



5 February 2026

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 4 February 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>.



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 Rosie Barker (Deputy Mayor), Cr Roger Aitken, Cr James Barry, Cr Tony Clark items 1 to 5 (inclusive), 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), Mr Mark Fletcher (Manager Economic Development and Tourism) items 10.1 to 17, Ms Mikayla Mackley (Planning Officer) items 10.2 to 10.3, and Ms Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Rosie Barker, Deputy Mayor, opened the meeting at 3:01pm and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Cr Rosie Barker read the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Cr Chan Uoy read the Councillor Statement of Values.

2 APOLOGIES

Cr Ron Ismay

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 Roger Aitken declared a material conflict of interest in item 10.6 as it relates to an accommodation booking for his attendance at the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr J Barry

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL - 2025 12 17 MINUTES Council Meeting [4.1.1]
2. 2025 12 17 MINUTES Council Meeting - MEDIA [4.1.2]
3. 2026 01 21 MINUTES Special Council Meeting - MEDIA [4.1.3]

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 Financial and Performance Statements have been finalised and the Annual Report presented to Council for noting at the Council Meeting on 4 February 2026. The Annual Report 2024/2025 will be published after this meeting.	In Progress
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
17 December 2025 Item 10.1	Council officers to publish Youth Strategy 2025-2029 on Council's website, provide to key stakeholders and incorporate into Council's operation work plan.	Youth Strategy 2025-2029 published on Council's website and provided to key stakeholders.	Complete
17 December 2025 Item 10.2	Council officers to update Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Terms of Reference on Council's website and provide Terms of Reference to current Youth Councillors and 2026 Youth Councillors.	Updated Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Terms of Reference on Council's website, provided to current Youth Councillors and the 2026 Youth Councillors.	Complete
17 December 2025 Item 10.3	Council officers to publish Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 on Council's website, provide to key stakeholders and incorporate into Council's operation work plan.	Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035 published on Council's website and provided to key stakeholders.	Complete

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
17 December 2025 Item 10.4	Council officers to send Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-2029 to State Government and publish on Council's website.	Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-2029 sent to State Government and published on Council's website.	Complete
17 December 2025 Item 10.5	Council officers to publish Volunteers Policy and Code of Conduct on Council's website and on Council's SharePoint for Councillors. Council officers to notify community via Social Media and Council's newsletters. Council officers to send policy to all existing volunteers.	Volunteers Policy and Code of Conduct published on Council's website and the community has been notified via social media and Council's Newsletter. A copy of the Policy has been circulated to all existing Council volunteers.	Complete
17 December 2025 Item 11.1	Council officers to publish Advisory Committee minutes on Council's website. Council officers to prepare letters to Rainbow Town Committee regarding their request and to Nhill Town Committee noting their contribution towards proposed Goldsworthy Park Upgrades.	Minutes for the Advisory Committees meetings published on Council's website. Letters prepared and sent off to each Advisory Committee.	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: 7 December 2025 – 26 January 2026

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
09/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Nhill	
10/12/2025	Meeting with MAV Future Gen	Online via Teams	
13/12/2025	Wotjobaluk Nations Festival	Horseshoe Bend, Dimboola	
13/12/2025	Christmas Carols	Nhill	
16/12/2025	Rainbow P-12 College Awards Presentation	Rainbow	
17/12/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
21/01/2026	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Rainbow	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Jeparit	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Dimboola	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Nhill	

6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
09/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run & BBQ	Jaypex Park, Nhill	Great turn out and a lot of fun was had. The children will remember this annual event and the connections to what it stands for will remain strong in their minds.
13/12/2025	Wotjobaluk Nations Festival	Horseshoe Bend, Dimboola	Celebration of recognising the importance of our connection to country and the Wotjobaluk community. Made clapping sticks and enjoyed the speakers, dancing and smoking ceremonies.
15/12/2025	Meeting with Deputy Mayor Cr Helen Hobbs and Cr Richard Hicks from West Wimmera Shire Council	Kaniva	Meeting to discuss unique challenges and solutions that our role can bring to the community.
16/12/2025	Nhill College Awards Presentations Night	Nhill College	Presented the Rae Keam award to Bailee White who is planning to attend university in 2026. The graduating year 12 class featured many students who hold themselves to a high standards.
17/12/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	<p>Meeting with Emma Kealy MP, Nationals who reflected her desire to make a difference to our region. Interested to meet with GrainCorp to discuss potential changes to Nhill rail link for grain. Met with Powercor to discuss their request for support to change local wiring so rural users were able to install equipment that required higher supply that cannot be currently accessed.</p> <p>Approval of Youth Strategy 2025-2029, Youth Council Terms of Reference, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035, Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 and Volunteers Policy and</p>

			Code of Conduct. I look forward to seeing Council deliver on some of the priorities listed in the Sport and Recreation Strategy over the next few years.
22/12/2025	Soft Opening Rainbow Silo	Rainbow	Well attended event by locals who enjoyed the new tourism attraction.
21/01/2026	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	Special Council meeting held to endorse the final Financial Accounts for 2025 which were delayed due to accounting changes to the asset register.
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Rainbow	Great BBQ by Rainbow Lions. Guest speaker, Dianne Marchment, provided a thought provoking presentation and walked the Kokoda Trail in PNG.
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Jeparit	Great BBQ by Jeparit Township Advisory Committee. Guest Speaker, Michael Sheill, from Melbourne was previously a Jeparit resident who has an Arts PhD and is renowned internationally and is currently writing a book. Young Citizen of the Year Award was awarded to Jake Smith, extremely well deserved. Keep up the great work for your community, Jake!
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Dimboola	Great BBQ by Dimboola CWA. Guest speaker, Peter Docherty, was previously a Dimboola resident and has recently returned to the area. Peter has an extensive career in law/government and took the time to reflect on the positive impacts he experienced during his time in Dimboola.
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Nhill	Four awards presented at Nhill's events. Dah Lay Htoo Shwe also known as Star – Young Citizen of the Year, awarded as she assists the Karen community in many ways. Bob Blackwood – Citizen

			<p>of the Year, awarded because of his substantial volunteer work within the community over many decades. Bev Rethus – Lifetime Achievement Award, awarded to her for her work with ParkRun and numerous volunteer work within the community over many decades. Luv-a-Duck, Mark Shandley – Event of the Year Award, awarded as this event had many attendees across Hindmarsh Shire attend. Chris Standford received an award from the Nhill Lions Club for all her community building engagements.</p>
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6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
12/12/2025	Pioneer Museum Walk with Mark, Ram and Wendy.	Jeparit	Discussion with Ram, Mark and Wendy around the maintenance works needed.
16/12/2025	Pioneer Museum Meeting	Jeparit	General Meeting.
17/12/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
19/12/2025	Pioneer Museum Christmas Break Up	Jeparit	Good attendance, thank you to all volunteers who assisted in 2025.
20/12/2025	Menzies' Birthday Barbeque	Menzies Square, Jeparit	Great attendance, well done to the town committee for putting on the event.
22/12/2025	Soft opening of Rainbow Silo	Rainbow Silo, Rainbow	Absolutely outstanding attendance by the public and community members from the surrounding area. Thank you to everyone who attended.
21/01/2026	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Rainbow	Lovely morning, with the weather being cooler than forecasted. Good to see everyone in attendance. Thank you to the Lions Club.
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Jeparit	Good to see everyone out and about before the hot weather. Well done to all volunteers who assisted with the event.
26/01/2026	Pioneer Museum On-Site Catchup.	Jeparit	

6.4 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
11/12/2025	Youth Council Interviews	Dimboola Library	Encouraging to see the enthusiasm of those that are ready to be leaders in our community for our next generation.
17/12/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
22/12/2025	Soft Opening Rainbow Silo	Rainbow Silo	Good to see this project close to completion, hopefully attracting tourism to the far north of our municipality.
21/01/2026	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Dimboola	

6.5 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
17/12/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
21/01/2026	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
21/01/2026	Rainbow Lions Club Meeting	Rainbow	
24/01/2026	Lions Club Working Bee	Oasis, Rainbow	Preparing for Australia Day Event.
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Rainbow	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Event	Jeparit	

6.6 CR CHAN UOY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
10/12/2025	GWMT Forum	WAMA Foundation Pomonal	Emergency Communication Plan & International Tourism
13/12/2025	Wotjobaluk Nations Festival	Horseshoe Bend, Dimboola	20 Years of Native Title Recognition
16/12/2025	Awards Night Dimboola Memorial Secondary College	Assembly Hall, Dimboola	Great night honouring high achieving students.
17/12/2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
17/12/2025	Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting	Online via Teams	
20/12/2025	Menzies Birthday BBQ	Menzies Square Jeparit	
22/12/2025	Rainbow Silo Community Soft Opening	Rainbow	A game changer for town.
07/01/2026	Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting	Online via Teams	Hindmarsh Pride are planning their involvement with Harmony Day, the Chillout Festival in Daylesford and 2027 Midsumma Festival.
21/01/2026	Special Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Ceremony	Library Gardens, Dimboola	
26/01/2026	Australia Day Ceremony	Nhill Memorial Community Centre	

6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CEO

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
09/12/2025	GWM Tourism Pre-Board Meeting	Online	Online meeting with Wimmera Mallee Councils regarding the agenda for the GWM Tourism December board meeting.
09/12/2025	Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting	Nhill	
09/12/2025	16 Days of Activism Colour Run	Nhill	A great evening well attended by community members.
10/12/2025	Meeting with MAV and HSC	Online	Meeting regarding a collaborating with MAV to host a Youth event in Hindmarsh Shire.
10/12/2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance – CEO Meeting	Horsham	
11/12/2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Briefing	Online	
11/12/2025	ACE Radio Interview	Dimboola	Interview to support the ACE Radio shop local campaign.
12/12/2025	GWM Tourism Meeting	Halls Gap	December GWM Tourism Board meeting.
12/12/2025	Golden Hour Formal	Nhill	Hindmarsh Youth Council final event for 2025 was the Golden Hour Formal, this was well attended by youth from across the Shire.
13/12/2025	Wotjobaluk Nations Festival	Dimboola	A wonderful event at Horseshoe Bend in Dimboola.
13/12/2025	Nhill Lions Twilight Market & Nhill Town Committee Carols by Candlelight	Nhill	A well organised event attended by so many community members. It was fantastic to see the talent on stage.
15/12/2025	MAV Connect	Online	MAV CEO's meeting.
15/12/2025	Director Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services.
15/12/2025	Seymour Railway and HSC Meeting	Online	Meeting with Seymour Rail to discuss potential for

			collaboration to bring a train to Hindmarsh in mid-late 2026.
16/12/2025	Introduction to Emergency Management	Nhill	Kristi Sullivan from Wimmera Emergency Management Team provided Hindmarsh staff with an introduction to local government emergency management.
16/12/2025	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
16/12/2025	Rainbow P-12 College Awards Presentation	Rainbow	Congratulations to all awards winners and the graduating class of 2025.
17/12/2025	Monthly Meeting with Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Nhill	
17/12/2025	Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
18/12/2025	Rainbow Silo	Rainbow	Onsite visit prior to soft opening.
19/12/2025	Director Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services.
22/12/2025	Soft Opening Rainbow Silo	Rainbow	Soft opening of the Rainbow Silo for locals prior to opening to the public on 19 December 2025.
23/12/2025	Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Meeting	Nhill	
05/01/2026	Director Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services.
05/01/2026	Director Meeting	Nhill	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services.
06/01/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Online	
06/01/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
07/01/2026	IEMT Readiness Meeting	Online	Wimmera Emergency Management meeting in the lead up to the extreme weather forecast for Thursday and Friday.
07/01/2026	Meeting with Mark Davies and ELT	Online	Discussion regarding draft Long Term Financial Plan.

08/01/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Online	
08/01/2026	Crisisworks – ERC Registration Session	Online	Kristi Sullivan hosted an online session for Hindmarsh staff on the use of Crisisworks (Emergency management software).
09/01/2026	Horsham IEMT Briefing	Online	Wimmera Emergency Management meeting providing an update on the catastrophic forecast for Friday.
13/01/2026	Weekly Infrastructure Team Meeting	Nhill	
13/01/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Nhill	
13/01/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
13/01/2026	Meeting with Luv-A-Duck	Nhill	Meeting with Luv-a-Duck to discuss Shared Table screening and potential for Duck & Jazz event mid-late 2026.
14/01/2026	Meeting with community members	Dimboola	Meeting with community members regarding the proposed upgrades for the Star Theatre in Dimboola.
19/01/2026	MAV Monday Connect	Online	MAV CEO's monthly meeting.
19/01/2026	Economic Development and Tourism Update	Online	Meeting with Council's Manager Economic Development and Tourism regarding all that is happening across the Shire.
20/01/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Online	
21/01/2026	Jeparit Depot Meeting	Jeparit	Meeting with Jeparit Depot staff to update on a number of Council activities.
21/01/2026	Grampians Community Health Strategy Interview	Online	Meeting with consultant regarding GCH strategic plan development.
21/01/2026	ELT Meeting	Nhill	

22/01/2026	Nhill Meeting	Depot	Nhill	Meeting with Nhill Depot staff to update on a number of Council activities.
21/01/2026	Special Meeting	Council	Nhill	
22/01/2026	Meeting with community members	with	Nhill	Meeting with owners of the Farmers Arms Hotel in Nhill to discuss a few issues.
26/01/2026	Australia Awards	Day	Rainbow	Congratulations to the organisers of each event and the recipients of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Australia Day Awards. It was fantastic to see so many community members attend the events.
26/01/2026	Australia Awards	Day	Jeparit	
26/01/2026	Australia Awards	Day	Dimboola	
26/01/2026	Australia Awards	Day	Nhill	

