



6 February 2024

## AGENDA

### Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting

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**Date:** Wednesday 7 February 2024

**Time:** Commencing at 3:00pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

**Council:** Cr Brett Ireland – Mayor  
Cr Wendy Bywaters – Deputy Mayor  
Cr Melanie Albrecht  
Cr Debra Nelson  
Cr Robert Gersch  
Cr Ron Ismay

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

## **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Community**

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

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



## **Public Access**

This meeting is open to members of the public and will be livestreamed from Council's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil](http://www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil)

## **Live Streaming Statement**

This meeting will be streamed live on the internet and the recording of this meeting will be published on Council's website and/or social media pages after the meeting.

Members of the public attending this meeting may be filmed.

By remaining in the public gallery once the meeting commences, members of the public give their consent to being filmed, and for the recording of them to be made publicly available and used by Council.

Information about the broadcasting and publishing recordings of Council meetings is available in the Council's Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy is available on the Council's website.

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## 1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY & LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

### ***Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community***

*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.*

### ***Live Streaming Statement***

*This meeting is being broadcast on the internet and the recording of the meeting will be published on Council's Facebook Page.*

*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 the Council.*

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

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## 2 APOLOGIES

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## 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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at the Council Chamber, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

*Attachment Number: 1*

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#### 5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

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

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**6 ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 5 December 2023 – 29 January 2024**

**6.1 Cr IRELAND, MAYOR**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
06/12/2023	Unveiling of portrait at Nhill police station	Nhill	
06/12/2023	Meeting with CEO re upcoming agenda	Nhill	
06/12/2023	Citizenship ceremony in council chambers	Nhill	
11/12/2023	Friends of Lake Albacutya AGM at Mecca Rainbow	Rainbow	
12/12/2023	Rainbow p-12 college awards night	Rainbow	
13/12/2023	Council briefing	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Council meeting followed by Xmas party	Nhill	
15/12/2023	Mayoral matters column to media		
18/12/2023	Dimboola secondary college awards night	Dimboola	
21/12/2023	Council staff xmas party at Nhill golf club	Nhill	
23/12/2023	Inspected vandalism at Jeparit swimming hole and leased with staff to rectify		Thanks to Phil King who took time out to come and fix the damage.
26/12/2023	6am call-out to Jeparit swimming pool due to pool leaking and losing water		Once again council staff were quick to rectify even though it was a public holiday.
04/01/2024	Mayoral matters to media regarding Australia Day		
08/01/2024	Meeting with CEO		Regarding general business and introduction to Ram our new Director of Infrastructure Services.
15/01/2024	Interview with Wimmera mail times		Re local governments role and attitude to Australia Day.

18/01/2024	Yurunga homestead meeting		
26/01/2024	Australia day ceremony	Rainbow	Once again, well supported by our communities and congratulations to all the recipients of awards, both shire and town.
26/01/2024	Australia day ceremony	Jeparit	
26/01/2024	Australia day ceremony	Dimboola	
26/01/2024	Australia day ceremony	Nhill	
27/01/2024	Media release regarding the day and award winners		

**6.2 Cr BYWATERS, DEPUTY MAYOR**

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
10/12/2023	Nhill Karen Christmas event	Uniting Church Nhill	
10/12/2023	Combined Churches, Carols in the Street	Avonlea nursing home and Goldsworthy Park, Nhill	
13/12/2023	Nhill College presentation night, Ray Keam, award presentation	Nhill College	
16/12/2023	Council briefing meeting, Council meeting, and Councillor and senior management team Christmas party	Nhill	
16/12/2023	Volunteer cleanup at the Nhill Train station. Australian Rail Track Association (ARTA)	Nhill	
18/12/2023	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum general meeting and volunteers' lunch	Jeparit WMPM	
18/12/2023	Inspect, Jeparit Waterhole, Caravan Park, and Christmas	Jeparit	



	window displays		
21/12/2023	Hindmarsh shire council staff presentations and Christmas party	Nhill Golf Club	
26/12/2023	Boxing Day Nhill Cup	Nhill Racecourse	
06/01/2024	Aviation Heritage Centre, Nhill Book Fair	Nhill	
26/01/2024	Inspection at Dimboola train station regarding future volunteer cleanup	Dimboola	
27/01/2024	Karen New Year	Nhill	
29/01/2024	Australian citizenship ceremony	Nhill	

### 6.3 Cr ALBRECHT

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
12/12/2023	Nhill Town Committee Christmas Carols meeting	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Hindmarsh Shire Council Briefing	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Hindmarsh Shire Council Meeting	Nhill	
16/12/2023	Nhill Town Committee Christmas Carols	Nhill	Thank you to all the performers and people that attended the Christmas Carols. I am proud to be part of a small working group that made such a great event for Nhill.

### 6.4 Cr GERSCH

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
06/12/2023	Nhill police station presentation	Nhill	
06/12/2023	Citizenship ceremony	Nhill	
08/12/2023	Xmas carols	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Council meeting	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Council briefing	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Council Xmas social	Nhill Golf	

		Club	
21/12/2023	Council Xmas breakup	Nhill Golf Club	
20/01/2024	Karen new year celebrations		
23/01/2024	Informal meeting acting CEO Monica	Nhill	
23/01/2024	Nhill library NGV kids program	Nhill	
26/01/2024	Australia Day ceremony	Rainbow	
26/01/2024	Australia Day ceremony	Jeparit	
26/01/2024	Australia Day ceremony	Dimboola	
26/01/2024	Australia Day ceremony	Nhill	

#### 6.5 Cr NELSON

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
05/12/2023	DFNC AGM	Dimboola	
13/12/2023	Mates mentoring meeting	Dimboola	
13/12/2023	Council Briefing meeting	Nhill	
13/12/2023	Council meeting	Nhill	
13/12/2023	SMT & Councillor end of year dinner	Nhill	
15/12/2023	Town Christmas party	Dimboola	
21/12/2023	WSMLLEN meeting	Horsham	
31/12/2023	New Years Eve party	Dimboola	
26/01/2024	Australia Day celebrations	Dimboola	

#### 6.6 Cr ISMAY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
26/01/2024	Australia Day ceremony	Rainbow	
26/01/2024	Australia Day ceremony	Jeparit	

## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

### 7.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Numbers:** 2 – 5

**Introduction:**

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

**Inwards:**

- 2024/01/19 – Email from Senator Alex Antic RE Flag Pride
- 2024/01/23 – Australia Day Petition
- 2024/01/23 – Australia Day Petitioners (*Confidential attachment*)

**Outwards:**

- 2024/01/31 – Letter to Gerang Hall Committee RE Disbanding

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes the attached correspondence.***

*Attachment numbers: 2 – 5*

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**8 PLANNING PERMITS**

**8.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Introduction:**

This report provides Council with an update on all Planning Applications approved under delegation for the period 01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023.

**Discussion:**

Planning permit applications when submitted undergo a rigorous process and are assessed under Hindmarsh Planning Scheme. Delegations set by the Council allows the CEO to approve planning permits following the assessment and recommendation from town planners. Complex planning permits, or permits where objections are received, are presented to the Council for decision making.

When eligible, some low impact and straightforward planning permits are assessed through the VicSmart process for swift approval. The VicSmart statutory planning permit process aims to streamline the assessment of simple planning permit applications.

