra Croot by calling (03) 5391 4444 or via email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M Revell'.

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



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Shire Council

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18 December 2025

Greg Roberts
Chairperson
Rainbow Town Committee
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Greg

Re: Request to Allocate Funds to Oasis Committee for 2026 Big Sky Festival

I refer to the minutes of the Rainbow Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 November 2025 where the committee moved that Council approve the following:

- **Item 12.1** The RTAC agrees to transfer \$2,000 from the Rainbow Town Traders account to the Oasis Committee for the 2026 Big Sky Festival

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025, Hindmarsh Shire Council approved the Rainbow Township Advisory Committee's request to allocate \$2,000 (excl GST) to the Oasis Committee for the 2026 Big Sky Festival.

All invoices in relation to this project should be addressed to Hindmarsh Shire Council clearly stating that they are for the 2026 Big Sky Festival and forwarded to [REDACTED] for payment.

If you have any questions in relation to the approval or invoicing, please contact Heather Boyd, Manager Finance, via email [REDACTED] or telephone 03 5391 4444.

Yours sincerely

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



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21 January 2026

Bev McArthur MP

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

Re: Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers

Being on the main freight route between Melbourne and Adelaide, Hindmarsh Shire Council is extremely concerned about the future of rail freight in Victoria.

As part of the redevelopment at the Sunshine Station, it is proposed that the regional link crossovers are to be removed. Removing these crossovers would result in the primary access to the Port of Melbourne being via the congested Geelong / Werribee line.

The Geelong Line is a mix of standard, dual and board gauge lines and is part of the Australian Rail Track Corporation corridor. Passenger Rail services have priority over freight services in Victoria. Funnelling additional freight through the Geelong corridor will add congestion on a rapidly growing passenger line.

Rail Freight Operators would be required to travel an additional 47 kilometres, increasing train cycles times, fuel, and crewing costs. Costs which will be passed onto the consumer.

The unintended outcome of the removal of the Sunshine Regional Crossovers is that more freight would go to the road. Additional heavy trucks will have a negative impact on road safety, road longevity, amenity and emissions. Investment in roads has not been able to keep up with deterioration and there is a truck driver shortage in Australia. We consider that longer and heavier combinations of trucks will not meet the future freight task.

We respectfully request that the Sunshine Regional Link Crossover are retained.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ron Ismay', written over a horizontal line.

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor



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Shire Council

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21 January 2026

Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor



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21 January 2026

Hon. Gayle Tierney MP

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

Dear Minister

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Yours sincerely

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Mayor



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21 January 2026

Hon. Harriet Shing MP

Email: [REDACTED]

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21 January 2026

Sarah Mansfield MP

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

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Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor



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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

27 January 2026

Bart Turgoose
President
Wimmera Football Netball League

[REDACTED]
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Bart

Re: Hindmarsh Shire Council Sport and Recreation Strategy

Hindmarsh Shire Council congratulates you on your appointment as Chairperson of the Wimmera Football and Netball League and wishes you well as the 2026 season draws close.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's recently adopted *Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025–2035* sets a clear direction for strengthening participation, improving facilities, and supporting clubs and volunteers across the Shire. The Strategy places strong emphasis on equity, inclusion, and community wellbeing, with priorities that closely align with the needs of regional football and netball. It highlights the importance of modern, accessible and female-friendly facilities, better lighting and amenities, and creating safe, welcoming environments that support growing junior and women's participation.

The Strategy creates opportunities for the WFNL to partner with Council on projects and joint advocacy for external funding. It encourages collaboration to strengthen club capacity, support junior pathways, and use evidence-led planning to prioritise the most impactful projects.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to facilitate a meeting between WFNL and Council to understand the work you aim to do over the coming years, including around league priorities, facility standards, Fair Access requirements, and increased opportunities for women's football competitions.

Please reach out to our Coordinator Sports, Recreation and Community Development, Jennie Hauselberger by telephone 03 5391 4444 or via email [REDACTED] to discuss your availability, or the availability of a WFNL representative.

We look forward to working together to support the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Yours sincerely



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Council Briefing Session

Date: Wednesday 17 December 2025 **Time:** 10:55am – 3:00pm

Assembly Location: Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill.

Present:

CRS Ron Ismay (Mayor) items 1 to 11, Rosie Barker (Deputy Mayor) items 1 to 11, Roger Aitken items 1 to 11, James Barry items 1 to 11, Tony Clark items 1 to 11, and Chan Uoy items 1 to 11.

Apologies:

In Attendance:

Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 11, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 1 to 11, Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 1 to 11, and Ms. Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer) items 8 to 11.

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.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
2.	APOLOGIES
3.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
4.	NATIONALS
5.	LUNCH
6.	POWERCOR
7.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
7.1	LAND USE PLANNING – PLANNING REFORMS SESSION
8.	COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME
9.	BREAK
10.	PREPARE FOR MEETING
11.	COUNCIL MEETING

Monica Revell

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 17 December 2025

This 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 28 January 2026

Time: 10:55am – 4:00pm

Assembly Location: Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill.

Present:

CRS Ron Ismay (Mayor) items 1 to 8, Rosie Barker (Deputy Mayor) items 1 to 8, Roger Aitken items 1 to 8, James Barry items 1 to 8, and Chan Uoy items 1 to 8.

Apologies:

Cr Tony Clark

In Attendance:

Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 8, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 1 to 8, Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 1 to 8, Mr. Mick Henderson (Manager Assets and Facilities) item 6.1, Mr. Simon Landrigan (Manager Project Management Office) item 6.1, Ms. Janelle Reichelt (Manager People and Performance) item 6.1, Ms. Heather Boyd (Manager Finance) item 6.1, Ms. Cherylee Shandley (Manager Planning and Environment) item 6.1, and Mr. Mark Fletcher (Manager Economic Development and Tourism) items 6.1 to 6.2.

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.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
2.	APOLOGIES
3.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
4.	DEPUTATIONS
4.1	KRISTI SULLIVAN - WEMT
5.	LUNCH
6.	DEPUTATIONS CONTINUED
6.1	COLLEEN AND LINDA - IBAC
6.2	WAYNE STREET – STREET RYAN
7.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
7.1	HINDMARSH OUTDOOR POOLS MID-SEASON USE REVIEW
7.2	BY FIVE
7.3	INTRODUCTION OF FOGO STREAM WITHIN HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL
7.4	DRAFT RELATED PARTIES PROCUREMENT POLICY
8.	COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

Monica Revell

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 28 January 2026

This 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.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025

DRAFT

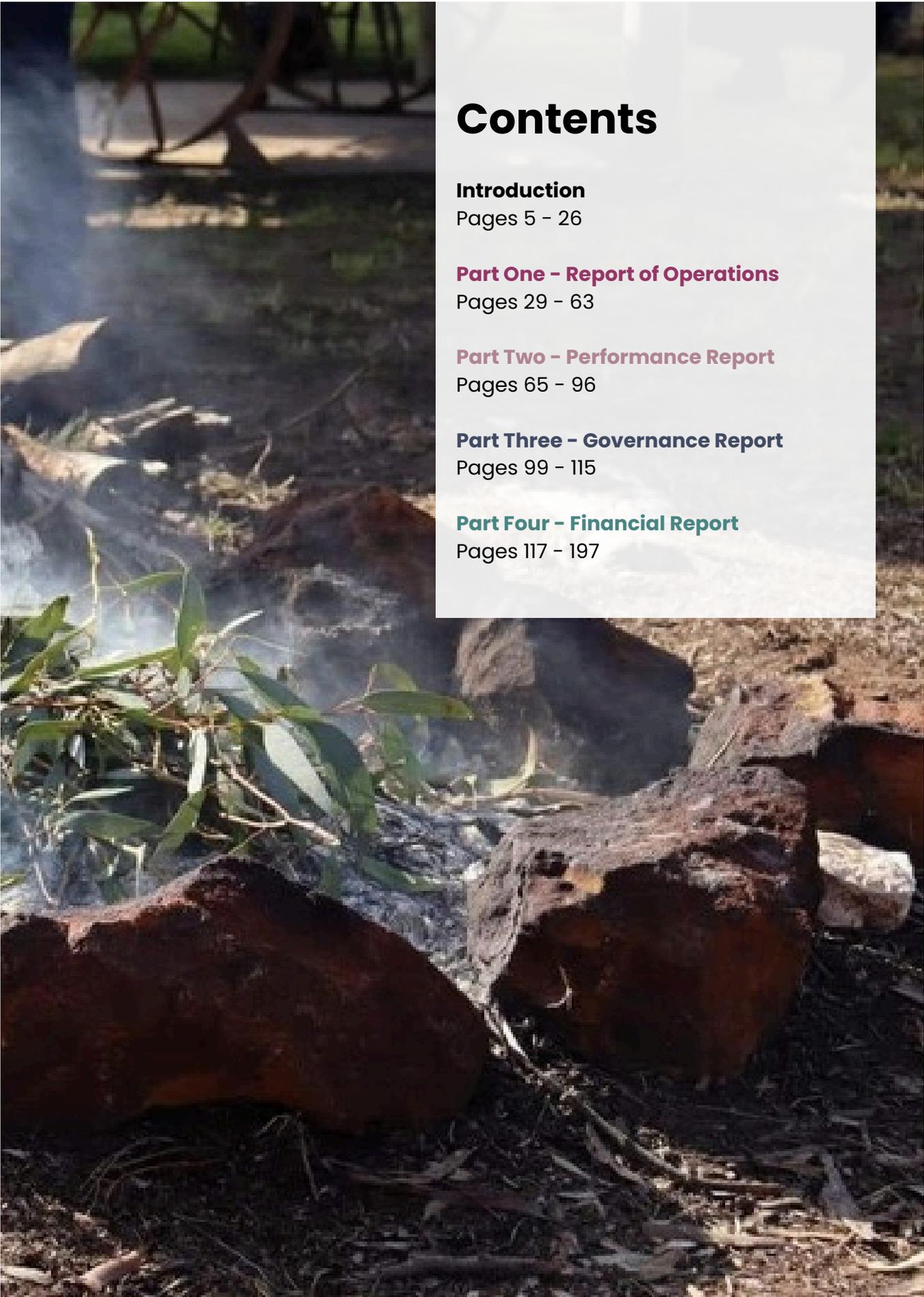




Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the
Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia
and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners
of Country.

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

*Photo: Smoking ceremony at Jeparit Vintage Rally
Photo on cover page: Wimmera Steampunk Festival, Dimboola*



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Introduction

Pages 5 - 26

Part One - Report of Operations

Pages 29 - 63

Part Two - Performance Report

Pages 65 - 96

Part Three - Governance Report

Pages 99 - 115

Part Four - Financial Report

Pages 117 - 197

How to read this report

This Report is designed to serve the needs of our community by informing them of what we have been doing, how we've followed through on the Council Plan and how we performed over the past 12 months, as well as to meet legislative requirements.

The Report presents the information that our community might find most interesting at the start, with information that is more detailed and specific, such as the Financial Report, contained towards the back of the document.

The Report is divided into the following sections:

Introduction

Find out all about Hindmarsh Shire and your Council.

Part One - Report of Operations

We take a look back on some of the great things Council and the community have achieved in 2024/2025.

Part Two - Performance Report

This section details how we have set about achieving the goals of the Council Plan. It includes what we have undertaken to achieve our strategic direction over the last financial year and how this measures against our budget.

Part Three - Governance Report

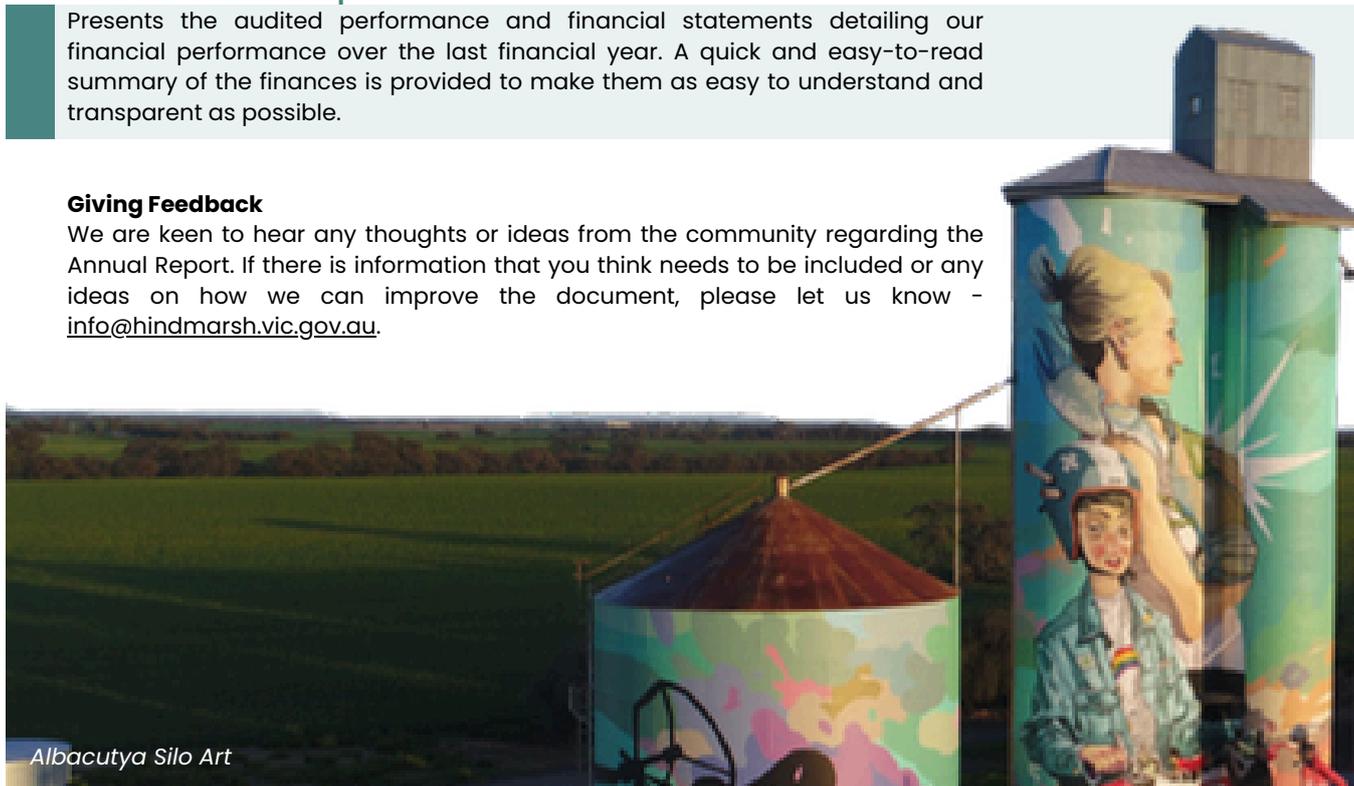
Presents corporate governance and statutory information.

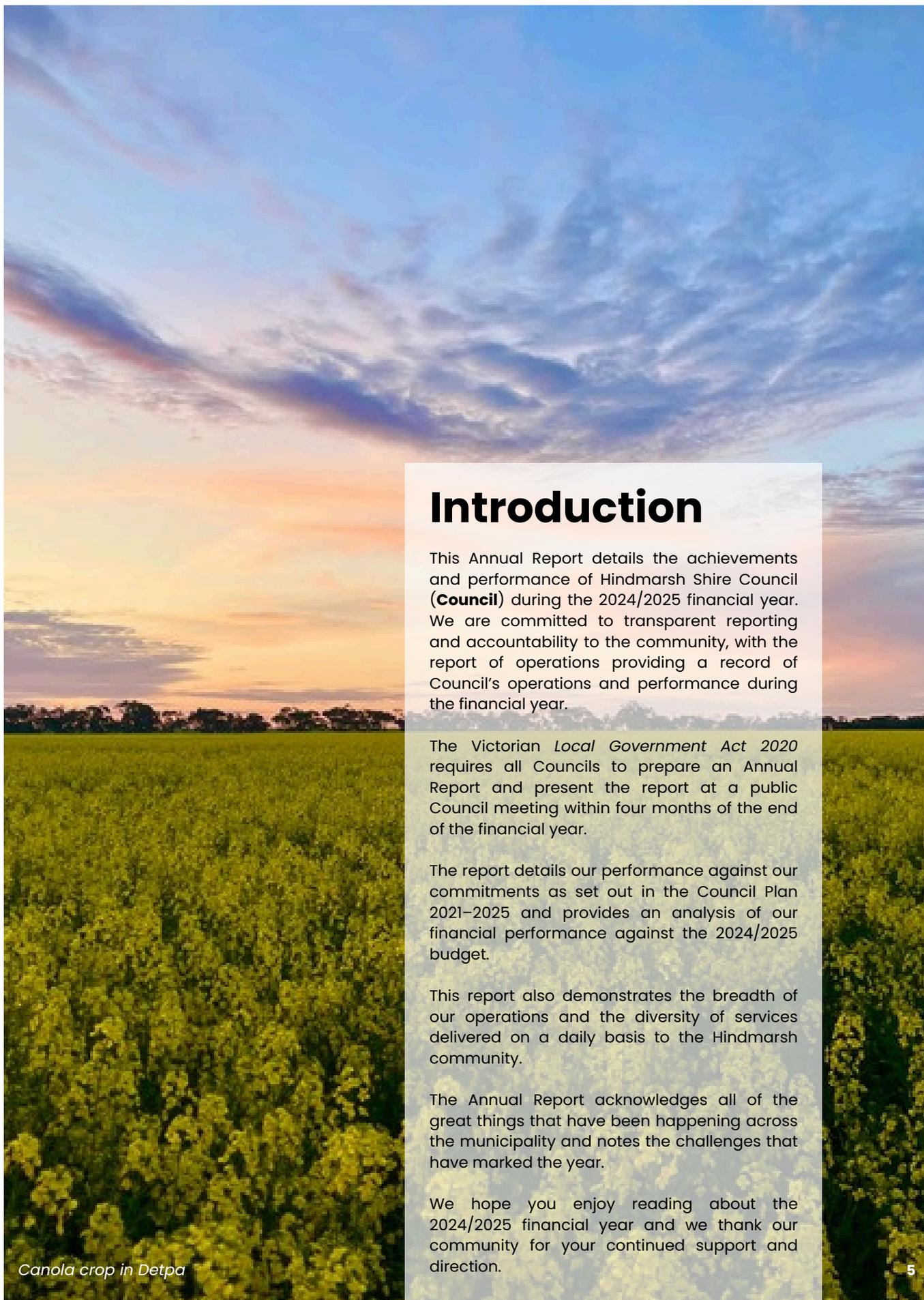
Part Four - Financial Report

Presents the audited performance and financial statements detailing our financial performance over the last financial year. A quick and easy-to-read summary of the finances is provided to make them as easy to understand and transparent as possible.

Giving Feedback

We are keen to hear any thoughts or ideas from the community regarding the Annual Report. If there is information that you think needs to be included or any ideas on how we can improve the document, please let us know - info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.





Introduction

This Annual Report details the achievements and performance of Hindmarsh Shire Council (**Council**) during the 2024/2025 financial year. We are committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community, with the report of operations providing a record of Council's operations and performance during the financial year.

The Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* requires all Councils to prepare an Annual Report and present the report at a public Council meeting within four months of the end of the financial year.

The report details our performance against our commitments as set out in the Council Plan 2021–2025 and provides an analysis of our financial performance against the 2024/2025 budget.

This report also demonstrates the breadth of our operations and the diversity of services delivered on a daily basis to the Hindmarsh community.

The Annual Report acknowledges all of the great things that have been happening across the municipality and notes the challenges that have marked the year.

We hope you enjoy reading about the 2024/2025 financial year and we thank our community for your continued support and direction.

Canola crop in Detpa



Snapshot of our Council

Hindmarsh Shire Council is located in the Wimmera region in Western Victoria, covering an area of 7,527 km².

We are bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North.

Most of our operations are based in or around the Shire's four main towns of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.

We are a closely linked community of approximately 5,698 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census), with a median age of 50 years.

Hindmarsh Shire is rich in natural beauty with 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.

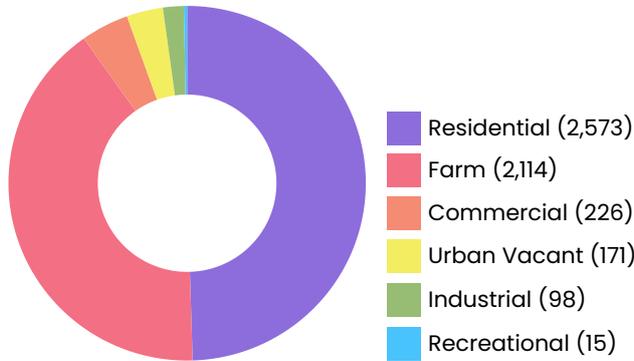
1.6% of Hindmarsh's population are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations being the recognised Traditional Owners of Country in the Wimmera region.

Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 213 people speaking Karen language at home.

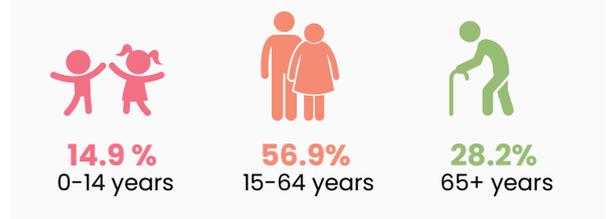


Our Municipality

5,197 rateable properties consisting of the following:

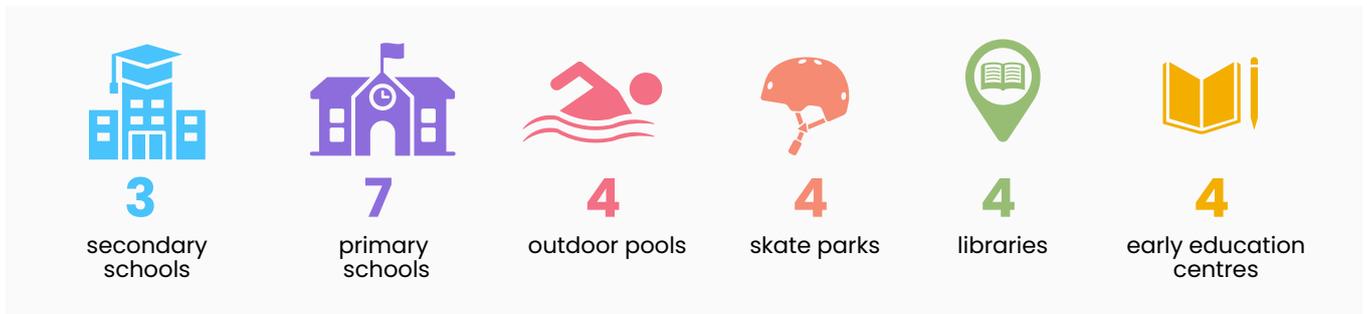


5,698 population total, 50.1% male, 49.9% female.

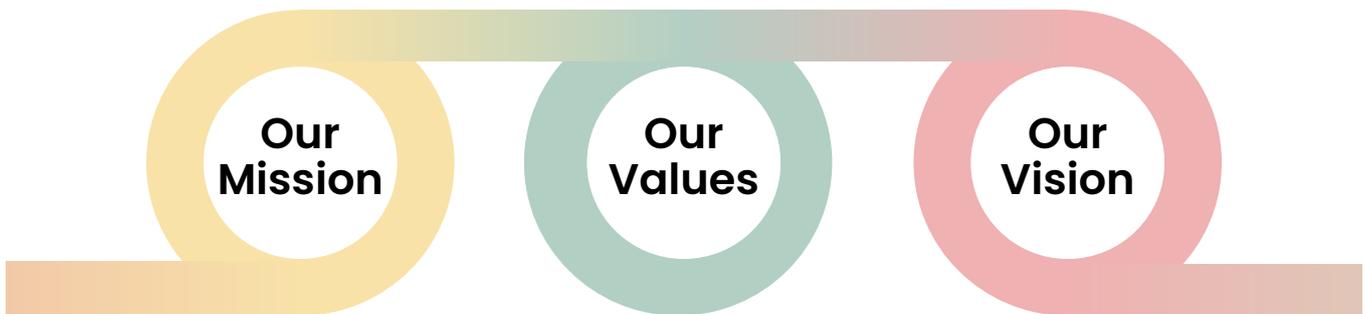


2,492 residents in the labour force

3,251 do unpaid domestic work



Vision, Values & Mission



Our Mission

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

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

Our Values

We **value**:

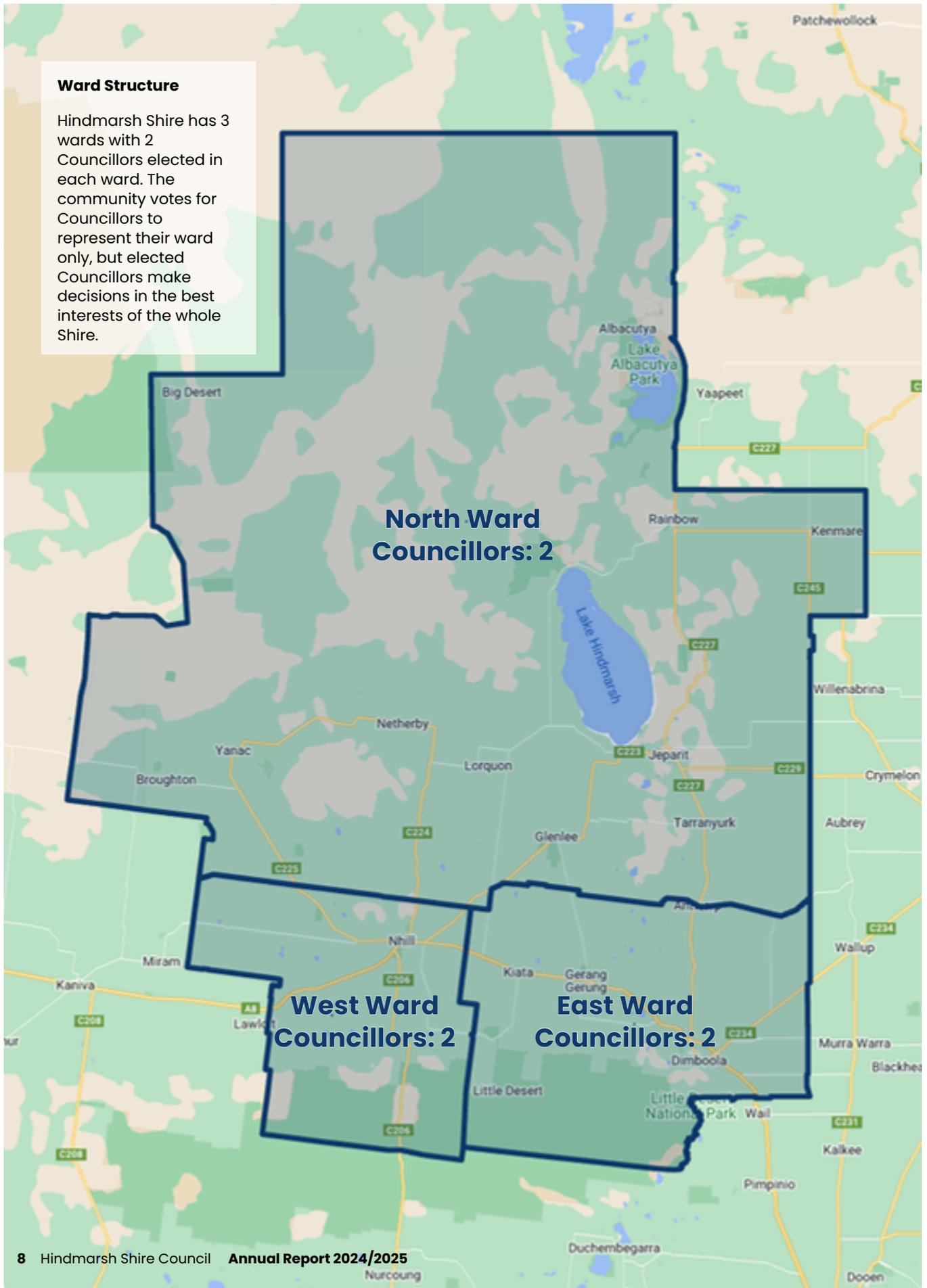
- engaging with, listening to and meeting people where they are at
- doing the best we can with the people and funding that we have
- showing respect and embracing diversity
- taking pride in our community and achievements
- being bold, creative and ambitious

Our Vision

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

Ward Structure

Hindmarsh Shire has 3 wards with 2 Councillors elected 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.





Jeparit CFA Brigade

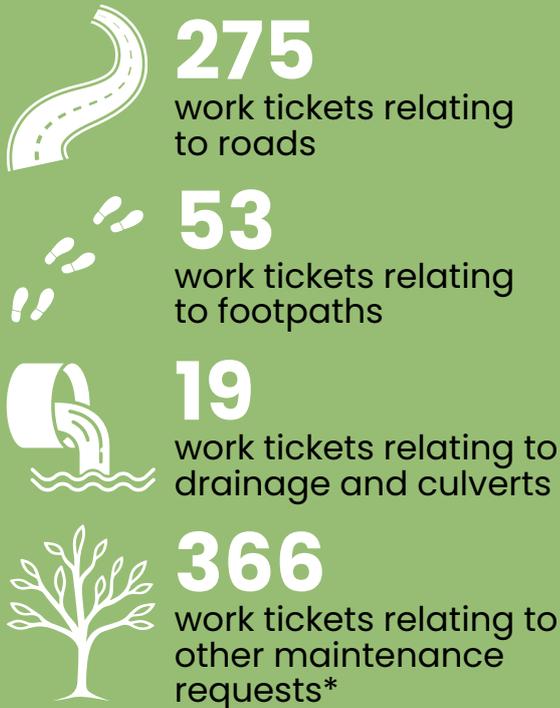
The services we provide





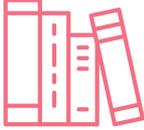
Facts and figures

713 customer action requests completed consisting of:



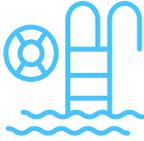
 **~3,025km**
of Council-managed roads throughout the Shire.

 **42,000km**
distance travelled by bin trucks to collect waste

 **7,754**
physical library items borrowed

 **6,684**
phone calls answered at Customer Service Centres

 **9,569+**
visitors used library services and facilities

 **11,668**
attendees at outdoor swimming pools

 **1,237**
attendees across our free School Holiday Programs

 **\$40,137**
spent on community, business and events grants

 **29**
groups assisted by annual Council grant programs

 **38**
movies screened throughout the Shire

 **14**
residents became Australian Citizens

 **60+**
food businesses inspected

 **23**
planning permit applications issued

 **39**
Council newsletters published

*other maintenance requests includes tree trimming/removal, signage, line marking, rubbish, playground equipment, weeds and gardens, etc

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, provide a wide range of services and facilities and ensure finances are allocated in the best interests of the whole community.

On 26 October 2024, the Hindmarsh Shire community elected its Council for a four-year term. Five new Councillors were elected, along with one Councillor who served on the previous Council.



Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor

West Ward
Re-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 Roger Aitken

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



Cr Rosie Barker

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



Cr James Barry

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



Cr Tony Clark

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

2020–2024 Councillors

Cr Debra Nelson

East Ward
Councillor term ended in October 2024

Cr Wendy Bywaters

East Ward
Councillor term ended in October 2024

Cr Brett Ireland

North Ward
Councillor term ended in October 2024

Cr Ron Ismay

North Ward
Re-elected in November 2024

Cr Melanie Albrecht

West Ward
Councillor term ended in October 2024

Cr Robert Gersch

West Ward
Councillor term ended in October 2024



Our People

Council is the governing body that appoints the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic direction of the Council Plan. Two Directors and the CEO form the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and senior officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below.



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Appointed April 2024 until current

Monica was appointed to the role of Chief Executive Officer in April 2024, following previous roles as Acting CEO, Director Corporate & Community Services, and Manager Finance & Customer Service. Monica has worked with Council since 2011 and has a strong connection to Hindmarsh having lived in Dimboola since 1999.

Responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

The CEO provides strategic guidance for the management of Council and is responsible for the organisation's overall operations.



Ram Upadhyaya
Director Infrastructure Services
Appointed January 2024 until current

Ram was appointed to the role in January 2024. Ram has worked for various Wimmera Councils over the past 15 years and has developed a good understanding of local challenges.

Responsibilities of Director Infrastructure Services:

The Director Infrastructure Services is responsible for Asset Management, Engineering and Traffic Management, Environment and Sustainability, Infrastructure Maintenance and Development, Parks and Gardens, Environmental Health, Local Laws, Building Controls, Planning and Development.



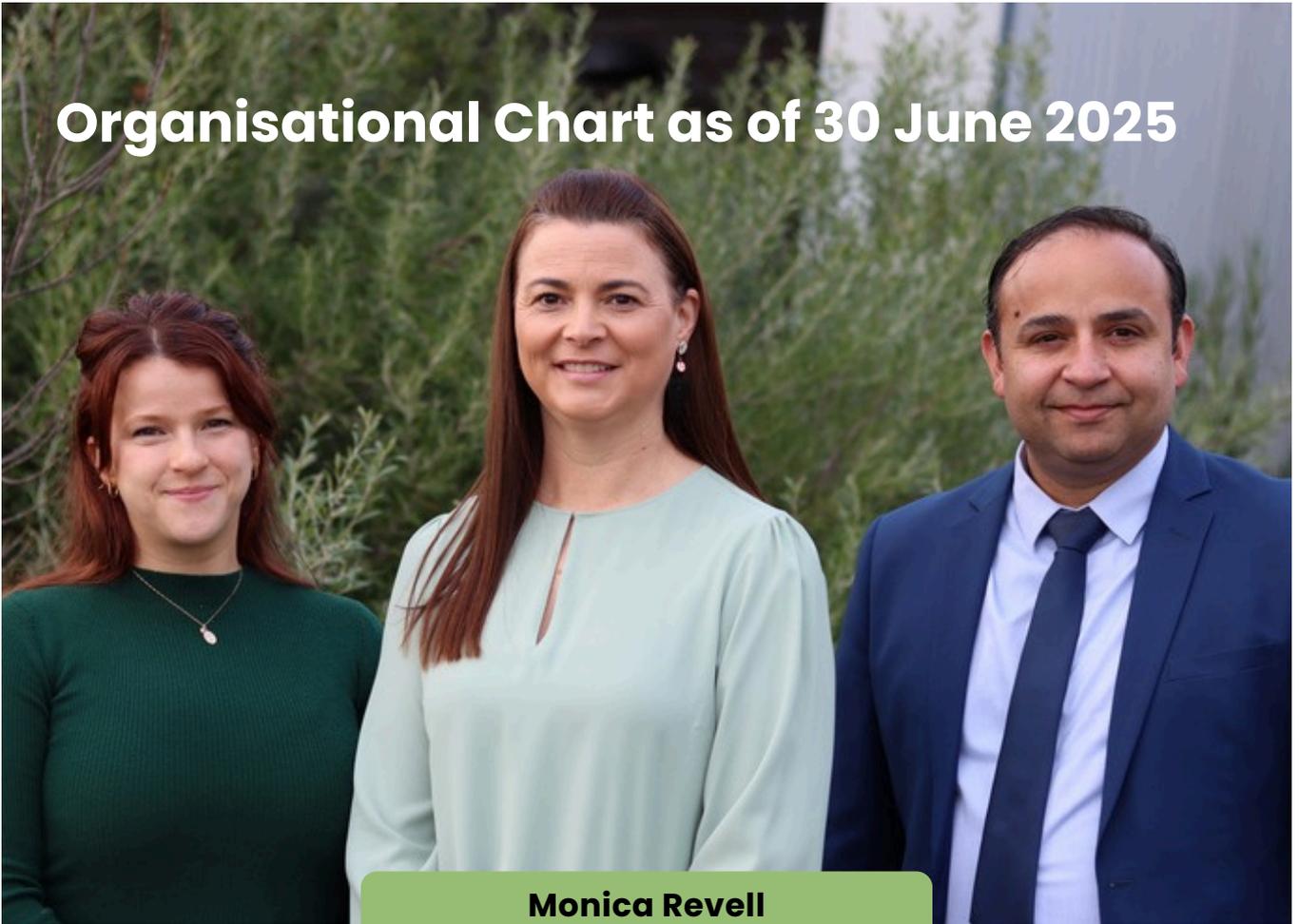
Petra Croot
Director Corporate and Community Services
Appointed May 2024 until current

Petra was raised on a farm outside of Nhill and moved back to the area in 2019 having studied a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Public Policy.