7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 2025/11/28 - Hon. Nick Staikos MP to Mayor re Model Statement of Secure Employment – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2025/12/12 - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) to Council re Hindmarsh Shire Council Value Proposition – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)
- 2026/01/12 - Nhill RSL to Council re ANZAC Day 2026 – (Attachment Number: 7.1.3)
- 2026/01/28 - Joe McCracken MP to Mayor re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.4)

Outwards:

- 2025/12/15 - Council to BGLC re Letter of Thanks – Wotjobaluk Nations Festival – (Attachment Number: 7.1.5)
- 2025/12/15 - Council to Hon. Nick Staikos MP re Statement of Secure Employment – (Attachment Number: 7.1.6)
- 2025/12/17 - Council to Phil King re Thank You – (Attachment Number: 7.1.7)
- 2025/12/18 - Council to Nhill Town Committee re Donation for Proposed Works to Goldsworthy Park, Nhill – (Attachment Number: 7.1.8)
- 2025/12/18 - Council to Rainbow Town Committee re Request to Allocate Funds – (Attachment Number: 7.1.9)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Bev McArthur MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.10)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.11)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Hon. Gayle Tierney MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.12)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Hon. Harriet Shing MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.13)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Jacinta Ermacora MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.14)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Joe McCracken MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.15)
- 2026/01/21 - Council to Sarah Mansfield MP re Sunshine Regional Link Crossovers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.16)
- 2026/01/27 - Council to Wimmera Football Netball League re Council Sport and Recreation Strategy – (Attachment Number: 7.1.17)

RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:***

- 1. notes the attached correspondence; and***
- 2. becomes a member of the Victorian Local Governance Association from 2025/2026.***

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Aitken***That Council:***

- 1. notes the attached correspondence; and***
- 2. becomes a member of the Victorian Local Governance Association from 2025/2026.***

CARRIED

8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. 2025 12 17 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]
2. 2026 01 28 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 R Aitken/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 ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Annual Report 2024/2025 [10.1.1]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Report 2024/2025. The Annual Report is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* and contains a report on Council's operations, the audited performance statement, and audited financial statements. The Annual Report was originally presented to Council in October 2025, however due to changes required by the Victorian Auditor General's Office to the Annual Finance and Performance Statements, the Annual Report has been amended and is re-presented for noting.

The Annual Report provides an opportunity to review the previous financial year, celebrate the achievements of Council and the community, and acknowledge some of the challenges collectively faced in 2024/2025. It details Council's performance against the commitments as set out in the Council Plan 2021–2025 and provides an analysis of financial performance against the 2024/2025 budget.

Discussion:

Council has a statutory responsibility under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to prepare an Annual Report in respect of each financial year, containing a report on its operations, audited performance statement, audited financial statements, and any other matter required by the Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations.

Under section 100 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must consider the annual report within four (4) months of the end of the financial year. Council originally considered the Annual Report within the 4-month period, however due to changes required to the Financial and Performance Statements, the Annual Report has been amended and is re-presented for Council noting. Council notified the Local Government Inspectorate of this delay to completion of the Annual Report 2024/2025.

The Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 has been prepared, providing a comprehensive overview of Council's activities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The report includes achievements in respect of a range of projects, services, and assets managed and financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Some key achievements included in the Annual Report 2024/2025 include:

- The completion of 713 Customer Action Requests, including work tickets relating to roads, footpaths, drains and other infrastructure.
- 7,754 physical items borrowed from Hindmarsh Shire Libraries
- 11,668 attendees at Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools
- 14 residents became Australia Citizens
- 23 Planning Permits issued
- Completion and near completion of key community infrastructure projects like Davis Park, the Rainbow Silo Development Project, Rainbow Rises Events Centre and the Nhill and Dimboola Kindergartens on school sites.
- Notable increases in visitation to Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow Holiday Parks (no data from Nhill in 2023/2024 as Council did not directly operate), increasing Council's revenue and financial sustainability.
- Significant outputs from the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Visitor Economy Partnership.

The report is intended as a point of reference for Council, staff, residents, local businesses, community organisations and government departments.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

Financial Implications:

The are no financial implications relating to this decision.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	The Annual Report summarises the governance and financial performance of Council over the preceding 12 months. This is a requirement under the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> , so doing so meets legislative obligations, but it also promotes transparency and ensures that key information about Council's operations is publicly available.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Community engagement is not required in preparation of the Annual Report, however the final document will be made publicly available and advertised via local media and Council platforms.

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Communications Strategy:

The Annual Report 2024/2025 will be publicised via local newspapers, Council's social media pages, publications and published on Council's website. Copies will also be made available at Council's Customer Service Centres and Libraries.

Next Steps:

Council Officers to publish the Annual Report 2024/2025 in line with the Communications Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Report 2024/2025.

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Aitken

That Council receives the Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Report 2024/2025.

CARRIED

10.2 QUARTERLY COUNCIL PLAN ACTIONS UPDATE - Q2 2025/2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

This report presents Council with an update on the progress of items identified in the Council Plan Actions for delivery in the 2025/2026 financial year. Annually, Council adopts a set of actions that aid in the achievement of the objectives within the Council Plan 2025-2029. The actions correspond to the themes identified in the Council Plan:

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

Quarter 2 covers 01 October 2025 to 31 December 2025, with actions against each item detailed with a progress indicator in the table within this report.

Key achievements in quarter 2 include:

- Adoption of the Youth Strategy and Sport and Recreation Strategy.
- Community events such as the Youth Formal, Seniors Concert and Men’s Bus Tour.
- Adoption of the Asset Management Plan.
- Completion of curation works at Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum.
- Increase in awareness around Council services – demonstrated by ongoing communications and a 14.4% increase in engagement across social media.
- Near-completion of several capital works and maintenance projects, including the Lloyd Street footpath in Dimboola, Macpherson Street wombat crossing and overall being on track to complete around 90% of capital works projects scheduled for this financial year.
- Advocacy work around speed reductions, Fire Services Levy, and wild dog management.

Discussion:

The table below provides a detailed update on the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026.

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Theme 1 Our Community		
1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected		
Create and maintain shared spaces		
Complete the Centenary Park projects as part of the Streetscape Masterplan	The substantive part of the project – concrete path and fencing – have been completed, with extra gates having been installed on the Jaypex park end of the fence. Additional	90%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
	works will be co-ordinated in collaboration with Nhill's community groups.	
Assist the Rainbow Trailblazers with the establishment of a bike track	Council approval has been given to the managing group to commence project works.	50%
Complete and officially open the Wimmera River Discovery Trail	Wimmera River Discovery Trail was officially opened in September 2025, with some additional signage to be installed as an outcome of user feedback.	100%
Review the Youth Strategy, including a plan for sustainable regular out-of-school hours activities that promote use of public facilities and reserves	The renewed Youth Strategy 2025-2029 was adopted by Council in December 2025.	100%
Provide accessible programs for all ages and abilities		
Continually diversify the resources, activities and services provided by libraries to be innovative, inclusive and meeting community need – focus year 1: Cultural Diversity	Hindmarsh Shire Libraries has recently purchased several new items for the physical collection. Including stories connected to First Nations People, and a collection of children's picture books published in bilingual English/Karen-Sgaq, these are set to arrive in early 2026.	50%
Adopt a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy	Initial research commenced, with the goal to present a draft to Council in Q3.	10%
Through the FFVLGP, work with local sporting clubs to improve participation rates for women and girls	Free From Violence posters have been installed in local sporting clubs, with Council staff continuing to liaise with representatives to collaborate on future projects.	10%
Youth events and school holiday activities are inclusive and free for all to participate	Events held in Q2 include the Youth Formal and movie evening, with pool parties planned for the start of Q3. The new Youth Council commences in February and will begin planning new events for 2026.	50%
Support local events that bring people together		
Collaborate with Luv-a-Duck on a regional festival	CEO and MEDT met with Mark Shandley to discuss activities. Luv-A-Duck will host an event at Jaypex Park on 13 March 2026 with food, music etc. A further potential event is being planned for August/September with Council and Seymour Rail. Ongoing discussions about the relaunch of a Duck n Jazz style event/weekend.	25%
Deliver bi-monthly movies at the Nhill Cinema that are targeted at adults	"Seen" movie screened, with Shared Table scheduled to be screened in early 2026.	Ongoing

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Audit commonly used Council-managed spaces and facilities to ensure that relevant amenities and services are maintained to provide accessibility for all	Buildings condition audits were undertaken by external contractors, which provide detailed maintenance assessments of buildings. Council is currently addressing high priority maintenance tasks, with a routine audit scheduled in Q3.	50%
Ongoing Regional Community Events Grants Program, Fee Waiver Policy and reduced fees for Council Facilities Hire for community groups.	Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy adopted 24 September 2025, with the first round of Business Assistance, Regional Community Events and Community Action Grants Awarded. Fees for hire of Council facilities have been reviewed through budget preparation process and will be presented to Council in Q3.	40%
1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing		
Attract new residents and encourage multicultural inclusion		
Commence drafting New Residents Guides for the Shire and specific localities	To be commenced in Q3 following the recruitment of Manager Community Wellbeing replacement position.	0%
Participate in Careers Expos within the region that attract young workers to the Shire	Not yet commenced. Registrations for the Western Victorian Careers Expo open in June 2026.	0%
Develop calendar of key events that activities that are important to our CALD community in, collaboration with residents	Calendar to be developed in early Q3 for the 2026 calendar year.	0%
Deliver activities contained in the Cultural Inclusion Review	With consent, Council has been increasing its bank of diverse 'stock' community photos to be used in publications. Additional Sport and Recreation Activities have been included in the Sport and Recreation Strategy adopted in Q1. Welcome Packs for new residents will be initiated with the commencement of the replacement Manager Community Wellbeing position. Discussion held with WSMD around identifying any gaps in the delivery of cultural services that Council's libraries could assist facilitation of.	40%
Invest in liveability and town planning		
Review Hindmarsh Council's Local Laws and consider amendments that encourage innovative living options	A review of Council's Local Laws is underway.	40%
Complete the Safer Local Roads Project in MacPherson Street, Nhill	The path and outstands have been completed, with the project awaiting completion of asphalt component by contractor.	50%
Strengthen ties between towns through events and shared goals		

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Review Council Grant Guidelines and amend to encourage cross-community collaboration	Grant guidelines review underway for consideration as part of the budget development process for implementation in 2026/2027.	25%
Host an annual Town Committee/Progress Association Summit that brings together volunteers from across the Shire to collaborate and plan for the year	To be commenced in Q3 following the recruitment of the Manager Community Wellbeing replacement position.	10%
Offer transport options between towns for major Council-run events	Buses were provided for young people attending the end of year Formal event at NMCC in December. Transportation was also provided to the Seniors Concert in October, and as part of the Men's Bus Tour.	50%
Showcase new lifestyle and development possibilities		
Create a webpage on Council's website for developers to access information on Council's development opportunities and processes	Draft content and implementation proposal has commenced.	20%
Draft policy and procedure for showcasing completed/approved subdivisions on Council's channels to establish Council as pro-development	Policy drafting has commenced.	20%
Increase Council publications around service providers, including WWHS, aged care, early years and long-daycare centres	Council has promoted publications from the Department of Health around viruses and diseases, recruitment opportunities available at Emerge Early Years, Australian Taxation Office's free courses, local Landcare groups workshops, promotion of Seniors events during Seniors Month in October and many posts providing information around summer and fire preparedness from the CFA.	50%
1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them		
Collaborate with regional partners and networks to achieve greater impact through collective effort		
Develop a draft Political Engagement Plan, identifying key contacts and priorities for advocacy	Ongoing in line with State Election timeline and advocacy priorities identified in the Council Plan. The new WSM Council Alliance are also planning collaborative political engagement activities.	40%
Develop a schedule of meetings between Councillors and regional partners and networks to ensure connection and collaboration	Multiple invitations occurred during Q2. Scheduling has commenced for 2026 regional partners and organisations to attend Council briefing sessions.	Ongoing

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Engage and work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council on projects within our Shire	Hindmarsh Shire hosted the BGLC Local Government forum in Dimboola in October. The forum was attended by BGLC representatives, Government agency representatives, and Local Government Mayors and CEO's (or delegates). Hindmarsh Shire also hosted the Department of Premier and Cabinet Local Government Executive Roundtable in December with representatives from Local Government and State Partner representatives attending.	Ongoing
Explore flexible and innovative services		
Undertake a scoping plan for unstaffed access to Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools	To be undertaken and incorporated within a formal service review in Q3-Q4.	10%
Complete service reviews for Local Laws, Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools, Customer Service and Libraries, Planning and Building	Underway, to be completed in Q3-Q4.	20%
Adopt a Generative AI Policy	Policy prepared and adopted by the CEO in Q2.	100%
Ensure community needs shape future service planning		
Develop a project management framework that best positions Council to succeed in applications for grants for community-identified projects	Draft Policy and documentation collated and progressed to executive approval at the end of Q2.	90%
Leverage RCCC to begin implementing a CRM, incorporating complaints management	Not yet commenced. Current RCCC project is the SOE and implementation of CRM is dependent on cluster program timing.	0%
Develop a Service Promotion Plan that sets out when key services will be promoted, explained and reviewed	Currently occurs according to service peak or critical periods, a more formal plan is under development.	20%
Review Advocacy Strategy in preparation for the 2026 State Election	Work is underway by WSM Council Alliance on advocacy priorities; information has also been provided to Emma Kealy on Council's priorities.	25%
Theme 2 Built and Natural Environment		
2.1 We care for and connect with our natural environment		
Complete and promote walking and cycling trail networks		
Install signage for the Wimmera River Discovery Trail	Overall, the WRDT project has been completed with additional signage having been highlighted by users that would assist the user experience. To be completed in Q3.	90%
Create a portfolio of media showcasing cycling and walking trails, to utilise on Council platforms	The Economic Development and Tourism team are currently finalising a brief to review sign and brochure branding Shire-wide. Through this	10%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
	process, cycling, walking and tourism assets will have updated media for promotion.	
Investigate viability of Council supporting Park Run establishment in Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola	Not yet commenced.	0%
Maintain and enhance recreational spaces		
Complete Masterplans for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Davis Park Precinct and Jeparit Riverbank Tennis Court / Caravan Park Precinct	In this quarter, Council began the market engagement process for key sport and recreation precinct Master Plans, including Davis Park. Once completed, this will drive future development and enable the identification of community-endorsed infrastructure and development projects for future grant funding opportunities.	40%
Complete the Davis Park Changeroom and Tiered Seating upgrades	Certificate of Occupancy issued on 16 December. Acquittal for funding has been submitted, with staff now waiting on quotes for additional works for pathway and steps.	100%
Commence Dimboola Swimming Pool accessibility upgrade and wet deck	Site survey and Geotech have been completed and sent to Engineer who will commence works on this project in January 2026.	20%
Support environmental tourism and stewardship		
Update Council's website to link to existing information around birdwatching opportunities within the Shire	Initial works commenced on locations, with Council's Landcare Facilitator working on the Landcare information page on Council's website.	50%
Advocate for the re-opening of the Little Desert National Park and continued investment in its tourism opportunities	Horseshoe Bend and Ackle Bend were re-opened in time for the September/October school holidays. Work through GWM Tourism continues to promote tourism opportunities throughout the Wimmera Mallee (including Hindmarsh Shire).	50%
Advocate for appropriate management of trees on and in the Wimmera River	Council continues to work with Wimmera CMA and DEECA regarding the management of trees that are in or may impact on the Wimmera River waterway.	Ongoing
Manage wild animals and invasive weeds on Council owned and managed land to maintain ecological balance and protect local diversity		
Engage with WWAG, Landcare and other pertinent community groups to attend briefings and talk to Councillors and Council about what they see is required in this area	WWAG representative attended the meeting with Parliamentary Secretary and other Local Government Mayors and CEOs in relation to Wild Dogs. Landcare briefing to Council has been scheduled for early 2026.	50%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Design the Roadside Pests and Weed Management Plan in collaboration Landcare groups	Works are ongoing, previous Roadside Pests and Weed Management Plan works are now live on POZI (mapping software).	75%
Publish education material to support property owners to 'do their bit' to manage pests and weeds	Communications being produced to be publicised in Q3-4.	Ongoing
2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience		
Focus on maintenance that priorities function for our farming network		
Host sessions with stakeholders and farmers that identify and resolve issues and opportunities relating to local agricultural road networks	Farmer Consultation Sessions are planned for February / March 2026. A meeting was held with the Heavy Transport and Freight Working Group in October 2025.	40%
Ongoing inspections and maintenance of road and footpath networks to meet the requirement set in Road Management Plan	The new inspection regime defined by the Road Management plan is now implemented into Council's maintenance management system. Inspections and maintenance are progressing accordingly.	100%
Adopt the Asset Management Plan	The new Asset Management Plan was adopted by Council in October 2025.	100%
Invest in essential infrastructure that supports our townships and agricultural industries		
Leverage the Road Management Plan to identify key footpaths used by our ageing community, and develop and communicate a maintenance plan	Improved inspection delivery has been implemented that identifies maintenance requirements in townships in a timely fashion. The upgrade of Whitehead Avenue (Nhill), Lloyd Street footpath (Dimboola) and Park Street (Nhill) shared paths are now progressing.	60%
Maintain the condition of existing road infrastructure within the municipality by prioritising capital investment on renewal over new and upgrade projects	The capital works program has been developed with renewal prioritised over new works and upgrades. The program is travelling well and is on track for 90% completion at end of June.	60%
Complete the Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study	The final report was received from WaterTech just before Christmas and will be reviewed in early Q3.	90%
Plan for climate resilience and risk mitigation		
Work with key community, government and emergency management stakeholders to build community capacity and resilience to support response and recovery	Council continues to work with MEMPC and WEMT (Emergency Management groups) to build emergency management capabilities and preparedness. Municipal Emergency Management Plan and MFMP review has commenced as well.	50%
Deliver a communications campaign in the lead-up to summer to educate	Posts have been published as well as the creation of town-specific	90%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
about emergency planning, vulnerable persons and keeping informed	emergency management guides, information sessions with the CFA were held and communications will continue into Q3 and Q4.	
Implement activities from the Climate Adaption Strategy	Progress on Implementation Action Plan to be presented at March Council Meeting.	Ongoing
2.3 We support development that enhances needs-based growth		
Engage with developers, community stakeholders, and Traditional Owners to ensure inclusive, well-planned growth		
Meet with representatives from Traditional Owners Groups to improve understanding of Cultural Heritage Overlays and Cultural Heritage Management Planning	Council will contact the BGLC and meet to discuss new Government Initiatives.	10%
Host information sessions regarding subdivision, shed construction and re-zoning	To be delivered in Q3-4.	0%
Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable and affordable		
Promote and enable subdivision opportunities in central areas of townships	To be delivered in Q3-4.	0%
Seek funding to undertake Settlement Strategy within the municipality	The ordinance changes from the Planning Scheme Review are to be implemented before we can make application to the Hub for assistance with the Settlement Strategy.	20%
Refine anomalies amendment for implementation into Planning Scheme	Planning Officer is working on spreadsheet to update formatting per DTP requirements; spreadsheet is used to inform zoning changes.	30%
Invest in essential infrastructure upgrades that support new housing developments and population growth		
Investigate cost-effective ways to upgrade Council infrastructure to support housing developments	Policy development is underway to implement developer contributions scheme to assist with downstream infrastructure upgrades.	20%
Theme 3 Competitive and Innovative Economy		
3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow		
Reduce red tape and simplify planning and business approval processes through engagement with current and future applicants		
Produce simple fact sheets on starting a hospitality business, the planning process, and other relevant topics	Website updates and flyers drafted in Q1. The Economic Development, Planning and Community Development teams will be participating in the Business-Friendly Councils Program in February / March. Outcomes from that program will align with this action.	20%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Develop business workshop plan for year 2 that covers budgeting, forecasting, finance and procurement	Currently under development, to be completed very early in Q3.	10%
Support local procurement and small business networks		
Review the Procurement Policy and amend to strengthen local supply provisions	The updated Procurement Policy was adopted by Council in Q2.	100%
Finalise the additional Goods and Services Panel of Suppliers, supporting applications from local businesses	Completed, with 17 new suppliers added to the existing Panel.	100%
Publish 'shop local' campaigns in the lead up to Christmas, to encourage people to purchase gifts locally	Brief shop locally campaign delivered through local newspapers, MixFM and Hindmarsh Shire Socials in November / December 2025. Print Ads set up for Christmas and general period to use as required.	100%
Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation		
Encourage and support community co-op entrepreneurship	Council to potentially engage a speaker/consultant to facilitate a social enterprise discussion for the Jeparit community as part of the Menzies Symposium project. This will have positive outcomes and opportunities that the other three towns of Hindmarsh Shire could pick up and develop.	10%
Develop a briefing document that considers use of the former Mechanics Workshop in Jeparit as a community co-op	The Menzies Symposium has expressed interest in the use of the facility for community purposes and for public art. Council will review the sustainability of the facilities, asset management requirements and property leasing and sale requirements in Q3-Q4.	30%
3.2 We attract investment that aligns with community values		
Promote regional strengths and investment readiness		
Partner with GWMT to deliver LAAP for Hindmarsh	No update this quarter.	Ongoing
Explore joint ventures and development incentives		
Commence working on a briefing piece that considers Council's potential involvement in joint ventures	Not yet commenced.	0%
Support development that reflects local character		
Welcoming developers with an interest in creating retirement villages or diverse home developments that fit within town planning and community needs for new residents	Council's Planning team is proactively and continually assisting developers with pre-lodgement advice to support and guide new developments.	100%
3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries		

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Be leaders in positive change that creates investment in the direction of our community		
Support activities and training with staff that encourages innovation and creative thinking for community benefit	Planning is underway for a facilitated workshop/session in Q3-4.	15%
Deliver actions within the Economic Development Strategy	Formal Economic Development Strategy update to be provided to Council in Q3.	Ongoing
Explore community social enterprise opportunities and philanthropy		
Develop a briefing document that considers use of the former Mechanics Workshop in Jeparit as a community co-op	The Menzies Symposium has expressed interest in the use of the facility for community purposes and for public art. Council will review the suitability of the facilities, asset management requirements and property leasing and sale requirements in Q3-Q4.	30%
Plan an information session for community members on what social enterprise opportunities could be possible within the Shire	Council to potentially engage a speaker/consultant to facilitate a social enterprise discussion for the Jeparit community as part of the Menzies Symposium project. This will consider outcomes and opportunities that the other three major towns of Hindmarsh Shire could pick up and develop.	10%
Consider amending the Fees and Charges section of Council's budget or review fee-based policies to support access to Council spaces for this purpose	Fees and Charges are being reviewed as part of the development of the 2026/2027 Annual Budget.	10%
Foster industry collaboration and innovation		
Identify networks of like businesses and industries, and explore options for collaboration, connection and innovation	Council is working with WestVic, looking to establish sector groups in Hindmarsh Shire for support and information sharing. Additionally, Council's upcoming online directory will also assist with local promotion and connection of the business community.	40%
Expand farmer consultations to include industry collaboration opportunities relating to shared goals and issues	Council's Economic Development and Tourism and Infrastructure teams will collaborate on a joint approach. Council will include local Agriculture businesses in the overall Hindmarsh Shire Council business development program.	10%
Showcase our history to create rich visitor experiences		
Develop action plan to implement the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Masterplan	The curator works have been completed. Committee putting final localised touches to the displays. Additional story boards and online	30%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
	presence to be developed prior to 30 June 2026. Additional works to be reviewed as part of ongoing budget process.	
Develop priority projects list for Yurunga and WMPM to be considered for project scoping	Priority list of works has been received. Working with both committees to prioritise and align with available funds. WMPM to submit a request for additional funds for significant maintenance and repairs of Briarley House.	40%
Support community efforts to deliver Heritage events, such as the Nhill Heritage Weekend	Council supported and promoted the Nhill Heritage Weekend in Q2, which event organisers should be commended for. Discussions have commenced with Dimboola Lions Group to arrange a Local Laws information evening for event organisers.	20%
Theme 4 Good Governance and Financial Sustainability		
4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation		
Provide regular updates on Council decisions and actions		
Continue with the regular newsletters and social media posts that are communicated in plain language	Council published a quarterly newsletter to all letterboxes within Hindmarsh Shire, published three monthly newsletters, circulated 7 e-newsletters and published 197 Facebook posts on the Hindmarsh Shire Council page (531.8K Facebook content views during this quarter – 14.4% increase from previous quarter).	Ongoing
Promote our services, projects and activities throughout their lifecycle	Council continued to provide regular updates on our projects – these included the completion of new changerooms and grandstand at Nhill Davis Park, updates on the Rainbow Silo Art and Tower project and improvement works to the entrance of the Rainbow Holiday Park.	Ongoing
Mayor to record a short summary following a Council meeting to be published online	Following each Council Meeting the Mayor and Deputy Mayor provide a short summary of decisions from the meeting. The recording is published through Council's Facebook page.	25%
Improve follow-up systems and response times		
Commence implementation of CRM	This has been de-prioritised by the RCCC group, and the 'Standard Operating Environment' has adopted as the main collaborative project.	10%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Undertake Complaints Handling training with the Victorian Ombudsman	This is planned for the new year when the Victorian Ombudsman's training team have dates available to deliver the training.	10%
Review the Customer Service Charter	To be prepared for employee consultation in Q3.	10%
Increase use of autoreplies after contact is made across generic email addresses, linking to key information available for that service area	Autoreplies have been set up for local laws, planning, libraries, info, environmental health, community, events, FOI, rates, EA, S86 (committees) and volunteering.	30%
Share decision-making processes in plain language		
Ensure communication is transparent, even when the news is bad	Council's communications in this period have been reviewed to ensure transparency, openness around any delays, concerns or errors.	Ongoing
Improve Have Your Say Hindmarsh processes to ensure project information is updated and published after a decision is made	The outcome of each consultation is added to Have Your Say website once a decision has been made by Council and Officers.	Ongoing
Update and adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Rules	Officers are in initial stages of reviewing the Governance Rules, and are currently seeking an update on the planned release date for the Model Governance Rules to avoid duplication. Draft Model Governance Rules have been sighted but these have not been formally progressed.	20%
4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness		
Build capacity in staff and Councillors for engagement		
Undertake authentic engagement training as part of the annual Councillor Professional Development training	Training delivered 22 October 2025.	100%
Support staff in undertaking de-escalation and managing difficult conversations training	Not yet commenced.	0%
Review the Community Engagement Policy to ensure communication is clear around the outcomes that can and cannot be influenced by the engagement process	Scheduled for review in Q3.	0%
Deliver Free from Violence/Primary Prevention Training with staff and Councillors	The first Councillor training session was completed successfully in Q2. Three more Councillor sessions are scheduled for March, April and May 2026.	80%
Be present at community events and spaces		
Councillors to demonstrate availability and engagement in activity reports	Activity reports are published as part of Council Agenda along with Councillor Out and About Facebook posts.	Ongoing