Key features of VicSmart include:

- A 10 business day permit process
- Applications are not advertised or referred to external authorities.
- The CEO or their delegate decides on the application.

The following VicSmart permits were approved by the Acting CEO between 01 October 2023 and 31 December 2023.

Permit No.	Address	Proposal	Date Lodged	Trigger	Date approved	Stat Days
VS1832-2023	9 King St Rainbow	Development of land with a shade structure	31/08/2023	Clause 32.05-10 (TZ) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works for a Section 2 use.</i>	4/10/2023	4
VS1829-2023	61 Leahy St Nhill	Construct a building or construct or carry out works (fence)	12/07/2023	Clause 42.01-2 (ESO6) <i>A permit is required to construct a fence that may obstruct the flow of water.</i>	26/10/2023	15
VS1836-2023	4 Hope St Dimboola	Construction and carrying out of works (earthworks) associated with the development of an outbuilding ancillary to a dwelling	20/10/2023	Clause 42.01-2 (ESO6) <i>A permit is required for earthworks.</i>	7/11/2023	10

Permit No.	Address	Proposal	Date Lodged	Trigger	Date approved	Stat Days
VS1839-2023	88 Lloyd St Dimboola	Construction and putting up display business identification signage	18/10/2023	Clause 43.01-1 (HO) <i>A permit is required to construct or display a sign.</i>	16/11/2023	1
VS1838-2023	38 Taverner St Rainbow	Construct a building or carry out works (car port)	11/10/2023	Clause 43.01-1 (HO) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works.</i>	22/11/2023	8
VS1834-2023	17 Hindmarsh St Dimboola	Buildings and works and use of land for an Automated Collection Point	19/09/2023	Clause 32.08-9 (GRZ) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works for a use in Section 2 of Clause 32.08-2.</i>	31/10/2023	5

The following Planning Permit Applications were approved by the Acting CEO between 01 October 2023 and 31 December 2023.

Permit No.	Address	Proposal	Date Lodged	Trigger	Date approved	Stat Days
PA1826-2023	Lake Rd Jeparit	Use of land for extractive industries.	6/06/2023	Clause 35.07-1 (FZ) <i>A permit is required to use the land for extractive industry.</i> Clause 35.07-1 (FZ) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or carry out works.</i> Clause 52.08-1 <i>A permit is required for use and development of land for extractive industry.</i>	17/10/2023	79
PA1824-2023	Towns Ln Nhill	Construct a building or construct or carry out works (Utility Installation - Bore)	17/05/2023	Clause 44.04 (LSIO) <i>A permit is required for buildings and works within the LSIO.</i>	27/10/23	18
PA1827-2023	63 Anderson St Dimboola	2 Lot Subdivision	23/06/2023	Clause 32.08-3 (GRZ1) and 42.01-2 (ESO6) <i>A permit is required to subdivide land.</i>	7/11/2023	55
PA1830-2023	18 Vickery St Kiata	Development of land for a dwelling	2/08/2023	Clause 44.06-2 (BMO) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or carry out works associated with an accommodation use.</i>	7/11/2023	47
PA1833-2023	59 Federal St Rainbow	Use and development of land for an Automated Collection Point	19/09/2023	Clause 32.05-10 (TZ) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works for a use in Section 2 of Clause 32.05-2.</i>	1/11/2023	13

Permit No.	Address	Proposal	Date Lodged	Trigger	Date approved	Stat Days
				Clause 43.01-1 (HO) <i>A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works.</i>		
PA1823-2023	137 Glenlee Reserve Rd Glenlee	Two lot subdivision (re-subdivision of two existing lots) and creation of a carriageway easement)	13/05/2023	Clause 35.07-3 (FZ) <i>A permit is required to subdivide land.</i>	28/11/2023	60

**Options:**

N/A

**Link to Council Plan:**

Facilitating and supporting economic development.

**Financial Implications:**

Fees associated with planning permit applications and amendments are set by the State in accordance with the Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016. These fees are currently being applied to all applications received by Council.

**Risk Management Implications:**

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

**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.

Author – Mikayla Mackley, Planning Officer

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Nil

**Next Steps:**

Next Report to be provided in April 2024 for the period 01 January to 31 March 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council notes the VicSmart Applications and Planning Applications approved by the Acting CEO or delegate, for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023.*

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**9 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION**

**9.1 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Director Corporate and Community Services  
**Attachment Number:** 6

**Introduction:**

The Financial Report for the second quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year has been prepared, including explanations of variances where applicable, and is presented for the information of Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council notes the Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2023 as presented.*

*Attachment number: 6*

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## 9.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2024-2028

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

**Attachment Number:** 7

### **Introduction:**

This report seeks Council adoption of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Plan 2024-2028 following a consultation period between Thursday 14 November 2023 and Thursday 25 January 2024.

### **Discussion:**

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Plan 2024-2028 (the Plan) has been prepared following development sessions with the Hindmarsh community in late March and early April 2023, and a further consultation period of the proposed Plan from December 2023 to January 2024. The Plan amalgamates identified initiatives by priority and timeframe and aims to provide direction to Council for projects to include in Council Plans, Annual Budgets, and long-term Financial Plans. This also drives the identification of alternative or additional grant or funding streams to undertake projects as appropriate funding becomes available.

The draft Plan was presented to Council on 13 December 2023 where Council endorsed the draft Plan to be made available for public consultation described above.

As there were no submissions received during the 14 December 2023 to 25 January 2024 consultation period, there are no amendments to the draft Plan.

### **Options:**

1. Council can choose to adopt the Community Action Plan 2024-2028;
2. Council can make amendments to the Community Action Plan 2024-2028 prior to adoption; or
3. Council can choose not to adopt the Community Action Plan 2024-2028.

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

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

A community well informed and engaged.

Provide arts and cultural activities that strengthen social connection.

Support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and abilities.

#### **Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment.**

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

Attractive streetscapes.



**Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy.**

Facilitating and supporting economic development.

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation.

**Financial Implications:**

Initiatives contained within the draft Community Action Plan 2024-2028 will be considered in Council’s strategic planning as well as future budgets as adopted by Council.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The draft Community Action Plan provides initiatives for Council to implement, facilitate, and support community driven development within Hindmarsh Shire, setting clear pillars for Council to focus on in the realisation of community priorities.

**Relevant legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

Two stages of community engagement were undertaken as part of the development of the Plan. The first stage incorporated group development sessions, deliberative engagement, and the second stage provided the community with the opportunity to confirm the Plan as informed by the initial sessions.

**Gender equality implications:**

Gender impact assessments will be completed as part of the implementation of specific initiatives contained within the Plan. Council’s Community Engagement Policy is currently the subject of a Gender Impact Assessment - this will inform the delivery of future community engagement initiatives.

**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, Acting Director Corporate & Community Services.

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

Author – Phil King, Manager Economic and Community Development.

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

**Communications Strategy:**

The endorsed Community Action Plan 2024-2028 will be published on Council’s website and publicised on Council’s social media pages. It will be provided to Council’s Senior Management team and Project Management Office and will form part of Council’s ongoing project and strategic planning.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council adopts the Community Action Plan 2024-2028.***

*Attachment number: 7*

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**9.3 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2024-2028**

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Director Corporate and Community Services  
**Attachment Number:** 8



**Introduction:**

This report seeks Council adoption of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 (the Strategy), following a process of community consultation that took place between 25 October 2023 and 23 November 2023. At the close of the consultation period on Thursday 23 November 2023, Council had received 11 submissions. The submissions, officer responses and amendments to the draft Strategy are detailed in this report.