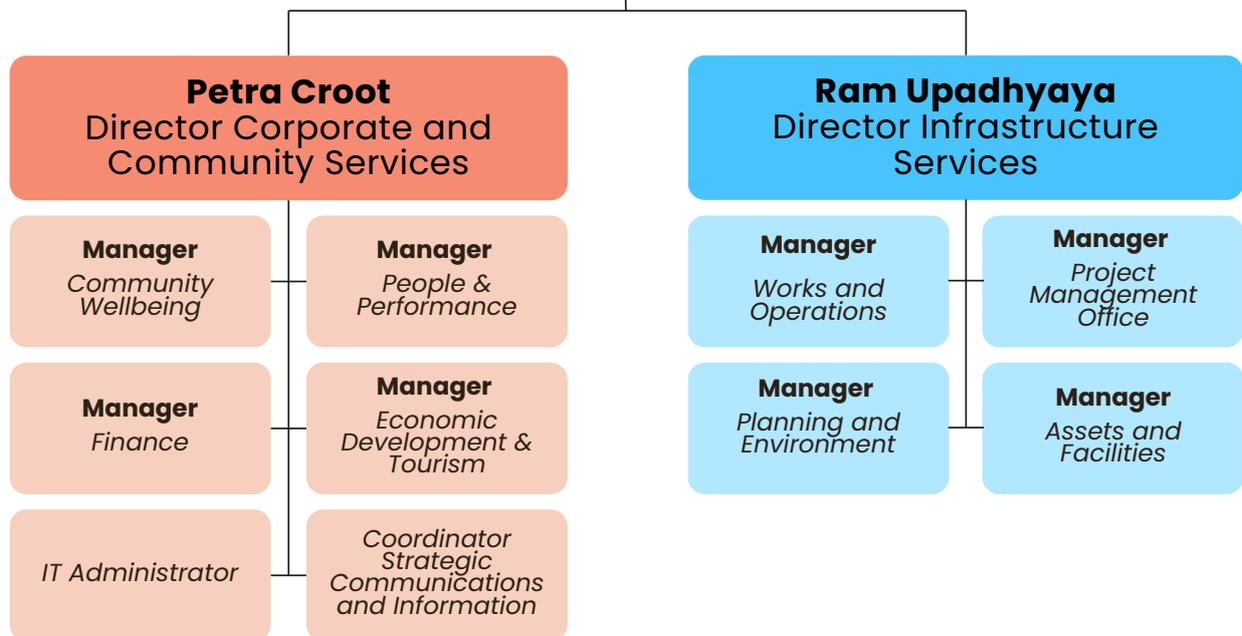
Responsibilities of Director Corporate and Community Services:

The Director Corporate and Community Services is responsible for Finance, Governance, Information Technology, Business Development, Families, Youth and Leisure, Tourism, Human Resources, Libraries, Social Welfare, and Economic Development.

Organisational Chart as of 30 June 2025



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

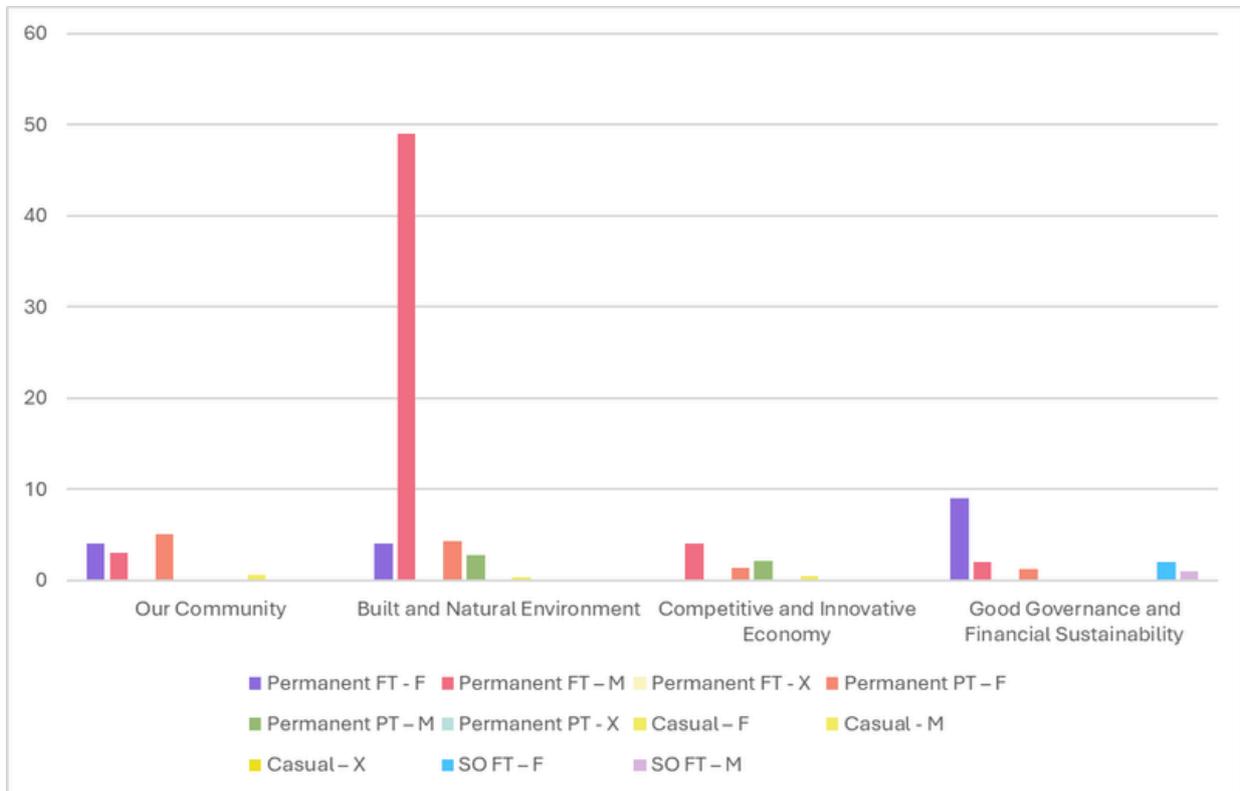


Council Staff

A summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) Council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender is set out below.

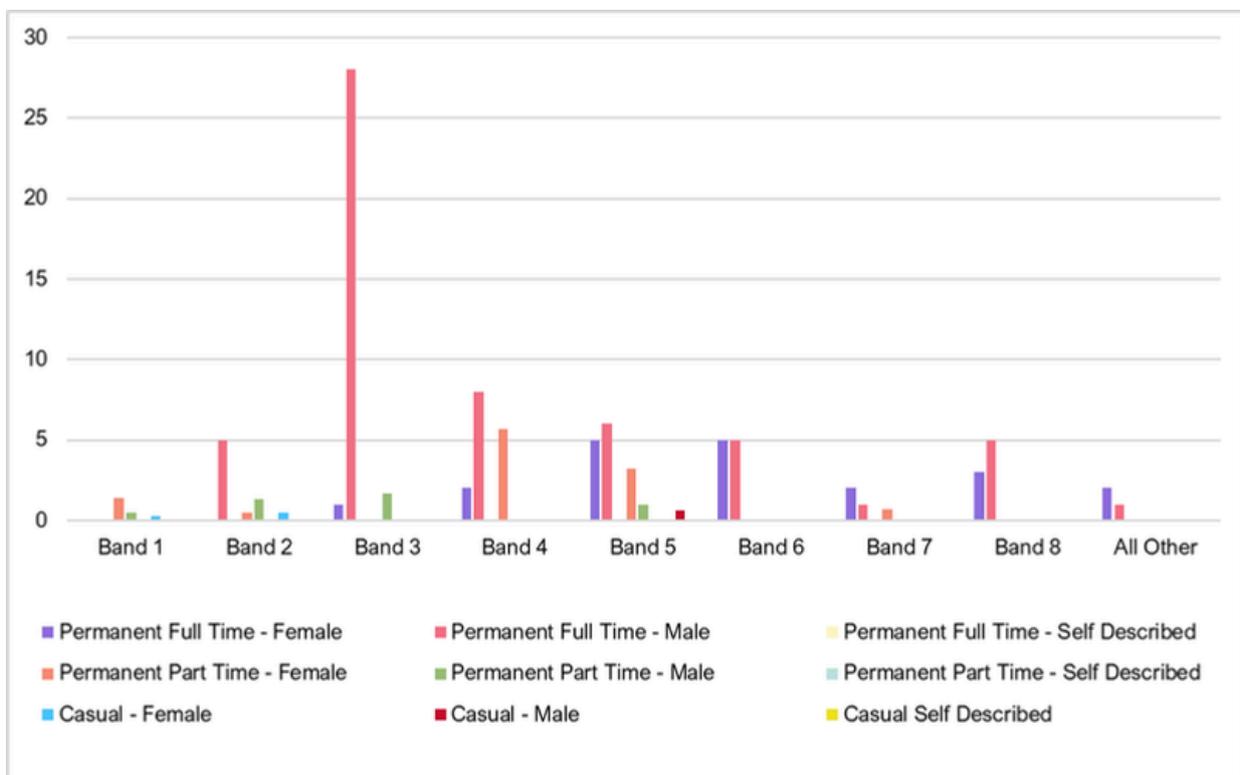
Employee type/gender	Our Community	Built and Natural Environment	Competitive and Innovative Economy	Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	Total FTE
Permanent FT – F	4.0	4.0	0.0	9.0	17.0
Permanent FT – M	3.0	49.0	4.0	2.0	58.00
Permanent FT – X	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent PT – F	5.1	4.3	1.4	1.3	12.1
Permanent PT – M	0.0	2.8	2.1	0.0	4.9
Permanent PT – X	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual – F	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.8
Casual – M	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Casual – X	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SO FT – F	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0
SO FT – M	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	12.7	60.4	8.0	15.3	96.4

FT-Full time PT-Part time F-Female M-Male X-Unspecified Gender SO-Senior Officer



A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender is set out below.

Structure	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	All other	Total
Classification	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Permanent Full Time - Female	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	20.0
Permanent Full Time - Male	0.0	5.0	28.0	8.0	6.0	5.0	1.0	5.0	1.0	59.0
Permanent Full Time - Self Described	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent Part Time - Female	1.4	0.5	0.0	5.7	3.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	11.5
Permanent Part Time - Male	0.5	1.3	1.7	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
Permanent Part Time - Self Described	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual - Female	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Casual - Male	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Casual Self Described	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	2.1	7.3	30.7	15.7	15.8	10.0	3.7	8.0	3.0	96.4



Equal Opportunity

Council is committed to the principles of equal opportunity. In all policies and practices of Council, there is no discrimination relating to sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, parenthood, race, colour, national origin, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, gender identity, family or carer responsibilities, or religious or political affiliation. Selection of individuals for employment, promotion or advancement, training and staff development will be on the basis of personal merit in fair and open competition according to the skills, qualifications, knowledge and efficiency relevant to the position involved. Council's policy on equal opportunity reflects our desire to enjoy a workplace free of discrimination where each person can progress to the extent of their ability.

Council's People and Safety team continue to review recruitment and employment lifecycle policies and procedures to promote diversity, accessibility and inclusion in our workplace.

Gender Equality Action Plan

Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Hindmarsh Shire Council must deliver a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) as well as implement Gender Impact Assessments in policy, service and community engagement processes. The GEAP is an organisational commitment to improving gender equality in the workplace. Workplace gender equality is achieved when people can access and enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities regardless of gender.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to addressing how gender inequality can interact with other inequalities and strives to improve gender equality for all. Activities in the GEAP include staff training, facilities audits and other actions that reduce gender segregation in the workforce.

We look forward to developing a renewed Gender Equality Action Plan when the current Plan expires.

Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE)

Hindmarsh Shire Council is participating in Women's Health Grampians' CoRE program. Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) is a partnership of organisations, businesses, clubs and groups who share a vision for safe, equal and respectful communities in the Grampians region.

Enterprise Agreement

A Committee comprised of management, staff representatives, union delegates, and union officers was formed to discuss proposals for the Hindmarsh Shire Council Enterprise Agreement No 11. In principle support was reached and the consultation period commenced prior to the end of June 2025. A staff vote was held early July 2025, at the conclusion of the consultation period.

Primary Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

The primary prevention of gender-based violence works primarily through promoting gender equity, building respectful and safe relationships and breaking down social stereotypes. This is a prevention-based approach consistent with Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan. Council has received funding through the Free from Violence Local Government Program to deliver primary prevention activities both operationally and within the community. Our Free from Violence Project Officer has worked on building staff understanding and capacity around what gender-based violence is, and reviewed Council policies and procedures to ensure they are informed by primary prevention.

Within the community, we have organised several events and workshops, each focussing on a different facet of primary prevention. The 16 Days of Activism Community Walks in November and December were a highlight. In March, The International Woman's Day Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta showcased women working in traditionally male dominated fields, and the feedback from community was overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to being able to bring more activities to the community, to grow understanding and start conversations.

Health & Safety

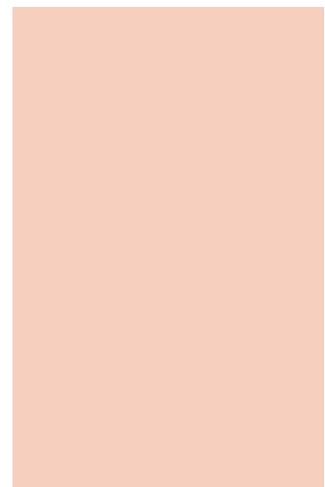
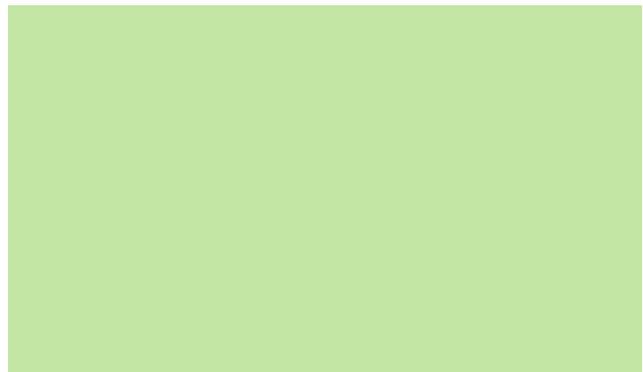
Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to prioritising the health, safety, and wellbeing of our people. We extend this commitment to our visitors and others who work for us and with us, placing our people's physical and psychological safety at the heart of everything we do - every day.

We acknowledge our shared responsibilities and roles in promoting a safety culture that is inclusive, supportive, and free from bullying, harassment and discrimination. We commit to taking all reasonably practicable measures to eliminate or otherwise minimise risks to the physical and mental health, safety and wellbeing of our people and others.

Our work is never so urgent or important that we cannot take the time to do it safely.

Professional Development

Hindmarsh Shire Council offers study assistance for staff undertaking relevant undergraduate or postgraduate studies. In the past year, two (2) staff obtained this form of support. Council also provides a comprehensive corporate and practical learning program that supports a broad range of staff development needs. This is developed in alignment with strategic priorities as well as in response to needs identified through performance and development plans. A variety of learning methodologies are used including e-learning, facilitated workshops and personal coaching.



Council Offices & Libraries



Nhill Customer Service Centre

92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418
P: 03 5391 4444



Dimboola Library & Customer Service Centre

101 Lloyd Street
DIMBOOLA VIC 3414
P: 03 5391 4452



Jeparit Library and Customer Service Centre

10 Roy Street
JEPARIT VIC 3423
P: 03 5391 4450



Rainbow Library and Customer Service Centre

49 Federal Street
RAINBOW VIC 3424
P: 03 5391 4451



Nhill Library

5 Clarence Street
NHILL VIC 318
P: 03 5391 4449

Postal address:

PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@hindmarshshirecouncil



Nhill Lions Club

Message from the Mayor and CEO

On behalf of Hindmarsh Shire Council, it is a great pleasure to present the 2024/2025 Annual Report.

This report reflects the shared efforts of our staff, community members, and partners, all working together to ensure our Shire continues to thrive. Council remains committed to transparent and responsive leadership, sound financial stewardship, and delivering inclusive services that support a strong local economy and benefit all residents.

Hindmarsh is a community rich in natural beauty, agriculture, industry, small business, and the generosity of volunteers. We are supported by quality education and health services for people of all ages. While we are proud of the progress made, we also recognise the ongoing challenges facing our community. Council remains focused on addressing these challenges and continuing to deliver services and projects that support the wellbeing and growth of our Shire.

Community Consultation

Council continues to livestream Council meetings through our YouTube channel, with members of the community also encouraged to attend Council meetings in person.

During the financial year, Council held a variety of community consultations asking members of the community to provide their feedback on the following:

- Proposed Lease of The Patch, Nhill
- Councillor Expense Entitlements Policy
- Hindmarsh Planning Scheme Amendment – Heritage Study (C21HIND)
- Request to Name an Unnamed Road between Nhill-Diapur Road and Rogers Road
- Climate Adaption Strategy
- Councillor Complaints Handling Policy
- Fair Access Policy Action Plan
- Onsite Wastewater Management Plan
- Risk Management Policy, Risk Management Framework, and Risk Appetite and Tolerance Statement
- Expression of Interest for sale of items in Gerang Hall
- Expression of Interest for sale of items in Dimboola Senior Citizens Building
- Proposed Dimboola Swimming Pool upgrades



Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

- Expression of Interest for sale of 3 x Portable Cabins in Nhill Caravan Park
- Council Plan 2025–2029
- Council Budget 2025/2026
- Expression of Interest to join the Hindmarsh Community Panel
- Advisory Committee Policy, Hindmarsh Pride Committee Terms of Reference, and Town Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools Post-season Review
- Proposed Changes to Purple Glass Bin Collection Frequency
- Proposed Changes to Domestic Animal Management Plan
- Proposed Changes to Hindmarsh Municipal Local Law
- Road Management Plan 2025–2029

Throughout August, Council hosted in-person Farmer Consultation sessions in Rainbow, Jeparit, Yanac, Nhill, and Dimboola. These well-attended meetings gave farmers and Council officers a valuable opportunity to discuss key topics such as strategic roads, tree trimming, pest and weed management, funding constraints, and on-the-ground frustrations. These sessions will continue on an ongoing basis to ensure open and continued communication with our farming community.

Since being appointed as Chief Executive Officer in April 2024, Monica Revell has prioritised direct engagement with our towns and communities. Monica attended all four Town Committee meetings and launched monthly CEO Drop-in Sessions at libraries across the Shire, offering residents the chance to stop by for a casual chat or to raise any issues or questions they may have.

To keep the community informed, Council continued to circulate fortnightly e-newsletters and monthly printed newsletters, available at Customer Service Centres and Libraries, and participating businesses. In May 2024, we introduced a quarterly newsletter, with the first edition (May - July) delivered to all households via Australia Post and local distribution, improving accessibility and reach across the municipality.

Message from the Mayor and CEO cont.

In June, we also held four community consultation sessions focused on the 2025/2026 Annual Budget, Council Plan Actions, and the future of key community assets including the Dimboola Senior Citizens Centre and Gerang Hall. These sessions allowed community members to discuss draft plans directly with Council officers and provide valuable feedback.

Events

Hindmarsh Shire continues to be a wonderful place to live, enriched by a vibrant calendar of events that bring locals and visitors together. This success is thanks to the dedication of our many community groups and volunteers, who work tirelessly alongside Council to deliver memorable events and activities throughout the year. We extend our sincere thanks to all the hardworking volunteers whose efforts make these events possible and help foster a strong, connected community across the Shire.

Volunteers

Hindmarsh Shire boasts more than double the state average of people who volunteer - an incredible reflection of the strong community spirit that defines our region. From managing community assets like Yanac Hall, the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, Yurunga Homestead, Rainbow Recreation Reserve, and Jeparit Hall, to supporting services like the Visitor Information Centre, Community Taxi, and local libraries - volunteers play a vital role in keeping our community thriving.

Across the Shire, residents also volunteer through organisations such as the CFA, Lions and Leos, Landcare, Rotary, sporting clubs, and countless other community groups. Their contributions include everything from mowing lawns, baking for fundraisers, serving as treasurers or presidents, greeting visitors, and running events, to planting trees, maintaining public spaces, and driving people to medical appointments. Our community simply wouldn't be the same without them.

The time, energy, and generosity of volunteers are what make Hindmarsh such a fantastic place to live.

Emergency Management

Later in the Annual Report (Challenges and Opportunities), we discuss the challenges that the Little Desert and Grampians bushfires posed for our community, including residents, farmers and businesses. While a devastating event, economically and socially, this period demonstrated the resilience, connectedness and compassion of the Hindmarsh community.

As we continue to recover from the impact and loss of property and natural habitat, we continue to express our gratitude to those who have volunteered their time and resources to support their community, including the BlazeAid team.

Grant Funding

Grants continue to play a vital role in helping Council deliver a wide range of projects that would not be possible within our limited budget.

Through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Council secured funding to:

- Construct a new Cane Ball Court in Nhill
- Install a shade structure at the Rainbow Skatepark
- Begin Stage One of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan, including a new path linking the town centre to Nhill Lake
- Tender for the construction of AFL-compliant change rooms and tiered seating at Davis Park, Nhill (project to be completed in 2025/2026)



Additional funding through the State Government's Tiny Towns Fund supported the development of a dog park in Nhill and streetscape improvements in Roy Street, Jeparit.

Council also received grants to support a broad range of community programs, including:

- Facilitated playgroups
- Youth activities and events
- Free From Violence Local Government program
- Multicultural Storytime and Karen New Year celebrations
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Seniors' activities
- Digital planning initiatives
- Waste and recycling education
- Landcare facilitation
- Roadside pest and weed control

Grants were also secured for road upgrades and maintenance, contributing to the ongoing improvement of our transport infrastructure.

Message from the Mayor and CEO cont.

Community Satisfaction

In 2024/2025 Council undertook quarterly Community Satisfaction Surveys, the results of which are shown below -

Performance Measures	Hindmarsh 2021	Hindmarsh 2022	Hindmarsh 2023	Hindmarsh 2024	Hindmarsh 2025	Small Rural Shires 2025
Overall Performance	61	58	53	55	59	54
Community Consultation (community consultation & engagement)	56	52	54	52	59	51
Advocacy (lobbying on behalf of the community)	59	55	53	52	57	51
Making Community Decisions (decisions made in the interest of the community)	59	55	52	52	58	50
Sealed Local Roads (condition of sealed local roads)	53	55	48	48	47	44
Customer Service	69	69	64	65	70	65
Overall Council Direction	48	48	42	46	53	46

Complete results, as well as results from previous years, can be accessed at www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/CSS.

Summary

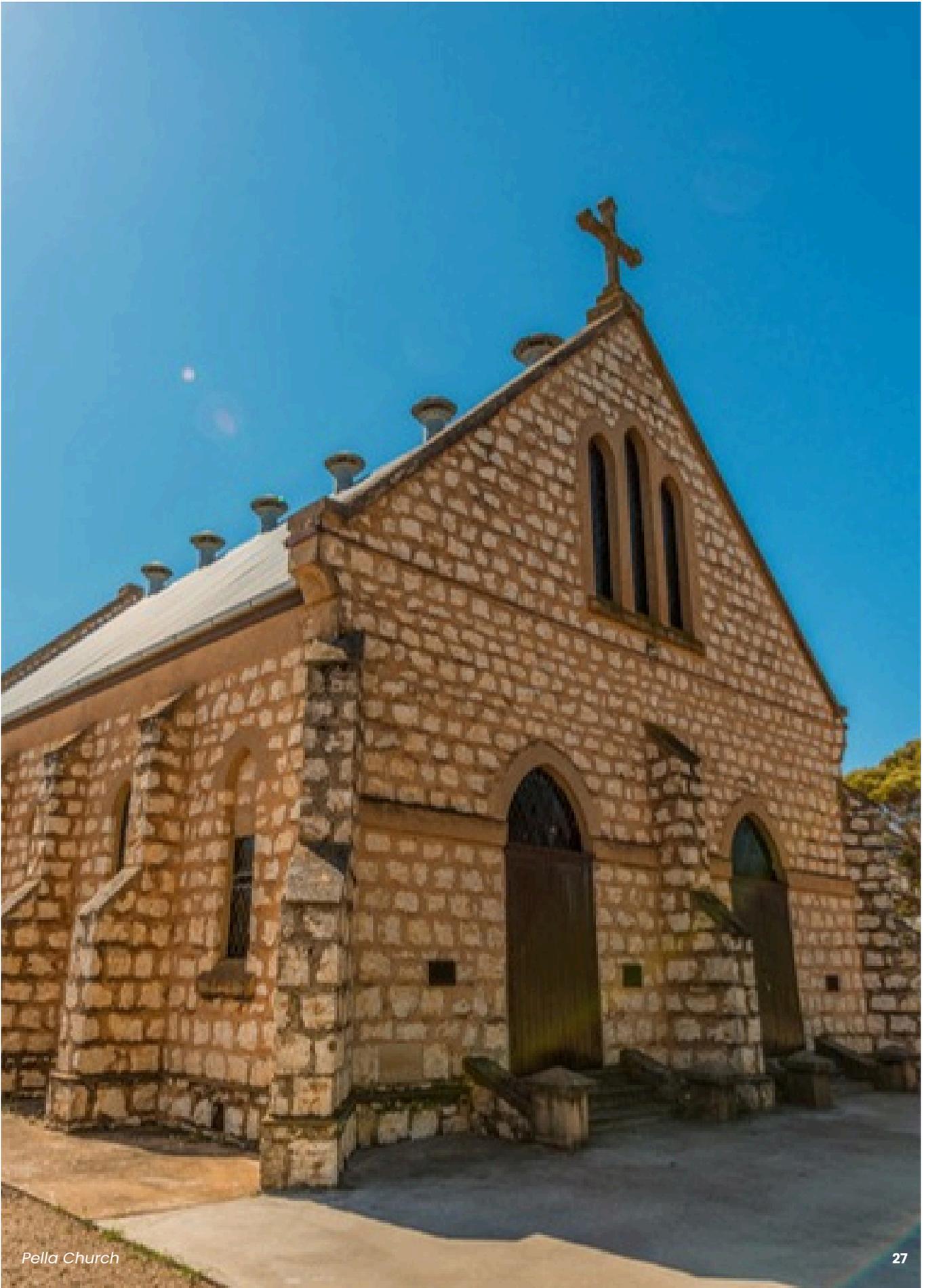
Council is proud of the extremely skilled and hardworking team of staff members who are committed to the Hindmarsh community, and this Annual Report evidences what can happen when we work closely with the community. We look forward to finalising the 2025–2029 Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) in 2025/2026 and delivering another four years of services, projects and events for everyone in Hindmarsh Shire.



Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

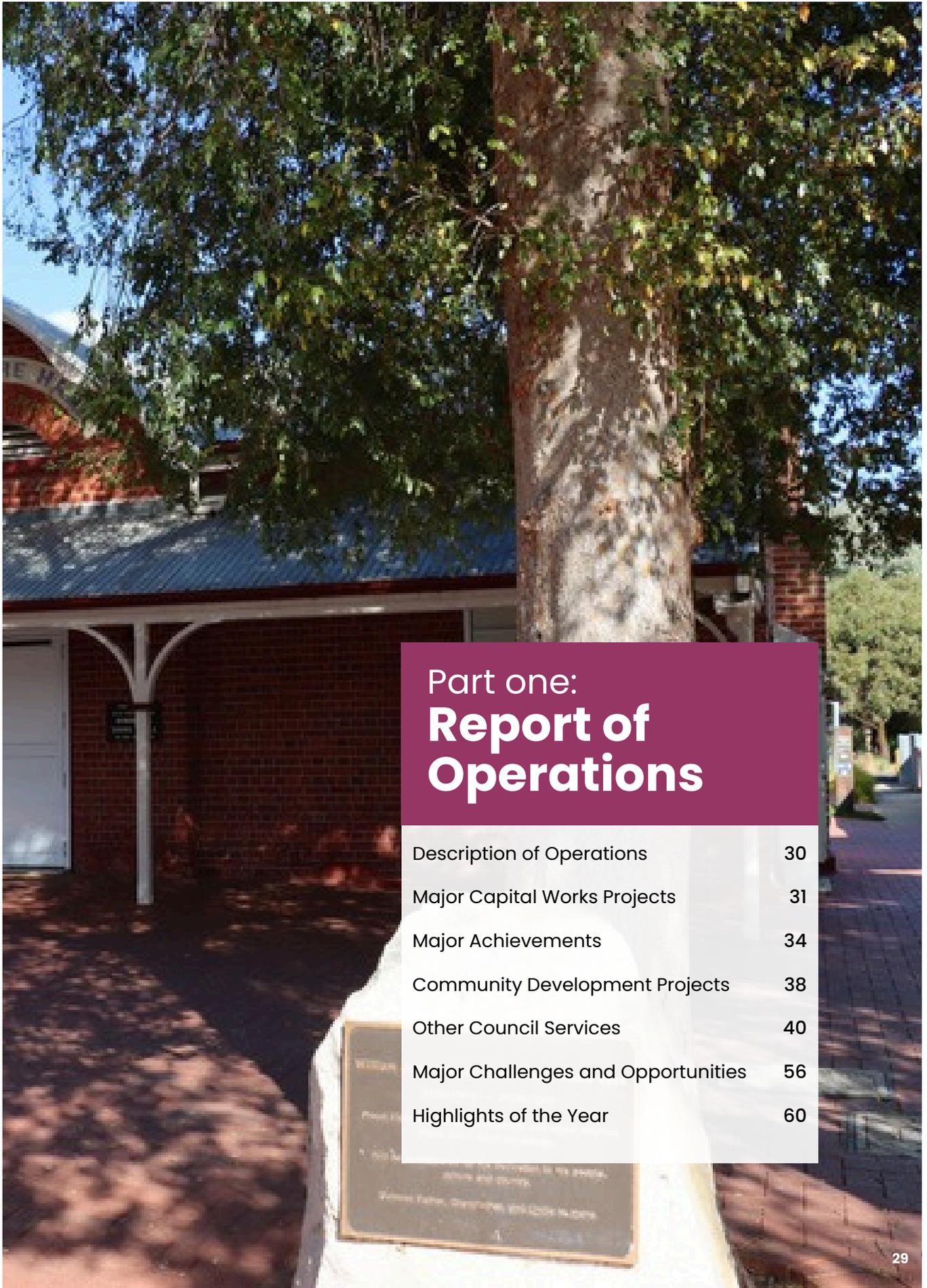


Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



Pella Church





Part one:
**Report of
Operations**

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Description of Operations

Hindmarsh Shire Council is responsible for more than 110 services, ranging from services for children to those for older adults, from open space to community buildings, waste management and infrastructure, to matters concerning business development, planning for appropriate development and ensuring accountability to Council's budget. This broad range of services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2021-2025 and the associated budget 2024/2025 and reported upon in this document. More information about Council services is contained in Section 2: Performance Report.



Economic Factors

Cost-escalation and the rising cost-of-living continue to present significant challenges for both Council operations and the broader community. Increasing prices for materials, fuel, trades, and contractor services have impacted the delivery and timing of capital works projects and service delivery across the Shire. Council remains committed to responsible financial management and continues to seek efficiencies, prioritise essential services, and pursue external funding opportunities to reduce the burden on ratepayers. At the same time, we recognise the financial pressures faced by residents and local businesses and strive to deliver programs and services that support community wellbeing and resilience during these economically challenging times.



Major Changes

In 2024/2025, local government elections were held with five new Councillors and one returning Councillor commencing in November 2024. With the new Council term comes a revised Council Plan, Community Vision and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Road Management Plan, Asset Management Plan, and several other strategic documents that Council has commenced reviewing in 2024/2025 (most to be adopted in 2025/2026).

Two other major service changes were implemented in 2024/2025 - resuming management of the Nhill Holiday Park (and transitioning Hindmarsh Holiday Park management to the Economic Development and Tourism Team) and delivering Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools in-house. The former resulted in the ability to deliver a cohesive visitor experience across the Shire, and the latter enabled Council to directly employ over 20 seasonal lifeguards and offer free access to all four Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools during opening hours.



Little Desert National Park Sign, Dimboola

Major Capital Works Projects

During 2024/2025 Council's Works and Operations team completed a large number of infrastructure projects, including roads, footpaths and kerb and channel works. Some of these projects included sealed reconstruction on Dimboola Minyip Road, kerb and channel works on Winifred Street Rainbow and resheeting of Tarranyurk East gravel road.

Council is responsible for approximately 3,200 kilometres of local road network. One of the main focuses of Council's capital works program is asset renewal. Council faces significant challenges in the future primarily due to the responsibility for a large local road network.

Council will continue to lobby the State and Federal governments for more appropriate funding in recognition of the size of this challenge and the importance of our road network to our economy.

Several of these projects are listed below:



Winifred Street Rainbow project included upgrading the street to kerb and channel, and sealing the shoulders



Lorquon Netherby Road project included repairing 3 segments totalling 1km following extreme wet conditions that resulted in pavement failure



Dimboola Minyip Road had a shoulder resheet and sealed road reconstruction on two segments, renewing road that was in poor condition



Tarranyurk East Road project included resheeting approximately 2km of unsealed road that was in poor condition

These works are in addition to the significant amount of maintenance work Council undertakes on its road network, as well as town amenity projects such as maintaining and improving playgrounds, parks and sporting facilities.