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Support Councillor and Executive staff attendance at community markets	Councillors and Executive staff have attended various events throughout Hindmarsh Shire. CEO activity report is now also published as part of the Council Agenda.	Ongoing
Create a calendar of community events and identify a Council representative who is best positioned to attend	Currently this is managed informally through the Senior and Executive Management Teams and ongoing engagement with community groups and Committees. Council will be advertising for a replacement Manager Community Wellbeing (title to be reviewed) in early 2026 – this position will be responsible for this action.	50%
Publish a Councillor Out and About post to complement Councillors activity reports	Councillor Out and About posts were promoted on 1 November and 8 December, this is in addition to Mayoral Matters posts published on 1 October, 6 November, 1 December and 22 December.	Ongoing
Use varied channels to reach diverse groups		
Explore a partnership with local schools to enable Council content to be published in school newsletters	Council provides content to schools for publication regularly.	Ongoing
Contact key businesses, organisations and community groups to ensure that they can subscribe to Council communications	An email has been drafted, working on collating a contact list to circulate in Q3.	25%
4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically		
Explore revenue streams beyond rates		
Complete the Industrial Land business case	Draft report has been received, and the consultant will present at Council Briefing on 28 January 2026.	80%
Ensure processes enable effective use of developer contributions	Developer contributions are being considered for several identified projects.	10%
Develop a Sponsorships and Donations Policy that enables private investment in community events and initiatives	The Sponsorships and Donations Policy was adopted in September 2025.	100%
Report annually on Hindmarsh Holiday Parks revenue and investment to grow patronage	Caravan Park earnings and patronage are included in the quarterly finance report. There are currently issues with the data being exported from the new booking system that will be resolved in Q3.	30%
Prioritise spending aligned with community goals		
Improve internal systems for prioritising completion of existing projects within community	Project management internal audit due to be completed in Q3. This will inform future actions. Development of Project Management Policy in	90%

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
expectations, and communicate transparently about delays	progress. Documentation for Project Management Framework awaiting executive approval.	
Develop the Workforce Plan to account for the implementation of the Council Plan	The Workforce Plan completed in October 2025.	100%
Review, amend and adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Procurement Policy	The updated Procurement Policy was adopted in Q2.	100%
Report clearly on how much money is spent and what value it delivers		
Review the Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act and present to Council for adoption by 30 June 2026	Will commence and be completed in Q3 and Q4.	10%
Develop simple guides to financial reporting information that includes graphs and images to community budget and rating information to the community	To be developed as part of the budget development process for 2026/2027 in Q3 and Q4.	10%
Publish information that explains how Council projects are funded, including own-source and grant-funded projects	Whenever Council provides project updates, we include a spiel about how the project was funded and who by.	Ongoing
Advocacy Priorities		
Sports and recreation reserves and facilities that meet community need		
Davis Park precinct project completion	Council began the market engagement process for key sport and recreation precinct Masterplans, including Davis Park. Once completed this will drive future development and enable the identification of community-endorsed infrastructure and development projects for future grant funding opportunities.	Ongoing
Lighting upgrades at high-use ovals	To be considered under the Country Football Netball Program following completion of Masterplans for Davis Park and Dimboola Recreation Reserve.	30%
Masterplans for key sporting precincts	Council began the market engagement and process for key sport and recreations precinct Masterplans. Contactors will be appointed and commence work in Q3.	Ongoing
Improved and protected rail network and crossings		
Improved access to the rail line for grain receival and transport sites	Information was provided to Emma Kealy as part of Council's priority projects for the upgrade to the Nhill grain receival site. Mayor attended the Rail Freight Forum in Melbourne in November where the implications on	Ongoing

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
	rail freight due to the upgrades to the Sunshine Rail works were discussed.	
Improved level crossings, including upgrading High Street, Dimboola, to improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles and be all-abilities friendly	Council officers continue to review possibilities for external funding and project scoping.	Ongoing
Recreational water protection		
Replacement of Jeparit Weir	Feasibility study report for Jeparit Weir replacement has been completed. In continuous discussion with WCMA, DEECA and EMV for possibility of funding under Disaster Ready Fund.	40%
Commitment for water retention at Lake Hindmarsh and along the Wimmera River.	Ongoing discussion with GWM Water about water security in weir pools and lakes. Bore is now operational for Nhill Lake top up.	Ongoing
Funding to enhance tourism opportunities at the Jeparit Weir Pool	Manager Economic Development and Tourism has discussed the Riverfront Precinct with RDV for future funding opportunities that could assist further development of the site. This includes possible renewal of a couple of the tennis courts and extension of the Holiday Park in line with Council's previous work.	Ongoing
Sustainable Local Government funding model that supports key infrastructure renewal		
Fair allocation of Federal Assistance Grants and settling of the Rate Cap	Council continues to advocate through MAV, RCV and meeting with Ministers for increased Federal Assistance Grants and setting of Rate Cap that reflects actual cost escalations on Council.	Ongoing
Fair State Government levies	Council continues to advocate through MAV, RCV and meeting with Ministers for fair state government levies – including the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund being reviewed and collected by the State.	Ongoing
Grant co-contributions that Council can afford	Council continues to advocate for consideration of the small rate revenue in Rural Councils and inability to meet the grant co-contribution requirements.	Ongoing
Public amenities that support our diverse community		
Mecca all-abilities amenities	Council continues to advocate for all-abilities amenities at Rainbow MECCA through election promises.	Ongoing
Changing Places facilities in key locations	Council officers are reviewing possibilities for project scoping and funding identification.	Ongoing
Safer local roads		

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
Reduced speed limits in central business districts and high pedestrian areas, like schools, that keep pedestrians safe	Dimboola and Nhill speed reduction to 40KM per hour have now been approved. Both speed limit implementations are scheduled to be completed in Q3.	60%
Increased funding for road maintenance and upgrades	Council continues to advocate for increased funding for road maintenance and upgrades. Applications have been submitted for Dimboola Minyip Road and Lorquon Road under SLRIP. Applications have also been submitted for Leahy Street footpath upgrade and Broughton Kaniva/Block 40 intersection upgrade under SLRSP.	Ongoing
Affordable and appropriate services for children and parents		
Early years centre at the Rainbow P-12 site	Council supported an application through Emerge Early Years to the Building Early Education Fund Mark Sounding grant to build or expand additional ECEC services in areas of need being six small rural townships including Rainbow and Jeparit.	Ongoing
Childcare in Rainbow and Jeparit	As above.	As above.
Equitable access to education, paediatrics and other family services	Council Officers continue to advocate for improved childcare in Rainbow and Jeparit.	Ongoing
Health and aged care services that are comprehensive and accessible		
Providing local access to specialists and treatments that don't disadvantage the community through distance	Council will be liaising with Grampians Community Health on their strategic planning relating to the provision of mental health and social services in Q3. There has been continued engagement with By Five who undertake work to ensure children within Hindmarsh can access paediatric services.	Ongoing
Greater access to aged care and at-home support services	Council will continue to advocate with funding bodies and support West Wimmera Health services, Grampians Health and other providers to ensure services are available, appropriate and designed in a place-based manner.	Ongoing
Communities that feel heard where State and Federal decisions impact them		
Meaningful engagement with communities around State levies and charges that are collected through Councils	Hindmarsh Shire CEO continues to hold CEO Drop-in sessions to speak with community members about operational matters and answers questions regarding State levies and Council chares. Information was included in the annual rates notice	Ongoing

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
	explaining all changes. Council also published a Facebook post providing information on the ESVF. Farmer consultations sessions are being planned for February / March 2026.	
Consultation with agricultural communities around the management of national parks that border farmland	Farmer consultation sessions are being planned for February / March 2026.	Ongoing
A workforce that meets the needs of a growing region		
Advocate with stakeholders about attracting and retaining skilled professionals in priority sectors	Workforce planning for trades and industry considered as part of the Industrial Land Business Case. Further work to be completed in Q3-4.	Ongoing
Contribute to the mapping of future workforce needs across industries	As above.	Ongoing
Promote the region as a place to live and work	Council and Hindmarsh Pride Committee will be promoting Hindmarsh Shire as a location for tourism and treechange opportunities at the March Chillout Festival. Pursuing other opportunities to attract 'treechangers' including a mini social media campaign.	Ongoing
Health and Wellbeing Priorities		
Gender equality and the prevention of family violence		
Develop and implement a comprehensive, community-wide approach to the prevention of family, sexual and gender-based violence across Hindmarsh. This approach will involve collaboration between Local Government, community organizations, service providers and residents to create a culture of safety, equality and inclusion. The goal is to ensure that every community member and visitor—regardless of their age, gender, cultural background, or personal circumstances—is treated with respect, dignity and fairness. By fostering awareness, promoting respectful relationships and supporting early intervention, Hindmarsh can become a model of a safe and inclusive community for all.	Several community activities have taken place across the past several months, particularly during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign. All events are planned with care, and GIAs are completed to ensure events are accessible, inclusive and appealing to everyone.	Ongoing
Tackling climate change and impacts on health		
Enhance community resilience to the health and wellbeing impacts of	Over the preceding three months, the focus on climate resilience has	Ongoing

Council Plan Actions 2025-2026	Q2 Update	Q2 % Progress
climate change through inclusive, locally driven initiatives that build capacity, connection and preparedness.	emergency preparedness and planning. Sessions were held with the CFA in regard to Fire Readiness, but these were - on the whole - not well attended and format will be reconsidered in the future.	
Physical Activity		
Ensure people of all ages have access to inclusive, affordable and safe opportunities to be active within their local community. Encourage greater use of active transport, such as walking and cycling, for local movement. Promote the natural environment, parks and open spaces as welcoming places for everyone to engage in physical activity.	Council has emphasised the opportunity to use the Wimmera River Discovery Trail in this period, providing comprehensive information and marketing for users of all abilities. The Sport and Recreation Strategy was also adopted - this will enable targeted, community driven initiatives that support sport and recreation opportunities for people of all ages, genders and abilities.	Ongoing
Social Inclusion and Connection		
To foster an inclusive community in Hindmarsh where individuals feel a sense of belonging and are connected to people, places, resources, opportunities and services that empower them to learn, work, participate and have their voices heard.	This forms the core of Council's business, with ongoing work delivered that enhances engagement and opportunities – key community involvement in this quarter includes the opening of the Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools, consultation on Tiny Towns applications and FOGO, activities in libraries including Cuppa Connections and creative clubs, and numerous events for young people.	Ongoing
Food		
Ensure everyone in Hindmarsh Shire has access to fresh, healthy, safe, affordable and culturally appropriate food, close to home. Increase education and awareness about healthy eating to help more people meet vegetable and fruit consumption guidelines, while actively supporting and promoting local food growing and swapping initiatives.	The Nhill Town Committee has been working with Nhill Lions regarding a Community pantry application, the Dimboola Garden Club regarding the establishment of a community garden and potential opportunities with Centre for Participation for the provision of fresh free produce locally for those who need it. Planning and Environment Manager has made contact with West Wimmera Health Service regarding the Grow Local, Eat Local Program.	Ongoing

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

Financial Implications:

Actions within the annual Council Plan Actions are considered in the 2025/2026 Budget. There are no additional financial implications associated with this decision.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Project Management and Strategic Execution	The preparation of the Council Plan, incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan and Community Vision, is a statutory requirement. The actions contained within the Annual Action plan represent and demonstrate progress on projects, events and services relevant to the community. This ensures that Council is expending resources efficiently and in line with community needs.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Gender Equality Act 2020

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

Community Engagement:

Community engagement was undertaken as part of the development and adoption of the Council Plan 2025-2029; additional engagement is undertaken in the development of the Annual Actions. Annual Actions are also informed by ongoing engagement programs and the development of other Council strategies and plans, including Community Action Plans and the Economic Development Strategy.

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Communications Strategy:

The Council Plan Actions Q2 Update will be published via a media release to ensure that the information is available to the community.

Next Steps:

Council officers to continue implementation of the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026 and work with Councillors and the community to develop 2026/2027 Council Plan Actions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026 second quarter update.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr C Uoy

That Council receives the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026 second quarter update.

CARRIED

10.3 SUMMARY OF PLANNING PERMITS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION - Q4 2025

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

This report summarises the planning permit applications approved and refused by the CEO under delegation for the period of 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 (Q4 2025). This report also includes planning permits approved and refused under the VicSmart process. A total of six (6) planning permits were approved during this period and one (1) VicSmart application for the removal of a native tree in Dimboola was refused.

Discussion:

Planning permit applications are assessed under the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme. Under Council delegations, the Chief Executive Officer may approve planning permits following assessment and recommendation by town planners. More complex applications are presented to Council for determination.

Some low impact and straightforward planning permit applications are eligible for the VicSmart process, which provides an expedited assessment pathway. VicSmart is designed to streamline simple proposals and includes a ten-business day assessment timeframe, no public notice, no external referrals, and a decision by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation.

Regular planning permit applications have a statutory assessment timeframe of 60 days. VicSmart applications have a statutory assessment timeframe of ten (10) days.

The following planning permit applications, including VicSmart applications, were approved or refused by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation during the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025. VicSmart applications are identified by the letters VS in the application number.

App No.	Address	Proposal	Date Rec'd	Planning Permit Trigger	Date Appr'd	Stat Days
PA1892-2025	2 William Street, DIMBOOLA VIC 3414	Vegetation removal (four non-native pine trees)	23/09/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 42.01-2 Remove, destroy or lop any vegetation ESO 	23/10/2025	8
PA1891-2025	4-6 Park Street, NHILL Vic 3418	Use and Development of land for store,	2/09/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 52.06-3 Car parking requirement reduction 	10/11/2025	15

		including vehicle store, reduction of car parking requirements and associated works.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 35.07-4 Development of the land for a store • Clause 35.07-1 Use of the land for a store 		
PA1870-2024	Western Beach Road, RAINBOW VIC 3424	Subdivide land into two lots (re-subdivide three lots into two lots)	21/10/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 44.06-2 - Subdivide land – BMO • Clause 44.04-3 - Subdivide land – LSIO • Clause 42.01-2 - Subdivide land – ESO • Clause 35.07-3 - Subdivide land - FZ 	16/10/2025	34
VS250008*	68-70 Faith Street, DIMBOOLA VIC 3414	Removal of a native tree (River Red Gum)	13/11/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 59.06 Remove, destroy or lop one tree • Clause 52.37 Canopy Trees 	REFUSED 12/12/2025	10
VS250007^	12-14 Townsend Street, Nhill VIC 3418	Removal of a native tree (River Red Gum)	16/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 42.01-2 - A permit is required to remove vegetation 	24/11/2025	9
VS250006	98-100 Nelson Street, NHILL VIC 3418 (Nhill Post Office)	Works in a Heritage Overlay to install a CCTV security camera system as required by Australia Post	15/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 43.01-1 construct or carry out works 	16/10/2025	1
VS250005	Miatke Road, RAINBOW VIC 3424	Construction of a 3-sided hay shed	11/09/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 55.07-4 - Buildings and works within 100 metres of a waterway 	7/10/2025	1

*VS250008 which sought permission to remove a mature River Red Gum at 68-70 Faith Street, Dimboola was refused. The tree is large, with a trunk diameter of 1.26 metres (measured at 1.3m above the ground) and a canopy covering approximately half of the lot.

The recently introduced State Government canopy tree controls require strong consideration of retaining established canopy trees in residential areas. The site is also located within the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO), which seeks to protect vegetation with environmental or habitat value.

The arborist assessment confirmed that the tree is healthy, structurally sound and of high environmental significance. The removal was proposed to facilitate a future dwelling, but no development plans were submitted, and no alternative design options were explored. The applicant owned adjoining lots, meaning feasible opportunities existed to design development around the tree. Given its size, condition and environmental contribution, Council determined that the removal of the tree was not justified.

^While VS250007 presented a similar scenario, the affected tree was notably smaller and therefore more readily justified for offsetting. The applicant had also demonstrated to a satisfactory level that the removal could not be prevented through redesign of the site or dwelling.

Link to Council Plan:**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.

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for Council officers to prepare this report.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Risk is managed appropriately by adhering to the assessment process during approval of all planning applications. Complicated planning permits with higher levels of risk are presented to Council for decision.

Relevant Legislation:

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Community Engagement:

Where an application has the potential to cause material detriment, it is advertised to neighbouring properties and, where relevant, to the broader community. This requirement does not apply to VicSmart permit applications.

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 – Mikayla Farmers, Planning Officer

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

Communications Strategy:

Not applicable.

Next Steps:

Council officers to prepare the next report that covers the period of 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026 (Q1 2026), to be presented to Council during Q2 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Planning Applications approved and refused by the CEO under delegation for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Aitken

That Council notes the Planning Applications approved and refused by the CEO under delegation for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

CARRIED

10.4 INTRODUCTION OF FOGO STREAM WITHIN HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

1. 2025 12 18 Kerbside Collection of Food Organics and Garden Organics Have Your Say Survey Responses [**10.4.1**]

Executive Summary:

To comply with the State Government four (4) bin system mandate, Hindmarsh Shire Council commenced the process with community consultation on Council's Have Your Say Page, where Council requested feedback from the community relating preferred collection schedule for waste and recycling.

This report presents the outcome of the community consultation conducted through Council's "Have Your Say" platform regarding the proposed introduction of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. Consultation was open between 19 November 2025 to 17 December 2025, generating 145 responses from across the municipality. The report also recommends that Council proceeds with implementation of Option 2: Fortnightly FOGO and Weekly General Waste collection model for FOGO service for commencement at or before 1 July 2027.

Analysis of community feedback indicates a clear preference of Option 2: Fortnightly FOGO and Weekly General Waste Collection. This option received the highest level of support across all townships and demographic groups, particularly from families with young children, and households concerned about odour, hygiene, and waste volumes during warmer months.

Discussion:

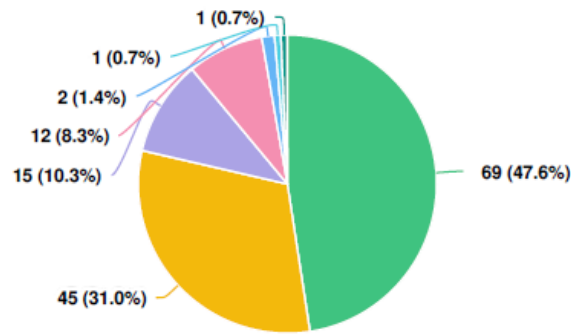
The State Government has mandated that all Councils implement the four-bin system by 1 July 2027 under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. The intention is to reduce landfill waste and improve resource recovery, and Local Councils are required to implement Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services in alignment with these objectives.

Hindmarsh Shire is now preparing for implementation of FOGO services with a goal to provide all households with a FOGO bin by July 2027.

To determine community preference for the introduction of the fourth kerbside bin Council undertook public consultation via "Have Your Say" platform between 19 November 2025 to 17 December 2025.

The consultation page was accessed by 416 visitors and received 145 individual responses, summarised in Attachment (Survey Responses Report). Respondents were asked to nominate their preferred service model from four options.

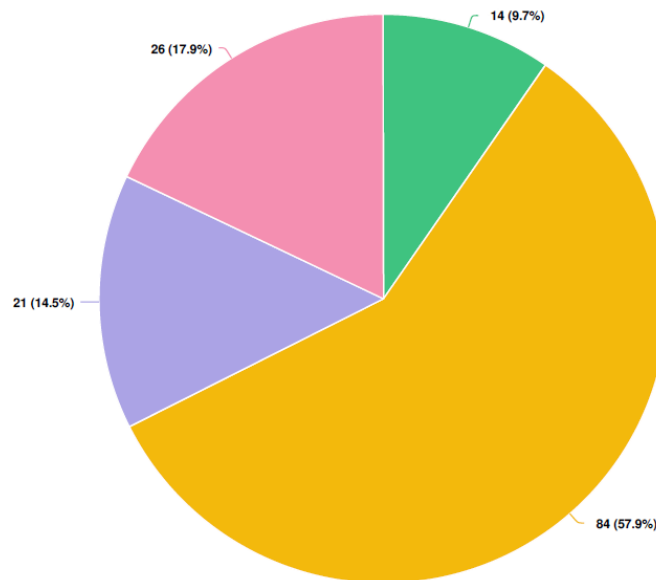
Respondents were spread across the municipality (as shown in the figure below) with majority from Nhill and Dimboola.



Question options

- NHILL, VIC
- DIMBOOLA, VIC
- JEPARIT, VIC
- RAINBOW, VIC
- NETHERBY, VIC
- GERANG GERUNG, VIC
- YANAC, VIC

Respondents were overwhelmingly in support of option 2 as evidenced by figure below. Option 4 was the second 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)

Widespread support (121 out of 145 respondents) was also received for establishing a local processing facility within the municipality.

Community Preference Summary

To provide additional visibility of community sentiment, the following direct quotes from respondents supporting option 2 are included:

- “The green bin is a must for older residents who no longer can unload trailers at the transfer station. Weekly for red bin for health & cleanliness!”
- “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.”
- “Weekly General Waste benefits our household with the larger size bin already filling up weekly as is.”
- “I have chosen option two due to having 2 small children that require nappies. Our bins have a foul smelling odour as it is.”
- “Weekly general waste is essential.”
- “Don’t have a lot of garden waste but need weekly general garbage collection to deter vermin and flies.”

A breakdown of preferences is as follows:

- Option 2 - Fortnightly FOGO / Weekly General Waste: Most preferred option.
- Option 3 - Fortnightly FOGO / Fortnightly General Waste: Some support, mainly from single-person or low-waste households seeking the lowest-cost option.
- Option 1 - Weekly FOGO / Fortnightly General Waste: Moderate support, especially from households generating significant garden waste.
- Option 4 - Weekly FOGO / Weekly General Waste: Supported primarily by larger households but noted as the highest cost option.

The overwhelming preference for Option 2 was based on:

- Need for weekly general waste to manage nappies, hygiene products, and odours.
- Desire for reduced landfill through introduction of a FOGO bin.
- Acceptance that fortnightly FOGO is adequate for most households.
- Concerns regarding odour in summer if general waste was changed to fortnightly.

Community members choosing option 1 have highlighted the issue of odour from the FOGO bin if left uncollected for a fortnight especially in summer months. Hepburn Shire Council has recently implemented Weekly FOGO and fortnightly general waste collection (option1) for this reason.

Ballarat City Council and Moyne Shire Council currently have Weekly General Waste and fortnightly FOGO (Option 2) collection in place. Ballarat City Council is currently reviewing their collection schedule to ensure it meets community needs.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

The cost estimated for the proposed implementation is based on the full cost recovery. This means annual pick up and processing cost for FOGO will be covered by annual waste charges.

Initial investment of approximately \$130K is required for purchase and distribution of FOGO bins to households. There is an allocation of \$45K in current budget for purchase of new bins. DEECA has also confirmed the remaining funding of \$12,827 towards implementation of FOGO stream. The remaining balance of funding required can be made available in 2026/2027 budget.

Establishment of local processing facility will significantly reduce the processing cost for FOGO. The facility can be established by external contractor and charge participating Councils a gate fee for processing. Initial set up investment of approximately \$200K will be required from Council. This cost can be recovered by charging additional cost on the gate fee to other participating Councils.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Community, on numerous occasions, have expressed the need for FOGO bins in the past. Implementation of FOGO service in-line with the community feedback, would reduce the risk of implementing the system that does not align with household realities.
Environmental Sustainability	The proposed implementation aimed to divert approximately 40% of FOGO away from Landfill and lesser amount of transport to processing location if the local processing facility is established and hence supports sustainability goals.

Relevant Legislation:

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Community consultation was undertaken to determine community preference for the introduction of a fourth kerbside bin for FOGO via “Have Your Say” platform. Consultation was open between 19 November 2025 to 17 December 2025.

The consultation page was accessed by 416 visitors and received 145 individual responses, summarised in Attachment (Survey Responses Report). Respondents were asked to nominate their preferred service model from four (4) options.

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Communications Strategy:

Following Council endorsement, community will be notified of the outcome via media release and through various communication channels.

Next Steps:

Council officers will reach out to community and inform them of the outcome. Council officers will also propose a budget bid for the funding for purchase of bins and initial set up of FOGO processing facility.

RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:***

- 1. approves implementation of Option 2 - Fortnightly FOGO / Weekly General Waste collection model for FOGO waste stream commencing at or before 1 July 2027; and***
- 2. notes that the costing provided during the consultation was calculated in current dollars with an assumption that a local processing facility will be***

established. The final cost of the service will be communicated to the community closer to the implementation date.

MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr J Barry

That Council:

- 1. approves implementation of Option 2 - Fortnightly FOGO / Weekly General Waste collection model for FOGO waste stream commencing at or before 1 July 2027; and***
- 2. notes that the costing provided during the consultation was calculated in current dollars with an assumption that a local processing facility will be established. The final cost of the service will be communicated to the community closer to the implementation date.***

CARRIED

10.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on activities undertaken between February 2024 and December 2025 to deliver the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy (the Strategy) and maps out plans for what is to be delivered into 2026 and beyond.

The Strategy forms a work plan for Council's Economic Development and Tourism team, enabling Council to respond to opportunities for economic development, investment in industry sectors, housing developments, regional collaboration and increased visitation. The Strategy has three (3) pillars, ten (10) strategies and 40 actions. Highlights for the near two-year period of delivery include:

- New business enquiries/discussions with over 15 operators, with 11 opening business in the Shire, three (3) in progress and one (1) looking to sell
- Grant funds totalling \$34,895.02 have been awarded to support economic and business development across the Shire
- Four (4) recipients of Regional Community Events Grants, with a further round underway for 2025/2026
- Five (5) outside broadcasts promoting the Hindmarsh Shire
- Christmas 2024 and 2025 Shop Local Campaign, utilising local print media, social media and MixxFM
- Commencement of the Industrial Land Business Case project

The Council Plan 2025-2029 also identifies several economic development activities to be completed in the coming years outside of the Strategy. Updates on these activities are provided quarterly.

Discussion:


This report updates Council on the progress of actions within the Economic Development Strategy. Each action is detailed below, with comments and a progress indicator.

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025

Proactive Council Economic Development Facilitation

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

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
<p>1.1.1 Meet with relevant community stakeholders and selected local businesses in each supply chain to shortlist those opportunities which are ready to be progressed to facilitation support.</p>	<p>Council's Economic Development and Tourism team endeavours to conduct business check-ins once every three (3) months. Over the past 18 months, this has equated to over 400 visits.</p> <p>From 2026, quarterly business visits will be scheduled in all four (4) towns to build on these relationships and assist businesses with information and training opportunities.</p> <p>Facilitation support has been offered to 12+ existing and 15 prospective businesses in this period, of which 11 have progressed to opening a business.</p> <p>Future businesses development opportunities that Council is currently supporting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitality ventures - Agricultural development and initiatives - Marketing of local produce - Local placemaking initiatives <p>Early 2026 will see the initiation of a business managed online business directory that is integrated into Council's website.</p> <p>Hindmarsh Shire brochures and signage will be reviewed in early 2026.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>1.1.2 Decide how the facilitation will be resourced (in-house staff time, outsourcing, applications for financial support from grants, or fee-for-service).</p>	<p>Business facilitation has largely occurred in-house to-date, with Council still actively linking local existing and potential businesses in with Regional Development Victoria (RDV), Rural Financial Counselling, Small Business Victoria, Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD).</p> <p>Council has also committed in this period, to improving our interface with local businesses seeking Council permits and support.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>1.1.3 Develop a program of support activities.</p>	<p>The initial focus of the Strategy has been undertaking a needs assessment across the Shire's business landscape to better understand the potential, aspirations and needs of local businesses to best design a program of support activities.</p> <p>Activities conducted in this period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three (3) shop local outside broadcasts MixxFM - Two (2) tourism promotion outside broadcasts - Two (2) Business & Tourism forums with 60+ attendees - Grampians Wimmera Mallee tourism Forum – Dimboola with 60+ attendees. - Post bushfire grant support and advocacy in 2025 - Small Business Victoria - Business Bus - Tourism promotion - Many tourism promotions across the Shire with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism to increase visitation to our Shire and region. 	<p>ONGOING</p>

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
	<p>- Christmas 2025 Shop Local Campaign utilising social media, local print outlets and MixxFM</p>  <p>Council has commenced discussions with West Vic Business since their move to industry sector based sub-committees to re-engage with Hindmarsh Shire business operators. Additionally, opportunities to engage with businesses regarding legislative requirements across food and health, local laws and planning regulations are being planned for 2026.</p>	
<p>1.1.4 Implement the facilitation activities for 1-2 agreed opportunities each year.</p>	<p>Council has been heavily involved in new business development discussions with prospective businesses. The Economic Development and Tourism team act as the concierge to liaise with Planning, Building and Environmental Health to facilitate timely advice. 15 potential businesses have been liaised with, 11 of which have progressed to opening.</p> <p>Additionally, Economic Development and Tourism team members discuss opportunities and concerns with business operators to understand what assistance may be required.</p> <p>In 2024/25 & 2025/2026 Council allocated \$20,000 towards the Business Assistance Grants program in the Annual Budgets.</p> <p>In total, grants funds of \$34,895.02 have been awarded to businesses across the Shire in the past two (2) rounds to increase business sustainability.</p> <p>In the 2024/2025 & 2025/2026 Annual Budgets, Council allocated \$30,000 towards the Regional Community Events Grants program.</p> <p>This program has provided \$17,500 in funding to support events across the Shire over the past two (2) rounds, with a new round now open to encourage local groups to host events in the next six (6) months.</p> <p>Business Networking Forums will continue into 2026, with a business-led approach to content. This will commence with West Vic Business attending to discuss their new direction and potential local business involvement.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025


1.2 Collaborate with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) to progress opportunities and initiatives of regional importance.		
1.2.1 Participate in committees/working groups on renewable energies, mining, and tourism with WSMD/GWMT.	Council has developed a position statement on renewable energy investment for the Shire in readiness for future possible projects. The Economic Development and Tourism team and CEO have engaged in numerous networks across the region including Grampians Wimmera Mallee Visitor Economy Partnership (tourism development activities), WSMD (housing initiatives and climate adaptation network), RDV, Economic Development Activators Network and the Rural Financial Counselling regional network.	ONGOING
1.2.2 Contribute local information and advocacy for WSMD business cases and information memoranda for new suitable renewable energies investments in the region.	Council has continued to assist WSMD with relevant local information where applicable to assist with regional planning and advocacy. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning support for potential housing projects in the Shire. - Prior to Council's departure, input was also submitted by Council delegate on the board. <p>With Hindmarsh Shire Council exiting WSMD in 2025, the newly formed WSM Council Alliance will also consider potential shared opportunities.</p>	ONGOING
1.2.3 Communicate with local Hindmarsh contractors and suppliers on individual and consortium work opportunities, as and when they arise, during both construction and operational phases of mineral sands mining and renewable energies projects in the region.	Hindmarsh Shire Council originally provided linking opportunities for local trades to capitalise on contract opportunities for mineral sands mining in September 2024. <p>Opportunities accessible to Hindmarsh contractors have been limited in this period, but Council has continued to share opportunities and known information on future projects with local businesses and contractors via business forums, direct emails and face to face visits in a timely manner.</p>	ONGOING

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025

<p>1.2.4 Assist GWMT to further build on the successful silo art trail and develop new regional recreational waterbody trails, incorporating the Wimmera River at Dimboola and Jeparit, Nhill Lake, Rainbow Lake and Lake Hindmarsh.</p>	<p>Waterbody trails enhanced or completed in this period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved signage and completion of walking track at Nhill Lake - Wimmera River Discovery Trail   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainbow Silo Development Project  <p>Council has worked with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism to develop the Wimmera Mallee Touring Map which includes lakes, galleries, heritage and silo art trails.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>1.2.5 Lead regional efforts (in partnership with Yarriambiack Shire Council, WMT and WSMD) to upgrade the displays and sustainability of</p>	<p>A major project completed in this period, driven by volunteer project identification, is the curator engaged at the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum (WMPM) to undertake initial reimagining of the site.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025

the region's museums and historic attractions (incorporating Hindmarsh's Wimmera-Mallee Pioneer Museum, Nhill Aviation Museum, Pinball Museum and Dimboola' Print Museum as a minimum) by introducing shared curatorial expertise and offering interactive displays and exhibitions which change throughout the year (for example 2-4 themed exhibitions per year).



Works have also continued at Yurunga Homestead to complete repairs to the underground room at the Homestead and refurbish section one (1) of three (3) to the southern deck to ensure the facility is maintained to a standard that allows for future exhibits. Further deck upgrades to be undertaken as funding permits.

Council has initial plans with the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre for building enhancements and will be looking for future funding opportunities to support this fantastic project.

Council is working with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism to improve marketing to the WMPM as well as speaking to neighbouring attractions to see how they market their product. Online reels to be developed for additional quick marketing. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Asset Committee are working with numerous groups including Jeparit Historical Society, Menzies Institute, Menzies Foundation, Australian Museums and Galleries association and the Australian School Museum Institute to consider events, activities and developments museum to support the ongoing sustainability of the tourism asset. The Asset

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
	<p>Committee has recently had several new members join bringing a range of new ideas for activities and displays.</p> <p>Further funding is also being sought to continue curation and upgrades at the WMPM and Yurunga.</p>	
1.3 Provide supportive services for new, expanding and sustainable existing businesses and community enterprises (including support for Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises).		
<p>1.3.1 Design a new enterprise investment guide for Hindmarsh Shire identifying generic features of relevance (town characteristics, infrastructure, social and recreational assets, etc) and, for each of the selected business opportunities, why the opportunity exists and an outline of the competitive strengths of a Hindmarsh Shire location.</p>	<p>Draft document in development, industrial land feasibility study will feed into this piece of work. This document will be a valuable resource for advocacy, business and investment attraction to the Shire.</p> <p>Estimated completion date is June 2026, however this will depend on actions identified by Council for completion and prioritisation in the Council Plan Actions for 2026/2027.</p>	40%
<p>1.3.2 Maintain a register of appropriate legal, financial and business advisory professionals to recommend to Hindmarsh Shire community groups and business proponents on options for structuring community enterprises.</p>	<p>Collation of professional services contacts for local groups/businesses for internal use has been completed. Council has provided general support to several groups interested in incorporation, including navigating this process.</p> <p>In early 2026 MyCities will be added to the Council website to allow self-listing of businesses, community groups and events. This will be the primary reference point for directing anyone to local business support.</p> <p>In late 2025 and early 2026, Council will also be working with the Menzies Symposium who have generated significant momentum for a community project in Jeparit.</p>	ONGOING
<p>1.3.3 Support Barengi Gadjin Land Council to build and enhance First Nations visitor experiences in the region, and other Aboriginal owned and controlled enterprises (e.g. in nursery, landscaping, and food production).</p>	<p>Council's CEO, together with Councillors, have engaged with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) on their planned activities and priorities in the region.</p> <p>Council staff at all levels will continue to build relationships with the BGLC team to support economic development activities into the future.</p>	ONGOING
1.4 Scale up Council's cost-effective approach to resourcing economic development functions.		
<p>1.4.1 Provision of executive support to community committees</p>	<p>Councillors support several Council-run and external community committees by invitation, ensuring that the needs and interests of these groups are represented when Council is making decisions.</p> <p>Council's Economic Development team ensures monthly attendance at WMPM and Yurunga Asset Committee meetings.</p>	ONGOING

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025			
<p>1.4.2 Representing Hindmarsh Shire on regional and State working parties and project working/steering groups.</p>	<p>Regular attendance at WSM Economic Development Tourism Activators Network (RDV), GWM Tourism Forums and Meetings, WSMD Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Network, Ag Vic Regional Network, Rural Financial Counselling Wimmera Network and the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Visitor Information Servicing Network.</p> <p>Councillors and the CEO also represent Council at many key regional and state bodies, advocating for the interests of Hindmarsh.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	
<p>1.4.3 Responding to requests for business, economic development and tourism information.</p>	<p>Council's Economic Development and Tourism team continue to act as a concierge service to new and potential businesses looking to establish in the Shire, liaising across Council departments to assist with set up documentation and appropriate permits.</p> <p>The team regularly visits businesses to discuss opportunities and understand knowledge gaps and where assistance may be possible in accessing Council services, permits and funding.</p> <p>Council regularly field calls from the public and visitors to Hindmarsh Shire requesting Visitor Information. As well as overseeing the formal Nhill Visitor Information Centre, the Economic Development and Tourism team will provide training and resources to Customer Service Staff in Dimboola, Jeparit, and Rainbow to deliver effective Visitor Information services at existing Customer Service Centres.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	
<p>1.4.4 Drafting policy, responses and recommended directions on economic development matters where decisions are needed, for consideration by Council.</p>	<p>Key policy, communications, programs and responses in this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitation to Beaufort's housing development and a briefing session with their Councillor and executive team to support future housing policies and initiatives; - Visitation to Donald's industrial land development and Kooka's Country Cookies' new factory to support future presentation of the Industrial Land Feasibility Study (to be presented in early 2026); - Development of Hindmarsh Shire Renewable Energy Position Statement completed and publicised; - Economic Impact of the Little Desert Bushfire report completed and presented to Council across early-mid 2025. <p>Although not for consideration by Council, operationally, local feedback to Business Victoria and Regional Development Victoria (RDV) in relation to</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
	<p>issues affecting the local business sector and community, especially following the January 2025 Little Desert fires.</p> <p>The Economic Development and Tourism team facilitating Council involvement in the 2026 Business Friendly Councils Program rollout.</p>	
<p>1.4.5 Preparing advocacy and lobbying documents and representing the Shire to government and potential new investors and businesses.</p>	<p>Advocacy priorities document was in place prior to the Local Government elections in 2024, with revised advocacy priorities identified in the Council Plan 2025-2029. Specific documentation has been provided to key stakeholders in the lead up to the Federal Election and will be done so in the lead up to the next State Election.</p> <p>Investment guide under development as per previous action, with the industrial land feasibility study feeding into this piece of work. This piece document will be a valuable resource for advocacy, business and investment attraction.</p>	40%
<p>1.4.6 Recruit an additional Economic Development Officer who will share some of the load in Actions 1.4.1 to 1.4.5 and will take prime responsibility for delivery of the Strategic Pillars 1 and 2 under direction of the Economic and Community Development Manager, while the Tourism and Economic Development Manager will have prime responsibility for Strategic Pillar 3.</p>	<p>No action taken at this stage. Currently, the Strategy is delivered collaboratively across 2FTE, with additional resourcing considered balancing whole-of-organisation and community need with strategic and legislative requirements.</p>	0%
Reducing Barriers to Investment and Innovation		
2.1 Initiate land use, infrastructure and industrial development projects to reinforce the Shire's competitive strengths in secondary industries.		
<p>2.1.1 Review planning scheme provisions for industrial land in Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola and conduct initial demand and feasibility assessments for industrial estates in these towns. Nhill and Jeparit should soon follow.</p>	<p>Council is currently undertaking an Industrial Land Demand and Feasibility Study which will be completed in early 2026. This report will highlight potential sites and opportunities to bring together like businesses. Additionally, as part of the Industrial Land study, Council is looking investigating the feasibility of tradie hubs in the Shire. This work will continue alongside the Industrial Land discussion and possible development. In the event that Industrial Land is not further developed within the Shire, and alternative option will need to be discussed to allow a more structured approached to support new and small service businesses within the LGA.</p> <p>The planning scheme review emphasised the importance of considering industrial land and</p>	70%

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
	industrial businesses as being key to Council's economic future.	
2.1.2 Explore infrastructure and industrial development government support programs which could be accessed for detailed planning and provision of industrial estates.	As above.	70%
2.1.3 Investigate microgrid or modular-grid renewable energy hubs to power select Hindmarsh Shire towns.	<p>Council officers will visit the Donald Community Energy project in early 2026 to understand the scope of the project, community input and output and how it supports local energy users.</p> <p>Council has also heard from Powercor in terms of supply and future projects within Hindmarsh as part of ongoing Council briefings.</p>	0%
2.1.4 Establish the viability of at least one trades-hub (with modular factory units and shared services) to attract small trades businesses and local branches of trades businesses and to increase the number of local apprentices.	Council is currently undertaking an Industrial Land Demand and Feasibility Study which will be completed in early 2026. This report aims to investigate the feasibility of one (1) or two (2) tradie hubs in the Shire.	30%
2.2 Support land and affordable housing development initiatives for key workers and older residents.		
2.2.1 Participate in WSMD's Wimmera Housing Innovation projects in the Shire.	<p>Council have been working with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) through their Wimmera Housing Innovations arm to progress developments in the Shire. To date projects in Dimboola and Rainbow are progressing.</p> <p>Council is also working with a small number of developers to progress new housing in Dimboola and Nhill in accordance with the Planning Scheme.</p>	ONGOING

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
2.2.2 Directly making applications and/or supporting applications, to Victorian and Commonwealth government affordable housing program grants and loans or infrastructure to facilitate housing developments.	Reviewing opportunities with Council's Planning team – no progress on this action undertaken.	0%
2.2.3 Provision of minor infrastructure, planning and building permits for housing developments on a case-by-case basis, and with consideration of concessional rates and charges.	Permits have been issued in accordance with the planning scheme and statutory fees and changes. Council will consider development opportunities for vacant Council-owned land to support social and affordable housing options. Land supply and use review to be undertaken with Council's Infrastructure and Planning teams. Council recently visited Beaufort to view their housing developments.	ONGOING
2.2.4 Residential land subdivision support including infrastructure connections and statutory approvals, also on a case-by-case basis.	As above.	ONGOING
2.2.5 Develop a plan for provision of larger lot, rural residential estates in larger towns of the Shire.	Land supply and use review to be undertaken with Infrastructure and Planning teams, this will consider land availability.	0%
2.3 Encourage enhanced liveability services including childcare, health and aged care, and skills and training.		
2.3.1 Support regional efforts (by neighbouring Councils, training providers, WSMD and the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership) in advocating for and undertaking long term regional development planning.	Council works with numerous agencies including Regional Development Victoria (RDV), WSMD, Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN to advocate for improved services and supports for the Shire and broader region. Councils have recently established the Wimmera Southern Mallee Alliance which is led by the LGA CEOs to drive regional priorities and planning.	ONGOING
2.3.2 Advocate to State and Commonwealth governments for a systematic and flexible approach to regional development that includes infrastructure, amenity and planning solutions, and that consolidates existing funds and programs.	As above.	ONGOING

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
2.3.3 Advocate to the State Government to return regular return rail passenger services to the Shire, with connections from Ararat to Nhill, including Dimboola (and Horsham and Stawell) en route.	Wimmera Southern Mallee Councils are advocating for improved transport linkages for passenger rail locals and tourism opportunities through the WSM Regional Transport Group through the CEO and Mayor.	ONGOING
2.3.4 In collaboration with other WSM organisations, document the regional case for changes to the Australian immigration policy, demonstrating to the Australian Government the barriers to international immigrants working in the region and the justification for establishing a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA), or its equivalent, for the region.	<p>The Victorian Government is evaluating the possibility of a state-wide DAMA following a suggestion made by the Department of Home Affairs. They will be undertaking research and consultation to assess the opportunity and to brief government. They will be reaching out shortly for input on this consultation.</p> <p>No new DAMAs are being awarded by DHA now whilst the Regional Migration Review is underway. Continuing communication with Sara WSMD Settlement Services.</p>	ONGOING
2.3.5 Lobby the State Government and private sector providers to not only increase the availability of childcare in the region, but to reduce the cost to parents and guardians with young families of returning to work or increasing their hours of participation.	Council have been assisting Wimmera Southern Mallee Development's Accessing the Latent Workforce Project to promote local and flexible training at Fed Uni Horsham via local networks in Cert III Individual Support, Cert III ECEC as well as opportunities with the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN to promote local careers to school leavers as part of a regional workforce roundtable.	ONGOING
2.3.6 Participate in working groups with technical and further education, tertiary education, adult education, and registered training organisations (RTOs) to help in ensuring training is relevant and responsive to industry needs.	As above.	ONGOING
Building the Shire's Reputation for Lifestyle, Tourism and Events		
3.1 Continue the transition of Hindmarsh's town retail areas into revitalised and vibrant town centres.		
3.1.1 Continue Council support for the biennial Steampunk Festival in Dimboola and encourage the articulation of the 'reimagining concept' implicit at Steampunk into year-round retailing and attractions. This includes further development	Council currently facilitates the Regional Events Grants which assists community groups across the Shire with seed funding for major events. The Economic Development and Tourism team are available to assist with the process and navigate internal Council requirements. Council has also worked with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and visited Port Fairy Music Festival to understand	ONGOING

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
of the Nhill Silo Heritage project.	event governance better and sustainable event growth.	
3.1.2 Prioritise projects which have town centre revitalisation objectives in Council's annual community and business grants assessment criteria and evaluation process over the next five years.	<p>Council to review Business Grants on an annual basis using past grant applications and feedback to streamline processes both internal and external whilst making applications more meaningful. Most recent successful applications have been located within the four town main streets.</p> <p>Recently Economic Development and Tourism team met with the Victorian Small Business commissioner to discuss potential levers to unlock commercial properties in smaller towns.</p>	ONGOING
3.1.3 Identify and promote the establishment of hero businesses in town centres by working with town communities to research and determine, type, style and range of suitable hero businesses, market potential and outlook for viable operations, sites/properties which have design features that maximise the business' image, and potential operators and investors.	Through our relationship with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, several businesses in the Shire have been exposed to capacity building workshops and visits. This significant marketing and assistance has driven visitation to the Hindmarsh Shire. Through the investment plan and further face to face conversations with business and building owners, Council will establish what key offerings are missing in town retail strips that could be built on to attract investment to the Shire.	35%
3.2: Further develop the range and quality of visitor accommodation.		
3.2.1 Implement the findings, relevant to Hindmarsh Shire, of Wimmera Mallee Tourism's feasibility project on redeveloping more eclectic accommodation.	Council has shared the Eclectic Accommodation Feasibility Report with the owners of buildings highlighted in the report as well as potential purchasers of properties in the Shire. Implementation is very much dependant on access to funding and supportive building owners.	20%

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
3.2.2 Develop new projects, seeking financial support for their development from the Victorian Government, in Hindmarsh towns where it is acknowledged that accommodation is too limited to appeal to the full extent of existing tourist segments. This may include feasibilities and development work to extend the network of self-contained cabins and develop accommodation options which are visitor experiences in their own right.	Council has been successful in securing funding for additional cabins at the Nhill Holiday Park. Additional funding will be investigated for future updates including the renewal of the camp kitchen, outdoor shade structure and further implementation of the Parks Masterplan. Conversations continue with local building owners to unlock potential opportunities for using and/or repurposing existing buildings. Councils' investment plan document will support these opportunities and be used for planning advocacy and grant applications.	ONGOING
3.3: Drive distinctive themes for Hindmarsh Shire's towns.		
3.3.1 Provide a small level of seed funding to help approved and representative town community groups to set themes for their town which will help to position economic development (including tourism) focuses for the town.	Council had initial discussions with towns as part of the development of the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism - Hindmarsh Tourism Local Area Action Plan. Future actions include engaging with Town Committees (or alternative private committee) to continue to develop 'town themes' to promote tourism and economic development.	10%
3.3.2 Support the efforts of town community groups to instigate and run local events, accelerate niche and small business development, and to transition volunteer community ventures into sustainable operations.	Council currently facilitates the Regional Events Grants which assists community groups across the shire with seed funding. The Economic Development and Tourism team are available to assist with the process and navigate internal Council requirements. Council has also worked with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and visited Port Fairy Music Festival to understand event governance better and sustainable event growth, particularly for major events.	ONGOING
3.3.3 Establish volunteer support mechanisms for each town or shared across towns (volunteer hubs, virtual support, more structured training and induction).	Council has over 150 volunteers and endeavours to provide both structural, governance and in-person support. Key activities in the volunteer space in this period include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary Volunteer Support Officer position to review volunteer management processes, audit volunteer and community group details and update and improve documentation. - Reviewed Volunteer Policy, Code of Conduct, and Terms of Reference for volunteer committees. - Structured training and induction rolled out from late 2025. 	70%

HINDMARSH SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - DEC 2025		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town Committee summit included in the Council Plan to bring Town Committees together from across the Shire. - Strong staff presence at Volunteer Committee meetings, accounting for significant out-of-hours support to match volunteer meeting schedules. 	

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

- 3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow.
- 3.2 We attract investment that aligns with community values.
- 3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.

Financial Implications:

Council budgets annually for economic development activities and there are no additional costs associated with the consideration of this report.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	The purpose of the Economic Development Strategy is to take a holistic approach to the economic sustainability of Hindmarsh Shire Council. Supporting businesses, housing growth, industry, increased consumer spend and tourism promotes and economically flourishing community. In turn, this supports the financial sustainability of Council through increased property valuations, population growth and regional, state and Federal investment in a growing region.

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 – Mark Fletcher, Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

Communications Strategy:

Council will publish and circulate communications relating to progress on the delivery of the Economic Development Strategy.

Next Steps:

Council's Economic Development and tourism team will continue to deliver the Economic Development Strategy and Council Plan whilst supporting local businesses.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Economic Development Strategy progress update.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr C Uoy

That Council receives the Economic Development Strategy progress update.

CARRIED

10.6 ADELAIDE CARAVAN AND CAMPING SHOW

Cr Rosie Barker, Deputy Mayor, explained that due to Cr R Aitken's declared conflict of interest, Council would not be able to maintain a quorum for the decision and therefore would be required to make the decision in an alternative manner under section 67 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, or otherwise establish a Delegated Committee. Cr R Barker then called for a motion to effect this requirement.

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

This reports seeks Council approval for the Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Councillor Roger Aitken to attend the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show on Wednesday 25 February 2026 to represent Hindmarsh Shire on the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism stand.

Discussion:

The Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show is held annually at Adelaide Showgrounds and showcases caravans, motorhomes, 4WD gear and camping essentials with tourism info, live entertainment, and expert advice for road trips. This year's event is being held from Wednesday 25 February 2026 – Sunday 1 March 2026.

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism are an exhibitor at this year's event and as Hindmarsh Shire Council are members, they have offered tickets for two (2) Hindmarsh Shire Council representatives to attend.

Council has previously sent Councillor representatives to the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show, with feedback from attending Councillors positive in relation to interest and conversations held with attendees.

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

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

Council budgets annually for Councillor travel expenses. Council will incur costs associated with accommodation (\$446.00), incidentals (\$200.00). There is no cost for entry, as tickets will be covered by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.

Risk Management Implications:

No risk management implications.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government 2020

Community Engagement:

Not required.

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

Author – Mary-Ann Speakman, Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer

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

Communications Strategy:

Not required.

Next Steps:

Council officers to book accommodation and interstate travel register to be updated after travel has occurred and published on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves costs associated for the Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay, and Councillor Roger Aitken, to attend the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show on Wednesday 25 February and Thursday 26 February 2026.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr C Uoy

That given the inability to achieve a quorum for the recommended motion owing to declarations of conflict of interest, Council resolves in accordance with section 67 of the Local Government Act 2020 to establish a Delegated Committee chaired by Cr Barker and consisting of Cr Barker, Cr Barry, Cr Uoy and the Chief Executive Officer to determine the approval of costs associated for the Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay, and Councillor Roger Aitken to attend the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show on Wednesday 25 February and Thursday 26 February 2026.

CARRIED

10.7 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS UPDATE 2025-2026

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

This report presents Council with an update on the progress of 2025/2026 capital works program. This program includes projects carried forward from 2024/2025, plant purchases, road construction, building maintenance, and major projects.

The program is progressing well with the aim to complete most of the projects before the conclusion of the financial year.

In the past six (6) months, the crew has completed 364 customer action requests and graded over 130 kilometres of gravel road network.

The Lloyd Street Footpath construction project is likely to finish under budget and hence it is recommended that the remaining funds be retained to fund potential shortfalls in Dimboola Swimming Pool Project.

It is also recommended that Council relocates the savings in the unsealed road construction area to extend the length of road resheet works currently identified in the program as detailed in the table located within the discussion section.

The report also recommends that Council re-allocates \$105,998 from the Sealed Road Reconstruction budget to allow for additional Reseals to make better use of available resources.

Discussion:

The capital works program has progressed well in 2025/2026 with all sealed shoulder resheets, most of unsealed road resheets and reseal program now complete. Most of the capital works projects are expected to be completed at the conclusion of the financial year.

Some of the major projects commenced in the 2024/2025 financial year have now been completed. One of the projects (Nhill Rainbow Road/Kruger Road intersection upgrade funded through grant funding) has been identified to be carried forward into the next financial year.

The table (located on the third page of this report) outlines % complete to date and forecasted % complete at the end of financial year.

In the past six (6) months, the crew has completed 364 customer action requests and graded over 130 kilometres of gravel road network.

Footpath Program:

The Lloyd Street, Dimboola footpath project was created from the funding collected from the sale of Gerang Hall and Dimboola Senior Citizens Hall. A total of \$230,831 was allocated towards this project. As the project is halfway through, it is estimated that there will be savings of approximately \$70K to \$90K from this project. It is recommended that the savings be quarantined to fund potential cost overruns for the Dimboola Swimming Pool upgrade project. Recent experience from Council’s other aquatic projects is that the tendered prices have been above the cost estimates received.

Sealed Road Construction Program:

Dimboola Minyip Road allocation was made to form a part of matching fund for funding application under Federal Government’s Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program. The application was unsuccessful. The allocated amount of \$105,998 will only allow Council to construct 300 meters of pavement, which will not make significant improvements in the overall condition of the road. Council officers have identified sections of Dimboola Minyip Road requiring reseal works and recommend that reallocating these funds to reseal the identified sections will provide a more beneficial use of resources and ensure longevity of the road surface.

Unsealed Road Resheet Program:

Council officers have identified over \$250K in saving from the projects that have been completed so far. Savings can be attributed to:

- Efficiency generated by a recent restructure in infrastructure team resulting in better work planning.
- Gravel being purchased locally rather than budgeted gravel importation from the distance of over 100 kilometres.
- Scope review of one of the projects where full resheet was not required after depth testing of available gravel on the road.

It is recommended that savings be utilised to extend the length of resheet works on some of the roads already identified in the capital works program. The table below recommends the current and suggested allocation for those projects:

Project	Current Allocation	Proposed Allocation
Five Chain - Dimboola	\$46,765	\$81,000
Boyeo Tarranginnie - Nhill	\$128,204	\$125,000
Yanac South - Nhill	\$108,619	\$73,000
Peakes Three Chain - Nhill	\$126,721	\$80,000
Propodollah Extension- Nhill	\$105,385	\$49,000
Tarranyuk East Road	\$74,236	\$80,000

Propodollah-Netherby - Nhill	\$39,576	\$39,000
Katyil Wail Road, Dimboola	\$91,747	\$114,000
Tarranyurk West Road	\$126,874	\$206,874
Total	\$848,127	\$847,874

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Plant and Equipment						
Road Patching Truck – Carried Forward	\$400,225.48	90%	100%	Nhill Road Patching Truck. Carried forward from 2023/2024.	The item has been ordered. ETA April 2026.	
Mower	\$48,000	80%	100%	Dimboola Town Maintenance. Carried forward from 2024/2025.	Ordered and awaiting delivery date to be confirmed by the supplier.	
Emulsion tank	\$200,000	70%	100%	Supply, delivery and installation of Emulsion tank at Jeparit Depot. Carried forward from 2024/2025.	Tank has been delivered at Jeparit Depot. Procurement complete for concrete works.	
Minor Plant	\$40,000	70%	100%	Purchase of Minor Plants.	Multiple items purchased.	
Grader	\$510,000	50%	100%	Replacement of Grader.	Ordered. Expected delivery May 2026	
Fuel Trailer	\$20,000	50%	100%	Replacement of two (2) fuel trailers.	Building in-house. Parts arrived at the workshop	
Mechanics Ute	\$64,000	50%	100%	Replacement of fleet vehicle.	Ordered. To be delivered in March 2026.	
Local Laws Ute	\$67,000	50%	100%	Replacement of fleet vehicle.	Ordered. To be delivered in March 2026.	
Sealed Road Construction						
Netherby Lorquon and Lorquon	\$181,846	10%	100%	0.50 KM Pavement renewal over three segments and widening to 4 meters wide seal 2-meter shoulder each side.	Material carting commenced. Works to be commenced shortly.	Expected to be completed before the end of financial year and within the budget.

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Dimboola Minyip, Dimboola	\$105,998	0%	100%	0.3 KM Pavement renewal and widening to 6.8 meters wide seal 2-meter shoulder each side.	To be repurposed.	Originally a matching fund for SLRIP application. 300m reconstruction is not going to improve overall condition. It is recommended to repurpose this funding to reseal Dimboola Minyip Road.
Federal Street, Rainbow	\$100,000	0%	100%	Reseal and line marking.	Expected to be completed in Q3.	
Nhill Rainbow/Lush Road SLRSP	\$194,164		0%	SLRSP Application for re-alignment of intersection.	Aborted due to unsuccessful in funding application.	Not applicable.
Nhill Rainbow/ Three Chains Road SLRSP	\$196,561		0%	SLRSP Application for re-alignment of intersection.	Aborted due to unsuccessful in funding application.	Not applicable.
Woorak-Ni Ni-Lorquon Glenlee SLRSP	\$297,388		0%	SLRSP Application for re-alignment of intersection.	Aborted due to unsuccessful in funding application.	Not applicable.
Broughton Kaniva Road SLRSP	\$250,000		0%	SLRSP Application for re-alignment of intersection.	Aborted due to unsuccessful in funding application.	Not applicable.
Nhill Rainbow/ Kruger Road SLRSP	\$370,294	0%	50%	Safety improvement at the intersection.	Project awaiting design approval and likely to be carried forward in the next financial year.	
Nhill Rainbow/ Solly Road SLRSP	\$241,244	0%	100%	Safety improvement at the intersection.	Project awaiting design approval and likely to be	

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
					completed before the end of financial year.	
Tarranyurk East Road - Carried Forward	\$197,081	30%	100%	Reconstruction of section washed during flood.	Construction commenced. Expected completion by mid-February.	
Major Patch	\$415,000	10%	100%	Patch work at various locations.	Major patch completed in 3 roads.	
Shoulder Resheet						
Diapur Yanac Road	\$71,128	100%	100%	Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Complete	Within budget
Old Minyip Road, Dimboola	\$95,161	100%	100%	Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Complete	Within budget
Antwerp Woorak Road	\$63,588	100%	100%	Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Complete	Within budget
Gravel Road Construction - Total saving of approximately \$250k has been identified on completed projects overall. Hence the proposal to extend the length of some of the road resheet jobs has been made.						
Five Chain Road - Dimboola	\$46,765	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under budget. Proposed to extend the current job by 0.85 kms at a cost of \$35,000 on top of current expenditure making total allocation of \$81,000.
Spotting Program	\$70,000	50%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	5 Roads maintained under spotting program.	
Boyeo Tarranginnie - Nhill	\$128,204	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under budget. Proposed to extend the current job

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
						by 1.2 kms at a cost of \$50,000 on top of current expenditure making total allocation of \$125,000.
Yanac South - Nhill	\$108,619	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under Budget
Peakes Three Chain - Nhill	\$126,721	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under budget
Decom Albacutya Y Intersection	\$30,000	0%	100%	Removal of Y intersection and creation of T intersection near Albacutya Silo.	To be completed in Q4.	
Propodollah Extension - Nhill	\$105,385	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under budget. Proposed to extend the current job by 0.5 kms at a cost of \$25,000 on top of current expenditure making total allocation of \$49,000.
Tarranyuk East Road	\$74,236	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Slightly over budget
Propodollah-Netherby - Nhill	\$39,576	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under Budget.
Katyil Wail Road, Dimboola	\$91,747	100%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Under budget. Proposed to extend the current job by 1.2kms at a cost of \$50,000 on top of current expenditure making total allocation of \$114,000.
Tarranyuk West Road	\$126,874	50%	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	To be completed before the end of Financial Year.	Under budget. Proposed to extend the current job

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
						by 2.3kms at a cost of \$80,000 on top of current allocation making total allocation of \$206,874.
Kerb and Channel						
Lloyd Street	\$213,297	0%	100%	Renewal of K&C and service relocation.	Service relocation efforts underway.	
Brougham Street	\$15,000	0%	100%	Renewal of K&C and some associated pavement work.	To be commenced in Q3.	
Kerb & Channel Section Replacement	\$94,497	10%	100%	Replacement of failed sections of kerb and channel	Underway	
Minor Culvert						
Culvert Renewals	\$143,810	0%	100%	Renewal of various minor culverts within the road network.	Not commenced	
Reseals (Completed by Contractors)						
Broadway Street, Jeparit	\$26,000	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
Langford Street, Nhill	\$17,366	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Leahy Street, Nhill	\$27,870	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Aerodrome Road, Nhill	\$5,408	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget
A Bones Road Nhill	\$37,041	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Dimboola Minyip Road	\$79,559	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Nhill Kinder	\$18,000	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
High Street, Dimboola	\$38,032	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
Lloyd Street, Dimboola	\$14,863	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
Lorquon East Road	\$61,898	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Winifred Street, Rainbow	\$15,000	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
Netherby Baker Road	\$32,684	100%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Old Minyip Road, Dimboola	\$29,048	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Woorak Ni Ni/ Lorquon Road	\$39,794	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
Lorquon Netherby Road	\$49,369	0%	100%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Not commenced	
Bridges						
Bridge Repairs, following level 3 condition audit	\$31,500	0%	100%	Bridge repairs.	Not commenced	
Footpaths						
Whitehead - Nhill SLRSP	\$250,000	0%	100%	Footpath on the north side and raised pedestrian crossing across Davis Avenue.	To be commenced in Q3.	
Park - Nhill SLRSP	\$100,000	0%	100%	Concrete and Sealed path.	To be commenced in Q3.	
MacPherson - Nhill TAC	\$125,362	50%	100%	Raised pedestrian crossing and associated works.	Footpath and Kerb and Channel works completed. Asphalt works pending.	
Pathway Section Replacement	\$100,000	30%	100%	Replacement of sections of failed footpath.	Underway	
Lloyd Street, Dimboola	\$230,831	60%	100%	Funds collected from sale of Gerang Hall and Dimboola Senior Citizens Building.	Underway	Project is likely to be under budget. The remaining funds to be quarantined to fund potential shortfall in Dimboola pool project.

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Buildings						
Davis Park redevelopment – Carried Forward	\$522,747	100%	100%	Construction of new Grandstand incorporating change rooms, medical room, tiered seating etc. Seat purchase and installation.	Complete	
Silo Art Development – Carried Forward	\$679,000	100%	100%	Construction of Tower with Viewing Platform with staircase & elevator Internal & External Art Activation of Silo.	Complete	
Nhill Caravan Park Cabin Upgrades	\$423,016	50%	100%	Construction of 3 Studio cabins at Nhill Caravan Park.	Construction underway. Cabin delivery expected in first week of February.	
Dimboola Swimming Pool Upgrade	\$1,355,000	5%	100%	Construction of Wet Deck, Balancing tank, disable ramp and pool hydraulics upgrade.	Design in progress	
Nhill Kinder Fitouts	\$25,507	100%	100%	Carried forward amount from 2024/2025.	Complete	
Dimboola Kinder Fitouts	\$25,508	100%	100%	Carried forward amount from 2024/2025.	Complete	
Rainbow Caravan Park Entry	\$89,819	10%	100%	Tiny towns project to upgrade the entrance to Rainbow.	Underway	
Nhill Streetscape Plan Implementation	\$110,104	60%	100%	Concrete path, Fencing, gates at Centenary Park.	The substantive part of the project – concrete	

Project/Road Name (2025-2026)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Forecast (30 June 2026)	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
					path and fencing – have been completed, with extra gates having been installed on the Jaypex park end of the fence. Additional works will be co-ordinated in collaboration with Nhill’s community groups.	
Essential Building Renewal	\$250,000	10%	100%	Repairs of various components of various buildings identified by building condition assessment.	Underway	
Swimming Pool Package	\$73,525	10%	100%	Carried forward amount from 2024/2025 swimming pool project.	Procurement completed for Jeparit Swimming Pool Heating.	

Link to Council Plan:**Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment**

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

Financial Implications:

Capital works program is delivered based on allocated budget. The customer action request and grading program is absorbed within the annual operational budget.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management	Delay in capital works is likely to reduce the level of service provided to the community and increase the renewal gap. Additional repair requirement is likely to induce some additional cost.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Road Management Act 2004

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 – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Communications Strategy:

Council officers to notify works team of the approved changes and undertake works on the ground.

Next Steps:

Council officers to liaise with works team to deliver projects as per the approved changes.
 Council officers to provide the next update in April 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:
That Council:

1. *notes the capital works 2025-2026 update report;*
2. *approves the use of savings from Lloyd Street Footpath program to be allocated towards Dimboola Swimming Pool project to supplement current funding;*
3. *approves the reallocation of:*
 - a) *Dimboola Minyip Road Sealed Road reconstruction budget of \$105,998 towards reseal of various sections of Dimboola Minyip Road; and*
 - b) *unsealed road resheet program as detailed in the table below:*

Project	Current Allocation	Proposed Allocation
<i>Five Chain - Dimboola</i>	<i>\$46,765</i>	<i>\$81,000</i>
<i>Boyeo Tarranginnie - Nhill</i>	<i>\$128,204</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>
<i>Yanac South - Nhill</i>	<i>\$108,619</i>	<i>\$73,000</i>
<i>Peakes Three Chain - Nhill</i>	<i>\$126,721</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>
<i>Propodollah Extension- Nhill</i>	<i>\$105,385</i>	<i>\$49,000</i>
<i>Tarranyuk East Road</i>	<i>\$74,236</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>
<i>Propodollah-Netherby - Nhill</i>	<i>\$39,576</i>	<i>\$39,000</i>
<i>Katyil Wail Rd, Dimboola</i>	<i>\$91,747</i>	<i>\$114,000</i>
<i>Tarranyurk West Road</i>	<i>\$126,874</i>	<i>\$206,874</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$848,127</i>	<i>\$847,874</i>

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Aitken
That Council:

1. *notes the capital works 2025-2026 update report;*
2. *approves the use of savings from Lloyd Street Footpath program to be allocated towards Dimboola Swimming Pool project to supplement current funding;*
3. *approves the reallocation of:*
 - a) *Dimboola Minyip Road Sealed Road reconstruction budget of \$105,998 towards reseal of various sections of Dimboola Minyip Road; and*
 - b) *unsealed road resheet program as detailed in the table below:*

<i>Project</i>	<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Proposed Allocation</i>
<i>Five Chain - Dimboola</i>	<i>\$46,765</i>	<i>\$81,000</i>
<i>Boyeo Tarranginnie - Nhill</i>	<i>\$128,204</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>
<i>Yanac South - Nhill</i>	<i>\$108,619</i>	<i>\$73,000</i>
<i>Peakes Three Chain - Nhill</i>	<i>\$126,721</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>
<i>Propodollah Extension- Nhill</i>	<i>\$105,385</i>	<i>\$49,000</i>
<i>Tarranyuk East Road</i>	<i>\$74,236</i>	<i>\$80,000</i>
<i>Propodollah-Netherby - Nhill</i>	<i>\$39,576</i>	<i>\$39,000</i>
<i>Katyil Wail Rd, Dimboola</i>	<i>\$91,747</i>	<i>\$114,000</i>
<i>Tarranyurk West Road</i>	<i>\$126,874</i>	<i>\$206,874</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$848,127</i>	<i>\$847,874</i>

CARRIED

11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting Minutes 7 January 2026 [11.1.1]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report - 31 December 2025 [11.1.2]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - Nhill Town Committee Financial Report - 31 December 2025 [11.1.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report - 31 December 2025 [11.1.4]

Introduction:

The following Hindmarsh Shire Advisory Committees held a meeting on the following date:

- **Hindmarsh Pride Committee**
General Meeting on 07 January 2026

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

A copy of the financial statements for the month of December 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes:

1. ***the minutes of the Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee meeting held on 07 January 2026 and***
2. ***the financial statements for the month of December for Jeparit Township Advisory Committee, Nhill Township Advisory Committee, and Rainbow Township Advisory Committee.***

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Aitken

That Council notes:

- 1. the minutes of the Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee meeting held on 07 January 2026 and***
- 2. the financial statements for the month of December for Jeparit Township Advisory Committee, Nhill Township Advisory Committee, and Rainbow Township Advisory Committee.***

CARRIED

11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 24 November 2025 [**11.2.1**]

Introduction:

The following Hindmarsh Shire Community Asset Committee held a meeting on the following date:

- **Yurunga Homestead Committee**
General Meeting on 24 November 2025

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee meeting held on 24 November 2025.

MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr J Barry

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

No confidential reports.

16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No late confidential reports.

17 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr R Barker declared the meeting closed at 3:54pm.