**Discussion:**

The Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 builds on current economic contexts within the Hindmarsh Shire, to identify strategies and targets to support our people, employment and socio-economic wellbeing, housing, and economic output.

The Strategy considers current estimates and then sets targets to guide our community and organisation through emerging economic development opportunities: attracting investment in industry sectors; participating in innovative housing development initiatives; delivering infrastructure to support and drive potential population growth; attracting new investment and reinvestment in innovative and sustainable businesses; collaborating with regional activities; assisting key towns to increase visitation and the economic impact of visitors; and cost-effectively resourcing Council’s involvement in local economic development and tourism with our small team as well as selective outsourcing.

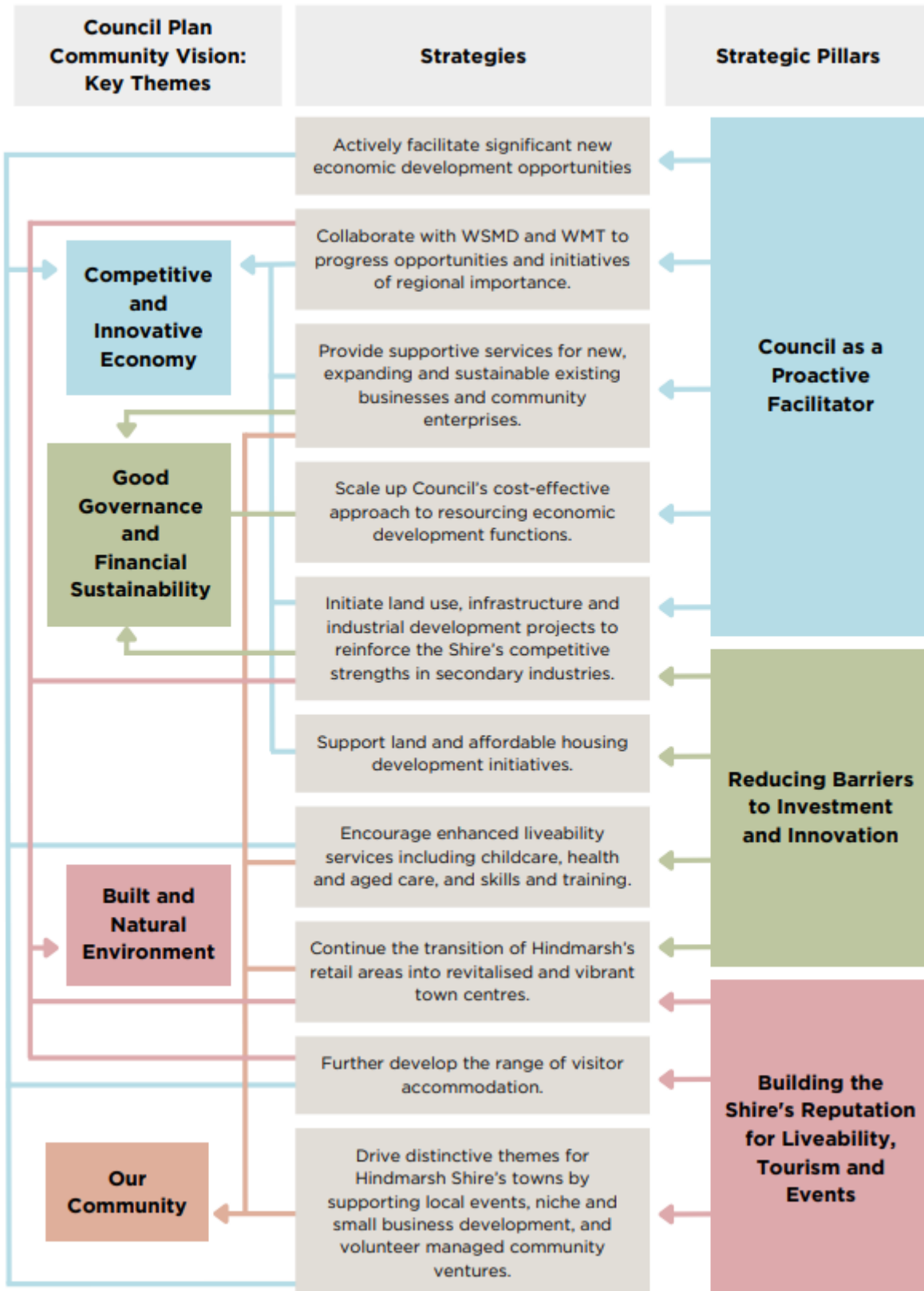
Current Estimates			Strategy Targets
Shire population	5,698		5,650 by 2036
Shire local jobs	2,233		2,300 by 2036
Dwelling stock	2,954		3,280 by 2036
Visitor economy	\$17.8 million		\$25.5 million by 2028
Total output	\$721.5 million		\$800 million by 2028

Three strategic pillars (as listed below) have been developed for the Strategy, with each strategic pillar having multiple strategies and actions -

1. Council as a Proactive Facilitator.

2. Reducing Barriers to Investment in the Local Economy; and
3. Building the Shire’s Reputation for Lifestyle, Tourism and Events.

The Strategy contains 10 strategic directions and 40 actions, with some actions crossing over into multiple strategic pillars.



At the closing date of the consultation period there were 11 submissions received from the public, with two respondents speaking to their submissions at the 13 December 2023 Council Meeting.

A summary of submissions and resultant amendment and/or response is included below.

Strategic Pillar	Response / Request	Action
Pillar #1	Upgrade displays and exhibitions at museums and historic attractions through shared curatorial expertise to increase visitation and sustainability. For Council to employ a dedicated Economic Development Officer to drive tourism and event initiatives and to support individual attractions and businesses.	This is included in EDS Strategy 1.2 and an action 1.2.5  Council to employ a dedicated Economic Development Officer (Action 1.4.6).
Pillar #3	Include the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum as a hero business in Jeparit and provide support for it to live up to its fullest potential.	Council to continue to support the WMPM and to promote the asset. Advocate and investigate additional funding support for exhibitions and curator expertise. Ensure the WMPM is included in any future tourism based strategic plans.
Pillar #2	Daily public transport between regional towns, e.g. Jeparit to Horsham and return.	Advocate for increased public transport services if broader community support and need is identified.
	Nhill to be identified and promoted as having significant historical assets including the NAHC and Nhill Silo.	The draft strategy has been amended to include 'aviation and history' as part of future branding for Nhill.
	Raised several issues in relation to Council not being supportive towards housing development and investment in Nhill or the shire.	The submission references past activities rather than commenting on the future strategy. Council acknowledges that innovative approaches could be implemented to address current shortages of key worker and other affordable housing. Strategy 2.2 is directly related to this issue and the draft

		strategy has now been amended to explicitly mention Nhill and Jeparit as short-term priorities.
	<p>Raised several issues in relation to Council not being financially viable or competent in being able to complete projects within Jeparit and being supportive of the needs of Jeparit and its residents.</p> <p>She raised issues surrounding the socio-economic disadvantage that Jeparit suffers from and about the lack of shops available to lease or purchase for new startup businesses.</p>	<p>The EDS is not a strategy for the private sector. It is geared to those areas in which Council can contribute to economic development within its resources. Governments at all levels have policies which expect local town communities to contribute to their own economic development initiatives. While Council has a role to encourage and facilitate, many economic development initiatives need to be driven by local communities and businesses.</p>
	<p>Provided support for the Economic Development Strategy 2024 – 2028 and advised that an additional submission was being made via the on-line portal.</p> <p>Provided a copy of the Nhill Silo Heritage Project and asked that consideration be given to its inclusion in future strategic and planning initiatives.</p>	<p>Nhill Silo Heritage Project has now been added to Strategy 3.1 and will be advocated by Council to be included in future regional tourism plans.</p>
Pillar #1	<p>Strategies outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan align with the aims and purposes of the Nhill Silo Heritage Project and the Master Plan.</p> <p>Support for Pillar #1.</p>	<p>Nhill Silo Heritage Project has now been added to Strategy 3.1.</p>
Pillar #2	<p>Strategies that reduce existing or future barriers to investment and development is supported by the Nhill Silo Heritage Project.</p>	<p>Continue with the development and implementation of processes and policies that support investment and development within the shire.</p>
Pillar #3	<p>Initiatives and strategies that support and build the shires ability to attract and host tourism and social events, activities and improved lifestyle are supported</p>	<p>Continue with the development and implementation of processes and policies that support tourism and event development within the shire.</p>

	by the Nhill Silo Heritage Project.	
Pillar #1	Supports the appointment of a dedicated Economic Development Officer for Council as this will enable better marketing and promotion of the shire's assets and tourist attractions.	Council to employ a dedicated Economic Development Officer (Action 1.4.6).
Pillar #2	Include Jeparit in and Housing Strategy being established for the shire or region. Jeparit is well situated to become a banner town for retirees and the establishment of a mature aged housing development or in-fill of vacant land / large blocks would significantly benefit the town's ability to attract residents.	Advocate for Jeparit to be included in any Housing Development Strategy for the shire or the region. Strategy 2.2 is directly related to this issue and the draft strategy has now been amended to explicitly mention Jeparit as a priority.
Pillar #3	Undertake streetscape improvements which have been discussed and prioritised for several years. Streetscape beautification will help revitalize the town centre and compliment other initiatives including the WRDT and the Jeparit Swimming Hole redevelopment.  Many new residents have good ideas but due to a lack of local expertise a lot of initiatives are unable to be developed further. Suggestion is for Council to facilitate workshops to enable initiatives to be further developed.	Council to identify funding opportunities to undertake appropriate streetscape improvements.  Council to consider facilitating workshops to enhance the understanding of local residents, groups and organisations about project implementation.
Pillar #1	Removal of barriers and hurdles to expedite the transition of the Jeparit Bowling Club into a Community Hub / Community Garden.	Council to provide financial support by allowing payment plans to be entered into the relevant fees.
Pillar #2	Facilitation towards training for volunteers in areas such as food	Council to consider facilitating workshops to enhance the

	preparation, nutrition, horticulture and marketing which will all assist in improving the community well-being of Jeparit.	understanding of local residents and volunteers in areas as described.
Pillar #3	With appropriate training and assistance, the Jeparit Bowling Club / Community Hub could become an established hero business within Jeparit and could expand into a community-based business offering meals etc.	Council to consider facilitating workshops and training sessions in the development of the facility as a business. Council could also assist by identifying funding opportunities as they arise.
Pillar #3	The respondent has stated that due to one individual owning a number of commercial premises in Jeparit it is difficult for the town to undertake economic development initiatives as some of the buildings are either not in a fit for purpose state or the lease arrangements hinder economic growth. The individual has owned some of the premises for twenty years and a lot of the buildings have been effectively vacant for many of those years. The respondent lists anecdotal evidence where agreements between the owner and the tenant are verbal and that the agreements are not compliant appropriate Acts. The apparent lack of willingness by the owner to redevelop the various premises is seen as a deterrent to anyone starting a business in Jeparit.	Council to review relevant legislation and Local Laws to determine what, if any, action can be undertaken to enforce the owner of the buildings to update the buildings and to ensure future tenants can confidently lease premises to operate a business from.
	The respondent has raised a range of ideas in relation to the importance of the Nhill Silo Heritage Project assisting to revitalize the town by providing a functioning Heritage, Events and	The Nhill Silo Heritage Project has now been added to Strategy 3.1 in the draft EDS.



	<p>Arts precinct. The respondent, Chan Uoy has been instrumental in coordinating and delivering the Wimmera Steampunk Festival in Dimboola and along with 'Human Design' artists Zlatko Balazic and John McKee were invited to meet with key stakeholders of the Nhill Silo Heritage Project Inc. They have identified eight key areas for the Nhill Silo Heritage Project Inc to concentrate on to achieve its objective ' to protect, preserve and restore the complex formerly known as Noskes Flour Mill to promote the complex as an Australian cultural icon and to develop it as a community asset'.</p>	
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The final Strategy has been prepared by Council officers for Council consideration.

**Options:**

1. Council can choose to adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028; or
2. Council can choose not to adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028.

**Link to Council Plan:**

**Theme One: Our Community.**

A community well informed and engaged.

**Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy.**

Facilitating and supporting economic development.

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation.

**Financial Implications:**

Initiatives contained within the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 will be referred to Council's annual budget.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
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Community Needs	The Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 provides community-endorsed initiatives for Council to implement to facilitate and promote economic development within Hindmarsh Shire, setting clear paths for Council to focus on in future financial and project planning, as well as partnerships, advocacy and strategic direction.
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**Relevant legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

Community engagement was undertaken as part of the development of the draft Strategy.

**Gender equality implications:**

Gender impact assessments will be completed as required for specific initiatives to be implemented from within the Strategy.

**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, Acting Director Corporate & Community Services.  
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Phil King, Manager Economic and Community Development.  
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

**Communications Strategy:**

The adopted Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028 will be placed on Council’s website.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council adopts the Hindmarsh Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028.***

*Attachment number: 8*

**9.4 COUNCIL PLAN 2023/2024 ACTIONS PROGRESS REPORT**

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Introduction:**

This report provides Council with a progress update on the actions for 2023/2024 taken against the Council Plan and Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

**Discussion:**

Council’s main strategic document the Council Plan 2021-2025 was developed and adopted on 22 September 2021. The document contains strategic objectives under four Themes Our Community; Built and Natural Environment; Competitive and Innovative Economy; and Good Governance & Financial Sustainability with annual actions on how Council will achieve the objective of the plan.

Progress on the 2023/2024 actions against the Council Plan are included below:

**Theme One – Our Community**

Action Item	Update on Action	Status
Promotion and marketing of Council information including the monthly hardcopy newsletters available at customer service centres and libraries, and fortnightly e-newsletters distributed through emails and available on Council’s website	<p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council staff continue to prepare and distribute monthly newsletter and fortnightly e-newsletters. Monthly newsletters are printed for free collection from Council Customer Service Centres and Libraries, and fortnightly e-newsletters are sent to our subscribers. All newsletters are available for viewing on Council’s website at <a href="http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/newsletters">www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/newsletters</a></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
Support our ageing community through hosting inclusive seniors concert and social connection activities including	<p><b>Q1</b> - Planning is underway for the 2023 Seniors Concert on Wednesday 11 October. <b>Q2</b> – The Hindmarsh Shire Seniors Concert was a huge success with over 360 people attending. Buses transported people from across the Shire to the inclusive event. Movie matinees continue to be successful with attendees coming from across the</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>

<p>movie matinees and morning teas, with a focus on diversity (refugee background, migrants, aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders, all abilities and LGBTIQ+)</p>	<p>Shire. Cuppa connections continue to be held in each of our four libraries on a weekly basis. Council officers are currently planning musical entertainment in each town and utilising the community bus to allow interested community members the opportunity to attend cuppa connection in different towns throughout Hindmarsh.</p>	
<p>Continue to support early years services including the roll out of up to 30 hours of four-year old kindergarten in Hindmarsh</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - A new kinder in school facility was announced for Dimboola which will help to meet the greater need due to the implementation of up to 30 hours of four-year-old kinder in 2025 and increased enrolments. An application was submitted (with support from Dept. of Education) for new standalone four-year-old Kindergarten at Nhill. The proposal is for both new centres to be built on School sites, assisting with the transition from Kindergarten to School. <b>Q2</b> – Council continues to work with Emerge and the Department to support the roll out of up to 30 hours of four-year old kindergarten. We are still awaiting the outcome of the application submitted for a new standalone four-year-old kindergarten in Nhill.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Continue to advocate for after school care and an increase in childcare in Hindmarsh Shire</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council supported West Wimmera Health Services application for after school care in Nhill. The announcement of a new kinder in school facility in Dimboola will allow for additional childcare spaces to open up from 2025. <b>Q2</b> – Council continues to advocate for increased childcare in Hindmarsh at any opportunity.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Continue to implement the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy</p>	<p>Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council with support from Hindmarsh Shire Council’s Youth Officer are working closely to address and implement the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy; including but not limited to hosting events and initiatives that empower, welcome, and involve other young people; and facilitating spaces that create opportunities for connection, expression, and community. <b>Q2</b> – With the change of staff in the youth officer role the implementation of actions from the strategy has been slower than anticipated. Youth Council meetings</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

	and planning for events have continued.	
Support and host youth events that are accessible to all Hindmarsh Shire youth.	<p><b>Q1</b> - Youth Councillors have organised and hosted several events, and have an 'Aussie Disco' currently in the middle of the planning stage – this event was decided on after multiple young people in all major towns expressing to the Youth Councillors that they love the 'disco' type events and find these a great way to unwind and socialise with their friends near and far.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Youth Councillors have hosted and organised two very big, and successful events at the end of 2023. 'Bring on Summer' concert, partnered with West Wimmera Shire, and a Hindmarsh Youth Formal. Young people, including youth councillors were very pleased with the turnout of the youth formal with 116 registrations and one youth have said “This was the best formal they’ve ever been to”.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Work with various agencies to host and promote school holiday activities throughout the Shire	<p><b>Q1</b> - Hindmarsh Shire Council recently completed their September School Holiday Program, with over 130 people registered for several events and total event attendance total of over 300, these school holidays were once again another success for Hindmarsh Shire and the various partners utilised throughout the program including; Level Up Gaming, Jeparit Angling Club, local Dimboola fisherman, Rainbow Lake Association and Hindmarsh Shire Libraries.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Planning is underway for the National Gallery of Victoria regional roadshow which will be held in January 2024 in each of the four libraries.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Host outdoor music sessions in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow	<p><b>Q1</b> - There is an outdoor music concert scheduled for November in Nhill at Jaypex Park. This is currently in the planning stages, but is set to be a great event.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – A New Year’s Eve disco event was held at the Dimboola Library on the rear deck. This event was facilitated by the Dimboola Progress Association, and was very well attended.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Work with various agencies to facilitate and host information sessions to inform multicultural community members on	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council has recently employed a Karen Liaison / Customer Service Officer who will work with agencies and community.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – An information session to be held at the Shire office is being planned for early 2024 to provide information on Council services to our multicultural community members.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

<p>Council services and services of public and private agencies and organisations</p>		
<p>Key documents translated into Karen</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Karen Liaison Officer employed to assist Council with interpreting services and to advise on key documents to be translated. <b>Q2</b> – A number of short information flyers have been created in Karen and placed on the local Karen Facebook page. This includes posters on animal registration, how to access interpreter services, caltrop weed, and transfer station summer hours.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Consider community garden opportunities in Dimboola</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - A Community Garden is being investigated by the Dimboola Urban Landcare Group.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill</p>	<p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council continues to support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Commence implementation of the recommendations from the Cultural Audit</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council has amended recruitment processes to encourage multicultural community members to apply for positions. <b>Q2</b> - Hindmarsh Shire Council Cultural Inclusion Review 2023 draft report received in late December 2023. Relevant recommendations within the report are being considered for implementation throughout 2024.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Celebrate volunteers week, International Day of People with Disability and Harmony day</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Planning will commence shortly for an activity to support IDPwD which will be held in December 2023. <b>Q2</b> - The International Day of People with Disability event was held at the Dimboola Bowling Club and whilst numbers of attendees were lower than expected due to the heat of the day and COVID-19 outbreaks, those that attended had a good day out. Carers on the day said that they were very appreciative of Council running the event and that participants look forward to it.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Support culturally significant days including for first peoples</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Hindmarsh Shire Libraries hosted the First NAIDOC Week Exhibition showcasing both local and statewide indigenous artists. This inaugural event will continue to be on our library calendar moving forward. Hindmarsh Shire Libraries continue to extend upon their cultural knowledge, including indigenous</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

	<p>Australians with representation on the State Library Victoria steering committee Libraries for Aboriginal Peoples.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – As part of Hindmarsh Shire Libraries collection development, we will be implementing the First Nations Collection Description Guidelines that recently launched in conjunction with NSLA, AIATSIS, CAUL, CAVAL and ALIA and project consultant Tui Raven. Adoption of these guidelines commits our support of first nations peoples.</p>	
<p>Provide community action grants to support Hindmarsh community groups and organisations</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Community Action Grants are currently being advertised and round one application will be presented to Council in October 2023.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council awarded round one of the community action grants to 13 community groups / organisations at the October Council meeting. Round two is currently being advertised and will be presented to the March 2024 Council meeting.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Hindmarsh Shire Libraries host a range of activities including literacy development, digital literacy and creative endeavors, across a range of ages and demographics throughout the Shire.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> - Hindmarsh Shire Libraries are continually looking for opportunities to showcase visiting authors, learning through doing activities for both early years, primary and secondary students as well as running programming that supports our ageing population such as Digital Literacy for Seniors.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

**Theme Two – Built & Natural Environment**

Action Item	Update on Action	Status
<p>Continue to advocate for funding for Davis Park upgrades including undercover seating</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Funding for stage one has been allocated through Council and LRCI phase 4, with a grant application submitted through the Country Football Netball Program 2023/2024 pending. If successful, this additional funding will secure completion of stage one upgrades which include the construction of AFL compliant change rooms and undercover seating.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council is still awaiting the outcome of the funding application and will be notified in February 2024. Council will continue to advocate for funding to continue staged</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>

	redevelopment of Davis Park.	
Facilitate Hindmarsh Heavy Transport and Freight Working Group	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council continues to facilitate the Heavy Transport and Freight working group.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Seek funding for shade structure over Jeparit recreation reserve playground	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Awaiting suitable grant programs.	<b>Not yet commenced</b>
Install recycling and glass collection bins in main street in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow	<b>Q1</b> - Council has purchased bin surrounds that will be installed in the central business district in each town that include recycling and glass collection bins. <b>Q2</b> – Bin surrounds have been purchased with the installation being scheduled into the works program.	<b>Underway</b>
Sealed road construction works on Dimboola Minyip Road (subject to funding)	<b>Q1</b> - Assessment and cost estimate completed, we are currently awaiting the outcome from NDFA regarding flood recovery funding. <b>Q2</b> – NDFA application for funding was unsuccessful. Project funding now sought from HVSPP with council contribution, with grant application submitted.	<b>Not proceeding</b>
Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season	<b>Q1</b> - Free green waste month is being held from 16 September to 15 October 2023. <b>Q2</b> – Free green waste month was held from mid-September until mid-October.	<b>Completed</b>
Continue implementation of the Nhill Streetscape Plan	<b>Q1</b> - Stage 1 (Nhill Lake Pathway) is underway and currently awaiting on required approvals from various authorities before works can commence. Planning for stage 2 (pathway from Goldsworthy to Jaypex Park) will soon commence. <b>Q2</b> – Council has sought and obtained support for the project from Parks Vic, GWM Water and landowners’ consent from DELWP/DECCA. As per the DELWP/DECCA landowner consent we are to consult with BGLC an on-site meeting has been delayed until January.	<b>Underway</b>
Refurbishment and repairs of Dimboola toddler swimming pool	<b>Q1</b> - No update	<b>Not yet commenced</b>



Commence implementation of the Hindmarsh playground strategy	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council is currently implementing community engagement software as part of the Rural Council Transformation Project. Community engagement on the playground strategy will commence once the software is set up.	<b>Underway</b>
Advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council continues to advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Facilitate designs for the Rainbow Football Changerooms	<b>Q1</b> - Preliminary construction plans have been prepared and reviewed and endorsed by Sport and Recreation Victoria and AFL Victoria. Full plans will be prepared as funding is allocated to establish a shovel ready project. <b>Q2</b> – This project has been placed on hold due to the amalgamation of Jeparit Rainbow FNC and the Southern Mallee Giants FNC as it is unclear what grounds the new club will be utilising.	<b>Delayed</b>
Seek funding to undertake a solar assessment on Council buildings and halls	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - No update – awaiting suitable funding	<b>Delayed</b>
Construction of shade structure at Rainbow Skatepark	<b>Q1</b> - A meeting with The Oasis committee has been organised to determine a suitable location which will also determine an appropriate size for the shelter. Once this consultation has occurred quotations for the supply and installation will be obtained. <b>Q2</b> – The quotation for the construction of the concrete slab has been awarded and is expected to be constructed in January 2024. The shelter has been purchased with delivery late December 2023 – January 2024. Installation of the shelter will take place around two weeks after the concrete slab has been constructed.	<b>Underway</b>
Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council continues to monitor funding opportunities to enable increased / improved lighting in public areas.	<b>Delayed</b>
Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee, Wimmera	<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council continues to be represented on the WHAC, WRTG, and HLN.	<b>Ongoing</b>

Regional Transport Group and Hindmarsh Landcare Network		
Work closely with conservation partners including the Wimmera CMA to educate the community on land management and conservation strategies.	<p><b>Q1</b> - No update</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council’s Acting CEO met with Wimmera CMA to discuss priorities for working together.</p>	<b>Underway</b>
Work with Hindmarsh Landcare Network in addressing pest and weed problems throughout Hindmarsh including Gazania and Fleabane which is spreading along roadside verges	<p><b>Q1</b> - No update</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council’s Acting CEO met with Hindmarsh Landcare Network facilitator to discuss priorities for working together, and educational material for community members on weed problems including Gazania’s and Fleabane.</p>	<b>Underway</b>
Seek funding for BMX dirt tracks, pocket parks, dog parks	<p><b>Q1</b> - No update – Council continues to monitor for funding opportunities</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council is currently preparing an EOI for a dog park in Nhill through the recently announced Tiny Towns funding.</p>	<b>Underway</b>
Seek funding for permanent Caneball and Volleyball courts in Nhill	<p><b>Q1</b> - A contract for the construction of the permanent Caneball court at the Nhill tennis Club has been awarded. Works are expected to commence in late 2023 / early 2024.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – The concrete slab for the new cane ball court was constructed in late December 2023. Artificial turf and installation of net will be completed in second week of February 2024. Handover to Karen community to follow.</p>	<b>Underway</b>
Commence construction of new Mechanics workshop at Jeparit Depot and upgrades to Dimboola Depot	<p><b>Q1</b> - The contract for the construction of the new mechanics workshop at Jeparit has been awarded. The Dimboola Depot has been placed on hold following unsuccessful tender.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Necessary permits are being applied for works to construct the Workshop at the Jeparit Depot. Site works have commenced clearing the site in preparation for works to commence. Dimboola Depot site audit has been undertaken, and report is available for viewing.</p>	<b>Underway</b>

**Theme Three – Competitive and Innovative Economy**

Action Item	Update on Action	Status
Installation of cabins at Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow caravan parks	<p><b>Q1</b> - Footings will be installed in early October, with cabins anticipated to be delivered mid-late October 2023.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – All cabins have been delivered and are available for booking.</p>	<b>Completed</b>
Provide the Business Assistance Grants program	<p><b>Q1</b> - Round one Business Assistance Grant applications will be presented to Council in October 2023.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council awarded 3 BAG’s to Hindmarsh businesses through round one. Round two of BAG’s is currently being advertised and will be presented to the March 2024 Council meeting.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, play and stay	<p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - Council continues to promote Hindmarsh through print and social media channels. Utilising drone and video footage has resulted in higher engagement. Specific Stop, Play and Stay campaign currently being developed.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Host quarterly business networking sessions in Hindmarsh for businesses to come together, network and learn	<p><b>Q1</b> - A Business Networking session will be planned for the second quarter of 2023/2024.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Business Networking sessions will recommence following the recruitment of a Manager Economic Development and Tourism.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Undertake a review of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme	<p><b>Q1</b> - No update.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Work has commenced on a review of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme.</p>	<b>Underway</b>
Seek funding for continued development of Hindmarsh Shire Caravan Parks including master plan for Nhill Caravan Park	<p><b>Q1</b> - Development of the Nhill Caravan Park masterplan is currently underway and monitoring for appropriate funding for continued development of the shires caravan parks is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – The draft Nhill Caravan Park masterplan has been developed but will be amended when boundary surveys of the caravan park are completed in December 2023. The draft masterplan will be presented to Council in early 2024 prior to being released for public comment if required. Monitoring for appropriate funding opportunities will</p>	<b>Underway</b>

	continue.	
Adopt and Commence implementation of Council's Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council has worked with Wayne Street to develop the draft Economic Development Strategy for 2024-2028. The draft plan will be presented to Council in October 2023, inviting public submissions.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – The draft Economic Development Strategy was presented to Council and released for public response. Public responses were presented to Council in December 2023, with those requesting to speak to their submission attending the December 2023 Council meeting.</p> <p>The final strategy will be presented to Council at its February 2024 Meeting for adoption.</p>	<b>Underway</b>
Support and seek funding and implement components of the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Masterplan	<p><b>Q1</b> - Interpretive signage developed and installed at the WMPM. Council's Tourism &amp; Economic Development Officer continues to work closely with committee to continue to develop additional interpretive signage.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – No update</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Support Wimmera Development Association housing strategy through identification of suitable land and advocacy for funding additional housing in Hindmarsh	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council continues to support the WSMDA housing strategy.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Council officers are discussing the recently announced Regional Workers Accommodation Fund guidelines.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Continue construction of Silo Art project at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow	<p><b>Q1</b> - Development continues of a revised design of the Silo Tourist Attraction to deliver a project with available budget.</p> <p>It is expected that the revised designs will be advertised for tender late October / early November 2023.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – The tender closed in mid-December, with officers to evaluate the responses in early 2024. Officers are negotiating with stakeholders, endeavoring to move the project forward to commencement of infrastructure construction.</p>	<b>Underway</b>

<p>Installation of new amenities at Rainbow Caravan Park that include access for all abilities</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Construction of the new Rainbow Caravan Park Amenities is underway with delivery anticipated in Mid-late November 2023. <b>Q2</b> – The new Rainbow Caravan Park Amenities building was installed on-site in December 2023 with final fit-out and connection of services being carried out in December 2023 and January 2024. It is anticipated that the occupancy certificate will be available in late January / early February 2024.</p>	<p><b>Underway</b></p>
<p>Provide funding to support local community events that attract visitation to Hindmarsh Shire</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council allocated funding for four community events at the August Council meeting, this included the Dimboola Barefoot Ski Event, Rainbow Enduro, Rainbow Oasis Big Sky Event, and Nhill Aviation Heritage 2024 Airshow. <b>Q2</b> – Planning for the supported events has been ongoing.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p>
<p>Actively seek funding to upgrade key freight routes for our agricultural economy</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council continues to seek funding for infrastructure upgrades. <b>Q2</b> – Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program grant applications have been submitted to repair and upgrade the Lorquon Netherby Road and the Dimboola Minyip Road.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

**Theme Four – Good Governance & Financial Sustainability**

Action Item	Update on Action	Status
<p>Continue implementation of strategies identified in the Workforce Plan</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Implementation of the Workforce Plan continues, with the recruitment procedure recently reviewed. Most year two projects are underway or completed. <b>Q2</b> – Priorities within Workforce Plan continue to be developed with resourcing for major initiatives under consideration. Key achievements in Q2 include the development of a Volunteer Management Policy (draft), commencement of review of our OHS Management Plan and a review of induction procedures and presentations.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Host information sessions on a Councillor role in the lead up to the 2024 Council elections</p>	<p><b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b> - No update. Will commence quarter 3.</p>	<p><b>Not yet commenced</b></p>
<p>Online streaming</p>	<p><b>Q1</b> - Council continues to live stream all Council</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>

of Council meetings through Council's Facebook page that include closed captions with meetings available to view through a link on Council's website	meetings through Facebook's page, which are linked to the Council website with the Minutes from each meeting. <b>Q2</b> – Continued live streaming procedures to ensure accessibility of Council meetings.	
Consideration for employing a trainee, or apprentice when vacancies arise throughout the year	<b>Q1</b> - Ongoing assessment of opportunities that may be suitable for a trainee or apprentice undertaken. Council is currently advertising a Local Laws trainee position. <b>Q2</b> – Continued consideration of trainee positions and development of partnerships with provider organisations, trainee Parks and Gardens position advertised in December 2023.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Community conversation sessions held annually in our four main towns	<b>Q1</b> - No update <b>Q2</b> – planning has commenced for community conversation sessions to be held in March 2024.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Drop-in sessions held allowing for community input on key documents or projects	<b>Q1</b> - Increased opportunities for community consultation and engagement will be available through Council's new engagement program through Granicus as part of the Rural Council Transformation Process. <b>Q2</b> – A drop in session was held for interested community members on the Llew Schilling Silo redesign. Planning is underway for a drop-in session for interested community members on the Dimboola Senior Citizens building.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Update Long Term Financial Plan	<b>Q1</b> - No update <b>Q2</b> – The long term financial plan will be developed in conjunction with the 24/25 budget.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Implement recommendations from LGPro Inclusive Employment Pathways forum	<b>Q1</b> - Ongoing implementation of recommendations, including provision of questions ahead of time. Council has employed three employees with a Karen background in the first quarter of 2023/2024. <b>Q2</b> - Karen Liaison Officer employed, recruitment processes amended as per recommendations.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Continue implementation of gender equality	<b>Q1</b> - Implementation continues, with reporting on progress due in February 2024. Council has applied through the Free from Violence Local Government	<b>Ongoing</b>

action plan	<p>grant scheme for a position to assist in the implementation of the GEAP.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Reporting process almost complete for Gender Equality Act. The Community Engagement Policy is under review for consideration in early 2024, with gender equality and equal access provisions considered.</p> <p>Additionally, the 16 Days of Activism campaign took place in this quarter, with a panel discussion held and livestreamed. A Family Violence Leave memo was circulated to staff in October 2023.</p>	
Continue to collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council and Loddon Shire Council to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project	<p><b>Q1</b> - Hindmarsh are in the final stages of testing of this project and the anticipated go live date for Civica Altitude is 9-10 November 2023. Additional modules will be implemented as they become available.</p> <p><b>Q2</b> – Hindmarsh have upgraded Civica and are now using the Altitude program. Council will continue to work with the RCCC group to ensure the continued implementation of new modules such as online timesheets and leave forms, as well as a new general ledger.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**Link to Council Plan:**

The Council Plan is the overarching plan that sets the strategic objectives for Council over the four-year term and provides annual actions to achieve the plan under the four key themes.

**Financial Implications:**

Council’s annual budget allocates funding to complete initiatives.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	The preparation of the Council Plan, incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan, and Community Vision is a statutory requirement.

**Relevant legislation:**

The Council Plan was developed under the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

**Community engagement:**

Community engagement was undertaken as part of the development and adoption of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

**Gender equality implications:**

A gender impact assessment was not required.

**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.

Author and Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council receives the Council Plan actions 2023/2024 second quarter update.***

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## 9.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Number:** 9

### **Introduction:**

This report presents the updated draft *Community Engagement Policy* to be endorsed for consultation for the period of 8 February 2024 to 22 February 2024. Consultation is proposed to take place by survey, where the community will have the opportunity to both provide feedback on the policy as well as Council's community engagement methodologies.

### **Discussion:**

The Community Engagement Policy outlines Council's commitment and approach to community engagement practice and gives effect to the Community Engagement Principles provided for in the *Local Government Act 2020*. It details the principles that guide our work towards delivering sustainable outcomes for our communities through shared problem-solving, open dialogue and meaningful participation.

Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act)* requires Council to adopt and maintain a Community Engagement policy. The Policy must:

- be developed in consultation with the community; and
- give effect to the community engagement principles; and
- be capable of being applied to the making of Council's local laws; and
- be capable of being applied in relation to the Council's budget and policy development; and
- describe the type and form of community engagement proposed, having regard to the significance and complexity of the matter and the level of resourcing required; and
- specify a process for information the municipal community of the outcome of the community engagement; and
- include deliberative engagement practices which can be applied to the development of the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan; and
- include any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Significant updates to the policy include:

- Inclusion of greater detail and clarity as to the type, goal and methodology of the engagement styles (*section 3*);
- Clearly differentiating between consultative and deliberative engagement and offering key examples for when Council would use these engagement methods (*section 5*);
- Providing clear guidance as to when Council will and will not engage with the community on issues (*section 6*);
- Amending the legislative requirement section to use more simple and accessible language that still accurately and appropriately references Council's obligations (*section 7*); and

- Amending complex subpoints when considering Community Engagement in Practice to present a clear and readable set of process guidance tools (*section 8*).

**Options:**

1. Council can choose to endorse the Community Engagement Policy for community consultation; or
2. Council can choose to amend the Community Engagement Policy prior to community consultation; or
3. Council can choose to not endorse the Community Engagement Policy for community consultation and retain the current Community Engagement Policy.

**Link to Council Plan:**

A community well informed and engaged.  
Strong governance practices.

**Financial Implications:**

Nil.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Ensuring that this policy is up-to-date, clear, and accessible supports effective engagement between Council and the community on important issues. It ensures that Council and the community are building a strong and effective engagement relationship through clearly defined terms and methodologies that are underpinned by Council's values. Strong engagement practices result in community projects, programs and services that are purpose-built, meeting identified needs and efficiently using Council resources.
Governance	Establishing a policy that provides for Community Engagement activities ensures that Council is compliant with the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .

**Relevant legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*  
*Gender Equality Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

The draft Community Engagement Policy will be made available for public consultation for the period of 8 February 2024 to 22 February 2024. Additionally, the survey utilised for this consultation will encourage members of the community to provide additional feedback on Council's consultation practices.

**Gender equality implications:**

As this policy has a direct and significant impact on the community, an initial Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been drafted. This initial GIA will be collaboratively built on during

the consultation process.

**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.

Author – Petra Croot, Acting Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

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

**Communications Strategy:**

The draft Community Engagement Policy will be available on Council’s website and in hardcopy on request. The consultation period and process will be advertised via Council’s website, newsletters, Facebook page and via public advertisement in local newspapers.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers will undertake the consultation processes detailed in this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorses the draft Community Engagement Policy for community consultation for the period 8 February 2024 to 22 February 2024.***

*Attachment number: 9*

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**9.6 EXTENSION OF EXISTING ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND PLANNING (CN10023)**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Introduction:**

This report seeks approval to extend the contract duration of the existing Road Maintenance Contract with the Department of Transport and Planning.

**Discussion:**

Hindmarsh Shire Council has a long history of undertaking the routine maintenance of arterial road infrastructure within the municipality on behalf of the Department of Transport and Planning. The current contract (CN10023) commenced on 26 June 2019 and expired on 31 December 2023.

Communication has been received from the Department of Transport and Planning requesting an extension of this contract to 30 June 2024. The reason for this extension is to enable the Department of Transport and Planning to facilitate a new contract with different terms and conditions across all regional Victoria. The Department will be seeking Council's interest in entering the new contract in the due course.

**Options:**

Council approves the extension of the current contract CN10023 Routine Maintenance of Arterial Roads within the Municipality of Hindmarsh by six months with the new contract end date to be 30 June 2024.

**Link to Council Plan:**

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

**Financial Implications:**

The extension will result in income to Council from the Department of Transport and Planning over the next six months. This will be utilised to fund the maintenance of arterial road network within the municipality to provide better service to the community.

**Risk Management Implications:**

<b>Strategic Description</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk Management Discussion</b>
Asset Management		Accepting this extension request will allow the Council to maintain the infrastructure utilised by community to an appropriate standard in a timely manner.

**Relevant legislation:**

*Road Management Act 2004*

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community engagement:**

Not Applicable

**Gender equality implications:**

No implications

**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

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Liaison with the Department of Transport and Planning representative.

**Next Steps:**

Following the Council resolution, officers will liaise with the representative from the Department of Transport and Planning to formalise the contract extension.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council:***

- 1. approves the extension of the current contract CN10023 Routine Maintenance of Arterial Road within the Municipality of Hindmarsh by further six months with new contract end date to be 30 June 2024; and***
  - 2. authorises the CEO to negotiate, execute and deliver the contract.***
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## 10 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 10.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Number:** 10

#### **Introduction:**

Council has received notification from the Nhill Town Advisory Committee of the resignation of Tina Balter. This resignation is for noting by Council.

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

- **Rainbow Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 20 December 2023 (*see attachment 10*)

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. notes the resignation of Tina Balter from the Nhill Town Committee;***
- 2. write to Tina thanking her for her service;***
- 3. notes the minutes of the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee held on 20 December 2023.***

*Attachment Number: 10*

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## 10.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment Numbers:** 11 – 13

### **Introduction:**

Council has received the annual financial report for the period ending 30 June 2023 from the Antwerp Hall Community Asset Committee. This report is for noting by Council (see *attachment 11*).

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

- **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee**  
General meeting on 21 November 2023 (*see attachment 12*)
- **Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee**  
General meeting on 23 November 2023 (*see attachment 13*)

The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting and financial report received. A copy of the minutes for each meeting and financial report are included as an attachment for the information of Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

#### ***That Council:***

- 1. notes the financial report for the Antwerp Hall Committee;***
- 2. notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees;***
  - ***Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meeting on 21 November 2023***
  - ***Yurunga Homestead meeting on 23 November 2023; and***
- 3. approves the following office bearers and members of the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee;***
  - ***Chairperson – Peter Pumpa***
  - ***Vice Chairperson – Peter Robson***
  - ***Secretary – Craige Proctor***
  - ***Treasurer – Maryanne Paech***
  - ***Members – Tige Mannington, Clem Paech, Don Pedder, Wendy Werner, Rhys Wilkosz, Wendy Zanker.***

*Attachment Numbers: 11 – 13*

**11 LATE REPORTS**

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**12 NOTICES OF MOTION**

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**13 OTHER BUSINESS**

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**14 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

In accordance with Section 66 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council may close the meeting to the public to consider confidential information. Confidential information is defined by part IV of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, and by Section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* as being:

- a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;
- b) security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;
- c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;
- d) law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;
- e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
  - i. relates to trade secrets; or
  - ii. if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
- h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);
- i) internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;
- j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;
- k) information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition;
- l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*



**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That the meeting be closed in accordance with section 66 (2) (a) and section 66 (2) (f) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider reports that contain confidential information as defined by section (3) of the Local Government Act 2020, and/or Part IV of the Freedom of Information Act 1982:*

- 14.1 HINDMARSH SHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2024 – this report contains “personal information, being information that which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs”, insofar as it pertains to youth council nominations;**
- 14.2 VISITOR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP – this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council’s position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released” insofar as it pertains to State Government grant funding that has not yet been executed;**
- 14.3 CONTRACT AWARD 2023-2024-14 CONSTRUCTION OF SILO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, RAINBOW - this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council’s position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released” insofar as it pertains to Award of Contract for Construction of Silo Tourism Development, Rainbow; and**
- 14.4 ACTING CEO APPOINTMENT – this report contains “personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs”, insofar as it pertains to CEO employment matters.**

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**15 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

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**16 RESUMING INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

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**17 MEETING CLOSE**

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