Type of Project	Project	YTD Actuals
Kerb and Channel	Winifred St Rainbow	\$ 184,569.00
	Capital segments replaced	\$ 21,980.82
Reseals and Final Seals	20 sites	\$ 592,904.71
Sealed Road Construction	Lorquon Netherby Rd	\$ 389,849.32
	Netherby Baker Rd	\$ 236,792.47
	Dimboola Minyip Rd	\$ 220,957.38
	Woorak Ni Ni Lorquon Rd	\$ 337,343.13
	Old Minyip Rd	\$ 265,871.31
Shoulder Resheet	Dimboola Minyip Rd	\$ 22,623.34
Unsealed Road Construction	Boundary Rd	\$ 23,000.00
	Tarranyurk East Rd	\$ 128,883.36
	Tarranyurk West Rd	\$ 105,000 (approx.)
	McKenzie Rd	\$ 77,685.62
	Keam Rd	\$ 30,681.14
Footpaths	Capital segments replaced	\$ 53,832.28
Early Years Driveway	Entrance, sealing & line marking	\$ 44,563.52
Major Stabilisation Patch	Nhill Rainbow Rd	\$ 29,487.69
Pavement Patch and Repair	Albacutya Curve	\$ 200,000 (approx.)



Netherby-Baker Road

Major Achievements

During 2024/2025, some of Council's major achievements included:

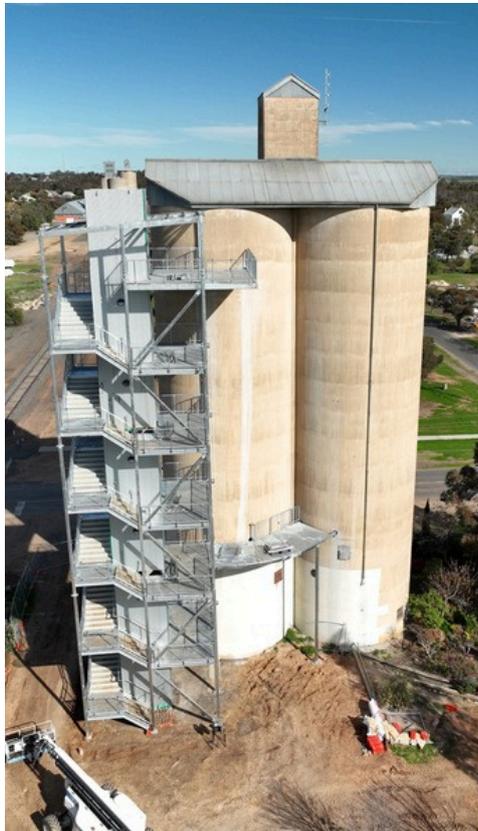


Davis Park Grandstand and Change Rooms Development

Significant progress was made on the development of a new grandstand and change rooms at Davis Park in Nhill. This included completion of the design, permits obtained and the commencement of construction. On the lower level, the new building includes two new spacious change rooms for team preparations, separate bathroom and toilet facilities, two medical rooms, an administration office and store room.

Outside, there will be a raised concrete tiered seating area with 150 individual seats for supporters to take in the on-field activities with a large canopy/veranda providing protection from the weather. Behind the new seating on the second level will be an enclosed timekeeper's box and two new media rooms. The new grandstand and change rooms are scheduled to be completed in 2025/2026 and provides the Nhill and District Sporting Club with facilities that are sure to be amongst the best in the league.

This project has been funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program, the Victorian Government's Country Football Netball program, Hindmarsh Shire Council and Nhill and District Sporting Club.



Rainbow Silo Tourism Development

Hindmarsh Shire Council is transforming a 100-year-old silo in Rainbow with external and internal art displays, along with a 25m high viewing tower incorporating a staircase and elevator. Although works were relatively quiet onsite during the year, a lot was happening behind the scenes for what is an ambitious advance on the silo art concept.

The project involved completion of the design and permit approvals, before foundation preparations were commenced onsite. Offsite, fabricators were busy working on the 25m high tower which will provide access to the adjoining silo bins at a lower level (5-6m above ground) and via a viewing platform for one of the bins in excess 25m above the ground – that's around 7 stories high! From the top viewing platform, visitors will be able to take in the breathtaking views of the surrounding farming landscapes, as well as the township of Rainbow.

Construction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year with the art display and installation also to be completed within that timeframe. The Rainbow Silo Tourism Development is scheduled to be open in late October 2025.

This project has been made possible with funding from the Victorian Government's Tourism Infrastructure Program – Flagship Projects and Hindmarsh Shire Council.



Rainbow Rises Events Centre Development

The Rainbow Rises Events Centre is located on the outskirts of Rainbow and has been utilised for hosting national offroad racing events since 2017, and more recently, tractor pull events. The site has been subject to the impacts of inclement weather and reliance on access to the neighbouring GrainCorp site.

During the year, we saw the completion of major developments on this site which included construction of a new access driveway and pit/hardstand area (totalling several acres in area), construction of a new amenities building and storage shed canteen area. These improvements provide the local event organisers a far better equipped facility to deliver their vast range of events for years to come.

Funding for this project was provided by the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program and Hindmarsh Shire Council.



New Dimboola and Nhill Kindergartens

In early 2024, Council was successful in obtaining two new modular kindergarten buildings via the Victorian School Building Authority for installation at sites in Nhill and Dimboola. Both Council and its early years service provider, Emerge, provided oversight for design and development of the new kinder rooms and participated in selection of appropriate sites.

Government contractors installed the new rooms on each site in early 2024/2025, at which time the involvement of Council and Emerge ramped up to ensure the new buildings would be fit out with new furniture and resources in time for the beginning of the 2025 school year. The fit out was a massive undertaking for those involved, with literally thousands of items ordered, delivered and put together for the new Kindergartens.

The installation of the new Kindergartens and their fit out represents an investment of around \$3 million in Hindmarsh Early Years programs, ensuring better outcomes for our next generation and was made possible by the Victorian Government.



Nhill Streetscape and Lake Masterplan Implementation

During this year we saw the completion of stage two of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan. This stage included the construction of a new concrete footpath and roadside security fencing in Centenary Park.

The new footpath runs from the corner of Victoria and Pine Streets and provides an alternative route to Jaypex Park. A new security fence has also been installed to prevent children from running onto the highway when using the new pathway. Additional fencing has also been installed at Jaypex Park to provide a safer location for families using the BBQs and playground.

Construction of the concrete footpath as stage two of the implementation was undertaken following a community consultation process that determined concrete as the preferred option. The community consultation also identified the need for security fencing to be installed in Centenary Park and in Jaypex Park due to its close location to the Western Highway.

Future plans for the Centenary Park pathway includes the installation of information signage depicting people who have had a profound impact in the establishment and development of Nhill.

New directional signage has also been installed along the Nhill Lake pathway that was completed as stage one of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan.

The implementation of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan has been made possible with funding from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and Hindmarsh Shire Council.



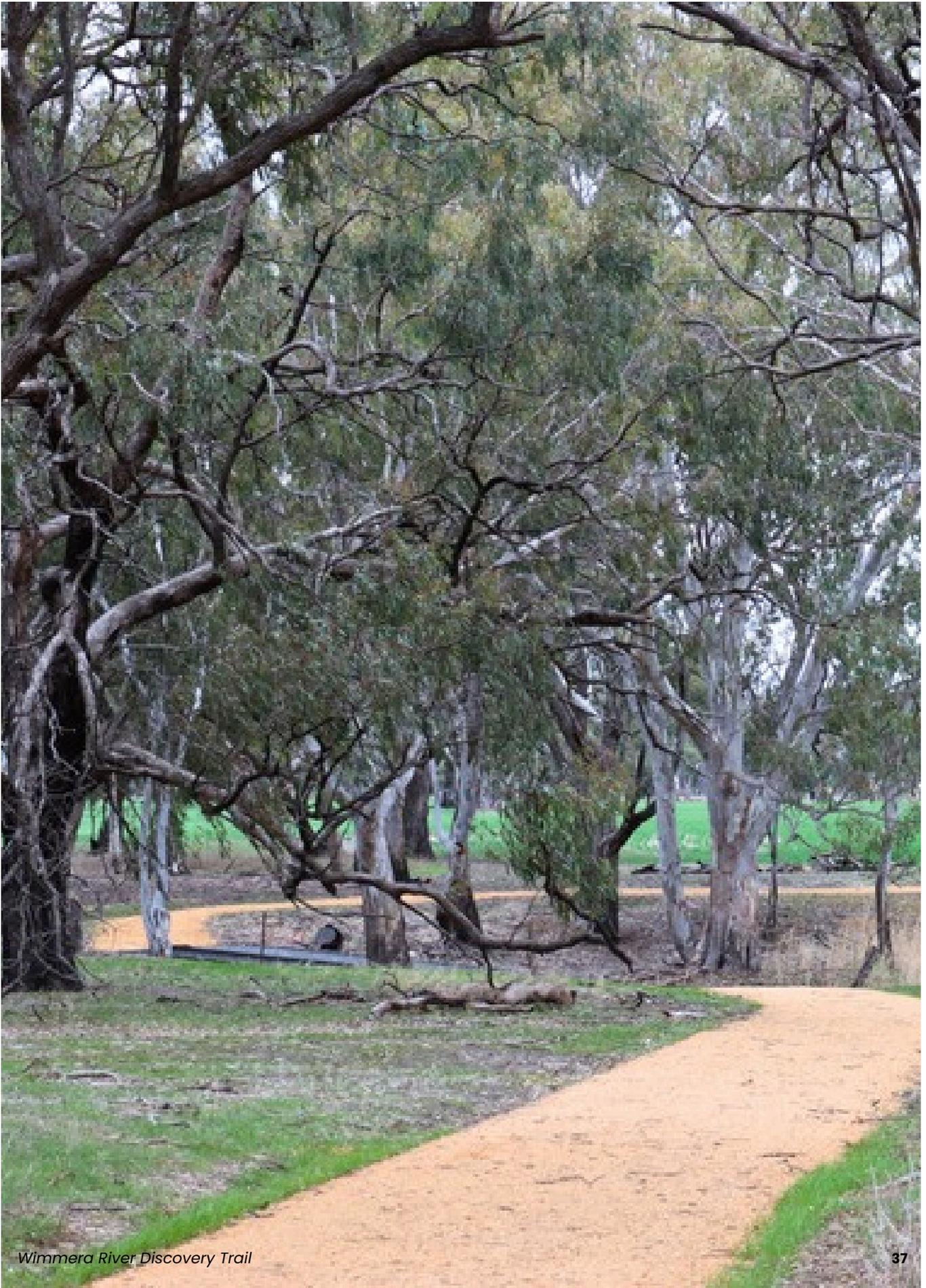
Wimmera River Discovery Trail Progress

Work on the Wimmera River Discovery Trail progressed throughout 2024/2025, with signage, including direction markers, being installed late in the financial year and into early 2025/2026 to complete ground works on the Trail. The Wimmera River Discovery Trail includes three nodes in Arkona, Dimboola and Jeparit. Additionally, Arkona has a campsite behind the Arkona Hall. Management and Maintenance Plans are in development that will guide how the trail is utilised, managed and reviewed over the coming years.

The Trail, running for around 60km between Dimboola and Jeparit, is broken up into six sections which are outlined on the trail brochure that can be downloaded here - www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/WRDT.

Marketing efforts will commence in 2025/2026, enabling Council to connect with tour operators and potential user groups for this trail.





Wimmera River Discovery Trail

Community Development Projects

During 2024/2025, major Community Development projects completed include the following:



Nhill Off Leash Dog Park

Hindmarsh Shire's first Off Leash Dog Park was completed in 2024/2025 with the new facility providing locals and visitors with a dedicated space to exercise their pets. The new park, located in the Nhill Lawn Tennis Club precinct, includes 1,500mm chainmesh fencing around the perimeter to contain even the most adventurous of dogs. There is also a buffer zone/small yard at the entry to reduce the risk of dogs escaping the park.



Inside, dedicated improvements for our canine comrades include a walking path with various agility obstacles such as logs for jumping, a concrete pipe tunnel and weave posts. There is also a lawned area, park seating and a picnic table – ideal for visitors on a lunch break. A drinking fountain is also provided which includes a fountain tap for humans and a tippable bowl for dogs ensuring everyone stays hydrated.

This project was supported by the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns program, Hindmarsh Shire Council and the Nhill Town Advisory Committee.



Rainbow Lake Fishing Jetty

Late in 2024/2025, Council completed installation of a new all abilities accessible fishing jetty at the Rainbow Lake. The new jetty, measuring 12 metres long and almost 3m wide, provides ample space for keen anglers to try their luck. Permanent rod holders and small bait tables are also included on the jetty. The jetty is accessed via a 1.2m wide ramp. The Rainbow Lake Committee, supported by donations from the local community, constructed the concrete pathway from the parking area to the jetty providing all-ability access.

This project was made possible by the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Large Grants program (their continued support has been invaluable), Hindmarsh Shire Council and the volunteers of Rainbow Lake Committee.



Nhill Aerodrome Maintenance Works

Council was successful in obtaining funding to upgrade the pavement and drainage in the Emergency services taxiway and patient transfer area at the Nhill Aerodrome.

Works included the removal of old broken and non-functioning drains, removal of poor-quality sub surface material, reconstruction and stabilisation, new concrete drainage, resealing of taxiway area, and line marking to current Civil Aviation Standards.

These essential works have improved access and safety for aircraft, operators and passengers using the Nhill Aerodrome which provides essential services like Air Ambulance, Police Air Wing, CFA aerial bombers, and access for local operators and pilots.



New Playgrounds at Jaypex Park and Jeparit Riverbank Precinct

In early August 2024, Council commenced with installing new playgrounds in Jaypex Park in Nhill and at the Riverbank Precinct in Jeparit.

The upgraded Jaypex Park playground includes a small slide, fire pole, climbing steps and a small shop area underneath for imaginative play for younger children.

The upgraded Jeparit Riverbank Precinct playground includes 2 slides, 2 swings, a fire pole, boat rocker, climbing web and hang and glide, with pool fencing all the way around.



Dimboola Soundshell Redevelopment

The redeveloped Dimboola Soundshell in the Dimboola Recreation Reserve was officially opened in November 2024. Works to redevelop the soundshell included an extension to increase the stage area, increased roof area, construction of a lockable storage area at the rear of the stage, increased power supply and installation of improved lighting and power connection points, as well as construction of an all-ability access ramp and disabled car park.

The improvements to the soundshell will enable more events to be held, as the increased stage area now provides more space for larger bands and better acoustics.

Additional external lighting has also increased security for patrons attending events or functions. Redevelopment of the Dimboola Soundshell has been made possible with funding from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Hindmarsh Shire Council and Dimboola Progress Association Inc.



Facility Upgrades

- Roof replacement for the football change rooms at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve
- Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park laundry upgrade
- Roof replacement of Aeroclub clubrooms at the Nhill Aerodrome
- Plant room upgrades to all Hindmarsh Outdoor Swimming Pools – Nhill, Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola
- Dimboola Swimming Pool solar upgrade
- Completion of the new workshop in Jeparit
- Extension of sprinkler lines at the Jeparit Swimming Hole
- Painting works on the Nhill and District Historical Society building

Other Council Services

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries has had a massive 12 months since our last annual report!

Our four branches continue to be hubs of activity, whether that be hosting Storytime sessions that are led by our amazing library team or providing a welcoming space for Cuppa Connections- a program championed by Community Wellbeing.

We continue to see support of and enjoyment from the community jigsaws located in our libraries and regular attendance of Book Chat, Get Creative and Kids Craft Club programs.

The new financial year will see the beginnings of a new after school activity and a community science corner being established in the Dimboola Library – keep an eye out for more information!

In addition to our usual programs and activities, we also hosted exhibitions for local and visiting artists in collaboration with the Wimmera Steampunk Festival, author Cindy Bunt visited our Nhill branch for a demonstration and launch of her latest book, and School Holiday activities filled our spaces with fun!

The beginning of 2025 saw the Dimboola Library being utilised as the Emergency Recovery Centre following the Little Desert bush fires. Whilst this is not the usual purpose of this space, we were grateful to provide a familiar place for community members to access and attend during such a turbulent time.

New release titles and publisher highlights have made their way to our shelves in all forms this year- including fiction for both adults and young adults, large print copies, non-fiction for all ages and e-resources on our online platforms.

We made the decision to consolidate our e-resource offerings by transitioning fully to the online 'BorrowBox' platform, for all our e-Audio and e-Book options. This will allow us to focus our budget expenditure with a sole provider for this type of resource, ensuring that our collection has depth and breadth, accommodating all our patron and member demographics!

If you haven't popped into your local library lately- you should! All our non-fixed shelving is on wheels, allowing us to create new displays and move our shelves around to keep our spaces exciting and fresh. Each of our libraries has had a move around in the last 6 months, and feedback has been that the spaces feel renewed and even larger and more open!

We encourage you to visit and see the changes for yourself!

Some of our library statistics include:



9,569+

visitors to our branches, including library members, program participants and visitors to the area



15,827

physical items available to borrow from our shelves



7,754

physical items have been borrowed



2,222

items were loaned to other partner libraries from our collection



997

library members who are actively borrowing resources

The library team are dedicated and passionate about the role they play in the community and creating the warm and welcoming spaces that are Hindmarsh Shire Libraries.



NGV Kids Tour in Rainbow



NGV Kids Tour in Jeparit



Storytime in Dimboola



Author Talk with Cindy Bunt (Nhill)



NGV Kids Tour



Dental Health Week in Nhill



Storytime in Dimboola



Storytime in Dimboola



Storytime at Nhill Kindergarten



Author Talk with Cindy Bunt (Nhill)

Youth Council



In 2024, Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors had an incredible year filled with meaningful engagement, leadership growth, and memorable events. Thanks to support from the FReeZA and Engage! programs, Youth Councillors delivered two highly successful end-of-year events. A Glow in the Dark Disco in Rainbow drew strong attendance and glowing feedback, which inspired the team to organise the Luna Ball in Nhill. With over 80 young people attending, the Luna Ball was a standout celebration and a highlight of the year.



To mark the end of their term, Youth Councillors came together for a celebratory BBQ at the Jeparit Riverbank Precinct, reflecting on a rewarding year of service. One special highlight was the opportunity to meet the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, at a social dinner in Nhill, where Youth Councillors shared their experiences and discussed the issues that matter to young people in Hindmarsh.



The 2025 Youth Councillors' year began with a certificate presentation and welcome dinner, where new Youth Councillors connected with one another and prepared for the year ahead. Soon after, they stepped into volunteering roles at WOW Jeparit for International Women's Day, and the Community Thank You Event in Dimboola, honouring emergency workers and volunteers. Youth Councillors ran free activities including games, face painting, smoothie bikes, and popcorn stalls - helping to make these events vibrant and inclusive.



Five Youth Councillors had the exciting opportunity to attend the Halogen National Young Leaders Day at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, where they heard from prominent Australian role models. They also visited Government House, learning about its history and sustainability practices from the Governor herself.



Throughout the year, Youth Councillors continued to connect with their local heritage. One of their meetings was held at the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum in Jeparit, where they explored the importance of preserving Hindmarsh's rich history.

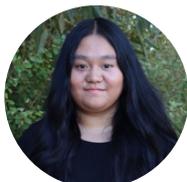


Among their many initiatives, the Youth Council hosted a successful 'Celebrity Disco' at Jeparit Town Hall, where attendees dressed as their favourite celebrities for a night of fun and connection.



To cap off a fantastic year, Hindmarsh Shire Council secured new funding from the Victorian Government's Engage! and FReeZA programs, ensuring youth across the Shire will continue to benefit from exciting events, training, and leadership opportunities from 2025 to 2027.

Hindmarsh Shire Council extends its heartfelt thanks to the 2024 Youth Councillors for their passion, creativity, and dedication to making a real difference for young people in our community.





Flinders Street Station in Melbourne



Youth Council Celebrity Disco



WOW Event in Jeparit



WOW Event in Jeparit



Little Desert NP
Bushfires Thank You
Event in Dimboola



2025 Youth Councillors



Luna Ball



Luna Ball



Celebrity Disco



Let It Glow Disco



Youth Councillors at Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum



Celebrity Disco

Hindmarsh Holiday Parks

Hindmarsh Shire Council manages the four Holiday Parks across the Shire – Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. Since September 2024, Nhill Holiday Park has been part of the Hindmarsh Holiday Parks network when Council resumed direct operation. Figures shown below reflect visitation since this change. A recently developed ten-year masterplan, shaped through community consultation, outlines a strategic vision to upgrade and diversify accommodation offerings across the park network.

Visitation for this financial year has increased across the board and showed continued growth, including positive bounce-back after the January 2025 bushfires.

	Total Guest Nights	Increase on previous year
Dimboola	26,864	6.27%
Jeparit	2,584	11.36%
Nhill	6,990	N/A
Rainbow	2,584	17.33%

Funding has been secured to deliver significant upgrades to Nhill Holiday Park in 2025/2026, thanks to support from the Victorian Government’s Regional Tourism Investment Fund 2024.

This investment will support the installation of three modern, self-contained one-bedroom studio cabins, enhancing accommodation options for visitors to the region. The new cabins will feature contemporary facilities and provide direct access to recreational activities within easy walking distance of Nhill’s town centre.

Hindmarsh Holiday Parks recently transitioned to a new booking system which has so far proved to be successful with improving internal processes and user experience.

www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/hindmarsh-holiday-parks



Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park
2 Wimmera Street, Dimboola VIC 3414



Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park
2 Peterson Avenue, Jeparit VIC 3423



Nhill Holiday Park
93 Victoria Street, Nhill VIC 3418



Rainbow Holiday Park
2A Railway Street, Rainbow VIC 3424

Economic Development and Tourism

Events and Local Impact

Events such as the Steampunk Festival showcase the ongoing significance of event tourism in strengthening our Shire's local economy. These celebrations don't just draw crowds - they ignite community spirit, spark creativity, and put local businesses in the spotlight.

Council continues to assist events across the Shire through the Regional Event Grants, helping foster sustainability and long-term viability across our tourism sector. This investment allows organisers to innovate and grow, while encouraging collaboration across communities.

Over the past year, dozens of events have lit up our townships, ranging from niche festivals to large-scale seasonal markets. Each plays a valuable role in shaping the Visitor Economy - enticing people to explore, stay longer, and spend locally.

It's also worth remembering inviting friends and relatives back to the region isn't just about reconnecting - it's one of the simplest, most powerful ways to support our local businesses and showcase the vibrant experiences our Shire has to offer.



Wimmera Steampunk Festival 2025

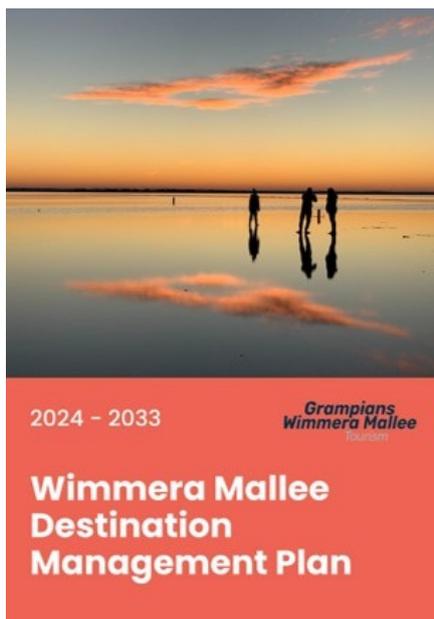
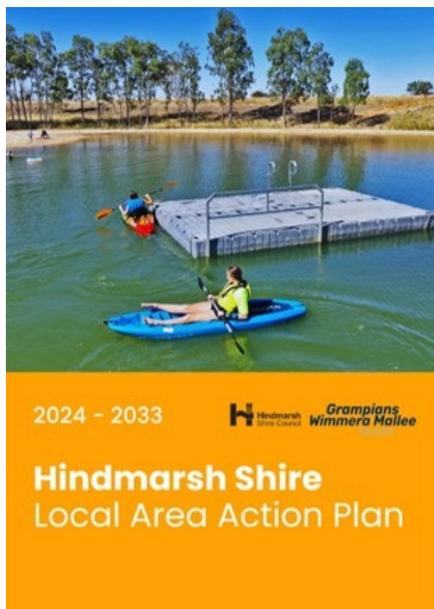
Piggery Lane Players 2024 Play

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) Visitor Economy Partnership

Since 2010, Wimmera Mallee Tourism (with support from Hindmarsh Shire Council) strived to promote the region and leverage acknowledgement and awareness of the Wimmera Mallee as a distinct tourism region. Over that time much was achieved with a limited budget from Council investment. Following the launch of the Silo Art Trail in Yarriambiack, Wimmera Mallee Tourism were successful in gaining grant support from the federal government for projects and marketing but were unable to leverage for official Regional Tourism Board (RTB) status. This required reliance on a strong relationship with Grampians Tourism RTB as the Wimmera Mallee fell officially within the Grampians Tourism Region.

In 2018 the Victorian Government launched the Regional Tourism Review with the outcomes (somewhat delayed by Covid Recovery projects) being the establishment of Visitor Economy Partnerships (VEP) to replace Regional Tourism Boards. The formation of the Grampians Wimmera Mallee VEP signalled one of the first VEPs in the state. The GWMT VEP structure continues to market under two separate sub-brands "Visit Grampians" and "Visit Wimmera Mallee", which is a structure first suggested by Wimmera Mallee Tourism board members.

Council membership in the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism VEP has enabled Hindmarsh Shire attractions and businesses broad marketing exposure far beyond anything that could be achieved by Council alone or the old Wimmera Mallee Tourism model. Equally important is the recognition, a voice on a recognised tourism board, and direct lines to industry partners, expertise and government agencies.



GWMT Notable activities and achievements for Hindmarsh Shire and the Wimmera Mallee 2024/2025:

- Statewide outside radio broadcast MixxFM “The Morning Crew” from the Dimboola Library following a Wimmera Mallee Road trip and interviews.
- Australian (international) Traveller magazine featured 4 iconic road trips around the Grampians Wimmera Mallee.
- “Postcards” and “Today Show” (Channel 9) filmed in the region for 6 days for a special Grampians Wimmera Mallee episode.
- Weekly Advertiser “Wimmera Mallee Tourism” hot spots promotion.
- Caravan World Magazine featured a Wimmera Mallee Road Trip.
- Development of the Wimmera Mallee Destination Management Plan and Local Area Action Plans.
- Dimboola hosted the October 2024 GWMT Industry Forum.
- Free Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listings through fire recovery program.
- Dani Valent “Dirty Linen” food podcast series featured Cat Clarke (Dimboola Golf Club).
- Development and distribution of the Wimmera Mallee Touring Guide map/brochure.
- Development of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Official Visitor Guide (the Wimmera Mallee front page features Albacutya Silo Art). 40,000 copies have been distributed to visitor centres and tourism outlets across Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales.
- Professional photos for each gold member valued at \$800, plus extensive other photos for the GWMT Visitor App at a cost of \$20,000 across 7 LGAs. (Council can use these photos for our own further marketing and brochures etc).
- Access to Prime Mentorship Program which included Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre.
- Access to Sustainable & Regenerative Tourism learning Series.
- Access to GWMT industry forums.
- Representation at Melbourne Caravan and Camping Show
- Representation at the Australian Tourism Exchange trade show that brought together Australian tourism businesses with global distribution partners, to conduct scheduled business appointments and participate in key networking events. The event was attended by 1,600 Australian seller delegates and more than 700 buyer delegates from 31 countries.
- Three social media campaigns (on top of general social media posts) to drive traffic to the Wimmera Mallee. These had 562,581 impressions (popping up on user’s screens), reaching 234,251 unique users, generating 11,627 link clicks (direct interaction), which saw an increase of 196% increase to Visit Wimmera Mallee website users.
- Development of the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Visitor Ap (and off-grid kiosks) which includes over 30 businesses and attractions across Hindmarsh Shire.
- Visit Wimmera Mallee marketing posters at selected tram stops in Melbourne CBD.



2025 Official Visitor Guide Now Available

The 2025 Grampians Wimmera Mallee Official Visitor Guide (OVG) is now in market with 40,000 copies making their way into visitor centres, tourism outlets and key locations across Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.

Produced and distributed by Grampians Wimmera Mallee tourism, the OVG is our leading piece of print collateral connecting visitors with the best our region has to offer. From iconic landscapes and vibrant towns to food, wine and adventure, the guide delivers a compelling snapshot of what makes our region worth exploring.

Touring guides are also available for operators to order, featuring themed road trips and curated itineraries to help visitors explore further and staying longer.



Silo Art Trail Signage

As part of the ongoing Silo Art Trail projects across the Wimmera Southern Mallee, new signage has been installed at the Albacutya and Arkona Silos. These signs are consistent across the region's Silo Art Trail and include an Acknowledgement of Country, local area information, the Silo Art Trail map, and a story behind the artwork. A matching sign will be installed at the Rainbow Silo once building works are complete.

In addition to these signs, Western Ag donated defibrillators and cabinets for the sites across the Silo Art Trail as an additional service to the community.

Visitor Inspiration Passport

The Grampians and Wimmera Mallee Visitor Inspiration Passport project (VIP) is a collaborative partnership between eight local government areas (LGA) and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism. Funding was obtained through Stream B Visitor Servicing Projects with contributions from each LGA.

The deliverables include three off grid multi-functional kiosks and a Visitor App. The Visitor App is now live in both Google Play and the Apple store. The data from the App powers the kiosks with information managed by GWMT and LGAs powered by Australia Tourism Data Warehouse listings.

Download the GWM Visitor App:



New signs Welcoming people to Nhill

Thanks to support from the Nhill Town Committee, we are thrilled to have rejuvenated the much-loved 'Welcome to Nhill in the Land of the Lowan' signs that visitors and locals see when driving into Nhill along the Western Highway.

The original signs, painted by Horsham signwriter Don Mitchell, were digitised, repaired and recoloured to give a vibrant new lease of life to the town entrances!



Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum

The past twelve months have marked an exciting chapter in the Museum's journey, with meaningful progress made toward implementing the site's Masterplan. A curator has recently been appointed to lead the development of engaging new displays and storytelling experiences, setting the stage for a refreshed visitor offering.

Maintenance across the site has been in full swing, thanks to the incredible dedication of our Committee and tireless work of volunteers. Several working bees held throughout the year have brought fresh energy and vital improvements to the grounds - truly a testament to the power of local support.

Efforts to enhance visitor understanding have resulted in the creation of 29 storyboards in just over a year. These panels illuminate key attractions and provide rich historical context. The latest additions include:

- 4 storyboards featuring the McKay Collection
- 2 on grain pickling
- 2 on Mallee Rollers and land clearing
- 1 on bagging grain
- 1 focusing on blacksmithing
- 1 on horses
- 3 celebrating pioneering women

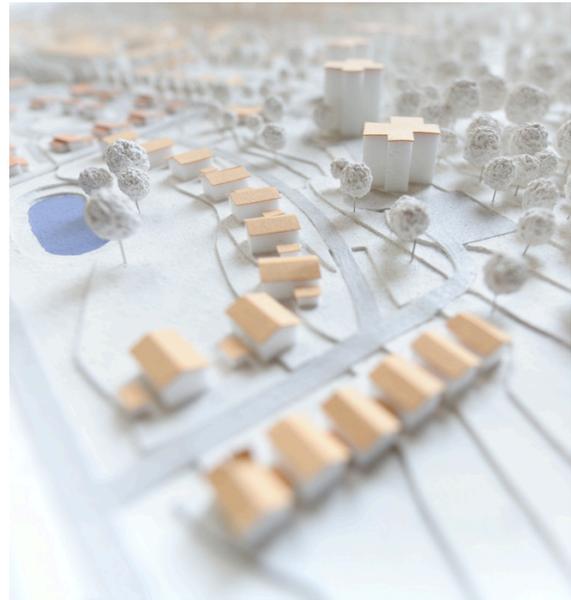
Each storyboard helps weave the fabric of our heritage into an accessible and compelling experience for all who visit.

Planning

In 2024/2025, **34 Planning Applications were received**, and 28 determinations were made (5 of those applications were withdrawn). In total 23 planning permits were issued.

The following table summarises the category of determination –

Change of use	7
Other buildings and works	7
Subdivision (Residential)	4
Amendments	3
Single dwellings	3
Vegetation removal	2
Multiple dwellings	1
Subdivision (Rural)	1



Dimboola Transfer Station

Transfer Stations and Waste Management

In the 2024/2025 financial year:

- **1,734.15 nett tonnes** of waste were delivered to Dooen Landfill
 - 1,234.61 nett tonnes of this were from kerbside collection of waste bins
 - 499.54 nett tonnes of this were from transfer station skips
- **45.20 nett tonnes** of glass were collected from purple glass bins
- **14.68 nett tonnes** of glass was delivered to Warracknabeal for crushing
- **230.39 nett tonnes** of kerbside recycling was collected
- **6.60 nett tonnes** of e-waste delivered to Axis Works by waste contractors

Council offers a voucher system for deposits at transfer stations. In the 2024/2025 financial year, residents claimed a total of \$5,247.66 worth of vouchers which consisted of the following:

- \$3,574.78 in Nhill
- \$1,203.33 in Jeparit
- \$155.83 in Dimboola
- \$313.72 in Rainbow

Council Grants Programs

During 2024/2025 Council's Community Action Grants, Business Assistance Grants and Regional Community Events Grants schemes awarded **\$9,500** to **2 major events**, **\$12,899.36** to **17 community groups** and **\$17,738** to **10 businesses** across our Shire, **totalling \$40,137.36**.

Community Action Grants

The Community Action Grants Program was established to support communities to provide services and to assist with community development, social action, and connectedness.

This grant program is categorised into three areas:

- Community Assistance
- Event Sponsorship
- Small Equipment

The successful recipients of this grant were:

- Nhill Train Station – Community Assistance – \$500
- CWA Nhill Twilight Branch – Community Assistance – \$1,000
- Rainbow Learning Group and Neighbourhood House – Community Assistance – \$505.86
- Rainbow Progress Association Inc. – Community Assistance – \$1,000
- Nhill-Dimboola Band – Community Assistance – \$1,000
- Nhill Basketball Association – Community Assistance – \$1,000
- Jeparit Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. – Event Sponsorship – \$500
- The Rainbow Oasis – Event Sponsorship – \$500
- Winiam CFA – Event Sponsorship – \$500
- Nhill South Landcare Group – Event Sponsorship – \$500
- Nhill A & P Society Inc. – Event Sponsorship – \$500
- Rainbow Archive and Historical Society – Small Equipment – \$1,000
- Nhill and District Sporting Club – Small Equipment – \$1,000
- Nhill A & P Society Inc. – Small Equipment – \$997.50
- The Combined Probus Club of Nhill – Small Equipment – \$1,000
- Rainbow Scout Group – Small Equipment – \$900
- Winiam Hall Incorporated – Small Equipment – \$496

Business Assistance Grants

The Business Assistance Grants program (BAGs) was established in July 2016 to support local businesses to expand their operations and to encourage new businesses, large and small, to establish themselves in the Shire. Grants help offset costs associated with expanding or establishing a business in Hindmarsh Shire, promoting economic development and innovation.

