



26 March 2026

## AGENDA

### Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting

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**Date:** Wednesday 1 April 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.

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## 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](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Council-meetings).

From time to time the Mayor and Councillors may call a Special Meeting of Council to deal with urgent items. These meetings are generally held at the Council Chambers at the specified time and date advertised in the public notices in local newspapers and on Council's website.

Meetings, or parts of meetings, are only closed to the public when topics of a confidential nature are discussed, such as an individual's personal or financial circumstances, contractual or legal matters. Grounds for closing the meeting are defined in more detail within Section 3(1) and Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Before each Ordinary or Special Council Meeting an Agenda is prepared by the Chief Executive Officer detailing the items that are to be presented to the meeting for Council's consideration and decision.

Copies of agendas are available at Council offices and on Council's website. The decisions of Council become resolutions of Council and are recorded in the official Council Minutes. Except for matters classified as confidential, all Agenda reports, Minutes and recordings of meetings are available on Council's website.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>   | <b>7</b>  |
| 1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....                                     | 7         |
| 1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT .....                                      | 7         |
| 1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES .....   | 7         |
| <b>2 APOLOGIES .....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS .....</b>                                 | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING .....</b>             | <b>8</b>  |
| 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....  | 8         |
| 4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.....                         | 9         |
| <b>5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME.....</b>                       | <b>11</b> |
| <b>6 ACTIVITY REPORTS .....</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| 6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR.....  | 12        |
| 6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR.....                                  | 13        |
| 6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN .....   | 15        |
| 6.4 CR JAMES BARRY.....   | 16        |
| 6.5 CR TONY CLARK.....  | 17        |
| 6.6 CR CHAN UOY .....   | 18        |
| 6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....                      | 20        |
| <b>7 CORRESPONDENCE .....</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| <b>8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS.....</b>                            | <b>24</b> |
| <b>9 PLANNING PERMITS .....</b>   | <b>24</b> |
| <b>10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION.....</b>                             | <b>25</b> |
| 10.1 FUNDING FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND INVESTMENT ATTRACTION PROSPECTUS ..... | 25        |
| 10.2 INTENTION TO ENTER INTO LEASE AT RAINBOW RECREATION RESERVE.....   | 31        |
| 10.3 SPEED REDUCTION IN DIMBOOLA RAINBOW ROAD NEAR RAINBOW LAKE .....   | 34        |
| 10.4 JEPARIT WEIR FEASIBILITY STUDY .....                               | 38        |
| 10.5 POLICY UPDATES.....  | 41        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES</b> .....        | <b>45</b> |
| 11.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE .....       | 45        |
| 11.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES.....             | 47        |
| 11.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES.....      | 49        |
| <b>12 LATE REPORTS</b> .....              | <b>50</b> |
| <b>13 NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....         | <b>50</b> |
| <b>14 OTHER BUSINESS</b> .....            | <b>50</b> |
| <b>15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS</b> .....      | <b>51</b> |
| <b>16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS</b> ..... | <b>52</b> |
| <b>17 MEETING CLOSE</b> .....             | <b>52</b> |

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

#### **Acknowledgement of Country**

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

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

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### 1.2 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.*

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### 1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

#### **Statement of Values**

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

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## 2 APOLOGIES

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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.

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## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 04 March 2026 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

**Attachments:**

1. 2026 03 04 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 /<br>In Progress<br>/ Delayed |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 26 November 2026<br>Item 10.3 | Council to consider submitting a motion to the 2026 MAV State Council.   | Letters of support are being received from neighbouring Councils. Motion submitted 24 March 2026.   | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.1    | Council to publish data detailing the second quarter Finance Report update on Council's website.   | Additional section added to the Budget Section of Council's website that includes quarterly reports. This has been advertised via Facebook.                                 | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.2    | CEO to sign S173 Agreement.  | CEO has signed S173 Agreement.  | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.3    | Council officers to publish the Resource Ready Readiness Strategy on Council's website.  | Published on the Plans, Strategies and Position Statements section of Council's website.  | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.4    | CEO to sign Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Memorandum of Understanding.  | CEO has signed Memorandum of Understanding and provided back to Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.   | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.5    | CEO to sign S6 Instrument of Delegation. Council officers to update register and publish on Council's website.   | Published on the Governance section of Council's website.   | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.7    | Council officers to contact proponents and prepare letters of support. Prepare grant auspice arrangement for Menzies Symposium.  | Council officers have prepared a letter of support for Menzies Symposium.   | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 10.8    | Council officers to notify applicants and advise of the outcome. Successful applications and outcomes to be promoted on Council's social media, newsletters and in local newspapers. | Council officers have notified applicants and advised of outcomes. Successful applicants have been promoted on Council's social media, newsletters and in local newspapers. | Complete                               |
| 04 March 2026<br>Item 11.1    | Council officers to publish Advisory Committee minutes on Council's website and prepare  | Advisory Committee minutes presented to Council in March 2026 have been published on Council's website.   | Complete                               |

| Council Meeting | Recommendation Action  | Action Taken  | <span style="background-color: #c8e6c9;">Complete /</span><br><span style="background-color: #ffcdd2;">In Progress</span><br><span style="background-color: #ffe0b2;">/ Delayed</span> |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
|                 | correspondence to advise applicant of their application to join Hindmarsh Pride. | Correspondence for the applicant has been emailed advising them of the outcome. |  |

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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: 24 February 2026 – 23 March 2026

#### 6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

| Date       | Meeting/Event                                     | Location                | Comments |
|------------|---|-------------------------|----------|
| 25/02/2026 | Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show                 | Adelaide Showgrounds    |          |
| 26/02/2026 | Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show                 | Adelaide Showgrounds    |          |
| 03/03/2026 | Nhill Town Committee Meeting                      | Council Chambers, Nhill |          |
| 04/03/2026 | Council Briefing                                  | Council Chambers, Nhill |          |
| 04/03/2026 | Council Meeting                                   | Council Chambers, Nhill |          |
| 07/03/2026 | International Women's Day Fiesta                  | Jeparit Riverbank       |          |
| 12/03/2026 | Mayor's Lunch                                     | Horsham                 |          |
| 12/03/2026 | WSMCA CEO and Mayor meeting                       | Horsham Kindergarten    |          |
| 18/03/2026 | CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting | Council Chambers, Nhill |          |
| 18/03/2026 | Council Briefing                                  | Council Chambers, Nhill |          |
| 19/03/2026 | Farmer Consultation                               | Dimboola                |          |
| 19/03/2026 | Farmer Consultation                               | Jeparit                 |          |

**6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                         | <b>Location</b>                              | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>24/02/2026</b> | Deputy Mayor Meeting                         | Kaniva                                       | Reflection and Support of Deputy Mayors across Alliance Councils.   |
| <b>24/02/2026</b> | Broughton Farmers Consultation               | Broughton                                    | Meet with farmers to understand concerns they are experiencing in Hindmarsh.  |
| <b>03/03/2026</b> | Nhill Town Committee Meeting                 | Council Chambers, Nhill                      | Constructive Meeting reflecting collaborations and budget for 2026.   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Councillor Consultations                     | Pella Meeting Room – Council Building, Nhill | Making myself available to meet with community at the Council Building, Nhill.  |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing                             | Council Chambers, Nhill                      | Well organised briefings about our community and governance that supports our Shire.  |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Meeting                              | Council Chambers, Nhill                      | Consolidation of discussions and plans to support our community.  |
| <b>06/03/2026</b> | Victorian Local Government Grants Commission | Online Meeting                               | Great opportunity to understand how the State Government decides how much they will grant Hindmarsh Shire Council for operating and providing support within the community.           |
| <b>07/03/2026</b> | International Women’s Day                    | Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta                     | Celebration to create a focus on the contribution that women bring to our community through family and relationships throughout our community.  |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Audit and Risk Committee                     | Council Chambers, Nhill and Online           | Crucial meeting of members who ensure the appropriate governance and procedures are undertaken throughout Council.  |
| <b>12/03/2026</b> | MAV – Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group    | Online                                       | Meeting of minds to consider the appropriate plans for creating ideas and projects that State Government could engage with to create a better future for all communities in Victoria. |
| <b>12/03/2026</b> | ALGWA Online Meeting – Improving             | Online                                       | Constructive online webinar about the importance of understanding the financial   |

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>   | <b>Location</b>                 | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
|                   | Financial Literacy for Councillors                           |                                 | accounts and what they mean for financial sustainability.   |
| <b>15/03/2026</b> | Nhill Lions Market   | Jaypex Park                     | Opportunity to talk and discuss local issues with community   |
| <b>16/03/2026</b> | Youth Council  | Jeparit Library                 | Engage with Youth Council about their plans for engaging with all Youth in our region.  |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Nhill Farmer Consultations                                   | Nhill Memorial Community Centre | Opportunity to meet with local farmers.   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee Meeting              | Council Chambers, Nhill         | Meet with CEO, Monica Revell, and Bill Millard, to review performance, KPIs and planning for future development.                            |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing   | Council Chambers, Nhill         | Review and plan appropriate governance and projects for the future development of Hindmarsh Shire Council.                                  |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Settlement Council of Australia                              | Council Chambers, Nhill         | Opportunity to review the settlement of the Karen refugees into Nhill and the amazing support our town has contributed to their well-being. |
| <b>20/03/2026</b> | Shared Table – Regional Heroes                               | Nhill Memorial Community Centre | Movie documentary about the settlement of Karen refugees and other refugees into Victorian communities across the last 10-15 years.         |
| <b>21/03/2026</b> | Official Opening of a new business in Hindmarsh – Sugar Baby | Tower Park, Dimboola            | Nothing more fulfilling than celebrating and announcing the beginning of a new business initiative in our region.                           |
| <b>21/03/2026</b> | Tower Park Market  | Tower Park, Dimboola            | Meet and greet with community in Dimboola.  |

**6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                                    | <b>Location</b>         | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>25/02/2026</b> | Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show                       | Adelaide Showgrounds    | Absolutely wonderful event, a lot of interest from visitors of the show. Very worthwhile attending this event.          |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show                       | Adelaide Showgrounds    |   |
| <b>03/03/2026</b> | Nhill Tourist Information Centre Volunteers Tour        | Jeparit and Rainbow     | Volunteers from the Nhill Information Centre had a road trip to Jeparit and Rainbow, all had a great day out and about. |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing  | Council Chambers, Nhill |   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Meeting   | Council Chambers, Nhill |   |
| <b>07/03/2026</b> | International Women's Day Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta 2026 | Jeparit                 | Good to see the families, visitors, locals for the market food and music.   |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Landcare Rabbit Programme Rainbow Surrounding District  | Rainbow                 | Good attendance.  |
| <b>14/03/2026</b> | Big Sky Festival and Market Day                         | Rainbow                 | Great day out perfect weather, a lot of people attended. Good job to all the volunteers.                                |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Meeting                   | Jeparit                 |   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing  | Council Chambers, Nhill |   |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Business consulting Energy and light upgrade            | Rainbow and Jeparit     |   |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation Meeting                             | Jeparit                 | Well attended with fantastic discussion   |

**6.4 CR JAMES BARRY**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                              | <b>Location</b>         | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation Meeting                       | Netherby Hall           | Good to see a few people there to provide in their own words what they would like the Council to do, some good points made, thanks for all who turned up. |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing                                  | Council Chambers, Nhill |   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Meeting                                   | Council Chambers, Nhill |   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting | