



28 May 2026

AGENDA

Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 3 June 2026

Time: Commencing at 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



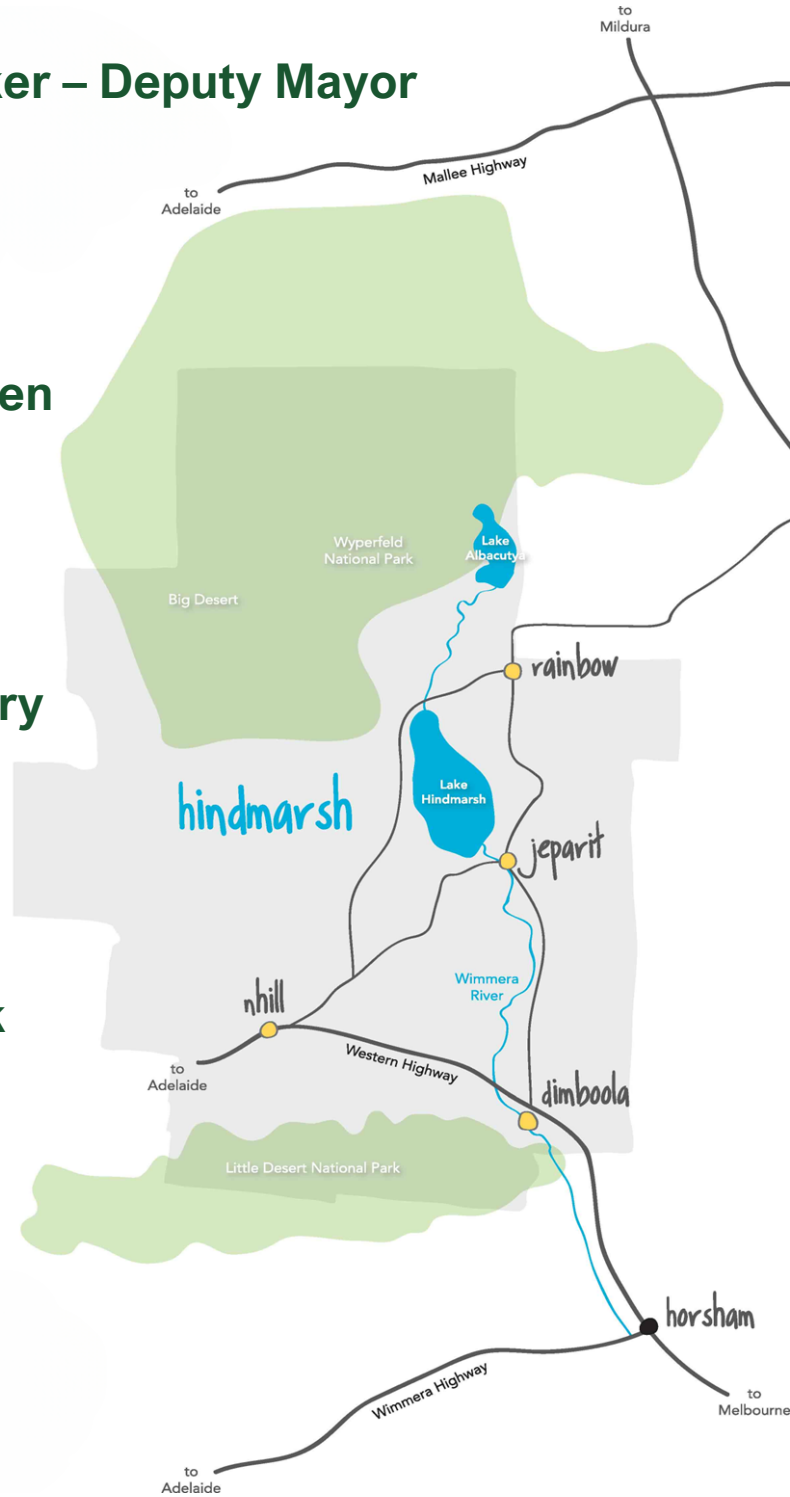
Cr James Barry
East Ward



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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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Live Streaming Statement

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

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

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

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Statement of Values

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

2 APOLOGIES

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Councillor or Officer with a conflict of interest in an item on the Agenda must indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- the item for which they have a conflict of interest;
- whether their conflict is **general** or **material**; and
- the circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

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

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

Attachments:

1. 2026 05 06 Council Meeting Minutes - MEDIA [4.1.1]
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4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
01 April 2026 Item 10.1	Council officers to engage a suitable qualified consultant to prepare the Investment Attraction Prospectus and develop investor-ready materials.	Council is currently seeking RFQs from suitable suppliers to deliver the Investment Attraction Prospectus.	In Progress
06 May 2026 Item 10.1	Council officers to make the draft Annual Budget 2026/2027 publicly available for the community and be made available for community consultation on Council's Have Your Say page.	Draft Annual Budget 2026/2027 published on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation. Media release published on Council's website, advert published in local newspapers and posts on social media published.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.2	Council officers to prepare a media release detailing the Council Plan Actions Q3 2025/2026 Update on Council's website.	Media release published on Council's website. Social media posts published on Facebook.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.3	Council officers to publish the data from the Q3 Financial report in a publicly accessible manner.	Media release published on Council's website. Social media posts published on Facebook.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.4	Council officers to inform applicants of the outcome of their application. Social media posts and communications promoting successful applicants to the wider community.	Applicants advised of grant outcomes. Media release published on Council's website and social media posts published on Facebook.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.5	Council officers to prepare an update for completed Capital Works Q3 2026/2026 Update to be published on Council's Social media platforms and in Council's newsletters.	The Capital Works update was included in Council's Q3 update publicised via media release and social media.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.6	Council officers to publish updated grant guidelines	Updated Grant Guidelines have been published on	Complete

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
	on Council's website. Social media posts and communications highlighting changes to be published on Council's social media and newsletters.	Council's website, with the changes communicated via newspaper, newsletter and social media.	
06 May 2026 Item 10.7	Council officers to seek community consultation on the draft Hindmarsh Domestic Animal De-Sexing Policy on Council's Have Your Say page.	Draft Hindmarsh Domestic Animal De-Sexing Policy published on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation. Media release published on Council's website and social media posts published on Facebook.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.9	Council officers to publicly advertise Council's intention to sell Tarranyurk Quarry and seek community consultation on Council's Have Your Say page.	Council's intention to sell Tarranyurk Quarry published on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation. Social media posts published on Facebook.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.11	Council officers to notify Inroads of the extra works for the 2025/2026 Reseal Program.	Inroads have been engaged to undertake the additional resealing works prior to 30 June 2026.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 10.12	Council officers to publish adopted policies on Council's website. Draft policies to be published for community consultation on Council's Have Your Say page. Councillor Expense Entitlements Policy to be reviewed further.	Adopted policies have been published on Council's website. Draft policies published on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation. Media release has been published on Council's website and social media posts have been posted on Facebook.	Complete
06 May 2026 Item 11.1	Council officers to publish minutes of Hindmarsh Advisory Committees on Council's website.	Advisory Committee minutes published on Council's website.	Complete

5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

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

6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 28 April 2026 – 25 May 2026

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
06/05/2026	Council Briefing Meeting	Nhill	
06/05/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	
14/05/2026	Mayors Catch up	Horsham	
14/05/2026	WSMCA CEO and Mayors Meeting	Horsham	
20/05/2026	Meet with CEO	Nhill	
20/05/2026	Council Briefing Meeting	Nhill	
21/05/2026	Forum with National Party Re: Mining, Wind /Solar VNI West	St Arnaud	
25/05/2026	HPV Event Shell sporting Complex	Tailem Bend (South Australia)	

6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
04/05/2026	CEO & Mayor Meeting	Rainbow	Catch up regarding Council Meeting.
05/05/2026	Nhill Town Committee	Nhill	Review of Street Scape Planning in Nhill, Volunteer Week, and budget requests.
05/05/2026	Nhill Master Plan Meeting	Nhill	Met with consultant to discuss potential Master Plan for Davis Park.
06/05/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
20/05/2026	Meeting with CEO and Mayor	Nhill	
20/05/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	Discuss items that are going to be raised at Council Meeting. Visit the Nhill Bowls Club to review grant submission.
22/05/2026	Winter Wonderland Youth Council Dance	Dimboola	Well attended and supported event organised by the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council.
23/05/2026	Jeparit Bowling Club Open Day	Jeparit	Met with locals from Jeparit for BBQ and discussions about potential use of the Club.
24/05/2026	Nhill Karen Baptist Church Building Dedication Ceremony and Opening	Nhill	Wonderful event to open the new church in Nhill with many attendees from around the State and visitors from other States also.

6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
06/05/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
11/05/2026	Wimmera River Weir Meeting	Dimboola	Discussion of the Weir and River.
18/05/2026	LED	Jeparit Rainbow /	
18/05/2026	Rainbow Town Committee Meeting	Rainbow	
19/05/2026	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Meeting	Jeparit	
20/05/2026	Council Briefing Meeting	Nhill	
21/05/2026	National Party Meeting	St Arnaud	A diverse crowd and good turnout from the farming community.
23/05/2026	PedalPriz Human Powered Vehicle Event	Tailem Bend (South Australia)	Cr Ismay and I travelled over to South Australia to attend the Shell Power Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend to have a look at the PedalPriz Human Powered Vehicle event as a prelude to a proposed event/events to be held at Dimboola in the future. A highly successful event which drew very strong support from primary schools, secondary colleges and universities.

6.4 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
28/04/2026	Dimboola Library Shade Media Photo	Dimboola	Great little addition to protect anyone from the weather elements wishing to sit around outside of the library and do whatever they fancy.
01/05/2026	CEO and Deputy Mayor Catch Up	Dimboola	Catch up to discuss things shire related.
06/05/2028	Council Meeting and Briefing	Nhill	
07/05/2026	Dimboola Rec Reserve Master Plan	Dimboola	Meeting with Richard Simon regarding the Master Plan Design, hopefully all the user groups can work together and create a master plan that works for all our community and then funding can be sourced.
11/05/2026	Budget Drop-in Session	Dimboola	A drop-in session that the shire put on for the residents to provide any feedback they wish. It would be good if a few more residents would attend.
20/05/2026	Briefing Meeting	Nhill	A part of this briefing was a visit to the Nhill Bowling Club, personally I was extremely impressed with the state of the venue, which is run by volunteers. It's exceptionally clean, tidy & well presented, hopefully next grant opportunity they will be successful.

6.5 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
05/05/2026	Yurunga Homestead Committee Meeting	Rainbow	
06/05/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
08/05/2026	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting	Online	
11/05/2026	Jeparit Town Committee Meeting	Jeparit	
23/05/2026	Jeparit Bowling Club Open Day	Jeparit	

6.6 CR CHAN UOY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
29/04/2026	Pride Meeting	Online	Looking for documentary film makers to record stories of LGBT people who lived in the Wimmera during the 1980s.
01/05/2026	Grampians Grape Escape Opening Night	Halls Gap	Networking with other councillors and operators from other shires.
06/05/2026	Council Briefing & Meeting	Nhill	
07/05/2026	Dimboola Dash Celebration Dinner	Dimboola	A gathering of the sponsors and people involved with the inaugural running event in Dimboola.
11/05/2026	Budget Drop In	Dimboola	
20/05/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
20/05/2026	Pride Committee	Online	The Dimboola CWA are hosting in June Devonshire Tea as part of Pride Month.
24/05/2026	Nhill Karen Baptist Church Anniversary & Building Dedication	Nhill	It's great to see a community empower themselves by purchasing a building and turning it into a church and community centre.

6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
28/04/2026 – 29/04/2026	Visit Victoria	Melbourne	Observing Visit Victoria's International Marketing Program to understand how Hindmarsh Holiday Parks can be marketed to international visitors.
30/04/2026	All Staff Meeting	Jeparit	
30/04/2026	EPA Biannual Meeting	Nhill	Discussion with EPA regarding any legislation changes Council needs to be aware of.
30/04/2026	Rural Councils Victoria	Online	Overview of RCV proposed 2026 State Election advocacy campaign for Rural Councils.
30/04/2026	Social Ventures at Rainbow P-12 College	Rainbow	Discuss the need for childcare at Rainbow with Emma and Caitlin from Social Ventures Capital.
01/05/2026	Catch-up with Deputy Mayor and Cr Barry	Dimboola	
01/05/2026	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Strategic Session	Halls Gap	Working through the GWM Tourism Strategic Plan.
04/05/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
04/05/2026	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services	Nhill	
04/05/2026	Meeting with Deputy Mayor, followed by meeting with Mayor	Rainbow	
05/05/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	
05/05/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Online	
05/05/2026	2027 Wimmera Steampunk Committee	Dimboola	Meet with 2027 Wimmera Steampunk Committee representative in relation to event

	Planning Meeting		and planning requirements that will be needed by Council.
06/05/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Online /Nhill	
07/05/2026	Staff Meeting	Nhill	
07/05/2026	Emerging Risk Meeting – Aegis	Online	Discussion regarding any emerging risks for Hindmarsh.
08/05/2026	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting	Online	
08/05/2026	Meeting with DTM	Online	Follow up meeting as part of the PRIME mentoring program for Hindmarsh Holiday Parks.
11/05/2026	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services	Nhill	
11/05/2026	Jeparit Weir Discussion	Dimboola	Discussion with Jeparit community members in relation to the next steps for advocating for a replacement of the Jeparit Weir.
11/05/2026	2026/2027 Budget Drop-In Session	Dimboola	
11/05/2026	Social Housing	Dimboola	Meeting with property owner regarding potential avenues for social housing in Dimboola.
12/05/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	
12/05/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Nhill	
12/05/2026	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services	Nhill	
12/05/2026	Meeting with Coordinator People and Safety	Nhill	
12/05/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	

12/05/2026	Second Round Interviews for Local Laws	Nhill	
13/05/2026 – 14/05/2026	Australian Tourism Exchange	Adelaide	Joined GWM Tourism on their stand at ATE to discuss with international tour operators and buyers Hindmarsh Holiday Parks.
18/05/2026	MAV Monday Connect Meeting	Online	MAV monthly meeting to provide CEOs with an update on advocacy, issues and opportunities.
18/05/2026	Economic Development and Tourism Update	Nhill	
18/05/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
18/05/2026	Meeting with DTM	Online	Follow up meeting as part of the PRIME mentoring program for Hindmarsh Holiday Parks.
18/05/2026	Rainbow Town Committee – Budget Discussion	Rainbow	Discussion with the Rainbow Town Committee regarding the 2026/2027 draft budget.
19/05/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	
19/05/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Online	
19/05/2026	2026/2027 Budget Drop-In Session	Nhill	
20/05/2026	Meeting with Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Nhill	
20/05/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
21/05/2026	2026/2027 Budget Drop-In Session	Rainbow	
21/05/2026	Volunteer Week Morning Tea	Nhill	Popped into the Nhill Cuppa Connection session to celebrate volunteers.
21/05/2026	Rainbow Community Meeting – Early Years Project	Rainbow	Community meeting regarding submitting an application through the Federal Government BEEF program for an integrated early years centre.

22/05/2026	Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre	Nhill	Discussion with NAHC representatives on the next steps in relation to the construction of their foyer extension.
22/05/2026	Youth Council Disco	Dimboola	Assisted at the Youth Council Disco.
24/05/2026	Nhill Karen – 11 Church Anniversary and Building Opening	Nhill	Attended the Nhill Karen – 11 year Church Anniversary, Dedication Ceremony and Official Opening of their new building. The community support was overwhelming with people coming from across Australia to attend.
25/05/2026	Economic Development and Tourism Update	Nhill	
25/05/2026	Federal and State Budget Overview	Online	RDV hosted a webinar on the 2026/2027 Federal and State budget.
25/05/2026	Jeparit Town Committee – Budget Discussion	Jeparit	Discussion with Jeparit Town Committee regarding the 2026/2027 draft budget.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 2026/05/05 - Nhill A&P Society to HSC re Public Holiday Request – Nhill Show Day 2026 – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2026/05/21 - Rainbow A&P Society to HSC re Public Holiday Request – Rainbow Show Day 2026 – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)

Outwards:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. 2026 05 06 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]
2. 2026 05 20 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.

9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.

10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

10.1 MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

Council has received requests from Nhill A & P Society and Rainbow A & P Society to change the 2026 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday to their respective show days, being Tuesday 13 October 2026 for Rainbow and Thursday 15 October 2026 for Nhill. This report discusses the procedure for the declaration of substitute public holidays for Melbourne Cup 2026 and recommends writing to the Minister for Small Business expressing the preference to substitute the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday in Nhill and Rainbow's localities.

Discussion:

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

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

Council may request substitute holiday for Melbourne Cup Day

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

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

The show societies have indicated they are planning to hold agricultural shows in 2026 on the following dates:

- **Rainbow** Tuesday 13 October 2026
- **Nhill** Thursday 15 October 2026
- **Dimboola** Saturday 17 October 2026
- **Jeparit** Sunday 18 October 2026

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

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

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Risk Management Implications:

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

Relevant Legislation:

Public Holidays Act 1993 Section 8A(1)

Community Engagement:

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

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

Author – 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:

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

Next Steps:

Council officers to prepare letter to the Minister for Small Business requesting the substitute public holiday.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

- 1. a substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for Rainbow Show (Tuesday 13 October 2026) for the localities of Rainbow, Albacutya and Kenmare within Hindmarsh Shire;***
- 2. a substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day for Nhill Show (Thursday 15 October 2026) for the localities of Broughton, Yanac, Netherby, Lorquon, Nhill, Glenlee, Kiata, Gerang Gerung and Little Desert within Hindmarsh Shire; and***
- 3. Melbourne Cup Day for the remainder of Hindmarsh Shire.***

10.2 CLIMATE ADAPTION STRATEGY UPDATE

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

Council adopted the Climate Adaption Strategy 2024 - 2036 in August 2024 to strengthen community resilience and prepare for projected climate change impacts. This report provides an update on progress to May 2026. Since adoption, steady progress has been observed across the strategy's five (5) key focus areas, which include supporting community preparedness for extreme weather, strengthening the climate resilience of infrastructure and natural assets, encouraging climate-smart practices in farming and business, and embedding adaptation into Council's own operations.

Key achievements to date include working with emergency services to boost bushfire and heatwave readiness in local communities, integrating climate adaptation measures into planning and asset management, ongoing pest and weed control to protect biodiversity, and promotion of sustainable practices such as exploring renewable energy opportunities.

Discussion:

The Climate Adaption Strategy 2024–2036 is a focused plan guiding Council's actions to address climate change impacts over the medium term, as part of a longer-term vision for a climate-resilient Hindmarsh Shire. The Strategy builds on the first Hindmarsh Climate Adaption Strategy (2012) and responds to updated climate data and projections for the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. Over the past two (2) years, Hindmarsh Shire has experienced relatively favourable seasonal conditions, including higher rainfall, but climate science indicates that future trends will likely include increased variability, with hotter, drier conditions overall, more intense heatwaves and bushfire danger days, and greater extremes of flooding and drought. The Strategy therefore prioritises proactive measures to mitigate risks and build resilience in our environment, infrastructure, and communities.

The table below provides update on each of the action items listed in the strategy.

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
Adaption Strategy 1: Ensure ongoing liveability and visitor appeal by supporting our resilient communities in preparing, enduring and recovering from severe climate events.				
1.1	<p>Development of communications packages relevant to climate incidents, including seasonal emergencies such as Total Fire Ban Days, Extreme Heat Days and Extreme Storm Warnings.</p> <p>Communications packages should account for existing communication platforms and methods, should enable the most up-to-date and correct messaging to be distributed to the community, should be reviewed at least biannually and should be available in languages required by the community.</p>	Deliver	2024	The Wimmera Emergency Management team has prepared and maintained the Wimmera 72 website that guides the community on preparedness for emergencies. Hardcopy brochures around emergency preparedness are available at each of Council's Libraries and Customer Service Centres. Fire ready guides are also prepared for different towns within the municipality. Fire Ready Guides, Wimmera 72 brochures and emergency awareness brochures are available in Karen language.
1.2	Continued designation, promotion and preparation of fire and flood safe places (Emergency Relief Centres and Neighbourhood Safer Places). GEM Guidelines should be followed and incorporated into relevant emergency management plans.	Deliver	Ongoing	Emergency Relief/Recovery Centres and Neighbourhood Safer Place – Bushfire Place of Last Resort (NSP-BPLR) have been documented in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The NSP-BPLR for relevant town is documented in Fire Ready Guides available online and at Libraries and Customer Service Centres.
1.3	Advocating with the relevant authorities to give the highest possible security rating to potable water for Hindmarsh Shire town domestic consumption from the Grampians Storage Headworks, during times of drought and low water levels.	Advocate	Ongoing	Council continues to advocate for the protection of potable town water supplies for Hindmarsh Shire communities during periods of drought and low water availability through active participation in regional and state water planning and policy processes. Council officers are engaged in Integrated Water Management (IWM) and Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) refresh processes led by the Department of Energy, Environment

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
				and Climate Action and Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, ensuring Hindmarsh town water security priorities are clearly articulated and considered alongside regional allocation and drought response planning.
1.4	Advocating with relevant authorities for the prioritisation of high-security allocation of recreational water for key waterways in the Shire during times of drought (Dimboola Weir, Jeparit Weir, Rainbow Lake, Nhill Lake – the first three secured from WMP and the final from underground/bore supply)	Advocate	Ongoing	Council continues to advocate for the prioritisation of high-security recreational water allocations for key waterways in Hindmarsh Shire to support community wellbeing, liveability and drought resilience. High-security recreational water supplies have been secured for Dimboola Weir, Jeparit Weir and Rainbow Lake through the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, while Nhill Lake is supported via underground/bore supply arrangements. These water sources provide an important level of resilience for priority recreational and environmental assets during periods of drought.
1.5	Develop a program plan to support tree planting initiatives on private properties within the Shire.	Deliver	2026	Tree Planting event in Dimboola proposed on 20 June 2026. This project is funded by Victorian Landcare Grant. Landcare officer is working with different Landcare Groups to identify vacant land and host tree planting day funded by Victorian Landcare Grant Program on an annual basis.
1.6	Work with key community, government and emergency management stakeholders to build community capacity and resilience to support resilience and recovery.	Partner	Ongoing	Council continues to work in partnership with community groups, emergency services and government agencies to strengthen community capacity and resilience across preparedness, response and recovery phases. This is primarily delivered through Council's participation in the Hindmarsh Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and implementation of the Hindmarsh Shire Municipal Emergency Management

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
				Plan, which sets out coordinated arrangements with Victoria Police, CFA, VICSES, departmental agencies and regional partners to support resilient communities before, during and after emergencies.
Adaption Strategy 2: Transition the Shire’s built environment to withstand impacts from a changing climate.				
2.1	Set annual capital works programs that prioritise continuity of road and bridge networks to maintain access to, and within, the Shire for essential services and business operations. Consideration should be given to materials and methodologies that increase the resilience of the road network to severe weather events.	Deliver	Annual	Council continues to prioritise the continuity and resilience of the road and bridge network through its annual capital works programs, with a strong focus on maintaining access for essential services, freight, agriculture and business operations across the Shire. The infrastructure upgrade, renewal and maintenance are based on network criticality, service continuity and exposure to climate related risks such as flooding, prolonged wet conditions and extreme weather events. Gravel Roads are now resheeted with Limestone material to proving prolonged useful life of unsealed road network.
2.2	Future Council infrastructure projects that are identified for community use (including recreational facilities, public spaces, community facilities and streetscapes) to be designed and oriented to maximise thermal comfort, energy and water efficiencies. This could include the use of shade trees, eaves and verandas to provide respite in instances of extreme heat and to help manage the heat sink effect. Consideration to be given to socio economic factors and access to shaded areas when planning and prioritising streetscape improvements in different communities.	Facilitate	Ongoing	Council continues to incorporate climate-responsive design principles into the planning and delivery of new and upgraded community infrastructure. Project briefs and design processes consider thermal comfort, water efficiency and energy efficiency outcomes, with design responses tailored to local climate conditions, particularly in relation to extreme heat and reduced water availability. Design considerations include the integration of shade, passive cooling elements, vegetation, water-sensitive design measures and opportunities to reduce long-term operational water and energy demand.

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
				All newly constructed commercial buildings have a requirement to comply with energy efficiency standards.
2.3	Install rainwater and stormwater harvesting system to irrigate parks and landscaped areas of Hindmarsh towns	Investigate /Advocate	2026	Officers have been in discussion with DEECA and WCMA to include storm water harvesting in Jeparit township and Davis Park, Nhill into Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) to make them priority IWM projects. Ongoing advocacy to seek funding for such projects.
2.4	Assess the potential for treatment and recycling of wastewater in the Shire (by filtration, reverse osmosis, membrane separation, etc).	Advocate	Ongoing	Ongoing advocacy at regional Integrated Water Management meetings.
2.5	Any new building projects commissioned by Council should include terms of reference, or design briefs, which require 'design for climate' considerations. This could include building orientation, building materials, renewable energies, water collection, landscaping and materials that, at end of life, can contribute to a circular economy through re-use or repurposing.	Deliver	Ongoing	Council is progressively embedding "design for climate" considerations into the planning, scoping and delivery of new and upgraded building projects through project briefs and design requirements, ensuring energy efficiency, thermal comfort and water efficiency are considered to improve long-term resilience to a changing climate.
Adaption Strategy 3: Protect and enhance the Shire's natural resources and natural environment.				
3.1	Collaborate with WCMA and GMMWater on achieving the best balance in water allocations, and water security prioritisation, for shared uses: Environmental, recreational, irrigation and domestic (reticulated town systems) supply from the region's surface water and groundwater resources and the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.	Advocate	Ongoing	Council continues to collaborate with WCMA and GMMWater through regional water planning and Integrated Water Management processes to support balanced water allocations and prioritisation across environmental, recreational, irrigation and domestic uses, strengthening water security and shared outcomes across surface water, groundwater and the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
3.2	Encourage cultural burns, for resource management benefits, in locations and circumstances when advised and controlled/managed by Traditional Owners.	Advocate/ Partner	Ongoing	Council's Landcare Facilitator is in continuous discussion with CFA to implement cultural burns within the municipality where possible.
3.3	<p>Collaborate with local Landcare groups to deliver education and advocacy programs around land and cultural management practices that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve tree planting programs (as shelterbelts, livestock shade zones, windbreaks, etc). • Restore the spread of indigenous plants and trees across the Shire. • Help to maintain and/or restore habitat for native fauna. • Utilise best practice in soil and crop management to increase carbon capture, reduce emissions and retain moisture in soil profiles. • Educate both Council and external outdoor employees on flora management, selection of appropriate trees/shrubs and the preference for planting Indigenous plants and those that are adaptive or resilience to predicted weather changes. • Protect the sustainability of the Wimmera River through effective management of the riverbank and adjacent land. 	Deliver/ Partner	Ongoing	<p>Landcare Officer collaborating with various Landcare Groups to encourage tree planting in private as well as the public land.</p> <p>Tree planting event scheduled for 20 June 2026 in Dimboola and seeking some more funding via VLG grant for more tree planting activities.</p> <p>Revegetation initiative eventually supports maintenance and restoration of habitat for native fauna.</p> <p>Funding application has also been made in association with Landcare Group for soil management and monitoring through VLG Grant program.</p> <p>A booklet has been developed for outdoor workers to guide with identification of native vegetation.</p> <p>Ongoing discussion with WCMA on riverbank management and protection.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
Adaption Strategy 4: Encourage the farming and business communities to adopt climate change mitigation practices.				
4.1	Acquire and/or provide access to agricultural practice notes and referrals covering soil management, revegetation and vegetation belts, water saving and recycling, and possibly commenting on crop rotations, biological applications for sequestering carbon, genetic improvement (for lower water usage, fungus and disease resistance, etc) and GMO versus non-GMO production).	Advocate	Ongoing	Council continues to support climate-resilient agricultural practices by facilitating access to information, guidance and referrals through partnerships with regional agencies, Landcare networks and state government programs, helping local producers improve soil health, revegetation outcomes, water efficiency and long-term productivity while responding to changing climate conditions.
4.2	Support enterprise/business diversification and value-adding agribusiness opportunities such as intensive versus extensive production, utilising co-products, reducing waste, creating circular economies, biofuels, and waste-to energy processing.	Facilitate/ Advocate	Ongoing	Council continues to support enterprise diversification and value-adding agribusiness opportunities by advocating for innovative, low-emissions and circular-economy initiatives, including bioenergy and waste-to-energy concepts, co-product utilisation and reduced waste, through regional partnerships, planning support and alignment with renewable energy and drought-resilience initiatives across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.
4.3	Encourage retail and service businesses to introduce renewable energies and energy efficiencies and potentially participate in micro-grids through facilitation of information sessions and provision of relevant resources.	Facilitate/ Advocate	Ongoing	Council encourages local retail and service businesses to adopt renewable energy and energy-saving measures to help reduce operating costs and emissions. Information sessions and resources are being developed to support businesses with these initiatives. Council is also exploring opportunities for local micro-grid projects to enable business participation and further promote sustainability and energy resilience across the Shire.
4.4	Become a Shire known for EV charging capacity – to encourage stopovers in the Shire’s towns and articulate these stopovers	Deliver	Ongoing	Council is progressing initiatives to enhance EV charging capacity to position Hindmarsh as a strategic stopover between Melbourne and Adelaide. This aligns with

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
	into visitor experiences. This will build on the Shire's competitive strength as a halfway point between the Melbourne and Adelaide metropolitan areas.			broader economic development and regional tourism partnerships, supporting increased visitation and local spend. EV Charging infrastructure in place for four towns within the municipality. Recent addition of Tesla chargers at IGA has attracted a significant amount of EV users. Usage data is yet to be analysed.
4.5	Advocate for renewable energy projects which contribute to the Shire's economy and jobs, and which assist the Shire to attract investment in both innovative technologies and value-added products (especially those which add-value to the Shire's agricultural commodities). Renewable energies considered to have potential in Hindmarsh Shire include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar • Wind • Bioenergy (using waste streams to generate power) • Geothermal energy • Green hydrogen. 	Facilitate/ Advocate	Ongoing	Council is actively advocating for renewable energy projects through participation in the Resource Ready Strategy, which identifies significant regional opportunities in solar, wind and emerging energy sectors. These projects have the potential to generate local employment and attract investment into new technologies and industries. Council is working regionally to ensure these developments support local supply chains and create opportunities for value-added agricultural products, while continuing advocacy to maximise economic benefits for Hindmarsh Shire.
4.6	Actively encourage low-carbon emission business operations (new and existing) throughout the Shire.	Facilitate/ Advocate	Ongoing	Council is encouraging low-carbon business practices through economic development engagement and regional collaboration initiatives. Participation in regional strategies, including Resource Ready Strategy, supports awareness of renewable energy opportunities and emerging low-emission industries. Council continues to promote sustainable practices through business engagement, tourism partnerships and investment attraction activities, supporting both existing and new

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
				businesses to transition towards more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable operations aligned with broader climate adaptation objectives.
4.7	Assess renewable microgrids for Hindmarsh Shire towns Rainbow and Dimboola and, subject to the outcomes, consider investment in microgrid energy systems for any or all of Hindmarsh Shire's four main towns.	Investigate	2026	Not yet commenced.
4.8	Apply the Shire planning scheme to enable projects which have strong environmental credentials to be given support (subject to meeting other legislative requirements).	Deliver	Ongoing	<p>Council continues to apply the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme to support developments with strong environmental credentials, in line with legislative requirements. Planning processes enable consideration of sustainable design and land use outcomes, while ensuring compliance with relevant statutory controls.</p> <p>Council officers are working to streamline internal processes and provide guidance to applicants, supporting appropriate projects to progress efficiently. This approach ensures environmentally responsible developments are facilitated while maintaining planning integrity and compliance with the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>.</p>
4.9	Negotiate with incoming renewable energies providers to the region to ensure they create lasting community and economic benefits for the Shire.	Advocate/ Facilitate	Ongoing	<p>Council is working regionally through the Resource Ready Strategy to ensure renewable energy projects deliver lasting economic and community benefits for Hindmarsh Shire.</p> <p>This includes advocacy to State and Federal Government and engagement with project proponents to support local employment, infrastructure investment and supply chain</p>

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
				opportunities. Council is focused on securing outcomes that strengthen the local economy and support long-term sustainability, while ensuring impacts on agriculture and communities are appropriately managed.
4.10	Participate in, and support, Wimmera Southern Mallee Development's Drought Resilience plan.	Partner	Ongoing	Council continues to participate in regional collaboration with Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and partner councils to support drought resilience planning. This includes contributing to regional strategies and advocacy that strengthen community, business and agricultural resilience to climate impacts. Council's involvement ensures local priorities are represented and supports coordinated approaches to drought preparedness, economic sustainability and long-term adaptation across the region. Through ongoing advocacy, WCMA is working to establish 3 drought refuse pools in the Wimmera River between Dimboola and Jeparit.
Adaption Strategy 5: Facilitate and lead by example through responsible Council policies, staff training and budgetary initiatives.				
5.1	Budgeting to allow for contingencies that might be required in dealing with climate emergencies (communications, support for emergency service organisations – CFA/SES, maintenance of safe places)	Deliver	Annual	Council continues to plan and allocate resources to support emergency preparedness and response, including communications, community support and safe places. Emergency Relief Centres and Neighbourhood Safer Places are maintained and documented within the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, with ongoing promotion to the community. Council works in partnership with emergency services including CFA and SES and supports preparedness initiatives such as Fire Ready Guides and community information resources. Budget considerations for emergency response and recovery are incorporated into ongoing financial and service planning processes.

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
5.2	Review Local Laws with consideration to additional appropriate measures to ensure that local safety measures consider climate impacts and risks	Deliver	2026	Review in progress.
5.3	Enhance, innovate and further develop existing climate change abatement efforts (such as waste management collection, and the glass crushing and reuse collaborative program with other Councils in the region)	Deliver	Ongoing	Council continues to enhance climate change abatement initiatives through improved waste management practices and regional collaboration. Existing programs, including waste collection and recycling services, are being strengthened, alongside participation in collaborative initiatives such as regional glass crushing and reuse. These efforts support resource recovery, reduce landfill and contribute to circular economy outcomes. Council is also exploring the possibility of creating FOGO Processing facility at Dimboola Transfer Station.
5.4	<p>Incorporate climate risks within Council's operational risk management plans. Good governance and financial stability policies and actions could encompass, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff awareness and training updates. • Developing climate crisis plans and toolkits (for pre-, during and post-climatic events). • Budgeting for corrective maintenance and preventative maintenance. • Insurances covering climate events. • Suppliers offering products and services that are sustainable and 	Deliver	2024/ ongoing	<p>Council continues to integrate climate risks into operational risk management through emergency planning, asset management and governance frameworks. Climate-related considerations are incorporated into the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, including preparedness, response and recovery arrangements, as well as maintenance of safe places and emergency facilities.</p> <p>Staff awareness and preparedness activities are supported through emergency planning and communication initiatives. Budget planning, asset maintenance and procurement practices continue to consider resilience and sustainability, ensuring Council operations remain responsive to increasing climate-related risks.</p>

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
	meet climate event resistance tests, where possible			
5.5	Ensuring staff have access to information, projections, scenarios and data that enable them to make climate-informed decisions in their day to-day roles. This includes socio-economic and demographic data, ensuring that - where possible- gender considerations in relation to climate risks and vulnerabilities are analysed and actioned.	Deliver	Ongoing	Council continues to support staff access to information and resources that inform climate-related decision-making. This includes the use of regional data, emergency planning resources and strategic documents to guide day-to-day operations and longer-term planning. Staff are supported through organisational processes and collaboration with regional partners to understand climate risks and impacts. Consideration of community demographics and vulnerabilities, including gender-based impacts, is incorporated where possible to ensure inclusive and informed responses to climate challenges across Council services.
5.6	Climate change event scenario planning is built into business continuity planning around key and essential services, both in delivery and access	Deliver	Annual	Council is incorporating climate event scenario planning into business continuity arrangements to support delivery and access to essential services during emergencies. This includes alignment with the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which outlines preparedness, response and recovery frameworks for climate-related events. Planning activities focus on maintaining service continuity, supporting critical infrastructure and ensuring community access to key services during extreme weather and emergency situations. Continuous review of business continuity processes is strengthening organisational resilience to climate-related disruptions.
5.7	Review Council's Motor Vehicle Policy in view of environmental and climate change impacts.	Deliver	2025	Motor Vehicle Policy reviewed and adopted in December 2025. The policy mentions the consideration of environmental impacts and emission standards. It also

Action No	Action Details	Councils Role	Timeframe	Status
				prefers the purchase of hybrid vehicles and zero emission.
5.8	Conduct Gender Impact Assessments on climate initiatives as required by the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> , ensuring that gender inequalities are addressed at the planning stage.	Deliver	Ongoing	Council is progressing the integration of Gender Impact Assessments into climate-related planning and decision-making in line with the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> . Gender considerations are being incorporated where applicable to ensure climate initiatives are inclusive and responsive to community needs. This includes recognising differing vulnerabilities and impacts associated with climate events. Council continues to build internal capability and awareness to support the consistent application of gender impact considerations across relevant projects and policies.
5.9	Work with young people, including the Youth Council and local schools to develop education programs and initiatives that engage young people in climate change mitigation, adaption and resilience.	Partner	Ongoing	Council continues to engage young people through the Youth Council and local schools to build awareness of climate change mitigation and resilience. The Youth Council provides a platform for youth to raise awareness of issues such as climate change, and Council is exploring opportunities to co-develop education programs with schools. These efforts aim to ensure young people are informed and involved in climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience initiatives as part of ongoing community engagement.
5.10	Investigate development of Disaster Context document that describes socio-economic demographics from a gendered perspective.	Deliver	2027	Not yet commenced.
5.11	Support Emergency Management and other relevant staff in undertaking Lessons in Disaster Training.	Partner	Ongoing	Ongoing training if offered the staff involved in Emergency Management. Wimmera Emergency Management Team plays a pivotal role in supporting Hindmarsh Shire with Emergency Management Planning.

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

2.1 We care for and connect with our natural environment.

Financial Implications:

There are no additional cost implications due to this strategy. Implementation of the Climate Adaption Strategy is being delivered within existing operational budgets and previously approved project allocations. Several actions have leveraged external funding or regional partnerships such as the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority funded flood management studies, and State Government grants for solar and energy efficiency projects.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Environmental Sustainability	Climate change poses significant risks to our environment, infrastructure, and community. Being unable to implement adaption actions could increase exposure to extreme weather damage, health impacts, and environmental degradation. By actively delivering the Climate Adaption Strategy, Council is mitigating these risks through forward planning, community education, and resilience-building projects. This approach helps in safeguarding Council's assets and services and ensures we meet our environmental stewardship obligations for current and future generations.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Climate Change Act 2017

Community Engagement:

No new engagement has been undertaken. The strategy was developed with input from key stakeholders and community consultation prior to its adoption in 2024.

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:

Once Council receives and notes this update, the outcomes will be communicated internally to continue fostering awareness among staff of our climate adaptation initiatives. Externally, a brief summary of key progress and the importance of climate adaption efforts will be included in Council’s next community newsletter and on social media, highlighting Council’s ongoing commitment to sustainability and resilience.

Next Steps:

Officers will continue to implement adaption actions on an ongoing basis. The next update on progress on action items will be provided to council in October council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives and notes the progress update on the Hindmarsh Shire Climate Adaptation Strategy 2024–2036.

10.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 04 15 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Craige Proctor [10.3.1]
2. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 19 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Don Pedder [10.3.2]
3. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 19 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Christa Robnik [10.3.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 19 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Natalia Aguirre [10.3.4]
5. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 20 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Tige Mannington [10.3.5]
6. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 21 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Mary-Anne Paech [10.3.6]
7. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 22 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Clem Paech [10.3.7]
8. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 22 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Peter Pumpa [10.3.8]
9. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 22 Committee Expression of Interest WMPM - Morgan Nannes [10.3.9]
10. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 04 Committee Expression of Interest Yurunga Homestead - Colin Drendel [10.3.10]
11. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 19 Committee Expression of Interest Yurunga - Mike Smythe [10.3.11]
12. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 21 Committee Expression of Interest Yurunga Homestead - Mark Thomas [10.3.12]
13. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 21 Committee Expression of Interest Yurunga Homestead - Jennifer Solly [10.3.13]
14. CONFIDENTIAL - 2026 05 21 Committee Expression of Interest Yurunga Homestead - Peter Solly [10.3.14]

Executive Summary:

This report recommends appointment of members to Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee and Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee for the term of 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028.

Each Community Asset Committee must have a minimum of four (4) members and a maximum of 12 members. This report recommends appointment of nine (9) members to Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee and five (5) members to the Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee.

Discussion:

Council called for nominations for both Community Asset Committees from Wednesday 15 April 2026 to 5:00pm Friday 22 May 2026.

Advertising for membership was undertaken via advertisement in local newspapers, media release, posters and Facebook posts.

At the close of the nominations period on 22 May 2026, 14 total nominations had been received for both Community Asset Committees with nine (9) for Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum and five (5) for Yurunga Homestead.

Nominations received for each Community Asset Committee are as follows:

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum	Yurunga Homestead
Craige Proctor	Colin Drendel
Don Pedder	Mike Smythe
Christa Robnik	Mark Thomas
Natalia Aguirre	Jennifer Solly
Tige Mannington	Peter Solly
Mary-Anne Paech	
Clem Paech	
Peter Pampa	
Morgan Nines	

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with appointing members to the Community Asset Committees.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs Governance	The appointment of Community Asset Committees through a formal process ensures that the obligations within the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> are met and that Council can continue to build effective and efficient relationships with community representatives. Having robust Community Asset Committees ensures that these facilities can continue to be managed and maintained in an effective and safe manner, promoting their facilities to any visitors and guests who are interested.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Council called for expressions of interest on Council’s website from Wednesday 15 April 2026 to 5:00pm Friday 22 May 2026.

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 – 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:

Council officers will advise the nominees who are appointed to the Community Asset Committees of their appointment and liaise with them to ensure all volunteer induction processes are completed prior to commencement on 1 July 2026.

Next Steps:

Council officers to contact appointees and advise of their successful nomination to the relevant Community Asset Committee and ensure volunteer induction processes are completed prior to commencement.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint the following nominees to the:

1. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee;

- a) Craige Proctor***
- b) Don Pedder***
- c) Christa Robnik***
- d) Natalia Aguirre***
- e) Tige Mannington***
- f) Mary-Anne Paech***
- g) Clem Paech***
- h) Peter Pumpa***
- i) Morgan Ninnes***

2. Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee;

- a) Colin Drendel***

- b) Mike Smythe**
 - c) Mark Thomas**
 - d) Jennifer Solly**
 - e) Peter Solly**
-

10.4 COUNCIL PLAN ACTIONS 2026/2027

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

1. Council Plan Annual Actions 2026-2027 DRAFT [10.4.1]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027, recommended for endorsement for a period of community engagement in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 (the Actions) provide a focused and practical roadmap for delivering on the Council Plan 2025-2029 and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Developed through a combination of strategic planning, community consultation, and review of existing priorities, the Actions are designed to drive tangible improvements in the quality of life for Hindmarsh Shire residents while ensuring Council remains responsive, efficient and forward-looking.

In addition to the specific actions outlined, four overarching priorities have been identified as guiding principles that underpin all areas of Council's work. These are:

- Closing the loop with the community
- Using plain English (reducing jargon)
- Making processes easier and more consistent
- Clearly demonstrating outcomes and value

These overarching actions respond directly to community feedback and represent a commitment to improving how Council communicates, engages and delivers services.

If endorsed, the Actions will be made available for public feedback and comment from 4 June 2026 to 2 July 2026.

Discussion:

Council is required to prepare, adopt and maintain a Council Plan in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. Under Section 90(1) of the Act, Council must develop and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least four financial years following a general election and by 31 October in the election year, in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

The draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 form part of Council's ongoing planning cycle and are reviewed and adopted annually to support delivery of the four-year Council Plan. As noted in previous Council reporting, the Action Plan:

- Provides a detailed set of activities for the financial year
- Aligns directly to the themes, goals and priorities within the Council Plan
- Includes both new initiatives and ongoing service delivery commitments

- Supports regular monitoring through quarterly reporting to Council

Consistent with legislative requirements, the development of the Council Plan and its associated actions have been informed by community engagement, including consultation processes undertaken during the preparation of the four-year plan.

In 2025, Hindmarsh Shire Council established a deliberative community panel to support the development of the Council Plan 2025–2029. This process brought together a small group of community members to contribute to strategic priorities through a structured, facilitated workshop. The process was independently facilitated and aligned with Council’s Community Engagement Policy. As part of Council’s commitment to maintaining a deliberative approach to community input, participants were invited to return for a follow-up session in March 2026. This workshop represents the next step in our Council Plan process, providing an opportunity for community members to represent their community, review proposed actions for the 2026/2027 financial year and contribute to prioritisation.

The draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 reflect the priorities of the Deliberative Panel, as well as strategic actions identified in existing Council Strategies and Plans. They focus on realising the goals, aspiration and vision contained in the Council Plan 2025-2029.

The draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 are recommended for endorsement for a period of community engagement from 4 June 2026 to 2 July 2026.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

Financial implications relating to each action have been considered and included in the draft 2026/2027 Annual Budget.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The annual adoption of Council Plan Actions helps manage the strategic risk of Community Needs because it creates a structured, recurring process for checking that Council’s priorities still align with what the community expects and requires. By reviewing and adopting actions each year, Council can respond to emerging issues, adjust to changing demographics, and ensure resources are directed where

	they will have the greatest impact. This regular cycle also strengthens transparency and accountability, reducing the risk that community needs go unmet or unnoticed.
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Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Deliberative community engagement has been undertaken, with the draft set of Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 to be made available for consultative feedback once endorsed.

*Engagement Opportunities*CEO Drop Ins

Nhill Library – 2:00pm on Wednesday 10 June 2026

Dimboola Library and Customer Service Centre – 10:00am on Thursday 11 June 2026

Jeparit Library and Customer Service Centre – 10:00am on Monday 22 June 2026

Rainbow Library and Customer Service Centre – 12:30pm on Monday 22 June 2026

Have Your Say Hindmarsh – www.haveyoursayhindmarsh.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Gender Equality Implications:

A Gender Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to this plan.

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Communications Strategy:

Not applicable.

Next Steps:

Draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 to be reviewed after the completion of the community engagement period and presented to Council alongside any feedback at the Council meeting on 29 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 for a period of community engagement from 4 June 2026 to 2 July 2026, with feedback to be considered at the Council meeting on 29 July 2026.

11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Nhill Town Committee Minutes 5 May 2026 [11.1.1]
2. Jeparit Town Committee Minutes 11 May 2026 [11.1.2]
3. Hindmarsh Pride Committee Minutes 20 May 2026 [11.1.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL - Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report - 30 April 2026 [11.1.4]
5. CONFIDENTIAL - Nhill Town Committee Financial Report - 30 April 2026 [11.1.5]
6. CONFIDENTIAL - Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report - 30 April 2026 [11.1.6]

Introduction:

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

- **Nhill Town Committee**
General meeting on 5 May 2026
- **Jeparit Town Committee**
General meeting on 11 May 2026
- **Hindmarsh Pride Committee**
General meeting on 20 May 2026

A copy of the minutes for each of the meetings held are included as attachments for the information of Council.

A copy of the financial statements for the month of April for the following Advisory committees has been included as confidential attachments for the information of Council:

- **Jeparit Town Committee**
- **Nhill Town Committee**
- **Rainbow Town Committee**

Next Steps:

Council officer to publish Advisory Committee minutes on Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:**
 - a) **Nhill Township meeting held on 5 May 2026;**
 - b) **Jeparit Township meeting held on 11 May 2026;**
 - c) **Hindmarsh Pride meeting held on 20 May 2026; and**
2. **notes the financial statements for the month of April 2026 for the following Advisory Committees:**
 - a) **Jeparit Township**

- b) Nhill Township***
 - c) Rainbow Township***
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11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 26 March 2026 [**11.2.1**]
2. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 21 April 2026 [**11.2.2**]

Introduction:

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

- **Yurunga Homestead Committee**
General meeting on 26 March 2026
- **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee**
General meeting on 21 April 2026

A copy of the minutes for the above meetings has been included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

- 1. Yurunga Homestead meeting held on 26 March 2026; and***
- 2. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meeting held on 21 April 2026.***

12 LATE REPORTS

No late reports.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No confidential reports.

16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No late confidential reports.

17 MEETING CLOSE