This program addresses the ongoing need to attract new business and support existing business in our towns, as more and more small businesses close their doors.

The successful recipients of this grant were:

- Big Bertha Coffee Van – Business Development – \$1,998
- Cat Clarke Catering – Business Development – \$2,000
- Partners in Ag – Business Development – \$1,679
- K'nyaw Asian Grocery – Streetscapes – \$631.40
- Lots Of Laughter Cafe Van – Streetscapes – \$599.35
- Hayden's cafe – Streetscapes – \$3,000
- Lowana – Streetscapes – \$2,170
- Nhill Thai Massage – Streetscapes – \$1,346
- Rainbow Sweets – Streetscapes – \$1,314.66
- Turbo Gallery – Streetscapes – \$3,000



Wimmera Steampunk Festival Dimboola

Regional Community Events Grants

The Regional Community Events (RCE) grants program has been established to support community organisations / groups with funding for events that bring economic benefit to Hindmarsh Shire. The aim of this funding is to support community events which celebrate culture, heritage, and community wellbeing, boost the economy, and increase visitation to Hindmarsh Shire.

The successful recipients of this grant were:

- Dimboola Progress Association – \$7,500.00 (cash \$6,000.00 in-kind \$1,500.00) – to support the 2025 Wimmera Steampunk Festival
- Piggery Lane Players – \$2,000.00 (cash \$1,500.00 in-kind \$500.00) – to support their 2024 Stage Production

Council Communications

Council continues to proactively provide information to the community on our programs, community events, plans and services. In the 2024/25 financial year, 25 e-newsletters were distributed to 611 subscribers, which was 193 more subscribers than the previous year. Council continues to distribute monthly newsletters which are printed and available for collection at all Hindmarsh Shire Libraries and Customer Service Centres, along with a variety of businesses throughout the Shire, as well as deliver quarterly newsletters to all mailboxes within Hindmarsh Shire.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council's website had 62k active users and 186k page views, with the top 5 performing pages being:

- Home – 24K views
- Nhill Holiday Park – 13K views
- Work in Council – 7.7K views
- Search Results – 6.2K views
- Upcoming Events – 5.9K views

Council published and circulated 122 media releases on their website and with media contacts, and placed 106 advertisements in newspapers.

We held 22 public community consultations through the Have Your Say Hindmarsh website, which consisted of a total 3.8k site visits and 250 submissions received in total across the financial year.

Council's primary Facebook page's reach was 124.1k (an increase of 3.1% from the previous year), had 63.5k visits (an increase of 59.1% from the previous year) and had an increase of 522 new followers (an increase of 78.2% from the previous year).

Council also has active social media pages for tourism, libraries, youth, pools, supports playgroups and the Nhill Cinema, as well as pages run by members of Committees of Council.



School Holiday Programs

July 2024

- Basketball Clinics
- Tiny Goats & Co Farm Visits
- Karaoke
- Kids Yoga
- Crafty Art with Danelle
- Mini's Disco
- Roller Disco
- Nhill Cinema Screening



September/October 2024

- Tennis Clinics
- Cooking with Sharon
- Outdoor Movie Screenings
- Botanical Craft
- Soccer Clinics
- Ultimate Frisbee



April 2025

- Craft with Ellen
- Craft with Jess
- Arts and Crafts with Turbo Gallery
- Soccer Clinics
- Skate Lessons/Skate Competition
- Level Up Gaming
- Games Day
- Make your own Kokedama
- Physics with Bruce
- Nhill Cinema Screening





Dimboola Post Office & Sign

Nhill Cinema and Movie Screenings in all Towns

Nhill Cinema screened many movies in 2024/2025 as part of Council's School Holiday activities, Classic Movie sessions and our general screening schedules. Council received funding from Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) which allowed us to screen Classic Movies in Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow.

Nhill Cinema and FRRR Funded movie screenings:

- Despicable Me 4 (12 July)
- The Ghost and Mrs Muir (16 July)
- While you were Sleeping (20 August)
- It Ends with Us (11 September)
- Little Miss Sunshine (17 September)
- Paris Blues (22 October)
- Runt (24 October)
- Say Anything (19 November)
- St Kilda Film Festival (28 November)
- The Holdover (10 December – FRRR funded)
- Kangaroo Jack (21 January – FRRR funded)
- Moana 2 (23 January)
- We Live in Time (13 February)
- How Green was my Valley (18 February – FRRR funded)
- The Pink Panther (18 March – FRRR funded)
- Captain America: Brave New World (27 March)
- Paddington in Peru (17 April)
- Batman The Movie (29 April – FRRR funded)
- Freaky Friday (27 May – FRRR funded)
- The Long, Long Trailer (24 June 2024)

Dimboola FRRR Funded movie screenings:

- Big (3 September)
- The Ghost and Mrs Muir (17 November)
- The Quiet Man (14 December)
- 9 to 5 (18 January)
- A Fish Called Wanda (10 February)
- Cat on a hot Tin Roof (17 March)

Jeparit FRRR Funded movie screenings:

- Two for the Road (16 December)
- Summer Holiday (18 January)
- Twins (13 February)
- Sweet Home Alabama (18 March)
- The Seven Year Itch (9 April)
- Old Yeller (18 May)

Rainbow FRRR Funded movie screenings:

- The Ghost and Mrs Muir (8 September)
- Cat on the Hot Tin Roof (2 December)
- Big (17 January)
- Summer Holiday (3 February)
- Walk the Line (16 March)
- The Ghost and Mrs Muir (9 April)



Classic Movie Screenings

As part of Council's regular screening schedule, Council offers matinee 'Classic Movie' screenings targeted at older residents and those who may be at a greater risk of social isolation. The movies are accompanied by a morning tea and paid for by voluntary gold coin donation and FRRR Funding. A total of 647 people attended Classic Movie Screenings throughout the financial year which is 220 more attendees than the previous year.



Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies

Awards and Australian Citizenship Ceremonies held throughout 2024/2025 included:

Rae Kean Scholarships and Award Recipients

- Will Thomson – Dimboola Memorial Secondary College
- Mayah Crouch – Nhill College
- Cooper Stasinowsky and Zander Eckermann – Rainbow P-12 College

Australia Day Hindmarsh Award Recipients

- Bailee White, Nhill – Young Citizen of the Year
- Allira Roberts, Rainbow – Citizen of the Year
- Janet Pilmore, Dimboola – Lifetime Achievement Award

Australian Citizenship Ceremonies

31 July 2024

- Gilbert Diano Payot
- Nga Shwe
- Eh Chrit Htoo Shwe
- Thin Thin
- Hei Nay Taw
- Ker Lee Hae

02 October 2024

- Phillip John Guthrie
- Mu Naw
- Saw Thue De

28 January 2025 - Cancelled due to Little Desert Bushfire

01 April 2025

- Lah Shwe
- Wiremu Albert Larkins

20 May 2025

- Luiza May Zadow
- Louise Lane Santos
- Lay Hla Paw

Major Challenges and Opportunities

Like many small rural councils, Hindmarsh continues to navigate significant changes both as a Council and a community. The consolidation of farming enterprises into larger operations reduces the Council's rate base, impacting revenue. Financial sustainability remains the most pressing challenge, with rates revenue totalling \$7.88 million in 2024/2025 (excluding waste charges), and limited income from user fees and charges, mainly caravan park revenue. Consequently, Hindmarsh relies heavily on grants, including Financial Assistance Grants, to fund services and maintain essential infrastructure.

Maintaining existing infrastructure, particularly roads, while securing funding for projects that enhance liveability and social facilities, remains difficult. Grant requirements for Council contributions - sometimes matching or exceeding grant amounts - strain budgets and limit access to important funding opportunities. Additionally, shifts in energy infrastructure and evolving state government priorities pose challenges as local industries and employment landscapes change.

Despite these hurdles, Council remains committed to addressing them openly, focusing on efficiency, innovation, and careful prioritisation to sustain key projects and services for the community.

Little Desert Bushfire

A severe bushfire ignited by dry lightning that struck Little Desert National Park near Dimboola was started on 27 January 2025, amid a day of extreme fire danger. Fuelled by intense heat and strong north-westerly winds, the fire spread rapidly - burning more than 65,000 hectares within hours and exceeding 95,000 hectares by the time it was contained. The fire destroyed the well-known Little Desert Nature Lodge as well as other properties, fences and farm infrastructure, livestock and native flora and fauna. Following nearly two weeks of intense firefighting efforts, the Little Desert fire was officially contained by 10 February 2025.

The Little Desert Bushfire severely impacted residents and their perception of preparedness and safety, businesses through loss of revenue and reduced visitation, farmers through loss of significant fencing and impacts on paddock productivity, and recovery will continue into 2025/2026.

In the bushfire period, Hindmarsh Shire Council diverted significant resources to emergency management and relief and recovery efforts, particularly in the period where Dimboola residents were evacuated to a Relief Centre in Horsham. Council supported road and traffic management, ongoing recovery efforts, applications for financial support through DFFH, an extended Recovery Centre in Dimboola, community meetings and information sessions. Additional sessions have been planned in the lead up to the 2025/2026 to ensure our community is prepared for the fire season.

Council would also like to commend the community on how they have responded during this emergency, by listening to the advice given from Emergency Victoria, keeping the roads open for emergency vehicles to access, and how they have supported each other throughout this difficult time.



Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Changes

In 2024/2025, the Victorian State Government introduced the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), replacing the previous Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL). Hindmarsh Shire Council must administer the collection of this fee on behalf of the State Government as part of the collection of annual rates and charges.

The new ESVF levy to be collected by Hindmarsh Shire Council is anticipated to remit \$3.59m to the State Government, an increase of approximately \$1.73m from the FSPL. This is money that will no longer be available to spend at our local small businesses or to support the operation of struggling farm enterprises and families trying to cope with the cost of living.

Victorian farming communities are already facing a crisis of mental health and financial pressures, and Council has advocated on behalf of the community since late 2024 in opposition of the change. While there is a reprieve for primary producers in 2025/2026, Council will continue to advocate against the ESVF on behalf of our community.

Cost Escalation and Supply Chain Challenges

As with most businesses and industries across Australia, cost escalation and supply chain issues have impacted our capital works and project programs through 2024/2025. This has meant delays in projects that are of critical importance to our farmers and community groups.

Despite these challenges, Council staff have been committed to ensuring the progress of key infrastructure and community projects to respond to the needs of our community. Council has actively participated in State and Commonwealth inquiries into the financial sustainability of Local Government with a key focus on asset maintenance and renewal (including local roads).

We report an underlying surplus of \$5,769,415 for the financial year compared with an underlying deficit of \$3,845,021 in 2023/2024. The significant variance between 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 is due to the early payment of 2023/2024 financial assistance grants in 2022/2023 and of the 2025/2026 grant in 2024/2025. Council continues to proactively ensure that project scoping is reflective of increased costs and remains flexible and adaptive to changing economic environments, rescoping as needed to ensure the original intent of projects is maintained within a limited budget.

Cost of Living for our Community

Cost of living pressures have also continued to escalate for our community with significant impacts on housing affordability, mental health, childcare services and the financial sustainability of local businesses. Council has not sought a variation to the rate cap and continues to review the cost of services and programs to ensure that cost-barriers are minimised. We are committed to improving community infrastructure, public spaces and recreational facilities to ensure that there are free and accessible activities and places for people of all ages and interests across the community.

Assets and Infrastructure

Meeting the renewal needs of Council's extensive network of roads and infrastructure is becoming increasingly challenging. Local government's asset to revenue ratio is substantially different to other levels of government, where Councils have large assets to manage, yet significant constraints on revenue. Part of Council's future planning will involve continued identification and prioritisation of key assets and ongoing review of the retention of several assets that are unused or no longer fit for purpose.

While these conditions make the delivery of Council projects and services a challenge, they also necessitate strong collaborative and consultative relationships with the community to ensure that our limited resources are maximised for community benefit. The level of consultation undertaken in 2024/2025 demonstrates our commitment to delivering the best possible level and standard of service relative to our operating budget.

Sale of Assets

To contribute to Council's financial and environmental sustainability, a number of assets that no longer met Council use requirements were sold by auction. The sale of plant and equipment contributed over \$500,000 to Council's revenue in 2024/2025.

Advocacy

During 2024/2025, Council continued to lobby and advocate on behalf of the community. Advocacy has included:

- Reduction of speed limit to 40km/hr in Nelson and Victoria Streets Nhill (from WWHS through to Jaypex Park)
- Replacement of Jeparit Weir (funding has been secured for a feasibility study)
- Funding upgrades for Davis Park
- Increased funding for rural roads
- Increased funding from both the State and Federal Governments to support Council services
- Reduction of speed limit in Taverner Street Rainbow – Council successful lobbied to reduce the speed limit from 60km to 50km per hour in Taverner Street Rainbow
- Upgrades to Rainbow public amenities including new a new all abilities bathroom
- Emergency Service & Volunteer Fund levy – strongly objecting to the significant impact on every rate payer in Hindmarsh but particularly our farmers and small businesses
- Drought funding – lobbying for Hindmarsh to be included to access drought funding initiatives
- Redirect trucks away from Whitehead Avenue – lobbying GrainCorp to redirect trucks back onto the Highway rather than using Belcher and Whitehead Avenue to access the silos for out loading of grain.
- V/Line buses stopping at Kiata





Rainbow MECCA Hall and Public Toilets

Highlights of the Year



July 2024

- Building permit issues for construction of the new viewing platform, stairway and elevator alongside the Rainbow Silo
- Installation of septic system at Rainbow Rises Events Centre
- Tender opened for Nhill Davis Park grandstand and change rooms
- July Free School Holiday Program
- Free Yoga Sessions in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow
- NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition in Dimboola
- CEO Drop-In Sessions in Jeparit, Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola
- Construction of Nhill Off Leash Dog Park commenced
- Construction of Rainbow Rises Events Centre commenced
- Australian Citizenship Ceremony welcoming six new Australian Citizens

August 2024

- Hosted the MAV Community and Candidate Information Session for the 2024 Local Government Elections
- CEO Drop-In Sessions in Jeparit, Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola
- Farmer Consultations held in Jeparit, Yanac, Rainbow, Nhill and Dimboola
- Climate Adaption Strategy community drop-in sessions in Nhill, Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola
- Council Sponsored BBQ and Chat's with Sporting Clubs (held in Rainbow and Nhill)
- Culvert replacements undertaken on Netherby Lorquon Rd and Flavel Rd to repair damaged and separated old pipes
- Grading maintenance works on Halls Rd, Bethkes Rd, Kiata North Rd, Haines Rd and Antwerp Woorak Rd
- Let It Glow Youth Council Disco
- Hindmarsh Business Networking Session held in Dimboola
- Installation of new playgrounds at Jaypex Park and Jeparit Swimming Hole
- Book Week celebrated in Hindmarsh Shire Libraries



September 2024

- CEO Drop-In sessions held in Jeparit, Rainbow, Nhill and Dimboola
- September / October Free School Holiday Program
- Upgrade to pavement and drainage on the taxi way at the Nhill Aerodrome
- Kerb and channel and pavement repair works on James Street, Nhill
- Shoulder grading and gravel road grading works throughout the shire including Perenna Road, Woorak-Ni Ni-Lorquon Road, V Darts Road, Warraquil Road and Old Katyil Road
- Council entered into election caretaker period from 17 September 2024
- Council took over management of the Nhill Holiday Park (formerly Nhill Caravan Park)

October 2024

- Australian Citizenship Ceremony welcoming three new Australian Citizens
- Seniors Concert featuring Lonnie Lee
- Free Green Waste Month
- September / October Free School Holiday Program
- Men's Day Tour to Telopea Downs
- Election caretaker period ended 26 October 2024
- Local Government Council elections



November 2024

- 16 Days of Activism Community Walks held in Nhill and Dimboola
- Annual Statutory Meeting and swearing in of new Councillors
- Hindmarsh Shire Outdoor Pools opened offering free entry for the 2024/25 summer season
- Business Assistance Grants awarded
- Community Action Grants awarded
- Regional Community Events Grants awarded
- National Heavy Vehicle Safety Drop-In sessions in Nhill
- New safety gate installed on Jeparit Swimming Hole deck
- New entry signage at Nhill Holiday Park
- Dimboola main street clock upgraded
- Dimboola Soundshell redevelopment official opening and free concert event
- Youth Council Luna Ball Formal



December 2024

- 16 Days of Activism Community Walks held in Rainbow and Jeparit
- International Day of People with a Disability Event at Tiny Goats and Co
- Jeparit Primary School Landcare walks with Landcare Facilitator
- CEO Drop-In sessions in Rainbow, Jeparit, Dimboola and Nhill
- New signage installed at Nhill Lake





January 2025

- National Gallery of Victoria creative sessions at Hindmarsh Shire Libraries
- Pool parties held in Rainbow, Jeparit, Nhill and Dimboola
- Australia Day events held in Rainbow, Jeparit, Dimboola and Nhill

February 2025

- Author Talk event with Cindy Bunt at the Nhill Library
- Councillors and Officers Listening Sessions held in Rainbow, Yanac, Jeparit, Nhill and Dimboola
- Drop-In Sessions on Dimboola Pool proposed upgrades
- Official opening of new Dimboola and Nhill Kindergartens
- Nhill Holiday Park masterplan adopted by Council
- Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council certificate presentation in Dimboola



March 2025

- Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta celebration for International Women's Day
- Community Thank You Concert for Little Desert bushfire volunteers and emergency services
- Laundry upgrade at the Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park
- Football changerooms roof replacement at Rainbow Recreation Reserve
- Harmony Day celebration event in Nhill
- Cultural Diversity Week community interviews campaign

April 2025

- Australian Citizenship Ceremony welcoming two new Australian citizens
- April free School Holiday Program
- CEO Drop-In sessions held in Jeparit, Rainbow, Nhill and Dimboola
- Council donates to BlazeAid
- Ambulance Victoria parent information sessions at Hindmarsh Supported Playgroups





May 2025

- Breakfast BBQs to celebrate National Volunteers Weeks held in Nhill, Jeparit, Dimboola and Rainbow
- Community Action Grants awarded
- Installation of new garden bed edging works commence in Jeparit
- Draft Annual Budget drop-in sessions held in Jeparit, Dimboola, Nhill and Rainbow
- Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Celebrity Disco Night
- Australian Citizenship Ceremony welcoming three new Australian citizens
- New jetty installed at Ranbow Lake

June 2025

- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training held in Nhill
- Free Seniors Concerts held in Nhill, Dimboola, Rainbow and Jeparit
- Jeparit Memorial Hall 100 Years Celebration
- Age and Respect Cuppa Connections held in Jeparit, Rainbow, Dimboola and Nhill
- Pedestrian crossing bollards installed at major pedestrian crossings in the Nhill CBD







Part two: **Performance Report**

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Performance Report Introduction

Planning and Accountability Framework

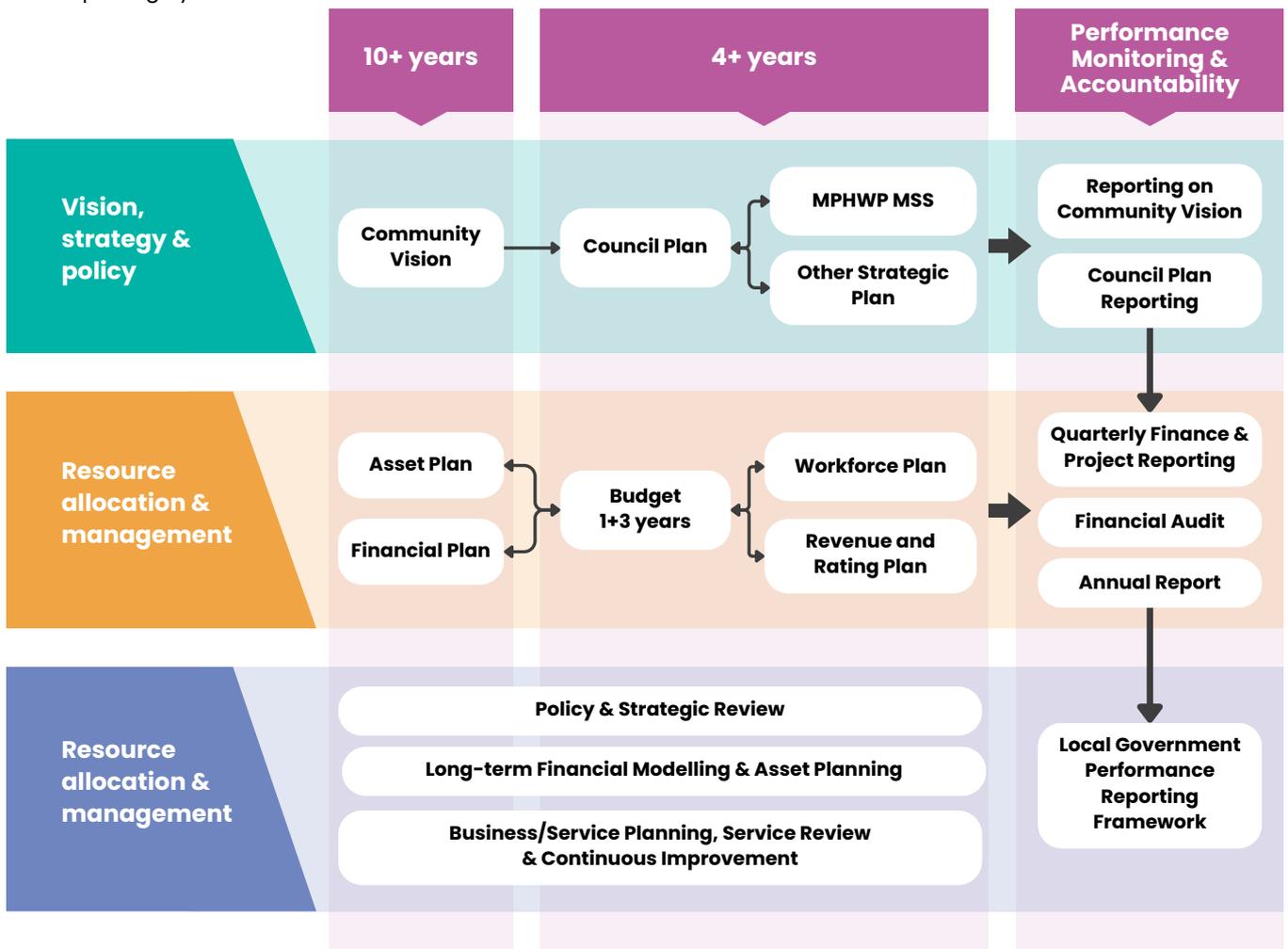
The Planning and Accountability Framework is found in part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Act requires councils to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

- A Council Vision with a scope of at least ten financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Council Plan on or by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Financial Plan with a scope of at least 10 financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- An Asset Plan with a scope of at least 10 financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.
- An Annual Budget for each financial year.
- A Quarterly Budget Report.
- An Annual Report in respect of each financial year.

The Act also requires councils to prepare:

- A Workforce Plan (including projected staffing requirements for at least 4 years);

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the planning and accountability framework for local government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback at each stage of the planning and reporting cycle.



Council Plan

This part of the Annual Report provides a summary of how we're performing in the four key themes identified in the 2021-2025 Council Plan. The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these for the four-year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a strategic resource plan. The following are the four strategic objectives as detailed in the Council Plan.

1	Our Community	We want to increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.
2	Built and Natural Environment	We want to provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.
3	Competitive and Innovative Economy	We want to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.
4	Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	We want to promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability, and to advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

Performance

Council's performance for the 2024-25 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2021-25 Council Plan. Performance has been measured as follows:

- Results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council Plan
- Progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget
- Services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services
- Results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures

Strategic Objective 1:

Our Community



**Strategic Objective 1: Our Community
2024/2025 Council Plan Actions**

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2024/2025 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
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.	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 122 media releases were published and circulated, keeping the community informed about Council decisions, projects and services.	Delivered
Deliver community safety and education initiatives around Council's Locals Laws as well as Fire Prevention and animal management.	Local Laws communications plan developed for 2025 calendar year, tying with key enforcement periods, including the animal registration renewal period and fire danger period. This action will continue into the future, as actions form part of the revised Domestic Animal Management Plan.	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.	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).	Delivered
Support and coordinate the Volunteer Taxi Service in Nhill.	This service was delivered throughout 2024/2025.	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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
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.	Delivered
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 2024 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
Support significant days/weeks for groups represented within the Shire, including International Day of People with a Disability and Harmony Day.	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.	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.	A Reconciliation Action Plan is in its final form, with adoption delayed due to Council elections. This will be revisited after the adoption of the Council Plan. NAIDOC Week was celebrated in July 2024 with an Art Exhibition in Dimboola. An interview with Tracey Rigney was published as part of Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day celebrations.	Delivered
Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh.	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.	Delivered

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community Major Initiatives from the 2024/2025 Budget

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the 2024/2025 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
No major initiatives.	

**Strategic Objective 1: Our Community
Services Funded in the 2024/2025 Budget**

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2024/2025 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service:

(surplus) / deficit

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Community Development	Work with community groups, organisations and individuals to assist communities reach their aspirations and be healthy, active and engaged.	192,413 <u>209,541</u> (17,127)
Maternal Child Health Centres	Maintain the maternal and child health centres in Dimboola and Nhill and provide support to child service providers through the Municipal Early Years Plan. (Council does not provide maternal and child health services. This service is provided by West Wimmera Health Service.)	969 <u>4,886</u> (3,916)
Kindergarten Services	Provision of Kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow under contract with Wimmera Uniting Care. (Council does not directly deliver Kindergarten Services)	36,670 <u>80,512</u> (43,841)
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	27,101 <u>120,125</u> (93,023)
Aged and Disability Services	Council's Aged and Disability Services aim to support people in their own homes and communities by providing services that promote and maintain independence. The program assists frail older people, people with a disability and their carers. These services provide basic support and maintenance to people living at home or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long-term residential care.	69,305 <u>101,833</u> (32,528)
Health Promotion	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	137,661 <u>177,775</u> (40,114)
Community Transport	Provision of community bus for community groups and organisations in Hindmarsh Shire.	0
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill and mobile library services in Jeparit and Rainbow.	137,095 <u>228,037</u> (90,942)
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	72,657 <u>146,190</u> (73,532)
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	68,532 <u>15,418</u> 53,114

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Public Order and Safety	Educate the community about public order and safety and enforce compliance with the local laws when required. Maintain and operate school crossings for Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. The school crossing on the Western Highway in Nhill is the only staffed crossing in the Shire. Other crossings on local roads are manned by volunteers or school teachers.	103,566 <u>97,250</u> 6,316
Early Years	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	9,523 <u>41,672</u> (32,149)

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Satisfaction Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit [Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Service Standard Infant enrolments in the MCH service [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Participation Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Service Cost Cost of the MCH service [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Food Safety					
Timeliness Time taken to action food complaints [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	Of the 7 food safety complaints received in 2024/2025, four were actioned within 3 days, 2 within 1 day and one delayed over 11 days (including weekends and public holidays) due to employee leave.
Service Standard Food Safety Assessments [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i> / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i>] x100	121.11%	100%	80.00%	73.25%	Additional food safety assessments were undertaken in 2024/2025 to account for additional home businesses/suppliers and food premises.
Service Cost of food safety service [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i>]	\$1,448.31	\$1,282.38	\$776.43	\$762.91	Additional resources have been allocated to this team to enable efficient management of food safety data and to meet compliance and inspection requirements.
Health and Safety Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	Council was notified of two critical or major non-compliance issues in 2024/2025 and both were followed up within required timeframes.
Libraries					
Utilisation Loans per Head of Population [Number of library collection item loans / Population]	1.69	1.44	New	New	This measure indicates the number of users of Council's libraries per head of population.
Resource Currency Recently Purchased Library Collection [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	34.42%	33.21%	33.41%	25.16%	No material variation.

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Libraries					
Service Cost Cost of library service per population [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	\$41.16	\$62.70	\$61.44	\$55.85	Council has staff who deliver both customer service and library services across the Shire with Nhill having the only stand alone library. Joint operations of both customer service and libraries enables service efficiency.
Participation Library membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	18.25%	17.88%	New	New	Council has driven membership initiatives through Council communications and has increased the variety of library programs to service all ages and backgrounds.
Library visits per head of population [Number of library visits / Population]	2.23	2.37	New	New	As above.
Animal Management					
Timeliness Time taken to action animal management requests [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Animal management requests are responded to within 1 business day.
Service Standard Animals reclaimed [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100	78.26%	48.00%	62.96%	40.54%	Council collected 23 animals in 2024/2025, 18 of which were reclaimed, the remaining five were rehomed.
Animals Rehomed [Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100	100%	92.31%	29.63%	59.46%	Council collected 23 animals in 2024/2025, 18 of which were reclaimed, the remaining five were rehomed.
Service Cost Cost of animal management service per population [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	\$25.42	\$27.49	\$41.97	\$44.81	No material variance.
Health and Safety Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	100%	0.00%	100%	100%	One prosecution was successfully finalised in 2024/2025.



Jeparit Riverbank Precinct Event - Photo by Les Graetz

Strategic Objective 2:

Built and Natural Environment



**Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment
2024/2025 Council Plan Actions**

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2024/2025 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
Commence construction at Davis Park, Nhill, on the AFL compliant changerooms with undercover seating.	The changerooms and tiered seating are well-underway, whilst 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.	Underway
Continue to advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit.	Funding secured for feasibility study through Wimmera CMA. A consultant has been engaged to undertake feasibility study.	Delivered
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.	Delivered
Develop and implement an up-to-date Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.	Onsite Wastewater Management Plan was adopted in August 2024.	Delivered
Explore funding options for installation of solar heating at the Dimboola Swimming Pool.	Solar heating was installed at Dimboola Swimming Pool in time for the opening of the 2024/2025 swimming season.	Delivered
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 has 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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
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 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 street in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Complete.	Delivered
Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season.	Completed in September 2024.	Status
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 Super 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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
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.	Delivered

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment Major Initiatives from the 2024/2025 Budget

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the 2024/2025 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Undertake Unsealed Road Construction on Tarranyurk West Road and Tarranyurk East Road.	<p>The resheet has been completed on Tarranyurk East Road, completing approximately 2km heading east from Werner Road intersection.</p> <p>The resheet on Tarranyurk West Road was awarded to MEB Civil. The works are part completed due to inclement weather forcing a pause in the works. Works are scheduled for completion prior to end of 2025. The location of works are between Greig and Tullyvea Church Road, for approximately 2km through the salt flat section.</p>
Undertake Sealed Road Construction on Netherby Baker Road Netherby.	The sealed construction project on Netherby-Baker Road was completed prior to Christmas 2024. The section renewed was from Netherby Cemetery intersection, heading west for 1.13km.
Installation of Solar Heating at Dimboola Swimming Pool.	This project has been completed. Contracts were awarded for the replacement of the roof and then new solar heating for the Dimboola Pool prior to the 2024/25 summer. Solar heating was fully operational for the summer period.
Installation of automatic dosing machines at Jeparit and Rainbow Swimming Pools.	Automatic chemical dosing machines were installed to bring these two pools in line with the Dimboola and Nhill pools, making all four council pools the same for chemical dosing. This was a continuation of the upgrades council has been doing over the previous two seasons as we work towards making our pools more efficient.

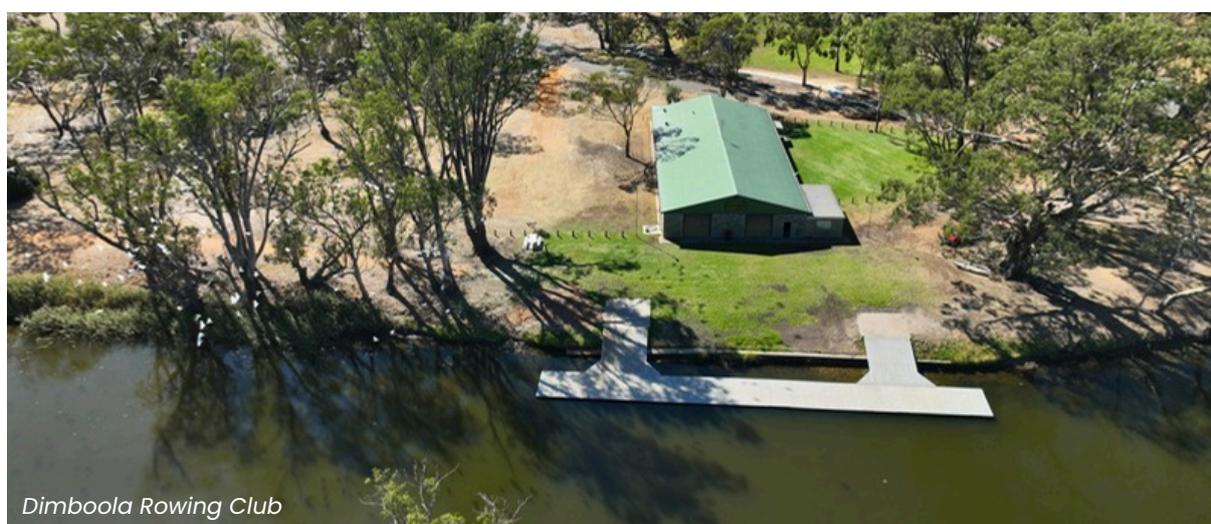
**Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment
Services Funded in the 2024/2025 Budget**

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2024/2025 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Local Roads and Bridges	The aim of Council's road and bridges program is to provide safe, all-weather access to residences and allow for efficient transport of goods to and from the Shire.	7,079,166 <u>5,304,745</u> 1,774,421
Drainage Management	The aim of this program is to have well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	1,035,239 <u>547,447</u> 487,792
Paths and Trails	The aim of Council's paths and trails program is to provide well maintained pedestrian, including disabled, access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	397,798 <u>318,033</u> 79,765
Tree Management	The aim of Council's Tree Management program is to conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens and recreation reserves.	258,414 <u>370,577</u> (112,162)
Town Beautification	The aim of Council's Town Beautification program is to maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	988,630 <u>798,543</u> 190,087
Council Buildings	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled community centres and halls, and supporting communities that undertake these activities on behalf of Council.	664,062 <u>350,805</u> 313,257
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.	3,697,374 <u>1,357,278</u> 2,340,095
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	253,762 <u>249,543</u> 4,219
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	(10,552) <u>(54,743)</u> 44,190
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	29,190 <u>77,655</u> (48,465)
Environment Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	99,867 <u>75,766</u> 24,101
Fire Prevention	To identify potential fire hazards and to prevent loss to life and property caused by fire.	98,426 <u>102,988</u> (4,562)

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Roads					
Satisfaction of Use Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	4.79	10.62	11.99	3.11	There were 28 sealed local road requests in 2024/2025 compared to 62 in 2023/2024. Council has undertaken targeted engagement with farmers to determine priority roads for maintenance and upgrades.
Condition Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	98.12%	98.29%	98.29%	99.83%	No material variation.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$57.38	\$53.71	\$49.79	\$34.22	No material variation.
Cost of sealed local road resealing [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$10.89	\$6.98	\$6.03	\$5.17	Road materials including bitumen, fuel and quarry material have continued to increase in cost in 2024/2025. Additionally, smaller reseal jobs were completed which attract a greater cost per m2.
Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	47	48	48	55	Council's community satisfaction survey results asked for responders to identify roads requiring repair, most identified roads are managed by VicRoads, suggesting there is confusion around management responsibility that can be addressed in Council communication.
Aquatic Facilities					
Service Standards Health inspections of aquatic facilities [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / number of Council aquatic facilities]	1.0	1.25	0.00	1.00	Council undertook an inspection at each of the four outdoor pools prior to the season commencing in November 2024.
Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	2.14	0.83	0.53	2.08	For the 2024/2025 outdoor pool season Council resolved to remove fees and have free pool entry. This has resulted in a significant increase in utilisation.

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Service Cost Cost of aquatic facilities [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	\$59.14	\$105.58	\$136.36	\$40.41	Outdoor swimming pools were previously operated by a contractor, for the 2024/2025 season Council directly operated the swimming pools.
Waste Collection					
Service Standard Kerbside collection bins missed [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	0.14	0.35	0.00	0.18	Council has worked with contractors to ensure waste collection services are delivered to a high standard.
Service Cost Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$294.89	\$270.39	\$227.59	\$212.62	No material variance. Council's contractor collects over 2,800 bins weekly and travels over 42,000km annually to collect waste across the Shire.
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$163.75	\$75.62	\$125.94	\$125.25	Cost of kerbside recycling, collection and transport to processing facilities are reflected in this figure.
Waste Diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	22.92%	22.16%	34.54%	32.29%	No material variance.





P Colberts Road

Strategic Objective 3:

Competitive and

Innovative Economy



**Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy
2024/2025 Council Plan Actions**

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2024/2025 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
Participate in the Visitor Economy Partnership and commence development of Destination Management Plans and industry development activities.	Ongoing work with GWMT for regional marketing underway. Council staff and GWMT team attended the caravan and camping show, also had representation (brochures/banner) at Grand Prix, and Ballarat camping show.	Delivered
Continue delivery of Silo Art project at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow.	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.	Underway
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.	Business Networking Session held in August 2024; 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 5 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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
Provide financial and in-kind support to regional community events held in Hindmarsh that increase economic benefit.	2024/2025 Regional Events Grants Program not fully subscribed. Council has requested more thorough reporting for attendance and financial benefits to inform improved design of events and grants processes.	Delivered
Actively seek funding to upgrade key freight routes for our agricultural economy.	Application submitted for Dimboola Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby Road 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

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy Major Initiatives from the 2024/2025 Budget

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the 2024/2025 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
No major initiatives.	



Goldsworthy Park Rotunda, Nhill

**Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy
Services Funded in the 2024/2025 Budget**

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2024/2025 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Economic Development	To encourage Economic Development throughout the municipality.	208,106 <u>368,800</u> (160,694)
Tourism	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	355,332 <u>550,917</u> (195,585)
Private Works	Provision of private civil works services. Provide quotations for private works undertaken by the Council works department to residents, contractors and other authorities. Potential private works include grading of farm driveways, grading of fence lines, construction of driveway crossovers, and supply of labour, plant and materials. Private works also include repair to Council's infrastructure caused by repair to third party assets.	25,327 <u>(84,368)</u> 109,696
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	(118,944) <u>8,778</u> (127,722)
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome.	260,351 <u>96,425</u> (163,926)
Land Use Planning	To ensure that any development that occurs in Hindmarsh Shire is carried out in accordance with relevant planning policies, principles and controls. Provide customers with advice on planning scheme requirements. Prepare and assess planning scheme amendments and consider planning permit applications. Represent Council at Panel Hearings and at Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Undertake planning scheme compliance checks when necessary. Process subdivisions and planning certificates. Implement actions from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan.	190,236 <u>225,775</u> (35,538)
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community. To carry out Council's statutory private building requirements. Issuing of building permits and certificates. Receipt and recording of building permits undertaken by private building surveyors. Undertake building enforcement and compliance checks. Provision of reports to the Building Control Commission.	199,715 <u>201,708</u> (1,992)

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Statutory Planning					
Timeliness Time taken to decide planning applications [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	120.00	94.00	107.00	69.00	This figure does not account for 'pauses' in statutory processing times where Council is waiting on referrals or requesting additional information from the applicant. The complexity of planning applications can increase the overall timeframe as the required information is gathered. 18 out of 23 permits issued were decided within statutory timeframes.
Service Standard Planning applications decided within required time frames [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	71.43%	53.33%	54.55%	90.16%	Council has a staff member who has completed their Town Planning qualification, meaning an additional resource can be allocated to permit processing in-house.
Service Cost (\$) Cost of statutory planning service [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$4,894.24	\$8,777.28	4,413.35	4,465.98	Costs associated with statutory planning services includes both assessing and processing applications, and statutory planning activities (e.g: planning scheme reviews). Council now employs a full-time planning officer, reducing reliance on contractors to assess and process applications.
Decision Making Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	There were no planning decisions taken to VCAT during 2024/2025.

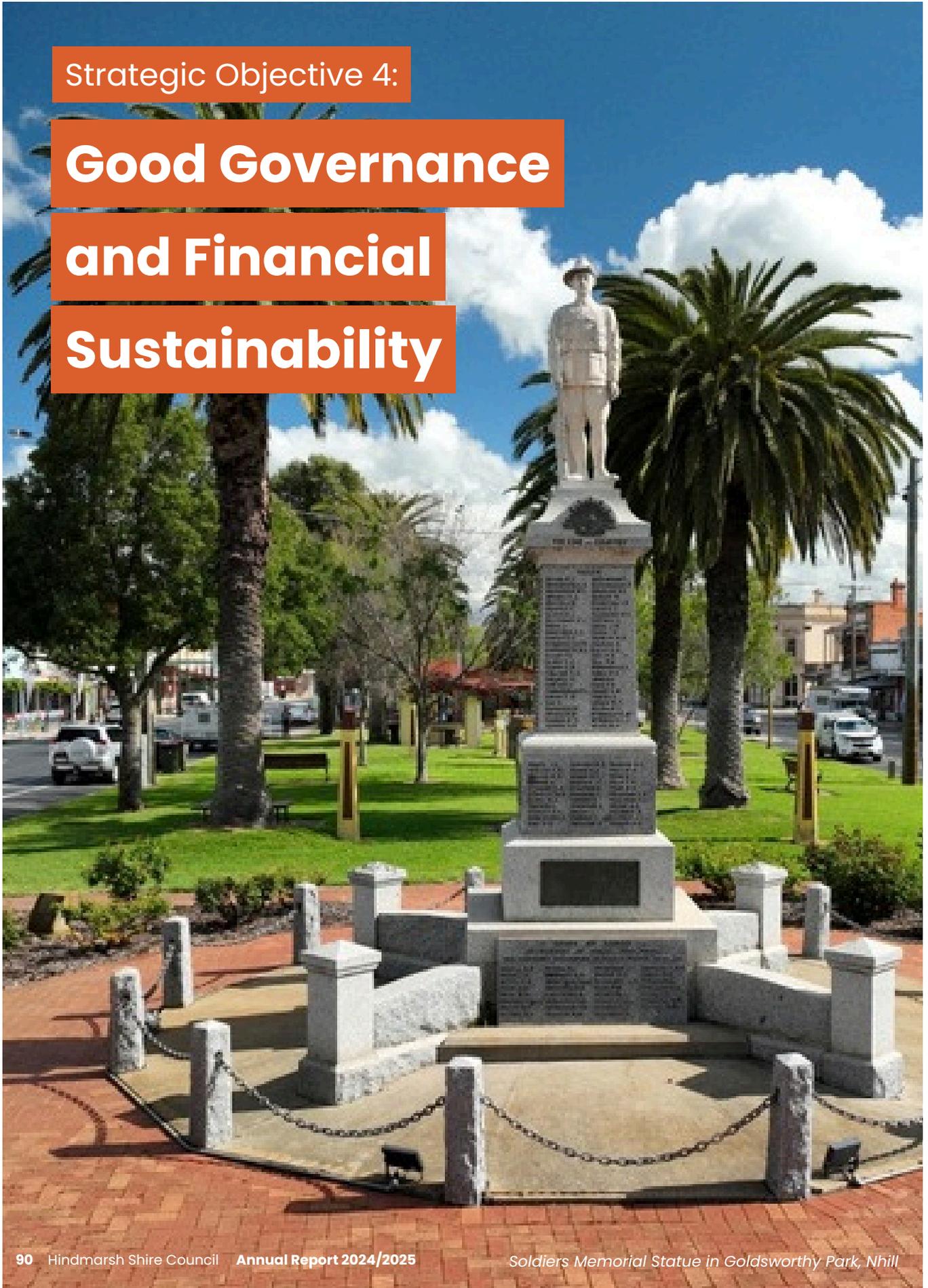




Intercultural Youth and Family Day 2024

Strategic Objective 4:

**Good Governance
and Financial
Sustainability**



**Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability
2024/2025 Council Plan Actions**

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2024/2025 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
Deliver proactive activities aimed at encouraging candidature for the 2024 Council elections, including the MAV Stand for Council Program.	Council hosted MAV Stand for Council and delivered media and social media campaigns to encourage community members to stand for Council. Council developed a document for Council nominees covering relevant Councillor information. Council elections delivered in October/November 2024.	Delivered
Prepare for, and deliver, a compliant caretaker and election period for the 2024 Local Council Elections.	Council officers have delivered several operational processes to support a compliant caretaker period including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and guidance documents for staff • Training and guidance documents for Councillors • Internal delivery plan developed and implemented 	Delivered
Review existing, and develop new, Councillor induction processes (including a training program) to facilitate compliant and effective transition into a new Council period.	Councillor Induction Program developed and implemented in accordance with formal guidelines. Councillor handbook also prepared as a resource for the new Council.	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
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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
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 have 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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Comments	Result
Enhance the organisations information, communications and technology (ICT) capabilities and systems, including strengthening our cyber-security capability.	<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 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 	Delivered
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.	Underway

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability Major Initiatives from the 2024/2025 Budget

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the 2024/2025 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Continue the collaboration with neighbouring Councils in the Rural Council's Transformation Project.	Collaboration has been 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.

**Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability
Services Funded in the 2024/2025 Budget**

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2024/2025 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Council Elections	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council. Ongoing maintenance of the voters' rolls.	91,180 <u>152,684</u> (61,503)
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	451,022 <u>594,131</u> (143,109)
Civic Leadership and Governance	To ensure that Council provides effective leadership and that its decisions are transparent, inclusive and based on sound recommendations and advice. Management support for the Mayor and Council. Regular media releases and newsletters to inform the community of current issues. Lobbying of politicians and government departments. Advocacy on behalf of the community on key local government issues. Memberships include Municipal Association of Victoria, Rural Council Victoria, North West Municipalities Association and Wimmera Development Corporation Community Satisfaction Feedback Survey.	1,138,485 <u>1,249,370</u> (110,884)
Customer Service Centres	Operation and maintenance of Customer Service Centres to provide facilities from which Council can efficiently deliver services to the community. Management of professionally focused Customer Service Centres in each township. Seek improvement in the community satisfaction survey conducted annually. Adherence to Council's Customer Services Charter. Provide licensing and registration services on behalf of VicRoads. Provision of information to ratepayers and the general public on a broad range of services provided by Council and other government agencies.	519,474 <u>599,646</u> (80,172)
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. Preparation of the annual budget, including the capital works budget, preparation of Council's Annual Report, preparation of management reports to Council and Senior Managers. Investment of surplus funds in accordance with Council's investment policy having regard to legislation and financial risk. Support of the internal and external audit functions Management of Council's taxation obligations. Continued lobbying of governments for additional funding and resources.	(9,050,939) <u>(5,506,784)</u> (3,544,156)
Rating and Valuations	Management of Council's rating system, including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges. Maintenance of property and valuation records, including supplementary valuations. Administering Pensioner rate concessions on behalf of the State Government. Issue of quarterly Rates and Valuations notices. Collection of rates and legal action where necessary. Issue of Land Information Certificates.	(8,498,338) <u>(8,502,229)</u> 3,891
Records Management	Effective and efficient recording, storage, retrieval and disposal of records in line with the standards of the Public Records Office of Victoria. Compliance with Privacy and Freedom of Information Legislation. Ensure that Council records, stores and disposes of its records in accordance with statutory obligations.	89,840 <u>115,658</u> (25,818)

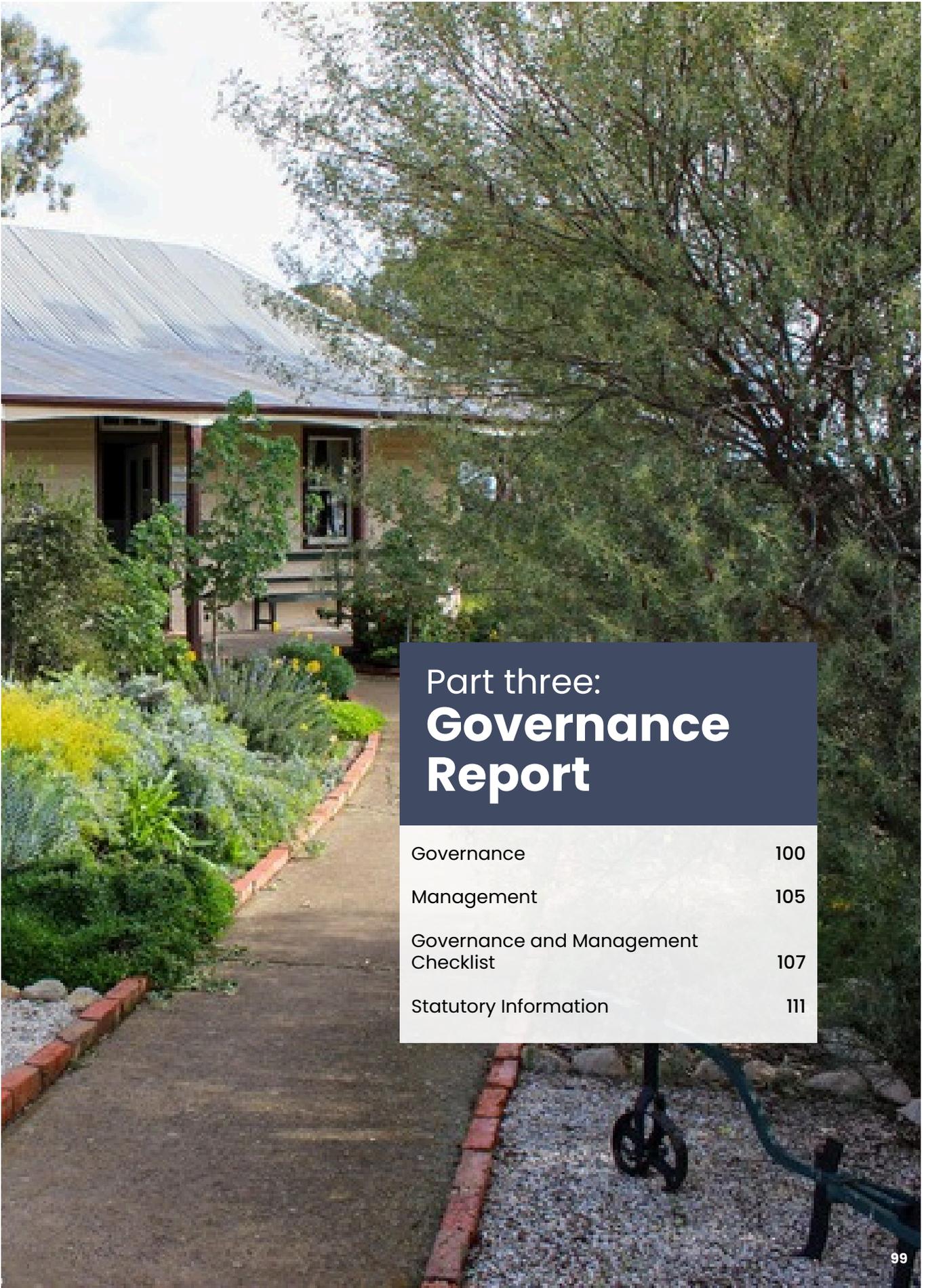
Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Risk Management	Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure. Monitor and review the Risk Register. Regular review of the risks and control measures by Senior Management. Ensuring that Council's assets and interests are insured adequately against risk. Management of WorkCover Authority insurance and workplace injury claims. Quarterly meetings of the Risk Management Committee. Quarterly meetings of the Audit Committee. Advise staff and contractors in relation to Workplace Health and Safety. Ensure that Council is aware of, and complies with, all of its statutory obligations.	543,403 <u>755,126</u> (211,723)
Project and Contract Management	Preparation of contract specifications, administration of tender processes and management of Council's contracted services. Tender preparation and specification development. Supervision and management of contracted Council services. Ensure that Council's tendering process (including letting of tenders and appointment of contractors) comply with Council purchasing policies and statutory obligations. Ensure value for money and best products are achieved.	171,907 <u>212,843</u> (40,935)
Payroll and Human Resources Services	Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of human resources services to management.	344,741 <u>376,857</u> (32,116)
Emergency Management	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	145,201 <u>92,699</u> 52,503
Depots and Workshops	Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment. Securely house plant, equipment and materials. Provide a base for the outdoor staff. Provide a location to carry out maintenance and repairs of Council's plant and equipment. Purchase and maintain plant and equipment to enable the delivery of works.	3,621,409 <u>1,858,214</u> 1,763,195
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. Ensure that Council's asset renewal expenditure targets the most critical assets. Provide Council's asset valuations.	364,434 <u>374,959</u> (10,525)
Fleet Management	Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is managed, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and effective way possible. Timely maintenance of fleet vehicles. Purchase and replacement of fleet vehicles in accordance with Council policy.	662,425 <u>591,871</u> 70,554
Accounts Payable	Payment of invoices in an efficient and timely manner. Maintenance of secure payment systems and processes. Payment of invoices in accordance with Councils payment terms (within 30 days). All payments to be made via EFT or Direct Credit.	78,183 <u>76,757</u> 1,426
Accounts Receivable	Receival of payments from debtors in an efficient and timely manner. Monthly invoicing of accounts. Ensure Council's Outstanding Debtor Policy is adhered to. Regular reports to management on outstanding debtors.	(16,142) <u>10,529</u> (26,672)

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Result 2022	Material Variations
Governance					
Transparency Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	14.29%	19.79%	24.39%	15.35%	Council decisions are made in closed Council where the content is deemed confidential in accordance with legislation, for example contractual matters and those that would unreasonably disclose personal information. In 2024/2025, there were 168 decisions made at ordinary/special Council meetings, 24 of which were made while the meeting was closed to the public.
Consultation and Engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	59.00	52.00	53.00	55.00	Council increased engagement with the community during 2024/2025 through CEO Drop-in sessions and implementing a fortnightly e-newsletter, monthly hard copy newsletter available in libraries/customer service centres and also prints a quarterly hardcopy newsletter that is delivered to mailboxes throughout Hindmarsh.
Attendance Councillor attendance at council meetings [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	94.87%	94.87%	97.44%	98.81%	No material variation.
Service Cost (\$) Cost of elected representation [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	46,566.83	53,970.93	53,870.37	48,490.50	Due to Local Government Elections in October 2024, Councillor expenses, including Councillor Allowances were less than in 2023/2024.
Satisfaction Satisfaction with council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	58.00	52.00	52.00	55.00	Council increased engagement and transparency with the community during 2024/2025. Council meetings are livestreamed with social media and newspaper articles prepared following Council meetings to provide the community with information on Council decisions.



Rainbow Lions Club





Part three: **Governance Report**

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Governance



Governance Overview

Hindmarsh Shire Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. Council has several roles including:

- Taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements
- Ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes, including community consultation, public forums such as ward meetings and the ability to make submissions to Special Committees of Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings and Special Committees of Council. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted Council policies.



Council Meetings

Hindmarsh Shire Council operates in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and holds Council meetings monthly, generally on the first or last Wednesday of each month with the exception of January when no meeting is held.

Council encourages members of the public to attend Council meetings or to view our Council meetings live through Hindmarsh Shire Council's Facebook page.

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 Service Centre but are limited to two questions and 100 words including any pre-amble. Offensive, trivial and repetitive questions or questions that have been recently answered, may be excluded at the discretion of the Mayor.

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

For the 2024/2025 financial year, Council held the following meetings:

- 12 ordinary Council meetings
- 1 special Council meeting

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings and Special Council meetings for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Councillor	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Total
Cr Melanie Albrecht	4	0	4
Cr Wendy Bywaters	3	0	3
Cr Robert Gersch	4	0	4
Cr Brett Ireland	4	0	4
Cr Debra Nelson	4	0	4
Cr Ron Ismay	12	1	13
Cr Chan Uoy	8	1	9
Cr Roger Aitken	8	1	9
Cr Rosie Barker	8	1	9
Cr James Barry	7	1	8
Cr Tony Clark	6	1	7
Total Meetings Held	12	1	13



Code of Conduct

The Model Councillor Code of Conduct in Victoria, effective from 26 October 2024, sets clear standards for Councillor behaviour and responsibilities. It replaces individual Council codes, aiming to improve Councillor conduct and build public trust in local government. The code emphasises integrity, transparency, respect, and accountability in all aspects of a Councillor's role. The Model Code replaces the previous requirement for each Victorian council to develop its own code of conduct for Councillors.



Conflict of Interest

Councillors are elected by residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest. When a Council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and Committee meetings.

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general, they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflicts of interest.

During 2024/2025, **21 conflicts of interest were declared** at Council meetings, including those declared during Council briefing sessions.



Policies and Compliance Documents

The following table provides a summary of the plans and policies that were adopted during 2024/2025:

Policy/Document Title	Month Adopted
Councillor Expense Entitlement Policy	July 2024
Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024 – 2029	August 2024
Councillor Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure	August 2024
Risk Management Policy	August 2024
Risk Management Framework	August 2024
Risk Appetite and Tolerance Statement	August 2024
Fair Access Policy Action Plan	August 2024
Climate Adaption Strategy 2024–2036	August 2024
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021–2025 (review)	November 2024
Councillor Interaction with Staff Policy	November 2024
Internal Resolution Procedure	December 2024
Nhill Caravan Park Masterplan	February 2025
Councillor Expense Entitlements Policy	March 2025
Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy	March 2025
Heavy Transport and Freight Vehicle Working Group Terms of Reference	March 2025
Hindmarsh Planning Scheme Review (August 2024)	March 2025
Audit and Risk Committee Charter	April 2025
Advisory Committee Policy	May 2025
Hindmarsh Pride Committee Terms of Reference	May 2025
Town Advisory Committee Terms of Reference	May 2025
Councillor Gifts and Hospitality Policy	May 2025
2025/2026 Budget (incorporating the draft Long-Term Financial Plan and draft Revenue and Rating Plan)	June 2025



Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government sets the upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each Council. In this instance, Hindmarsh Shire Council is recognised as a category one council.

The following table contains a summary of the allowances paid to each Councillor during the year.

Councillor	Allowance (\$)
Cr Melanie Albrecht	\$8,158.76
Cr Wendy Bywaters	\$12,630.20
Cr Robert Gersch	\$8,158.76
Cr Brett Ireland	\$25,261.00
Cr Debra Nelson	\$8,158.76
Cr Ron Ismay	\$57,297.63
Cr Chan Uoy	\$24,568.89
Cr Roger Aitken	\$15,484.87
Cr Rosie Barker	\$15,484.87
Cr James Barry	\$15,484.87
Cr Tony Clark	\$15,484.87



Councillors and Jo from By-Five



Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing his or her duties as a Councillor.

Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the reimbursement of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor and member of a Council Committee paid by the Council.

The details of the expenses including reimbursements of expenses for each Councillor paid by Council for the 2024/2025 year are set out in the following table.

Councillor	TR \$	CM \$	CC \$	IC \$	CT \$
Cr Melanie Albrecht					
Cr Wendy Bywaters					
Cr Robert Gersch				212.00	
Cr Brett Ireland					
Cr Debra Nelson	132.88				
Cr Ron Ismay					
Cr Chan Uoy					622.73
Cr Roger Aitken					
Cr Rosie Barker	710.16				192.00
Cr James Barry					
Cr Tony Clark					

Legend: TR-Travel CM-Car Mileage CC-Child Care IC-Information and Communication expenses CT-Conferences and Training expenses.

Note: No expenses were paid by Council, including reimbursements, to members of Council committees during the year.

Management

The Act requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist and include this assessment in its report of operations. Council's Governance and Management Checklist results are set out in the section below. The following items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.



Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council established pursuant to Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Council is committed to good governance, public transparency and accountability. The Audit and Risk Committee is established to strengthen Council's governance, risk management, financial management and to drive continuous improvement. Pursuant to section 54(2) of the Act, the Audit and Risk Charter (Charter) sets out the Committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities, reporting, administrative and governance arrangements. Pursuant to section 53(2) of the Act, the Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council and does not have delegated powers, including executive powers, management functions of delegated financial responsibility.

The Audit and Risk Committee consists of four independent members, Mr Ashley Roberts (Chair), Mr Simon Coutts, Ms Brooke Parish, Mr Rob Gersch and two Councillors. The Audit and Risk Committee membership comprises two Councillors and up to four independent members and their term of membership coincides with the term of Councillors. The members of the Audit and Risk Committee elect a Chair to fill that role, with an election held at the first meeting of each calendar year to elect a new Chair.

The Audit and Risk Committee meets at least three times in each financial year. The internal auditor, Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Community Services, Manager Finance and Manager People and Performance attend all Audit and Risk Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports. The external auditors generally attend the June and September Audit and Risk Committee meetings to present the annual audit plan and Independent Audit Report.

Copies of the minutes of the meetings from each Audit and Risk Committee meeting are subsequently reported to and considered by Council.



Internal Audit

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council. A risk-based audit plan is prepared annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers Council's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment, prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input.

The Internal Auditor attends Audit Committee meetings to report on the status of the audit plan, comment on the implementation of audit recommendations and present findings of completed reviews.

During 2024/2025 internal audits were completed on Accounts Payable and Procurement, Payroll Functions and Depot Management.



External Audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For 2024/2025, the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative, Ms Cassandra Gravenall of Crowe.

In the 2024/2025 Financial Year, Crowe (represented by Tim Fairclough until the commencement of the interim Audit in early 2025), attended the September 2024 Audit and Risk Committee meeting to present the independent audit report for the 2023/2024 financial year and representative Cassandra Gravenall also attended the March 2025 meeting to present the 2024/2025 audit strategy. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit and Risk Committee.



Strategic Risks

Council's identified Strategic Risks as of 30 June 2025 are –

1	Environmental Sustainability
2	Financial Sustainability
3	Technology Security
4	Government Political and Policy Changes
5	Governance
6	Organisational Culture and Capability
7	Asset Management
8	Project Management and Strategic Execution
9	Community Needs

Governance and Management Checklist

The following are the results in the prescribed form of Council's assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist.

Governance and Management Checklist Items	Assessment	
Community Engagement Policy (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. It combines policy document and guidelines. Date of adoption: 6 March 2024	X
Community Engagement Guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. It combines policy document and guidelines. Date of adoption: 6 March 2024	X
Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with the section 91 of the Act. Date of adoption: 18 June 2025	X
Asset Management Plan (plans that set out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act. Date of adoption: 1 June 2022	X
Revenue and Rating Plan (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act. Date of adoption: 18 June 2025	X
Annual Budget (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act. Date of adoption: 18 June 2025	X
Risk Policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Date of commencement of current policy: 28 August 2024	X
Fraud Policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Date of commencement of current policy: 5 April 2023	X
Municipal Emergency Management Plan (Council's participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC))	MEMPC meetings attended by one or more representatives of Council (other than the chairperson) during the financial year. Date of MEMPC meetings attended: 12 September 2024, 12 December 2024, 13 March 2025 and 12 June 2025.	X
Procurement Policy (policy outlining the matters, practices and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works)	Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act. Date of approval: 3 April 2024	X
Business Continuity Plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Council has in place a Business Continuity Plan, updated 9 September 2024.	X

Governance and Management Checklist Items	Assessment
Disaster Recovery Plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Municipal Emergency Management plan in operation adopted in January 2023 . X
Complaint Policy (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints)	Developed in accordance with section 107 of the Act. Date of commencement of policy: 26 August 2022 X
Workforce Plan (Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation)	Established in accordance with section 46 of the Act. Date of commencement of current plan: 23 December 2021 X
Payment of Rates and Hardship Policy (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates)	Date of commencement of current policy: 1 February 2023 X
Risk Management Framework (framework outlining council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Date of adoption of current framework: 28 August 2024 X
Audit and Risk Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 54 of the Act. Date of establishment: First charter after establishment of Local Government Act 2020 adopted 15 July 2020, reviewed and adopted on 2 April 2025. X
Internal Audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged. Date of engagement of current provider: 1 July 2021 X
Performance Reporting Framework (A set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Framework. Date of framework: 1 July 2014 X
Council Plan Reporting (report reviewing the performance of the council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Quarterly reports on the performance against the Council Plan are presented to Council. Date reports presented: 24 July 2024, 27 November 2024, 5 February 2025 and 7 May 2025 X
Quarterly Budget Reports (quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure with actual revenue and expenditure)	Reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Act. Dates presented: 24 July 2024, 25 September 2024, 27 November 2024, 5 February 2025 and 7 May 2025 X
Risk Reports (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports were presented to the Audit and Risk Committee meetings on 18 September 2024, 19 March 2025 & 11 June 2024. X

Governance and Management Checklist Items	Assessment
<p>Performance Reports (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)</p>	<p>Reports. Date of reports: 25 September 2024 and 5 February 2025</p> <p style="text-align: right;">X</p>
<p>Annual Report (annual report under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the Act to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)</p>	<p>Presented at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act. Date of presentation: 23 October 2024</p> <p style="text-align: right;">X</p>
<p>Councillor Code of Conduct (Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)</p>	<p>Effective from 26 October 2024, all Councillors are required to observe the Model Code of Conduct which is prescribed in Schedule 1 to the <i>Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020</i>. Former Councillor Code of Conduct date reviewed: 23 November 2022</p> <p style="text-align: right;">X</p>
<p>Delegations (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)</p>	<p>Reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act. Date of review: Delegation to CEO – 5 March 2025 Sub-Delegation to Staff – 10 July 2025 Council to Council Staff – 8 March 2024</p> <p style="text-align: right;">X</p>
<p>Meeting Procedures (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)</p>	<p>Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act. Date adopted: 31 August 2022</p> <p style="text-align: right;">X</p>

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 21 January 2026



Statutory Information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Council.



Contracts

For Council contracts greater than a value of \$250,000, Council conducts strategic reviews to determine:

- whether the service is still required
- the strategic approach for delivering and providing the service
- how the service aligns with Council's strategic objectives
- analysis of the supplier market
- the best procurement methodology and delivery.

Council issued **40** tenders and quotations in **2024/2025**, covering the following service categories:

- Creation of a panel of planning consultants
- Design and/or construction of infrastructure
- Design and development of tourism initiatives
- Higher-level inspections of Council assets
- Retendering of ongoing services contracts

During the 2024/25 financial year Council **did not enter** into any other contracts valued at \$200,000 or more for works without first engaging in a competitive process.



Documents available for Public Inspection

Council has a Public Transparency Policy in place in accordance with sections 57 and 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The following public transparency principles are contained within the policy:

1. Council decision-making processes must be transparent except when Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
2. Council information must be publicly available unless –
 - a. the information is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
 - b. public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
3. Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community; and
4. Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

This policy was reviewed and adopted by Council in September 2023. A copy of the policy is available on Council's website at www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/governance-and-transparency.

The following documents are available on Council's website, the relevant Council service portal, or will be made available on request:

- Plans and Reports adopted by Council
- policies
- project and service plans
- grant application, tenders and tender evaluation material
- service agreements, contracts, leases and licences
- Council leases, permits and notices of building and occupancy
- relevant technical reports and / or research that informs decision making
- Practice notes and operating procedures
- application processes for approvals, permits, grants, access to Council services

- decision making processes
- guidelines and manuals
- community engagement processes
- complaints handling processes
- Council and Delegated Committee meeting agendas and minutes
- reporting from Committees required in accordance with the Governance Rules
- details of Community Asset Committees and Advisory Committees
- registers of gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to Councillors or Council Staff
- registers of travel undertaken by Councillors or Council Staff
- registers of Conflicts of Interest disclosed by Councillors or Council Staff
- submissions made by Council to State or Federal processes
- details of any Memorandum of Understanding entered into by Council that are not subject to confidentiality clauses
- registers of donations and grants made by Council
- registers of leases entered into by Council, as lessor and lessee
- register of Delegations
- register of Authorised officers
- register of Election campaign donations
- summary of Personal Interests
- any other Registers or Records required by legislation or determined to be in the public interest



Disability Action Plan

In accordance with section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006*, Council is required to prepare a Disability Action Plan and report in its annual report. Council incorporated Disability Action Plan items into the Council Plan 2021–2025.

The following actions have been implemented from the Council Plan 2021–2025 Actions 2024/2025:

- Monthly and fortnightly e-newsletters are distributed through emails and available on Council's website
- Support and host youth events that are accessible to all Hindmarsh Shire youth
- Support our ageing community through hosting senior's concert, social connection activities including classic movies and morning teas
- Celebrate Volunteer's Week, International Day of People with Disability and Harmony Day
- Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh
- Support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill
- Improvements to Kerb & Channel sections
- Footpath section replacement

We continue to explore funding opportunities and partnerships to enhance integrated and specific programs for people with disabilities.



Domestic Animal Management Plan

In accordance with section 68a of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan at four-yearly intervals and evaluate its implementation in the annual report.

Council adopted its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 on 22 September 2021. The plan was developed through consultation with Council's Local Laws Team and consideration of input from other Council departments.

A report on the progress of the Domestic Animal Management Plan was presented to Council on 27 November 2024. Highlights of the actions delivered in 2024/2025 are:

- **Reducing Euthanasia Rates**
 - Educational campaigns (e.g. Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife) contributed to fewer cats being impounded.
 - New Section 84Y Agreements supported consistent rehoming and reduced euthanasia.
 - A low-cost desexing program resulted in 25 additional animals desexed.
 - Successful re-homing direct with Council occurred.
- **Improving Registration & Identification**
 - Annual door knocks were undertaken, and community education through media and brochures.
 - Pet registration promotions were completed annually across Council platforms.
- **Reducing Nuisance Complaints**
 - Cat enclosure and wildlife protection education materials were distributed regularly.
 - A drop in impound and euthanasia numbers indicates positive impact.
- **Dog Attack Management**
 - Public awareness through community engagement in high-risk locations was achieved.
 - Dog attack procedures and information packs are under ongoing review and distribution.
- **Programs to Promote and Encourage Responsible Pet Ownership and Compliance with Legislation**
 - Fact sheets and web content was developed to improve community understanding of legislative obligations.
 - Educational materials circulated via media and brochures at Customer Service Centres.

The actions undertaken throughout the year under the Domestic Animal Management Plan demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership, improving animal welfare, and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements. Through targeted education campaigns, strategic partnerships, and community engagement, we have seen positive outcomes including reduced euthanasia rates, improved registration compliance, and increased awareness around pet safety and responsibilities.

While some operational activities were adjusted due to safety concerns, alternative approaches such as enhanced communication through media and Customer Service Centres have ensured continuity in service delivery and public education. The Plan remains a vital framework for guiding Council's approach to domestic animal management, these reviews and refinements will strengthen the new DAMP for the next four years leading to increased effectiveness in the years ahead.



Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its annual report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.



Freedom of Information

In accordance with section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Council is required to publish certain statements in its annual report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately, however, provides the following summary of the application and operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and in summary as follows:

- Requests should be in writing.
- Requests should identify as clearly as possible what documents are being requested.
- Requests should be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

Requests for documents in the possession of Council should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer. Requests can also be lodged by email.

Access charges may apply once documents have been processed and a decision on access is made (e.g. photocopying and search and retrieval charges).

Further information regarding Freedom of Information can be found at www.foi.vic.gov.au and on our website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

Council's FOI Part II Statement has been made available for public access online and via its offices.



Public Interest Disclosure Procedures

In accordance with section 69 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*, a council must include in its annual report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosure complaints investigated during the financial year.

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and providing protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are publicly available on Council's website.

During the 2024/2025 year, no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures.



Road Management Act Ministerial Direction

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, a council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial direction in its annual report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.



Carers Recognition

In accordance with the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*, Council is required to report annually on its care measurement obligations under Section 11 of the Act. Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*. Council has promoted the principles of that Act to people in care relationships who receive Council services, to people in care relationships, and to the wider community by:

- Distributing printed material through relevant Council services
- Providing information at Council's customer service centres

Council has taken all practicable measures to ensure staff, Council agents and volunteers working for Council are informed about the principles and obligations of the Act by including information on the care relationship in:

- Council induction and training programs for staff working in front-line positions with the general community
- Induction and training programs for volunteers working directly with the community

Council has taken all practicable measures to review and modify policies, procedures and supports to include recognition of the carer relationship.

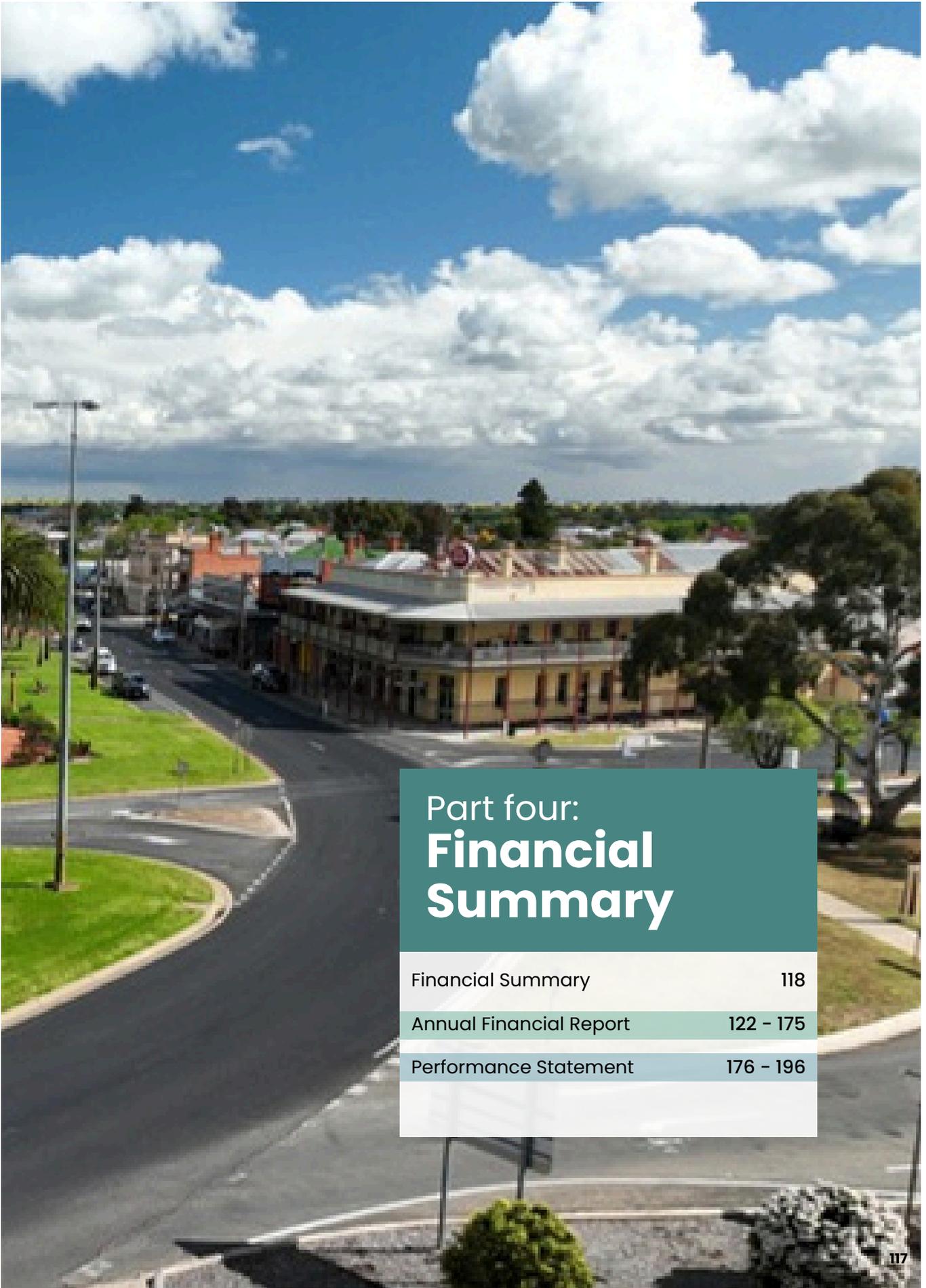


Infrastructure and Development Contributions

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions including levies and works in kind. The report must be published in a council's annual report.

For the 2024/25 year, there are no infrastructure and development contributions to be disclosed.





Part four:
**Financial
Summary**

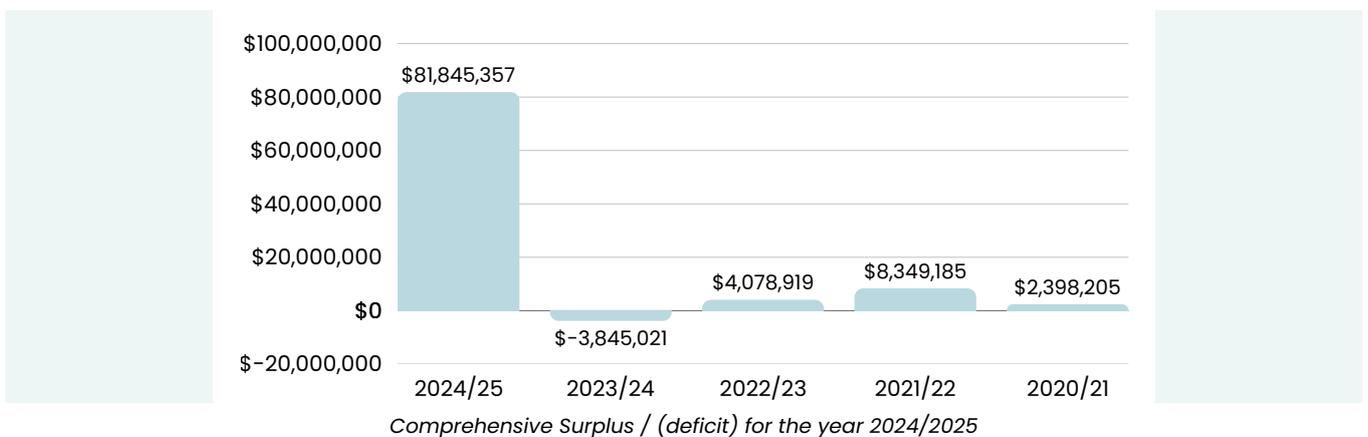
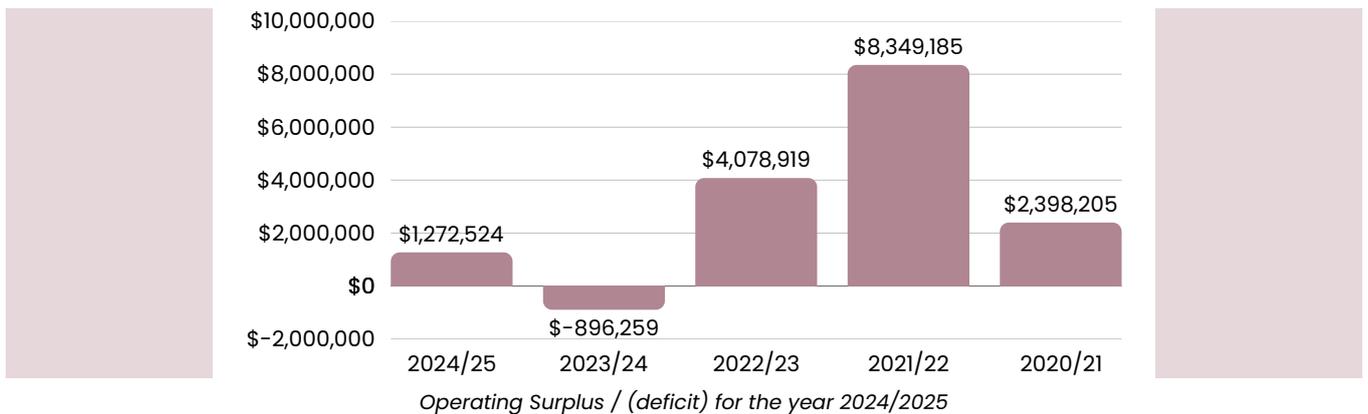
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Financial Summary

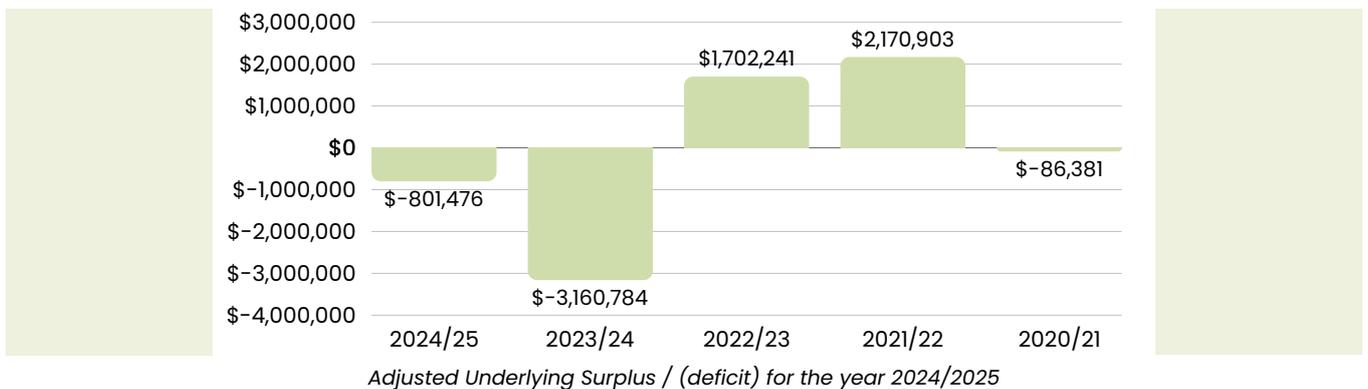
Council's financial position continues to remain sound, although reporting a deficit for 2024/2025. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to Council's financial performance is included within the Financial Statements and Performance Statement sections of this report.

Operating Position

Council reported an operating surplus of \$1.272 million in 2024/2025, this is predominately due to early receipt of 50% of the 2025/2026 Grants Commission funding. Council had an overall comprehensive result of \$81.845 million due to revaluations of buildings and open spaces as well as indexation of roads and other infrastructure applied in this financial year.



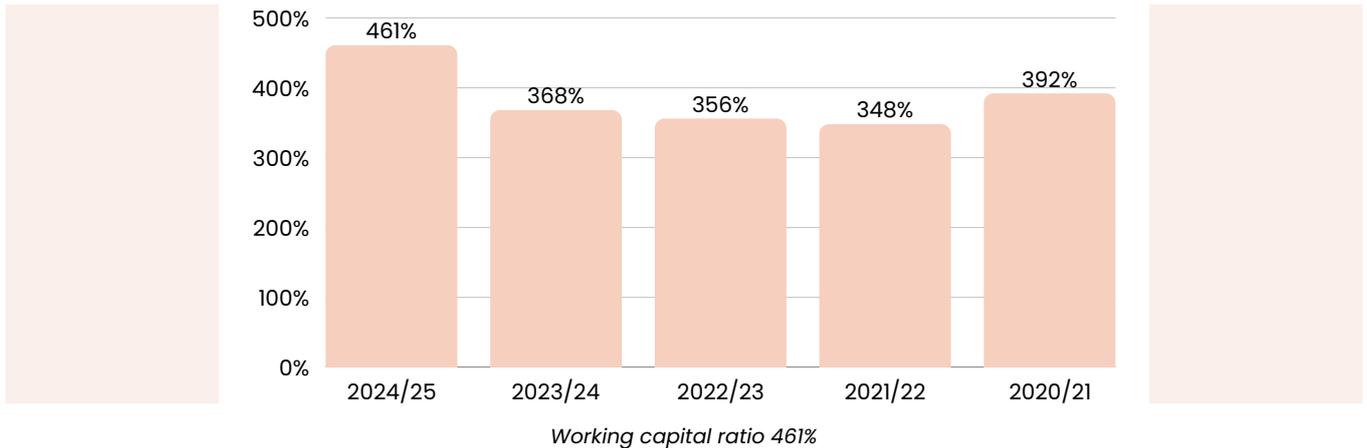
Council's adjusted underlying result, that is, the result after removing non-recurrent capital grants, cash capital contributions and non-monetary capital contributions, is a deficit of \$0.802 million.



Liquidity

Cash increased by \$1.568 million from the previous financial year due to a number of unfinished grant funded capital projects carried forward to 2024/2025 as well as early receipt of 50% of the 2025/2026 Grants Commission funding.

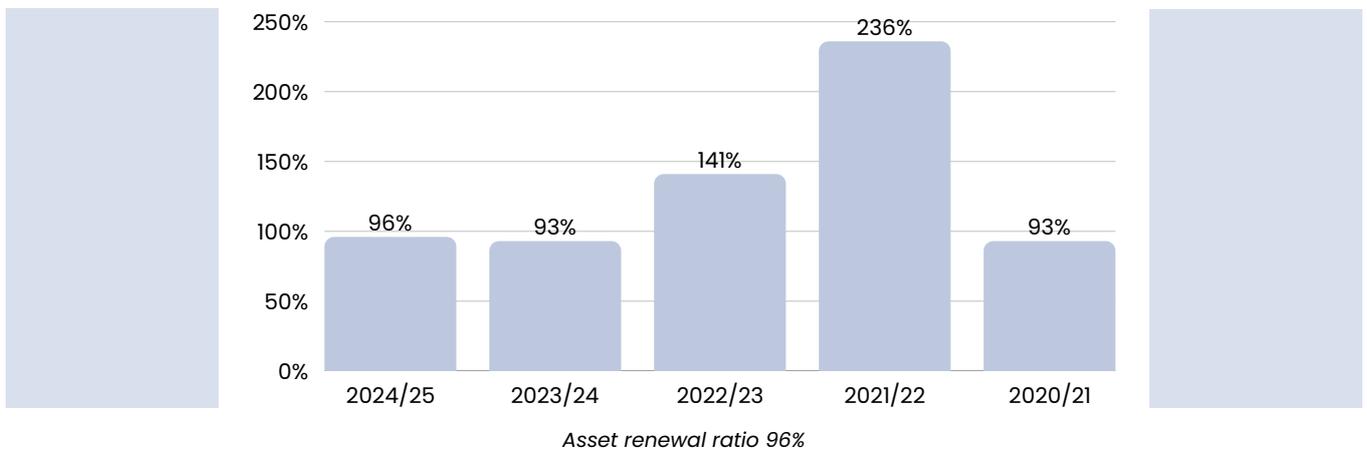
The working capital ratio which assesses Council’s ability to meet its current commitments is calculated by measuring Council’s current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. Council’s result of 461% is an indicator of Council’s strong financial position and well within the band of 150% or more for the Victorian Auditor General’s Office (VAGO) assessment as ‘low risk’.



Obligations

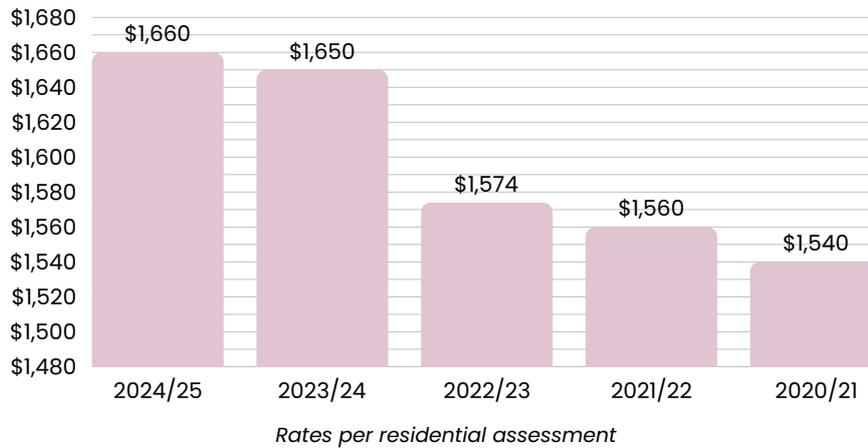
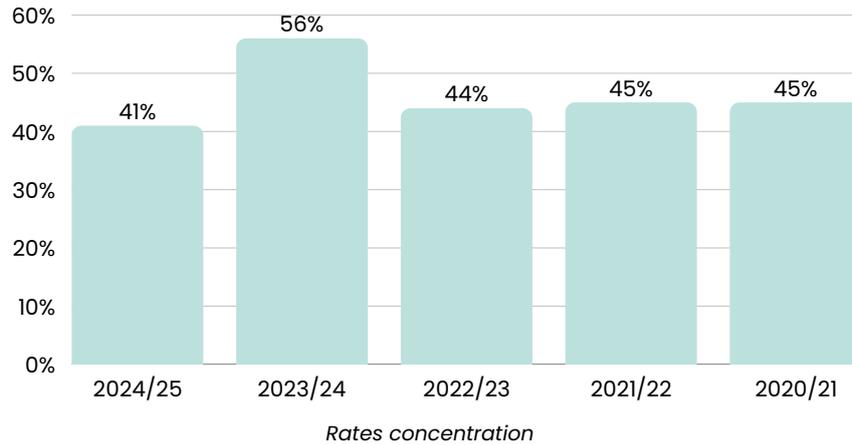
Council aims to ensure that it is able to maintain its infrastructure assets at the expected levels, while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by its community.

With land, building and infrastructure assets valued at more than \$280 million, it is a challenge to maintain them with an income of just \$26.525 million. Assets that are deteriorating faster than their maintenance and renewal can be funded creates an ‘infrastructure renewal gap’. To bridge this gap, Council invested \$5.512 million in infrastructure renewal works during the 2024/2025 year. Council’s asset renewal ratio, which is measured by comparing asset renewal expenditure to depreciation (the reduction in the value of our assets over time, due in particular to wear and tear), was 96%. Council’s budget is focused on renewal expenditure as a priority and utilises grants for new assets and upgrades to assets.



Stability and Efficiency

Council raises a wide range of revenue - including rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions. Despite this, Council's rates concentration which compares rate revenue to total revenue was 41.03% for the 2024/2025 year which is at the lower end of the expected target band of 40% - 80%. Council continues to advocate for additional grants and appreciates the increase in the Grants Commission funding payment, as well as the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grants. Average residential rates per residential assessment for 2024/2025 was \$1,660.06 which compares favourably to similar small rural councils.





Rainbow Federal Street Gardens

Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Financial Report 2024/2025



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Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the *Australian Accounting Standards* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Heather Boyd BBAA, MBA
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated : 21 January 2026

Nihil

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

Dated : 21 January 2026

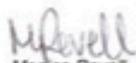
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Cr Rosie Barker
Councillor

Dated : 21 January 2026

Nihil



Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

Dated : 21 January 2026

Nihil



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Hindmarsh Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Hindmarsh Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• balance sheet as at 30 June 2025• comprehensive income statement for the year then ended• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended• statement of cash flows for the year then ended• statement of capital works for the year then ended• notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information• certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2025 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Other information	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the Other Information, which comprises the information in the council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon.</p> <p>My opinion on the financial report does not cover the Other Information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the Other Information. However, in connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the Other Information and in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial report or the knowledge I obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the Other Information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>

Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.• obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control• evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors• conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.• evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report (continued) I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
22 January 2026



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	10,034	9,852
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	173	172
User fees	3.3	1,889	2,313
Grants - operating	3.4	9,011	1,149
Grants - capital	3.4	4,109	5,365
Contributions - monetary	3.5	138	95
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	274	38
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures	6.3	(46)	(14)
Other income	3.7	944	957
Total income / revenue		26,525	19,927
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	(9,387)	(8,109)
Materials and services	4.2	(8,478)	(5,510)
Depreciation	4.3	(6,195)	(5,388)
Allowance for impairment losses	4.4	21	(27)
Other expenses	4.5	(1,215)	(1,790)
Total expenses		(25,253)	(20,823)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,272	(896)
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.2	80,573	(2,949)
Total other comprehensive income		80,573	(2,949)
Total comprehensive result		81,845	(3,845)

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	11,181	11,613
Trade and other receivables	5.1	1,411	1,553
Other financial assets	5.1	2,000	-
Inventories	5.2	117	912
Prepayments	5.2	149	105
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	6.1	-	228
Other assets	5.2	41	43
Total current assets		14,898	14,454
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	2	2
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.3	174	219
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	283,174	202,432
Total non-current assets		283,350	202,653
Total assets		298,248	217,107
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	669	670
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	152	148
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	215	1,227
Provisions	5.4	2,197	1,877
Total current liabilities		3,233	3,922
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	493	509
Total non-current liabilities		493	509
Total liabilities		3,726	4,431
Net assets		294,522	212,676
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		84,337	83,064
Reserves	9.1	210,185	129,612
Total Equity		294,522	212,676

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		212,677	83,065	129,612
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,272	1,272	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.2	80,573	-	80,573
Balance at end of the financial year		294,522	84,337	210,185

2024		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		216,522	83,961	132,561
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(896)	(896)	-
Net Asset impairment	9.1	(2,949)	-	(2,949)
Balance at end of the financial year		212,676	83,064	129,612

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		10,040	9,767
Statutory fees and fines		10	15
User fees		2,399	3,064
Grants - operating		9,022	1,232
Grants - capital		3,086	4,783
Contributions - monetary		138	95
Interest received		625	692
Trust funds and deposits taken		-	24
Other receipts		280	265
Net GST refund(payment)		41	(21)
Employee costs		(9,062)	(8,081)
Materials and services		(6,654)	(1,971)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		-	(5,697)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(21)	-
Other payments		(726)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		9,178	4,167
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of investments		(2,000)	-
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	(8,184)	(7,239)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		574	97
Redemption of term deposits		-	4,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(9,610)	(3,142)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(432)	1,024
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		11,613	10,588
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		11,181	11,612
Financing arrangements			
Financing arrangements	5.5	2,007	2,022
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1	152	147

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Property			
Buildings		2,499	1,867
Total buildings		<u>2,499</u>	<u>1,867</u>
Total property		<u>2,499</u>	<u>1,867</u>
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		682	847
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		279	3
Computers and telecommunications		70	102
Library books		31	22
Total plant and equipment		<u>1,061</u>	<u>975</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads		2,590	1,839
Bridges		51	2
Footpaths and cycleways		90	780
Drainage		-	256
Other infrastructure		1,890	1,521
Total infrastructure		<u>4,621</u>	<u>4,398</u>
Total capital works expenditure		<u>8,181</u>	<u>7,239</u>
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		2,207	1,946
Asset renewal expenditure		5,512	3,977
Asset expansion expenditure		-	268
Asset upgrade expenditure		462	1,049
Total capital works expenditure		<u>8,181</u>	<u>7,239</u>

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

Hindmarsh Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20 January 1995 and is a body corporate. Council's main office is located at 92 Nelson St, Nhill, Victoria.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Local Government Act 2020, and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting policy information

1.1 Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (refer to Note 3.4)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.7)
- whether or not AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

1.2 Impact of emergencies and natural disasters

During 2024/25 emergencies or natural disasters impacted Council's operations. Council has noted the following significant impacts on its financial operations:

- Additional revenue – funding of \$36,270 was received to compensate Council for work undertaken after the Little Desert National Park Fire.
- Additional costs – additional costs of \$88,621 were incurred to return Council assets adjoining the Little Desert back to standard after the Little Desert National Park Fire.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$100,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2025 \$'000	Actual 2025 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	10,043	10,033	(9)	-0.09%	1
Statutory fees and fines	208	173	(35)	-16.78%	
User fees	1,453	1,889	437	30.08%	2
Grants - operating	5,684	9,011	3,327	58.53%	3
Grants - capital	3,526	4,109	583	16.52%	4
Contributions - monetary	9	138	129	1518.86%	5
Net gain(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	160	274	114	71.19%	6
Share of net profits(losses) of associates and joint ventures	-	(46)	(46)	0.00%	
Other income	625	944	320	51.17%	7
Total income / revenue	21,707	26,526	4,819	22.20%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	8,727	9,387	(660)	7.56%	8
Materials and services	5,519	8,478	(2,959)	53.62%	9
Depreciation	5,107	6,195	(1,088)	21.30%	10
Other expenses	1,324	1,193	130	-9.85%	11
Total expenses	20,677	25,253	(4,576)	22.13%	
Surplus(deficit) for the year	1,029	1,273	243	-23.61%	

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

(i) Explanation of material variations

1	Rates and charges	<p>Rates and charges are slightly below budget due to changes from supplementary rates and revaluation adjustments after 1 July 2024.</p> <p>User fees are above budget due to 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 during the financial year and a significant increase in patronage at Riverside Holiday Park, Dimboola. Income from Rural Roads Victoria for provisioning 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 as the demolition of a privately owned fire damaged building.</p>
2	User fees	
3	Grants - operating	<p>Operating recurrent grants are 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 2023/24. Funding has also been received for the Multicultural Storytime which is delivered through Wimmera Southern Mallee Development across Hindmarsh Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council. Non-recurrent operating grants received includes VicHealth, Seniors Festival Active Living, Tiny Towns - Jeparit Streetscape, Education from Sustainability Vic and a grant for the Jeparit Weir design.</p>
4	Grants - capital	<p>Funding from the Roads to Recovery program for 2024/25 was slightly higher than budgeted. Funding was received for the new Kinder on School Sites fit out at Nhill and Dimboola as well as recognition of funding received in 2023/24 committed to capital projects undertaken during 2024/25.</p>
5	Contributions - monetary	<p>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 Jetty from Victoria Fisheries.</p>
6	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.	<p>Net gain/(loss) of disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is higher than budgeted due to the sale of the Gerang-Gerung Hall, Dimboola Senior Citizens Centre as well as sale of surplus to needs plant and equipment.</p>
7	Other income	<p>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 2024/25 Financial Assistance Grants payment in July 2024.</p> <p>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.</p>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

8	Employee costs	<p>Employee costs are higher than budgeted due to Council taking the following decisions after the adoption of the budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Council resolved to bring swimming pool operations back in house for the 2024/25 summer season, which had been budgeted for a contractor to provide*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 increases in patronage at Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park also increased staffing requirements. The increase in staff costs at Riverside Holiday Park are offset by revenue.</p>
9	Materials and services	<p>Materials and services are above budget due to expenses for grant funded projects including Multicultural Storytime, Early Years Enrollment, Engage for youth activities, and Reconnecting Communities through small events.</p> <p>Urgent maintenance work was undertaken on Council buildings including the Nhill office, including to the heating/cooling. Reserve maintenance was higher than budgeted due to urgent works being required to repair roof leaks.</p> <p>Council resumed operations of the Nhill Caravan park in September 2024 with additional expenditure in at the park offset by an increase in income from users fees.</p> <p>There was an increase in the cost associated with kerbside waste and recyclable collection and delivery to the Doon landfill.</p>
10	Depreciation	<p>Depreciation was higher than budgeted due to capital works projects being completed.</p>
11	Other expenses	<p>Other expenses is less than budgeted due to Council expenses for Kindergarten Subsidy and a reduction in regional events.</p>

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2025 \$'000	Actual 2025 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Buildings	500	2,499	1,999	399.80%	1
Total buildings	500	2,499	1,999	399.80%	
Total property	500	2,499	1,999	4	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	922	682	(240)	-26.04%	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	5	279	274	5479.68%	3
Computers and telecommunications	85	70	(15)	-18.07%	
Library books	40	31	(9)	-23.22%	
Total plant and equipment	1,052	1,061	9	0.88%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	4,279	2,590	(1,689)	-39.47%	4
Bridges	50	51	1	1.13%	
Footpaths and cycleways	70	90	20	28.82%	5
Drainage	68	-	(68)	-100.00%	6
Other infrastructure	192	1,890	1,697	882.28%	7
Total infrastructure	4,660	4,621	(39)	-0.84%	
Total capital works expenditure	6,212	8,181	1,969	31.70%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	459	2,207	1,748	381.24%	
Asset renewal expenditure	5,583	5,512	(71)	-1.27%	
Asset expansion expenditure	70	-	(70)	-100.00%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	100	462	362	361.70%	
Total capital works expenditure	6,212	8,181	1,969	31.70%	

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	A number of building projects were undertaken during 2024/25 including projects carried forward from 2023/24. The building projects included the Dimboola Soundshell extension, building renewal at the Nhill Historical Society, completion of the Jeparit Workshop and commencement of the Davis park changerooms and tiered seating building.
2	Plant 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 2024/25 which were ordered in 2023/24.
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 was not budgeted.
4	Roads	Council budgeted to undertake two large road upgrade projects to be funded by grants however were unsuccessful with the funding applications.
5	Footpaths and cycleways	Work has been completed on the Wimmera Discovery Trail using carried forward grant funds.
6	Drainage	Drainage expenditure is under budget due to the additional focus on culvert maintenance during 2024/25.
7	Other infrastructure	Other infrastructure projects completed during 2024/25 include projects carried forward from 2023/24, grant funded projects and budgeted projects. These include improvements to swimming pools, completion of the Rainbow Rises event centre amenities and shed, upgrades to playgrounds, stage 2 of Nhill streetscape improvements, construction of Nhill Dog Park, installation of a jetty at Rainbow Lake, tourism signage, caravan park improvements at Nhill, Nhill Aerodrome Runway, and the Rainbow Silo.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1 Our Community

Our community's mission is to increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.

Built and Natural environment

Build and Natural Environment's mission is to provide infrastructure essential to support the community and to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Competitive and Innovative Economy

Competitive and Innovative Economy's mission is to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability's mission is to promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability, and to advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2025					
Our Community	1,130	(1,445)	(314)	952	17,445
Built and Natural Environment	3,944	(15,175)	(11,231)	2,315	238,439
Competitive and Innovative Economy	3,047	(2,480)	567	1,481	18,960
Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	18,405	(6,153)	12,252	8,372	23,404
	26,526	(25,253)	1,273	13,120	298,248

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2024					
Our Community	996	(2,081)	(1,085)	848	1,835
Built and Natural Environment	4,907	(11,302)	(6,395)	4,557	190,523
Competitive and Innovative Economy	2,997	(2,540)	457	956	3,594
Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	11,027	(4,902)	6,126	154	20,330
Unattributed	-	-	-	-	822
	19,927	(20,824)	(897)	6,514	217,106

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

3.1 Rates and charges 2025 2024
\$'000 \$'000

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is the value of land and all of its improvements.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2024/25 was \$4,449.5 million (2023/24 \$4,015.9 million).

General rates	7,877	7,669
Municipal charge	747	746
Waste management charge	1,254	1,279
Revenue in lieu of rates	156	158
Total rates and charges	10,034	9,852

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2024 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2024.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as income when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Animal registration fees	65	65
Building fees	19	16
Infringements and costs	14	24
Town planning fees	65	53
Land information certificates	5	9
Permits	5	6
Total statutory fees and fines	173	172

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

3.3 User fees

Aged and health services	4	2
Private works	80	40
Caravan parks & camping fees	1,245	808
Transfer station fees	154	145
Commercial garbage collection fees	72	61
Film screenings and hall hire	9	5
Regional Roads Victoria works	142	1,114
Lease fees	28	63
Certificates	38	39
Events	-	2
Recreation Facility Fees	11	-
Emergency Response	63	-
Other fees and charges	43	32
Total user fees	1,889	2,313

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised at a point in time	1,889	2,313
Total user fees	1,889	2,313

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	10,345	3,423
State funded grants	2,775	3,091
Total grants received	13,120	6,514
(a) Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Financial Assistance Grants	8,286	238
General home care	-	23
Other	24	23
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Case Assessment	-	72
Delivered meals	-	4
Home care services	-	8
Home maintenance	-	4
Senior citizens	-	17
School crossing supervisors	8	8
Facilitated playgroup	44	38
Kindergarten central enrolment	65	30
Libraries	124	124
Freeza youth participation program	36	36
Engage!	54	50
Free from violence	140	50
Roadside weeds and pest management	85	85
Landcare facilitator	31	30
Other	-	3
Total recurrent operating grants	8,896	843
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Reginal events funding	-	16
Covid relief program	-	60
VicHealth	45	45
Premiers reading challenge	6	6
Animal welfare - pet desexing	-	1
Kerbside reform	-	85
Multi-cultural storytime	33	39
State library innovation grant - jigsaws	-	15
Onsite domestic water management	-	20
Education sustainability	13	9
Seniors Active Living	10	-
Immunisation Services	9	-
Other	-	12
Total non-recurrent operating grants	115	307
Total operating grants	9,011	1,149

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

(b) Capital Grants

<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to recovery	1,900	1,081
Local roads & community infrastructure	86	1,186
Nhill aerodrome	49	300
Building better regions	-	572
Total recurrent capital grants	2,036	3,138
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Rainbow Rec Reserve change rooms	10	13
Dimboola boating pontoon	-	38
Silo Art	1,249	103
Redevelop Rainbow Rises	50	168
Libraries to you, library van	-	6
Transfer station upgrades	-	58
Yurunga Homestead living heritage	-	18
Park cabins WDA	158	475
Digital planning	-	60
Albacutya Bridge	-	1,200
Tiny Towns - Jeparit Streetscape	11	25
Davis Park changerooms	-	63
Tiny Towns - Nhill dog park	50	-
Nhill Early Learning Facility Upgrade	165	-
Dimboola Early Learning Facility Upgrade	165	-
TAC Community Roads Safety	29	-
Country Football Program	162	-
Nhill Caravan Park Upgrades	24	-
Total non-recurrent capital grants	2,074	2,226
Total capital grants	4,109	5,365
TOTAL GRANTS	13,120	6,514

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

(c) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

General purpose	8,310	321
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	4,109	5,365
Other specific purpose grants	616	631
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	85	197
	<u>13,120</u>	<u>6,514</u>
	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

Capital		
Balance at start of year	1,227	1,726
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	35	197
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,047)	(696)
Balance at year end	<u>215</u>	<u>1,227</u>

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
3.5 Contributions		
Monetary	138	95
Total contributions	<u>138</u>	<u>95</u>

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	757	100
Written down value of assets disposed	(483)	(62)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	<u>274</u>	<u>38</u>

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.7 Other Income

Interest	665	692
Recoupments	190	171
Fire services levy administration	48	47
Scrap metal and transfer station fees	29	34
Other	12	13
Total other income	<u>944</u>	<u>957</u>

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES		
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	6,803	6,039
WorkCover	374	254
Annual leave, sick leave & long service leave	939	656
Superannuation	938	843
Fringe benefits tax	88	108
Training	207	165
Other	38	44
Total employee costs	9,387	8,109
(b) Superannuation		
Council made contributions to the following funds:		
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	11	22
Employer contributions - other funds	-	-
	11	22
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	358	338
Employer contributions - other funds	569	482
	927	821
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.		
4.2 Materials and services		
Building maintenance	689	616
Consultants and labour hire	99	74
Contract payments	181	278
Depots and workshops	981	39
Emergency assistance & fire prevention	45	66
Health promotion	9	22
Senior citizens activities	3	13
Community development, tourism & youth activities	518	198
Garbage & recycling collection & waste disposal	1,326	1,036
Utilities	391	330
Office administration	480	259
Information technology	373	423
Parks, reserves & aerodromes	86	113
Plant & fleet operations	562	742
Printing, stationery & advertising	34	12
Quarry operations	(15)	42
Rating & valuations	6	10
Roads, footpaths, bridges & drainage management	2,285	748
Swimming pool maintenance & management	116	400
Town beautification	134	35
Environmental	164	
Other	11	54
Total materials and services	8,478	5,510
Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.		

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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

4.3 Depreciation

Property	454	446
Plant and equipment	1,675	1,490
Infrastructure	4,066	3,452
Total depreciation	6,195	5,388

Refer to note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

2025	2024
\$'000	\$'000

4.4 Allowance for impairment losses

Rates debtors	6	(6)
Other debtors	(28)	33
Total allowance for impairment losses	(21)	27

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors

Balance at the beginning of the year	60	34
New allowances recognised during the year	6	27
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(28)	1
Amounts allowed for but recovered during the year	2	(1)
Balance at end of year	41	60

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.5 Other expenses

Advertising	67	74
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	82	63
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	23	14
Bank charges	31	35
Community action grants	17	19
Business assistance grants	17	-
Council contributions - other	36	31
Councillors' allowances	230	225
Fire services levy	29	27
Insurance	430	407
Landfill charges	-	323
Legal costs	37	45
Postage	18	20
Subscriptions	169	166
Telecommunications	7	6
Town committees	23	114
Reimbursement of overpayments	-	200
Others	-	21
Total other expenses	1,215	1,790

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS	2025	2024
5.1 Financial assets	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	5	4
Cash at bank	4,176	2,609
Term deposits	7,000	9,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	11,181	11,613
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits	2,000	-
Total current other financial assets	2,000	-
Total other financial assets	2,000	-
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	13,181	11,613
Councils cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:		
- Trust funds and deposits (note 5.3)	152	147
Total restricted funds	152	147
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	13,029	11,466
Intended allocations		
Although not externally restricted, the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:		
- Grants received in advance - capital works	215	1,227
Total funds subject to intended allocations	215	1,227

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
(c) Trade and other receivables		
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	642	642
Allowance for expected credit loss - rates	(21)	(15)
Building permit debtors	11	11
Infringement debtors	214	197
Net GST receivable	175	216
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Other debtors	151	150
Sundry debtors	252	395
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(13)	(43)
Total current trade and other receivables	1,411	1,553
Non-current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Street scheme debtors	2	2
Total non-current trade and other receivables	2	2
Total trade and other receivables	1,413	1,555

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of Receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Past due by up to 30 days	71	340
Past due between 31 and 180 days	172	19
Past due between 181 and 365 days	2	6
Past due by more than 1 year	159	180
Total trade and other receivables	404	545

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$13,186 (2024: \$43,298) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was \$13,186 (2024: \$43,298). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Past due by more than 1 year	13	60
Total trade & other receivables	13	60

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

5.2 Non-financial assets	2025	2024
(a) Inventories	\$'000	\$'000
Inventories held for distribution	117	912
Total inventories	117	912

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets		
Prepayments	149	105
Other	41	43
Total other assets	190	148

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities	2025	2024
(a) Trade and other payables	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	415	332
Accrued expenses	255	338
Total current trade and other payables	669	670

(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	4	2
Fire services levy	148	146
Total current trust funds and deposits	152	148

(c) Contract and other liabilities		
Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance - capital	215	1,227
Total contract liabilities	215	1,227

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Trust funds and deposits

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of the completion of obligations contained within funding agreements. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the Hindmarsh Shire Council.

Purpose and nature of items

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

5.4 Provisions

	Employee \$ '000	Landfill restoration \$ '000	Quarry \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2025				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,138	87	161	2,386
Additional provisions	857	-	-	857
Amounts used	(532)	-	(22)	(554)
Balance at the end of the financial year	2,463	87	139	2,689
<i>Provisions - current</i>	2,085	87	25	2,196
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	379	-	114	493
2024				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,244	29	177	2,451
Additional provisions	648	57	21	727
Amounts used	(754)	-	(38)	(792)
Balance at the end of the financial year	2,138	87	161	2,386
<i>Provisions - current</i>	1,744	87	47	1,877
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	395	-	114	509

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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	624	601
Long service leave	138	122
	<u>763</u>	<u>724</u>
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	161	166
Long service leave	1,161	854
	<u>1,322</u>	<u>1,020</u>
Total current employee provisions	<u>2,085</u>	<u>1,744</u>
Non-current		
Long service leave	379	395
Total non-current employee provisions	<u>379</u>	<u>395</u>
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	2,085	1,744
Non-current	379	395
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	<u>2,463</u>	<u>2,138</u>

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.203%	4.348%
- index rate	4.250%	4.450%

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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Current	87	87
Non-current	-	-
	<u>87</u>	<u>87</u>

Council is obligated to restore a number of landfill sites to a particular standard. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of rehabilitation works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

Council reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.203%	4.348%
- index rate	4.250%	4.450%

(c) Quarry restoration

Current	25	47
Non-current	114	114
	<u>139</u>	<u>161</u>

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.203%	4.348%
- index rate	4.250%	4.450%

(d) Summary of provisions

Current

Annual Leave	766	767
Long Service Leave	1,299	976
Landfill	87	87
Quarry	25	47
Total current provisions	<u>2,196</u>	<u>1,877</u>

Non-Current

Long Service Leave	379	395
Quarry	114	114
Total non-current provisions	<u>493</u>	<u>509</u>

5.5 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2025.

Bank overdraft	2,000	2,000
Credit card facilities	8	30
Total facilities	<u>2,008</u>	<u>2,030</u>
Used facilities	1	8
Unused facilities	<u>2,007</u>	<u>2,022</u>

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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

5.6 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

Commitments for expenditure

2025	Not later than	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	1 year	year and not	years and not	years	
	\$'000	later than 2	later than 5	Later than 5	\$'000
		years	years	years	
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Printers/photocopiers	5	3	-	-	8
Garbage collection	834	852	1,758	-	3,444
Internal audit services	15	-	-	-	15
Kindergarten services	67	-	-	-	67
Information communication & technology	77	78	161	326	642
Quarry material	22	22	60	-	104
Total	1,020	956	1,979	326	4,280
Capital					
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
2024					
	Not later than	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	1 year	year and not	years and not	years	
	\$'000	later than 2	later than 5	Later than 5	\$'000
		years	years	years	
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Printers/photocopiers	11	6	-	-	17
Garbage collection	1,033	1,084	1,139	1,195	4,451
Internal audit services	19	-	-	-	19
Kindergarten services	23	24	26	27	100
Quarry material	248	260	-	-	508
Total	1,333	1,375	1,164	1,222	5,095
Capital					
Buildings	4,208	-	-	-	4,208
Total	4,208	-	-	-	4,208

(b) Operating lease receivables

Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	47	38
Later than one year and not later than five years	140	113
Later than five years	-	325
	187	476

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Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

5.7 Leases

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of \$10,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses relating to:		
Short-term leases	-	-
Leases of low value assets	5	5
Total	5	5

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

Payable:

Within one year	5	5
Later than one year but not later than five years	-	3
Total lease commitments	5	8

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

6.1 Non current assets classified as held for sale

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Written down value of asset held for disposal	-	228
Total non current assets classified as held for sale	-	228

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

6.2 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount							Carrying amount
	30 June 2024	Additions	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Write-off	Transfers	30 June 2025
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	30,046	957	52,020	(454)	(272)	-	532	83,729
Plant and equipment	7,868	1,061	-	(1,674)	(253)	-	-	7,002
Infrastructure	162,521	4,167	27,653	(4,066)	(1,345)	-	-	188,930
Work in progress	1,996	2,869	-	-	-	-	(1,352)	3,513
	202,431	9,054	80,573	(6,195)	(1,869)	-	(820)	283,174

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP	Additions	Write-off	Transfers	Closing WIP
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	595	1,543	-	(532)	1,606
Infrastructure	1,402	1,325	-	(820)	1,907
Total	1,996	2,869	-	(1,352)	3,513

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

(a) Property

	Land	Total Land	Heritage buildings	Buildings	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	2,575	2,575	1,364	27,329	28,693	595	31,883
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	-	-	(66)	(1,156)	(1,222)	-	(1,222)
	2,575	2,575	1,298	26,173	27,471	595	30,641
Movements in fair value							
Additions	-	-	-	957	957	1,543	2,500
Revaluation	-	-	8,098	68,190	76,288	-	76,288
Disposal	-	-	-	(254)	(254)	-	(254)
Transfers	-	-	-	532	532	(532)	-
	-	-	8,098	69,425	77,521	1,011	78,532
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(103)	(351)	(454)	-	(454)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	(18)	(18)	-	(18)
Depreciation and amortisation on revaluation	-	-	(3,950)	(19,416)	(23,366)	-	(23,366)
	-	-	(4,052)	(19,786)	(23,838)	-	(23,838)
At fair value 30 June 2025	2,575	2,575	9,460	96,754	106,214	1,606	110,395
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	-	-	(4,118)	(20,942)	(25,060)	-	(25,060)
Carrying amount	2,575	2,575	5,342	75,812	81,154	1,606	85,335

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant machinery and equipment \$'000	Fixtures fittings and furniture \$'000	Library books \$'000	Total plant and equipment \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	14,838	1,457	322	16,616
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(7,684)	(956)	(108)	(8,748)
	7,154	501	214	7,868
Movements in fair value				
Additions	682	349	31	1,061
Revaluation	-	-	-	-
Disposal	(1,485)	-	-	(1,485)
	(803)	349	31	(424)
Movements in accumulated depreciation				
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,477)	(165)	(32)	(1,674)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,219	14	-	1,233
Depreciation and amortisation on revaluation	-	-	-	-
	(258)	(151)	(32)	(442)
At fair value 30 June 2025	14,035	1,805	352	16,192
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(7,842)	(1,107)	(140)	(9,190)
Carrying amount	6,092	698	212	7,003

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Kerb & channel	Other Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2024	125,122	10,113	6,276	7,178	17,446	14,497	1,402	182,033
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2024	(8,055)	(1,741)	-	(2,579)	-	(5,736)	-	(18,111)
	117,067	8,372	6,276	4,599	17,446	8,761	1,402	163,922
Movements in fair value								
Additions	2,322	51	90	-	196	1,372	1,325	5,357
Revaluation	9,942	-	6,506	-	15,556	14,816	-	46,910
Disposal	(1,308)	(10)	-	-	-	(1,335)	-	(2,653)
Transfers	135	-	-	-	-	-	(820)	(685)
	11,091	41	6,686	-	15,752	14,854	505	48,929
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	(2,442)	(141)	(158)	(75)	(294)	(957)	-	(4,066)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	133	-	-	-	-	1,175	-	1,308
Impairment Loss 2022 on revaluation	1,684	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,684
Depreciation and amortisation on revaluation	(2,116)	-	(4,504)	-	(13,397)	(923)	-	(20,941)
	(2,741)	(141)	(4,662)	(75)	(13,691)	(706)	-	(22,016)
At fair value 30 June 2025	136,213	10,154	12,962	7,178	33,198	29,351	1,907	230,962
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2025	(10,796)	(1,882)	(4,662)	(2,654)	(13,691)	(6,442)	-	(40,127)
Carrying amount	125,417	8,272	8,300	4,524	19,506	22,909	1,907	190,836

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer also to Note 8.4 for further disclosure regarding fair value measurement.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
<i>Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods</i>		
Land & land improvements		
land	-	1
Buildings		
buildings	10-150 years	1
Plant and Equipment		
plant, machinery and equipment	2-20 years	1
fixtures, fittings and furniture	2-50 years	1
books	10 years	1
Infrastructure		
roads - pavements and substructure	15-110 years	1
roads - kerb, channel and minor culverts and other	60-100 years	1
bridges - deck and substructure	50-120 years	1
footpaths and cycleways	15-80 years	1
drainage	80-120 years	1
others	5-100 years	1

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of buildings was undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Ashay Prabhu, MEI(Aust) CPEng, NPER: Membership 1102199 of Modelve. The valuation of buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Land	-	-	2,575	Jun-21	Full
Buildings	-	-	75,812	Jul-24	Full
Heritage Buildings	-	-	5,342	Jul-24	Full
Total	-	-	83,729		

Valuation of infrastructure

An index based revaluation was conducted on infrastructure assets in the current year, this valuation was based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Output of Construction Industries class indices, a full revaluation of these assets will be conducted in 2025/26.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Valuation of open spaces was undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Ashay Prabhu, MEI(Aust) CPEng, NPER: Membership 1102199 of Modelve. The valuation of open space is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	-	-	125,417	Jun-25	Indexation
Bridges	-	-	8,272	Jun-18	Full
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	8,300	Jun-25	Indexation
Drainage	-	-	4,524	Jun-20	Full
Kerb & channel	-	-	19,506	Jun-25	Indexation
Other infrastructure	-	-	22,909	Jun-25	Indexation
Total	-	-	188,929		

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$300 to \$2,600 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 5 years to 75 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 10 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries		
(a) Investments in associates		
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited	174	219
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited		
<i>Background</i>		
Hindmarsh Shire Council, in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, Buloke Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council, have an interest in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited. Hindmarsh Shire Council has a 11.18% interest in equity (9.18% in 2023/24). Northern Grampians Shire Council was a member in 2023/2024 however withdrew in 2024/2025.		
Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited	<u>174</u>	<u>219</u>
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	219	209
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	(46)	13
Transfers (to) from reserves	-	-
Distributions for the year	-	-
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	<u>174</u>	<u>222</u>
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	34	45
Transfers (to) from reserves	-	(11)
Council's share of reserves at end of year	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	219	233
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	(46)	(14)
Share of asset revaluation	-	-
Distributions received	-	-
Carrying value of investment at end of year	<u>174</u>	<u>219</u>
Council's share of expenditure commitments		
Operating commitments	60	59
Capital commitments	-	-
Council's share of expenditure commitments	<u>60</u>	<u>59</u>
Council's share of contingent liabilities and contingent assets		
Current provisions	6	8
Non-current provisions	3	4

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

Hindmarsh Shire Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.3.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Hindmarsh Shire Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Councillors		
Councillor B Ireland (Mayor 1/7/2024 - 26/10/2024)		
Councillor W Bywaters (Deputy Mayor 1/7/2024 - 26/10/2024)		
Councillor M Albrecht 1/7/2024 - 26/10/2024		
Councillor R Gersch 1/7/2024 - 26/10/2024		
Councillor R Ismay 1/7/2024 - 26/10/2024		
Councillor R Ismay 1/7/2024-26/10/2024 re-elected 13/11/2024-30/6/2025 (Mayor 13/11/2024-30/6/2025)		
Councillor D Nelson 1/7/2024 - 26/10/2024		
Councillor C Uoy 13/11/2024 - 30/6/2025 (Deputy Mayor 13/11/2024-30/6/2025)		
Councillor R Aitken 13/11/2024 - 30/6/2025		
Councillor R Barker 13/11/2024 - 30/6/2025		
Councillor J Barry 13/11/2024 - 30/6/2025		
Councillor A Clark 13/11/2024 - 30/6/2025		
Officers		
Chief Executive Officer Monica Revell		
Director - Corporate & Community Services Petra Croot		
Director - Infrastructure Ram Upadhyaya		
Total Number of Councillors	11	6
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	3	6
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	14	12

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
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**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	884	901
Other long-term employee benefits	1	33
Post-employment benefits	94	99
Total	979	1,033

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
\$0 - \$9,999	3	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	5	-
\$20,000 - \$29,999	2	3
\$30,000 - \$39,999	-	3
\$60,000 - \$69,999	1	1
\$80,000 - \$89,999	-	2
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	-	1
\$220,000 - \$229,999	1	-
\$240,000 - \$249,999	1	-
\$260,000 - \$269,999	-	1
\$270,000 - \$279,999	1	-
Total	14	12

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

There are no other senior staff or officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
7.2 Related party disclosure		
(a) Transactions with related parties		
During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.		
<i>T ismay & Co (a related party to Cr R Ismay)</i>		
Purchases of hardware 30 day terms	115	119
<i>Nhill IGA (a related party to Cr W Bywaters)</i>		
Groceries and newspapers 30 day terms	4	14
<i>Rural Councils Victoria (a related party to Cr R Gersch)</i>		
Membership and conferences 30 day terms	6	6
<i>Hindmarsh Landcare Network (a related party to Cr D Nelson)</i>		
Membership 30 day terms	-	11
<i>Hot Spark Fabrication (a related party to Cr W Bywaters)</i>		
Plant repairs 30 day terms	3	62
<i>Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (formerly Wimmera Development Association) (a related party to Cr M Albrecht)</i>		
Membership and conferences 30 day terms	56	55
<i>Lions Club (a related party to T Clark)</i>	2	-
(b) Outstanding balances with related parties		
The following balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties	Nil	Nil
(c) Loans to/from related parties		
The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:	Nil	Nil
(d) Commitments to/from related parties		
The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:	Nil	Nil

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.
At 30 June 2025 Council had no Contingent assets to disclose.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Future superannuation contributions.

Other than the disclosed contributions, Hindmarsh Shire Council has not paid any unfunded liability payments to Vision Super. There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefits category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 are \$12,000.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council was a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

MAV Workcare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013, there is a six-year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). At the end of the liability period, an adjustment payment may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payment is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2025 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are expected to impact Council.
In September 2024 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued two Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS). This followed Commonwealth legislation establishing Australia's sustainability reporting framework. Relevant entities will be required to undertake mandatory reporting of climate-related disclosures in future financial years. Public sector application issues remain under consideration and Council will continue to monitor developments and potential implications for future financial years.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

8.3 Financial Instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank. Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes council to fair value interest rate risk / Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- diversification of investment product;
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
 - Council may require collateral where appropriate; and
 - Council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.
- Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 2% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.1%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

Council has considered the amendments to AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement that apply for the 2024-25 financial year as a result of AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities. For assets, where the Council adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, the Council now considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.

The AASB 13 amendments apply prospectively, comparative figures have not been restated.

The AASB 13 amendments have impacted Council's financial statements as follows:

- The current replacement cost of Council assets, such as infrastructure assets, has increased by \$1.542 million due to the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets;

Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	3 to 5 years
Buildings	3 to 5 years
Roads	3 to 5 years
Bridges	3 to 5 years
Footpaths and cycleways	3 to 5 years
Drainage	3 to 5 years
Other infrastructure	3 to 5 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increase

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

Member Councils, including Hindmarsh Shire Council, confirmed cessation of the MOU arrangement with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited by deed poll dated 27 August 2025, to take effect on 26 August 2026, and further formalised that no financial contributions to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited would be made in the 2025/2026 financial year or thereafter in the same deed poll.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increase (decrease) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
9.1 Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2025			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,832	-	1,832
Buildings	8,176	52,920	61,097
	<u>10,008</u>	<u>52,920</u>	<u>62,929</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads	106,536	9,509	116,046
Bridges	218	-	218
Footpaths and cycleways	3,051	2,092	5,143
Kerb & Channel	-	2,159	2,159
Drainage	2,416	-	2,416
Other infrastructure	7,354	13,893	21,247
Share in asset revaluation in associates	28	-	28
	<u>119,603</u>	<u>27,653</u>	<u>147,256</u>
Total asset revaluation reserves	<u>129,612</u>	<u>80,573</u>	<u>210,185</u>
2024			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,832	-	1,832
Buildings	8,176	-	8,176
	<u>10,008</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,008</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads	111,057	(4,521)	106,536
Bridges	218	-	218
Footpaths and cycleways	1,479	1,572	3,051
Drainage	2,416	-	2,416
Other infrastructure	7,354	-	7,354
Share in asset revaluation in associates	28	-	28
	<u>122,553</u>	<u>(2,949)</u>	<u>119,604</u>
Total asset revaluation reserves	<u>132,561</u>	<u>(2,949)</u>	<u>129,612</u>

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,272	(896)
<i>Non-cash adjustments:</i>		
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(274)	38
Impairment losses	6,195	5,388
Other	(228)	(164)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	142	497
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(44)	102
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	83	(331)
Decrease/(increase) in contract and other liabilities	1,012	(499)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	795	(187)
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	304	40
(Decrease)/increase in accrued expenses	(83)	47
(Decrease)/increase in trust funds	4	133
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>9,178</u>	<u>4,167</u>

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2025, this was 11.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2024: 11.0%)).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. As at 30 June 2024, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2024 (of which Council is a contributing employer) was 105.4%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.6% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.7% pa

As at 30 June 2025, an interim actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is expected to be completed by 31 October 2025. The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2024 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2024 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2025, this rate was 11.5% of members' salaries (11.0% in 2023/24). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2024 while a full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2024 (Interim) \$m	2023 (Triennial) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	108.4	84.7
- A total service liability surplus	141.4	123.6
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	156.7	141.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2024.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2024.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2024.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

The 2025 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2025 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2025. The last interim actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2025 was at 30 June 2024. The VBI of the Defined Benefit category at that date was 110.5%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2025 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.6% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.7% pa

Council was notified of the 30 June 2025 VBI during August 2025.

Because the VBI was above 100%, the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position at 30 June 2025 and it is expected that the actuarial investigation will recommend that no change will be necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

The 2023 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2020 Triennial investigation	2023 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter	3.50% pa
Price inflation	2.0% pa	2.8% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 are detailed below.

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Vision super	Defined benefits	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	11	22
Vision super	Accumulation	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	358	338
Other funds	Accumulation	11.5% (2024:11.0%)	569	482

In addition to the above contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$0 (2023/24 \$0).

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2025.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 is \$22,500.

*Hindmarsh Shire Council
2024/2025 Financial Report*

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2024/25 year.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Performance Statement 2024/2025



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Certification of the performance statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.



Heather Boyd BBAA, MBA

Manager of Finance

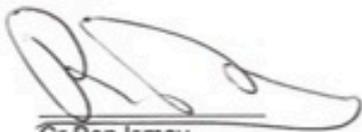
Dated: 21 January 2026

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Cr Ron Ismay

Mayor

Dated: 21 January 2026



Cr Rosie Barker

Councillor

Dated: 21 January 2026



Mrs Monica Revell

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 21 January 2026



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Hindmarsh Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Hindmarsh Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2025• service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2025• financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2025• sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2025• notes to the accounts• certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Hindmarsh Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2025 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p> <p>The Councillors are responsible for the Other Information, which comprises the information in the council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, but does not include the performance statement and my auditor's report thereon.</p>
Other information	<p>My opinion on the performance statement does not cover the Other Information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the Other Information. However, in connection with my audit of the performance statement, my responsibility is to read the Other Information and in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the performance statement or the knowledge I obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the Other Information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>

Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the <i>Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements</i> will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the <i>Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements</i>, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.• obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control• evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation. <p>I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>

MELBOURNE
22 January 2026



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Section 1 – Description of municipality

Hindmarsh Shire is located in the Wimmera region in western Victoria and covers an area of 7,527km². Situated on the Western Highway, 375km west of Melbourne and 350km east of Adelaide, Hindmarsh Shire is alive with business opportunities as it lies on the second-busiest freight corridor in Australia.

Our Shire is bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North. Other distinct natural features include the Big Desert Wilderness Area to the West, as well as the Wimmera River and Lakes Hindmarsh and Albacutya. The central part of the Shire is utilised primarily for broad acre cropping and grazing.

Hindmarsh Shire's four main towns are Nhill, Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow. Each community has its own spirit and identity, but all towns offer spacious rural living, inclusive small communities, and wonderful natural amenities.

The first Australians in the Hindmarsh area were the Wotjobaluk people. Communities were located near the Nhill Swamp, the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Lake Hindmarsh near Jeparit and Lake Albacutya near Rainbow, while the majority made their home along the Red Gum lined banks of the Wimmera River and Nine Creeks area in Dimboola.

Today it is estimated, 5,464 people live in Hindmarsh Shire, with a median age of 50 years. According to the 2021 Census 82.6% of people in Hindmarsh Shire were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 86% of homes. Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 220 calling Nhill home.

The median weekly household income is \$1,159, and most people own their homes outright. Most people are employed in farming, with employment in health care coming a close second, followed by retail, manufacturing, education and transport. Hindmarsh has a very high rate of volunteering, 15.4% higher than the national average.

Section 2 – Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Results

Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comment
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Aquatic Facilities Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	2.08	0.53	0.83	N/A	2.14	For the 2024/2025 outdoor pool season Council resolved to remove fees and have free pool entry. This has resulted in a significant increase in utilisation.
Animal Management Health and safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100%	100%	0%	N/A	100%	One prosecution was successfully finalised in 2024/2025.
Food Safety Health and safety <i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	100.00%	Council was notified of two critical or major non-compliance issues

	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comment
[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100						in 2024/2025 and both were followed up within required timeframes.
Governance Consultation and engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	55	53	52	59	59	Council increased engagement with the community during 2024/2025 through CEO Drop-in sessions and implementing a fortnightly e-newsletter, monthly hard copy newsletter available in libraries / customer service centres and also prints a quarterly hardcopy newsletter that is delivered to mailboxes throughout Hindmarsh.
Libraries Participation Library membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	N/A	N/A	17.88%	N/A	18.25%	Council has driven membership initiatives through Council communications and has increased the variety of library programs to service all ages and backgrounds.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Participation Participation in the MCH service	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	

	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comment
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100						Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Roads Condition <i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i> [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	99.83%	98.29%	98.29%	99.80%	98.12%	No material variance.
Statutory Planning Service standard <i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i> [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	90.16%	54.55%	53.33%	90.00%	71.43%	Council has a staff member who has completed their Town Planning qualification, meaning an additional resource can be allocated to permit processing in-house.
Waste Management Waste diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>	32.39%	34.54%	22.16%	40.00%	22.92%	Due to introduction of Victorian CDS scheme,

	2022	2023	2024	2025		Comment
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100						quantity of glass diversion is not included into Kerbside waste diversion and is an unknown figure. Hence the actual diversion rate is lesser than the target.

Section 3 – Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Results					Forecasts				Material Variations and Comments
	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	
Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Efficiency										
Expenditure level										
<i>Expenses per property assessment</i> [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,504.49	\$3,784.80	\$4,083.17	\$3,989.00	\$4,861.33	\$4,238.98	\$4,366.09	\$4,497.09	\$4,631.89	Hindmarsh Shire Council was successful in a number of grant applications resulting in higher expenditure levels than had been budgeted for.
Revenue level										
<i>Average rate per property assessment</i> [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$1,560.76	\$1,574.44	\$1,650.11	N/A	\$1,660.06	\$1,712.14	\$1,763.51	\$1,816.41	\$1,870.90	No material variance.
Liquidity										

	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
Working capital										
Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	347.90%	356.63%	368.48%	116.07%	460.84%	131.84%	121.64%	127.23%	127.24%	Current Assets compared to current liabilities has increased due to the receipt in June 2025 of 50% of the 2025/2026 Financial Assistance Grant payment. Trade creditors outstanding at June 2025 was less than previous years.
Unrestricted cash										
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	138.43%	179.45%	260.99%	N/A	407.70%	66.03%	58.09%	63.83%	62.23%	Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities has increased due to the early receipt in June 2025 of 50% of the 2025/2026 Financial Assistance Grant payment.
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings										
Loans and borrowings compared to rates	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100										Council remains debt free with no loans or borrowings.
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council remains debt free with no loans or borrowings.
Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	1.72%	1.68%	3.82%	N/A	3.72%	4.10%	4.12%	4.14%	4.16%	No material variance.

	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
Asset renewal and upgrade										
<i>Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation</i>	235.61%	140.78%	93.27%	248.00%	96.43%	124.69%	91.26%	80.38%	82.71%	Council relies on grant funding to undertake both new and renewal work on roads. Depreciation in 2024/2025 was \$6.195m compared to \$5.39m in 2023/2024 as a result of capital works undertaken during the financial year.
<i>[Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100</i>										
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result										Council received an early payment of the Financial Assistance Grants in 2024/2025, but did not in the previous year, resulting in reduced underlying deficit.
<i>Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)</i>	11.60%	7.99%	-18.28%	N/A	-3.28%	-3.28%	-3.54%	-3.81%	-4.06%	
<i>[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100</i>										
Stability										
<i>Rates concentration</i>										

	2022	2023	2024	2025		2026	2027	2028	2029	Material Variations and Comments
<p><i>Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue</i></p> <p>[Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100</p>	45.23%	44.41%	55.96%	50.18%	41.03%	48.46%	48.58%	48.70%	48.82%	Council received an early payment of the Financial Assistance Grants in 2024/2025, but did not in the previous year, resulting in Council's rates compared to underlying revenue decreasing.
<p>Rates effort</p> <p><i>Rates compared to property values</i></p> <p>[Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100</p>	0.45%	0.35%	0.25%	N/A	0.23%	0.23%	0.24%	0.25%	0.25%	No material variance.

Section 4 – Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Results

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comment
<i>Indicator / Measure</i> [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Population <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$3,239.32	\$3,494.29	\$3,746.03	\$4,622.00	The increase in expenses per head of population is attributable to increased depreciation costs along with increased materials, services and other costs, compared to population growth.
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$35,763.19	\$35,917.71	\$35,951.88	\$51,354.14	Council's building, furniture and fittings, as well as open and public spaces, were revalued in 2024/2025 while other assets classes underwent indexation, resulting in an increase in the value of infrastructure per head. Several improvements have been undertaken to Council assets, as well as investment in new infrastructure through grant funded projects.
<i>Population density per length of road</i>	1.84	1.85	1.84	1.81	No material variance.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comment
[Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]					
Own-source revenue <i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$2,068.84	\$2,204.21	\$2,395.81	\$2,428.26	No material variance.
Recurrent grants <i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$1,504.92	\$1,538.56	\$701.84	\$2,000.73	Council received 50% of the Financial Assistance Grant for 2025/2026 in June 2025 as an early payment, whereas Council did not receive an early payment in 2023/2024 for the 2024/2025 year, resulting in a significant variance between the years
Disadvantage <i>Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage</i>	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	No material variance.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Comment
[Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]					
<p>Workforce turnover</p> <p><i>Percentage of staff turnover</i></p> <p>[Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100</p>	23.1%	28.6%	26.2%	12.1%	<p>With new Councillors and a new CEO, Council has focused on culture and supporting staff learning and development. Due to our ageing workforce, we anticipate a higher turnover in future years due to retirement.</p>

Section 5 - Notes to the accounts

5.1 Basis of Preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from Council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2025-26 to 2028-29 by the council's financial plan.

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

5.2 Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the <i>Food Act 1984</i>
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i>
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities

own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	In relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash



Horseshoe Bend, Wimmera River, Dimboola



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Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

03 May 2024 - 17 December 2025

PROJECT NAME:

Kerbside Collection of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)



Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Page 1 of 27

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Q1 Your name:

Anonymous
11/19/2025 09:38 AM

[REDACTED]

Anonymous
11/19/2025 10:15 AM

[REDACTED]

Anonymous
11/19/2025 12:48 PM

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11/19/2025 01:36 PM

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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11/19/2025 05:47 PM

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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11/22/2025 12:44 PM

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

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Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

12/16/2025 12:25 PM

Anonymous

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12/16/2025 06:18 PM

Anonymous

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12/16/2025 07:22 PM

Anonymous

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12/16/2025 09:30 PM

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12/17/2025 08:27 AM

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12/17/2025 02:00 PM

Anonymous

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12/17/2025 09:22 PM

Anonymous

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12/17/2025 09:47 PM

Anonymous

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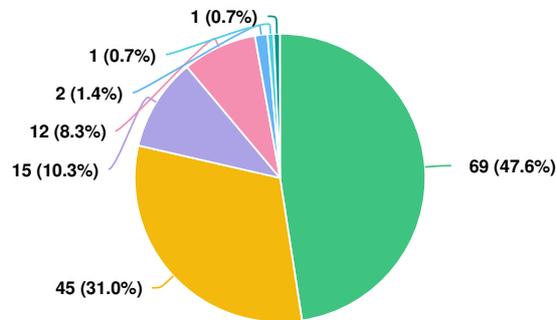
12/17/2025 11:31 PM

Mandatory Question (145 response(s))

Question type: Single Line Question

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Q2 The town where you reside:



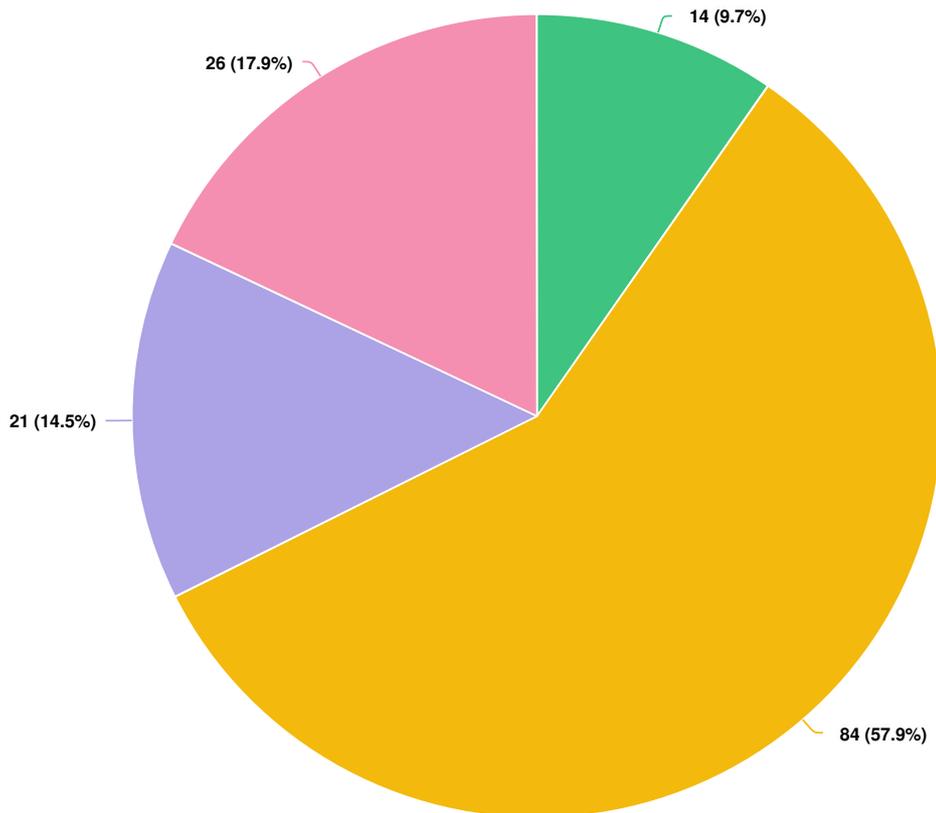
Question options

- NHILL, VIC
- DIMBOOLA, VIC
- JEPARIT, VIC
- RAINBOW, VIC
- NETHERBY, VIC
- GERANG GERUNG, VIC
- YANAC, VIC

Mandatory Question (145 response(s))
Question type: Region Question

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Q3 Please select your preferred option:



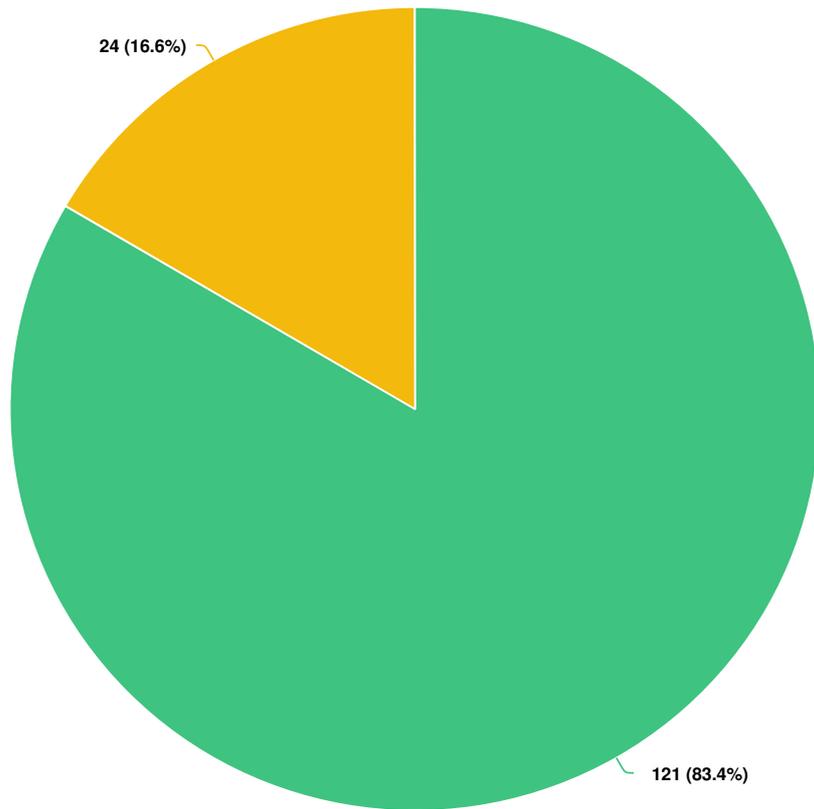
Question options

- Option 1: Weekly FOGO and Fortnightly General Waste Collection (Estimated cost: \$557 per household per year)
- Option 2: Fortnightly FOGO and Weekly General Waste Collection (Estimated cost: \$557 per household per year)
- Option 3: Fortnightly FOGO and Fortnightly General Waste Collection (Estimated cost: \$496 per household per year)
- Option 4: Weekly FOGO and Weekly General Waste Collection (Estimated cost: \$617 per household per year)

*Mandatory Question (145 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Q4 Do you support council establishing a FOGO processing (composting) facility locally?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Mandatory Question (145 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Q5 Please provide the reason why you chose this option or any other comments:

Anonymous
11/19/2025 10:15 AM

The green bin is a must for older residents who no longer can unload trailers @ the transfer station. Weekly for red bin for health & cleanliness

Anonymous
11/19/2025 12:48 PM

Compost can be used on garden beds around the town. Purple bin can go longer.between collections I believe.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 01:36 PM

Do not believe that general waste should be fortnightly,smelly nappies,food products would stink to high heaven in the summer months if left for that long.Most unhygienic.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 02:31 PM

more cost effective for everyone

Anonymous
11/19/2025 03:55 PM

As a smaller household this option is adequate. With options that increase the size of the general waste bin from a 120L to a 240L, who would bear the cost of swapping these out?

Anonymous
11/19/2025 04:15 PM

I like the idea of a bigger general waste bin. I'll never use the green waste bin as we don't have many scraps.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 04:47 PM

We compost everything that could go in the bin. Therefore would like a opt out option

Anonymous
11/19/2025 04:48 PM

All the products for this bin we compost so will want an opt out option

Anonymous
11/19/2025 04:50 PM

Family

Anonymous
11/19/2025 04:52 PM

I want to maintain weekly general waste.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 04:56 PM

Would be happy with option 2 as well . General waste I think needs to be collected at least weekly . Will be awesome to have a greens bin. We already have a large General waste bin .

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous
11/19/2025 05:13 PM

We compost our own organic waste. Question 3 should have option 5 where you can decline to have the bin.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 05:19 PM

Looks to be the smartest option

Anonymous
11/19/2025 05:25 PM

With the implementation of FOGO, general waste should be reduced enough to not need weekly collection, and should not contain any organic waste at risk of developing odours. Meanwhile, weekly collection of FOGO bins will be needed to minimise odours, and encourage residents to use the bins correctly. There are two other things I would like to be considered when implementing a FOGO collection: 1. Will I be able to put compostable bags in the FOGO bin? I know this varies between council areas depending on the capabilities of the processing facility. Being able to put compostable bags in the bin will make a big difference to the cleanliness of the bin, and therefore reduce the effort required by residents to maintain it. Reducing the effort required will effect residents' willingness to use bins correctly. 2. The plan mentioned changes to bin size. My household is small and does not need a 240L bin regardless if it is collected fortnightly or weekly. Would it help council to reduce costs if they gave residents the option of what bin size to use rather than changing everyone's bin size where it may not be needed?

Anonymous
11/19/2025 05:40 PM

I am a one person household and I recycle already, eg. compost bin, so easy to change to FOGO

Anonymous
11/19/2025 05:47 PM

I can only speak for myself, but, I don't need to put my rubbish bin out weekly, so it makes sense for me to select that option. However, I could understand why those with other needs would choose different options. Just as long as there are alternatives available for people available if their needs aren't met by the decision that is made.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 05:57 PM

Small bins regularly emptied is smarter than larger bins emptied less regularly

Anonymous
11/19/2025 06:02 PM

Weekly General Waste benefits our household with the larger size bin already filling up weekly as is.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 06:27 PM

I do my own composting and will barely use a FOGO bin. Can I opt out? Damn Gov't!

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous
11/19/2025 06:46 PM

Well, it's the only options you have given the rate payers. My option would tell be, tell the Socialist Government of Victoria to stick it where the sun doesn't shine. But then again when you have a council that stands in front of three flags, you know their joined at the hip

Anonymous
11/19/2025 06:48 PM

I don't need a bigger general waste bin. Option 2 kept smaller bin for general waste

Anonymous
11/19/2025 06:55 PM

WEEKLY GENERAL WASTE GIVEN THE ODOUR THAT CAN BE GENERATED PARTICULARLY IN WARMER MONTHS

Anonymous
11/19/2025 07:13 PM

Concerned about odors in warmer weather

Anonymous
11/19/2025 07:19 PM

Bad odours it may emit

Anonymous
11/19/2025 08:02 PM

I have chosen option two due to having 2 small children that require nappies. Our bins have a foul smelling odour as it is due to dirty nappies.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 08:06 PM

People should just compost themselves as we already do. The bins will stink and probably won't end up being used as they should, defeating the purpose. Same as glass bin we do not use

Anonymous
11/19/2025 08:12 PM

Coming from a household with 2 small children having general waste on a fortnightly rotation will be a nightmare. Dirty nappies after just one week in our bin is discusting. If the wider community do not vote because they do not have access to Facebook council itself needs to consider people with young families and the waste that is produced by them. As discusting as it is human faeces is what goes in majority of bins. I also beleive if we opt for fortnightly waste our town will end up a dump Site just like the outskirts of Melbourne I would also like to note that we currently have the large and small general waste bins and both go out weekly.

Anonymous
11/19/2025 08:14 PM

I live alone and don't have much waste. Plus cheapest option.

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous

11/19/2025 08:24 PM

May cause bad odours in the town

Anonymous

11/19/2025 08:33 PM

The town will smell due to it

Anonymous

11/19/2025 08:33 PM

I rather not have the FOGO another waste of money. Which the shire want us to pay for !

Anonymous

11/19/2025 08:40 PM

I have concerns as to where it would be located. It may smell so close to town

Anonymous

11/19/2025 08:49 PM

Would suit my household needs the best.

Anonymous

11/19/2025 08:53 PM

I had to select something to do this survey. How about the farmers that pay rates so high in the shire but we get 1 bin. No recycling no glass and I suppose no FOGO. No sewage also no piped water. Just shits me to tears.

Anonymous

11/19/2025 09:13 PM

Weekly general waste is always full, even with sorting of recycling and glass. FOGO won't impact the general waste from our household. You will likely find an increase of dumping in public bins.

Anonymous

11/19/2025 09:18 PM

During the summer months 1 week and the lawn clippings will fill the bin, winter there is plants you cut back. Trial it for 24 months and see how much green waste is collected each month. Having a rubbish bin for green waste might hopefully encourage people to maintain their gardens a bit better. Not sure if composting locally would really be worth it financially. I'm sure if it was Wimmera Mallee Waste would have set it up years ago.

Anonymous

11/19/2025 09:22 PM

Why on earth we need 4 bins is just plain ridiculous. Coming from a large family our red bin NEEDS to be emptied WEEKLY. You will have a lot of unhappy people in town if you decide to make red bins wait fortnightly to be emptied. An absolutely ridiculous suggestion. Another bin that won't be used alongside the purple bin. More crap we have to pay for with no choice because the council like to get as much money out of people as they can.

Anonymous

Weekly pick ups for both general waste and green waste is a must

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

11/19/2025 09:48 PM

Anonymous

11/19/2025 09:54 PM

Personally wouldn't use the FOGO bin as we have chickens so reduced frequency for that would suit us and maintaining current general waste frequency.

Anonymous

11/19/2025 10:04 PM

I chose option 2 because although I'd prefer Option 4,(as it better suits my needs and avoids smell), I probably wouldn't use it every week and I am concerned about the increased costs to other householders. The disadvantage I think of fortnightly collection of FOGO is that people will want to get rid of smelly organic food waste more quickly, therefore dispose of it in general waste anyway. The advantage of the less frequent FOGO collection is also the larger bin size allows more garden waste/recycling volume when you have a clean up. It's horses for courses I think. Thanks for your consultative approach HSC! I would definitely support a local council composting facility provided that the compost was treated in such a way that invasive weeds/seeds that will be inputted via collection bins are treated appropriately to ensure the resultant compost does not spread them.

Anonymous

11/19/2025 11:06 PM

We don't have much organic waste. We have a compost heap and a couple of chooks. Need weekly bin collection with young children in nappies. They are the source of lots of smells in summer. Purple glass bin rarely gets used.

Anonymous

11/20/2025 05:39 AM

We compost our own food waste at home and won't be generating any less general waste. I'm not a fan of having to spend more money for a bin we will hardly use.

Anonymous

11/20/2025 06:40 AM

Love the FOGO idea! I do believe it's better for the general waste to get collected every week to reduce smells & think fortnightly would be plenty for the FOGO bin because it's not every week I would potentially fill it up.

Anonymous

11/20/2025 09:04 AM

Option 2 is the same as waste collection services in the two other LGAs in which I am a ratepayer and the system works well. It would also mean red bins aren't used for organic/garden waste as is frequently the case.

Anonymous

11/20/2025 09:10 AM

Don't have a lot of garden waste but need weekly general garbage collection n to deter vermin and flies

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous
11/20/2025 09:39 AM

Would cut the rubbish landfill size down.

Anonymous
11/20/2025 09:40 AM

Weekly pickup will reduce odour from bin especially during warmer months. Should be an option to purchase/upgrade to a 240lt FOGO bin if a 120lt bin is standard, as won't take long to fill a 120lt bin with grass clippings etc.

Anonymous
11/20/2025 12:07 PM

I'd love a green waste bin and our waste bin never fills up with only the 2 of us in our household.

Anonymous
11/20/2025 12:37 PM

We have such a big yard and it makes it hard to maintain when we don't have suitable bins to use.

Anonymous
11/20/2025 12:39 PM

Makes it much more manageable to maintain our home

Anonymous
11/20/2025 04:06 PM

I believe a weekly rubbish removal more appropriate to us and a FOGO collection fortnightly.

Anonymous
11/20/2025 08:18 PM

Just made the most sense to me and my circumstances.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 08:10 AM

We have had the Fogo system in the city and never filled the bin, however we regularly had too much general waste for the fortnightly collection. Until supermarkets and suppliers stop wrapping the food in non recyclable plastics and polystyrene trays, the general waste bins will remain full.

Anonymous
11/21/2025 08:25 AM

I have very little general waste, so fortnightly would suit. HOWEVER, I already have a red 120lt red bin and DO NOT require a larger bin!

Anonymous
11/21/2025 08:41 AM

Having lived in bigger council areas this is the pattern of rubbish collection I have been used to. I would prefer a large green bin alongside a large red bin. Certainly helps to reduce landfill when utilising a green bin it's a great initiative

Anonymous

I think if people are putting food waste into this bin it's going to stink

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

11/21/2025 11:13 AM

and be disgusting in two weeks especially in the hot summer. The same applies to the general waisted bin in the summer. We are a family of 3 adults and our bin is close to full in a week. How will it smell for young people who have disposable nappies ect.

Anonymous

11/21/2025 01:22 PM

We live in Broughton Vic, and we have on site disposal/composting for our green waste. We already travel 7km into Yanac to drop our recycling and general waste off. It would be inconvenient to begin paying for a service we won't be using.

Anonymous

11/21/2025 08:45 PM

Create local jobs

Anonymous

11/21/2025 08:46 PM

More local jobs and convenience in getting rid of green waste.

Anonymous

11/21/2025 09:17 PM

Weekly general waste is essential.

Anonymous

11/22/2025 03:34 AM

I have a young family and couldn't go 2 weeks without general waste being collected. I have had previous experience with food waste collection in the UK being fortnightly and it is unpleasant to store food in bins outside for 2 weeks in summer months attracting vermin and wasps.

Anonymous

11/22/2025 05:57 AM

We dont get rubbish collection of any kind where we live. We have zero bins. If we were to have bins we would need to take 4 bins 10kms to the nearest road. Just another way for government to spend unnecessary money.

Anonymous

11/22/2025 12:44 PM

General Waste must remain weekly

Anonymous

11/22/2025 12:45 PM

General Waste needs to remain weekly

Anonymous

11/22/2025 06:44 PM

It would create local jobs, and reduce the costs involved in transporting FOGO materials to the closest processing plant, plus means other towns could use this facility too (to our Shire's benefit)

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous
11/24/2025 05:01 AM

The smell mainly. Presently we repurpose lawn clippings as mulch and deliver other garden prunings direct to the transfer station.

Anonymous
11/25/2025 04:05 PM

Option 2 looks the logical outcome. However, you are asking for a decision without providing all the costs including bin upsizing and lid swapping and when you do this will be the dealbreaker for many residents. Considering the extra waste costs you can also anticipate requests for another option of NO FOGO bin.

Anonymous
11/25/2025 04:46 PM

If it is cheaper to cart the fogo away then no to starting a compost facility locally. If it cheaper to manage and sort it in our local area the In yes to establishing one.

Anonymous
11/25/2025 05:26 PM

Depends on the location and who has to pay for it

Anonymous
11/25/2025 05:34 PM

i think children rubbish (naPPIES) and waste needs to go weekly.

Anonymous
11/25/2025 08:42 PM

Reduced odour.

Anonymous
11/26/2025 06:40 AM

Do not feel it is needed weekly like general waste is needed weekly due to household needs. Is a good movement forward as I feel we should have already implemented this.

Anonymous
11/26/2025 02:13 PM

Concern over the smell of the general waste during Summer means I would rather a weekly pick up for that bin. I would prefer the bigger bin for my garden waste. Not concerned about the smell of that one as food waste is composted.

Anonymous
11/26/2025 08:09 PM

I feel Option 1 is best as we could cope with fortnightly general waste but would definitely like weekly fogo.

Anonymous
11/27/2025 01:49 PM

General waste should stay weekly as it is presently. In Horsham they changed to fortnightly but for families bins are over full and smell terrible if they have kids in nappies, very unhygienic.

Anonymous
11/27/2025 05:14 PM

We compost our own food so wouldn't use FOGO

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous

11/28/2025 02:35 PM

My daughter lives in Horsham and her bins are fortnightly and they get so smelly... so if we have to have the FOGO bin then I would like Option 4. In regards to the council establishing a FOGO processing facility I'm happy for this as long as it doesn't cost us rate payers anymore. cheers [REDACTED]

Anonymous

11/29/2025 01:39 PM

Because I just moved here recently and purchased the big 240L red lidded bin In Allansford vic they introduced the smaller red bin and bigger green waste bin both empty fortnightly the smaller red bin wasn't big enough for the fortnight So prefer bigger bins fortnightly red & green one week and purple & yellow the next week plus easier on the garbage truck run , thank you ☺

Anonymous

11/30/2025 01:57 PM

FOGO bins could get quite smelly if left for a fortnight

Anonymous

12/01/2025 06:38 AM

I am a single owner occupier (as are over 80 households in Jeparit), I currently compost food and most garden waste, and with recycling my waste stream is reduced to less than a bread bag weekly, if soft plastic recycling comes back this will be reduced even further, therefore a weekly general waste pickup is not necessary. I believe a FOGO recycling facility situated at Jeparit, would strengthen Jeparit SEIFA index through a stronger greater liveability and economy for both Jeparit and the Shire. The lower travel costs and the contribution to the Shire's Eco Dev, and sustainability are clear wins.

Anonymous

12/01/2025 11:48 AM

FOGO should decrease rubbish. Not sure re local processing. ? Cost

Anonymous

12/02/2025 09:24 AM

Recommendation of continuing general waste on a weekly basis, due to the factors of several things i have witnessed in other municipalities since the roll out of this service, is; I have witnessed elderly struggling to wheel their bins due to them being far too heavy with fortnightly general waste collection, especially for those using incontinence aides, and single mothers with nappy changes. I have seen people storing large piles of household rubbish in back yards due to bin overflow every fortnight, and never catch up on removing excess rubbish, (or have no other means or funds to transport it to local tip), it becomes a major public health, fire and rodent issue. With the roll-out of the fogo bin, I think fortnightly collection will be an adequate start, and if they seem to be well utilised, I think we could then come back and reassess if we move that to weekly collection then. In the government's efforts to try and reduce greenhouse gas

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

emissions etc Putting extra truck movements to collect fogo bins in the local towns can potentially have a nil effect on whatever they are trying to achieve. And also increasing the risk of more localised accidents involving the slow moving trucks in the suburban streets. Please make decisions based on a common sense approach, I encourage Hindmarsh shire council to continue, in every way, to advocate for its residents in a positive, "country way of life" we lead, the way we know, with astute careful decisions, made with dignity and a no nonsense approach to keeping our area to tradition. Kind Regards Dale Schultz

Anonymous
12/02/2025 07:49 PM

One concern we have is the fact that the bins could become breeding grounds for Flies etc. Having a composting facility here might lessen that. Although if people don't clean their bins, then that can also be a hazard.

Anonymous
12/03/2025 08:23 AM

Cheapest

Anonymous
12/03/2025 03:32 PM

Weekly FOGO is a must; FOGO shouldn't be left in bins for a fortnight it will stink. 240lt bins should replace 120lt general rubbish and go fortnightly.

Anonymous
12/04/2025 12:54 PM

We would choose to opt out of Fogo as we have chickens and compost and do not have any extra food or organic scraps to discard.

Anonymous
12/04/2025 04:42 PM

Having a facility locally would reduce transport costs, and therefore those savings would be passed on to ratepayers.

Anonymous
12/11/2025 08:08 AM

We don't see the need for change to collections we now have, however we understand it is "mandated" by Spring St. Given that we think option 2 is the best option.

Anonymous
12/12/2025 10:11 PM

Food organics and garden organic should separate from general waste.

Anonymous
12/15/2025 01:46 PM

We have been residing in a Melb outer suburb and have these bins. Rubbish is collected every 2nd week. In warmer months the Rubbish gets very smelly, and if we happen to be away or forget to put out our bin, the rubbish sits in the bin for up to 4 weeks, attracting flies. In Jeparit, it gets even hotter than where we are at present, and the

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

rubbish should not be sitting in a bin for more than a week. Also, in the country areas, many residents have chickens, and we feed them our scraps. If we don't have chickens, we will generally have a compost heap. Emptying the fogo bin is only needed every 2nd week. By the way, I have never used my fogo bin in Melb.

Anonymous

12/15/2025 05:24 PM

Have lots of green waste but not much general waste

Anonymous

12/15/2025 05:28 PM

It's the cheaper option !!!!!!!

Anonymous

12/15/2025 09:16 PM

We already compost all food waste . Compost facility in town would be great. Horrifying to think that foofood waste goes in red lidded bins .

Anonymous

12/15/2025 09:28 PM

Either option 2 or 4, because as a large family with young kids there is no way we would manage having our rubbish bin emptied only fortnightly, it would cause a horrible smell and attract mice,.rats, cockroaches etc - big health implications involved. I'm not sure what would be required for the composting plant so need more info before can answer that question

Anonymous

12/15/2025 10:55 PM

Budget friendly and practical

Anonymous

12/16/2025 06:55 AM

General waste smells over summer and with two weeks hold at property. Larger bins harder and heavier for elderly, frail and those with injury or disability to put on roadside and bring in.

Anonymous

12/16/2025 12:25 PM

I chose this option as we don't have chooks to feed the scraps too and have no way of getting rid of our green waste..meaning weeds etc when we do gardening so be great to have a Fogo bin thankyou

Anonymous

12/16/2025 06:18 PM

We garden regularly and have a good amount of green waste, we also don't compost food scraps at home, it would be better if they were not in the general waste.

Anonymous

12/16/2025 09:30 PM

We have chickens and a garden, most food waste is already diverted to this. Most garden waste probably only a few times a year actually required

Kerbside Collection of FOGO Feedback Form : Survey Report for 03 May 2024 to 17 December 2025

Anonymous
12/17/2025 08:27 AM

Reducing smell on properties eg. Nappies, animal waste would reek if left for 2 weeks.

Anonymous
12/17/2025 09:47 PM

Unsure of best option as no pricing available.

Anonymous
12/17/2025 11:31 PM

I think as a community we should be trying to reduce our general waste. Composting green and food waste would help with this and could also be made available for people to purchase.. I would also be very happy to see Option 3 introduced with the FOGO and General Waste collection occurring on alternate weeks

Optional question (102 response(s), 43 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question



Hindmarsh Shire Council

Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting

8 January 2026

To Committee Members,
"as addressed"

A General Meeting of **Hindmarsh Pride Committee** of Hindmarsh Shire Council was held via Teams on 7 January 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm.

MINUTES

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair acknowledged the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

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

2 ATTENDEES:

Petra Croot (DC&CS, PC); Cr Chan Uoy (CU); Rhys Webb (RW); Wiremu Lems Larkins (LL); Craige Proctor (CP).

3 APOLOGIES:

Nil.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil declared.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2025 via Teams circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved: Cr Chan Uoy

Seconded: Lems Larkins

CARRIED

Hindmarsh Shire Council Hindmarsh Pride Committee

6 CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Topic	Discussion
Harmony Day Planning	28 March to avoid clash with Big Sky Market, Rainbow. RW: Wimmera Filipino community happy to be involved and happy to combine with Wanda Queen of Little Desert. We need to engage with Lions Club and other community groups e.g. Fijian and Soman community. Important to lock date in with other groups. PC: will get contact details for relevant people and liaise with colleague on her return from leave. RW will liaise with Nhill resident re support of Karen community (food stall) and will canvass support from WWHS personnel. CP to discuss involvement of residents of Jeparit (Argentinian). Need to start publicising event.
Connecting with WWHS	NA
Youth Formal	Ongoing action (Nan Da San).
ChillOut Festival	Sunday 8 March Parade and Carnival Day at Daylesford. HSC staff will be attending. HSC tourism promotion to showcase/promote our community and wider region. PC will continue to brainstorm for display options.
MidSumma and other Grants for future Pride Events	2027 in Jeparit. CU: the Hall is a good facility especially the stage. If applying for a MidSumma grant, having access to a stage would be good for any performers we can engage. RW: we would be better covered in terms of Risk Management with the Hall being an HSC asset. PC: with a year to plan we could consult with Jeparit business owners re participating in an event. Proposal: to have the venue for the 2027 event be the Memorial Hall and to liaise with publicans well in advance of the event. All in favour; carried. PC: Applications for 2027 MidSumma events open mid-second half of this year. Start working on an event plan in advance of application being submitted.
Key Dates Pride Month (June 2026) MidSumma (February) IDAHOBIT (17 May) Other	Pride Month: CU had communicated with a CWA person re something like a Mad Hatters' Tea Party; rainbow-coloured jellies or a High Tea etc. Important to work with a respected community group such as CWA to make the event inclusive. RW: could organise a pop up event combining groups from different towns e.g. a combined effort from different CWA groups. Possible pop-up venue: Nhill Uniting

Hindmarsh Shire Council Hindmarsh Pride Committee

	<p>Church Hall probably better than some other venues in terms of facilities. CU: an opportunity to fundraise for local groups. Consult with Nhill CWA representatives re idea and suitable date.</p> <p>RW: possibly hold a Silent Auction as part of the event.</p> <p>Resolved that CU would liaise with Dimboola and Nhill CWAs.</p> <p>IDAHOBIT: after some discussion re possible events the decision was made to focus on Pride Month and ChillOut Festival at this time.</p>
Other	<p>RW: are there other people we might approach to join the committee? Having newly-arrived community members could bring fresh ideas.</p> <p>PC: confirmed that new committee members would need to submit a formal EOI but in the first instance they could be invited to attend a meeting prior to making a commitment.</p> <p>Priorities for next meeting: focus on Harmony Day and Pride Month events and possibly invite other stakeholders e.g. Lions, to participate.</p> <p>PC: initially she and colleague can reach out to Lions etc. via email.</p>

8 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

N/A

9 NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 28 January 2026, 7.00 p.m. via Teams

10 MEETING CLOSED

7:48 pm

COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

I, Petra Croot, accept the following recommendations made by the Hindmarsh Pride Committee at this meeting held on 7 January 2026:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Minutes taken as read and confirmed.

SIGNED: 

Dated: 8 January 2026

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

General Meeting November 24th, 2025 at 2 pm.

Yurunga Dining Room

Draft Minutes

Meeting opened at 2:00pm

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.
We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Members present: Jenny Solly - Chair, Peter Solly - Secretary/Treasurer,
Heather Drendel, Colin Drendel

Visitors: Cr Tony Clark, Mark Fletcher - Hindmarsh Shire

Apologies: Nil

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

Nil

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

Nil

Minutes of the previous meetings as circulated

Moved: Heather Drendel, Col Drendel – That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on Thursday 23rd October 2025 as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record. c/d

Correspondence In:
(Emails)

- October 23rd: From Lois Munro, Castle Donnington Swan Hill Probus re thanks for the lunch and tour.
- October 26th : From Minerva Heritage re dimensions of area to be painted. Thanks and thanks for the photos.
- October 28th : From Mark Fletcher, photos of the front urns found in old records
- November 3rd : From Mark Fletcher re invoice for Men's Bus Tour.
- November 5th : From Jennie Hauselberger (Hindmarsh Shire), Order Number for Men's Bus Tour
- November 6th : From Brown and Proudfoot Lawyers re bequest.

- November 12th : From Brown and Proudfoot Lawyers re bequest.
- November 13th : From Hindmarsh Shire Council, remittance advice for Men's Bus Tour.
- November 14th : From Hindmarsh Shire Council re Cr Tony Clark appointed as delegated representative for Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee.
- November 18th : From Mark Fletcher re minutes to Council

Late Correspondence In:
(Emails)

Correspondence Out:
(Emails)

- October 23rd: To Lois Munro, Castle Donnington Swan Hill Probud re invoice for the lunch and tour.
- October 26th : To Minerva Heritage, dimensions of area to be painted in underground room and more photos of the urns.
- October 28th : To Mark Fletcher, thanks for the photos.
- November 3rd : To Mark Fletcher re invoice for Men's Bus Tour.
- November 5th : To Jennie Hauselberger (Hindmarsh Shire) Invoice for Men's Bus Tour
- November 10th: To Mark Fletcher, details of bequest.
- November 11th: To Brown and Proudfoot Lawyers re bequest.
- November 13th : To Mark Fletcher re bequest – copy of documentation from Brown and Proudfoot and copy of Term Deposit notice.
- November 19th : To Mark Fletcher re minutes to Council
- November 21st: To volunteering@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au - Draft minutes of October meeting.

Late Correspondence Out
(Emails)

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

Business arising:

- October 26th: Peter and Jenny measured the area to be painted in the underground room. This was drawn up and sent to Dr Gary and Elaine to allow paint to be ordered. Also sent was a scanned copy of a photo provided by Mark Thomas clearly showing the urns and a group dressed for a pantomime.
- October 27th: Final arrangements made via phone re the Shire Men's Bus Tour
- October 27th: Key to the paper towel dispenser in the toilet is missing. Dispenser closed, locked, several folded sheets of paper on the floor. Also key to the lawn water controller missing several weeks ago.
- October 28th: 42 men and 5 staff from the Hindmarsh Shire Council, Victorian Seniors Festival Men's Day Tour visited. Purchase order and invoice to be organized later.
- A very busy 9 days – 136 visitors!

October 23 – 36 ppl Castle Donnington Swan Hill Probus Club lunch and tour.

October 28 – 47 ppl Hindmarsh Shire Council, Victorian Seniors Festival
Men’s Day Tour.

October 30 – 4 clients, 2 staff Patchwollock/Speed and 2 tag alongs

October 31 – 45 ppl Geelong Caravan Club

- Thanks to Mark Thomas and Col Frew for assisting Peter and Jenny on October 28 and 31.
- November 3rd: New booking by phone. Monday December 8th, Jeparit Garden Club, 12 ppl (after their Christmas Lunch at Hayden’s Café).
- November 12th: Thank you to Col for oiling the North and West verandah.
- November 12th: Very generous bequest from Estate of Ian John Bretag. \$50,000.00 placed in a term deposit at Commonwealth Bank for 3 months at 2.85%. Receipt and documentation completed at Brown and Proudfoot Lawyers.
- November 14th, 16th and 21st: Jenny weeding in garden.
- November 16th: Peter rang the bequest estate executor to thank and acknowledge the bequest.
- November 16th: Orchard work: Peter replaced collars and insecticide on trees to control codling moth and ants, renewed fruit fly traps and sprayed perimeter posts, maintenance on watering system.
- November 20: Peter obtained a new lock and key for the lawn water controller. Key will be kept in the desk in the vestibule.
- November 23: Dr Gary messaged re attending Monday 24th to set up for painting the underground room on 25th.

Reports

~Financial,

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Financial Report

October 1st 2025 to October 31st 2025

Opening Balance per statement at 1st October \$10,951.82

Plus Income:

Catering – Swan Hill Group	\$720.00
Entries – Swan Hill	\$360.00
Entries – Geelong Caravan	\$450.00
General Entries	\$260.00
Total Entries	\$1,070.00
Donation	\$3.00
 Total Income	 \$1,793.00

Less Expenses:

Bow Bakery - Bread Sept 15	\$20.20
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P Solly – Catering Oct 23 Swan Hill	\$127.70
Total Expenses	\$147.90
Closing Balance per statement September 30 th 2025	\$12,596.92
Term Deposit reinvested with interest on 8 th August at 2.80% pa for 3 months To be reinvested by November 8 th 2025	\$10,589.78
Total available funds at October 31 st	\$23,186.70

Peter Solly Secretary/Treasurer, Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

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

Moved: Peter Solly, Col Drendel - That the investment of the bequest of as a term deposit for 3 months at 2.85%pa with the Commonwealth Bank be approved. c/d

~Hindmarsh Shire – Mark Flether and Cr Tony Clark

- Cr Ron Ismay is the Mayor for next year. Cr Rosie Barker is Deputy Mayor. Cr Tony Clark is the Yurunga representative.
- Council is moving in to Christmas mode.
- Office staff (finance) are under a lot of pressure due to the Emergency Services Levy.
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee tourism memberships have been renewed. We are seeing more contact from newspapers.
- Visit Victoria are active in the area, we are getting more groups through.
- Rabbits – The Shire is engaging with TNC. We also need to speak to landcare.
- Still chasing Dr Gary. Shannon (plumber) will be here tomorrow. We need works completed by end of financial year. Hope the verandah will be done to the Dining room by Christmas.
- A folder found containing old photos including the urns has been found. One urn is crooked.

Moved: Col Drendel, Heather Drendel – That the Hindmarsh Shire report be received. c/d

General Business

- Rabbit problem – done in the Shire report
- Unfinished projects, plans for completion.
- Dr Gary's visit – When? Today? With Shannon (plumber)
- Painting underground room - Tomorrow?
- Spindles on the roof. Dr Gary has some.

- Straightening plinths and attaching urns ? Talk to Dr Gary.
- North drain and grass? Autumn – Winter, Plan?

Bookings:

- Monday December 8th, Jeparit Garden Club, tour only.

Meeting closed 2:40 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday January 22nd 2026 at 2:00 pm at Yurunga.

If you have anything that should be included, please get it to us a week before the meeting so that it can be included in the agenda. Otherwise it can be added as a late item at the meeting.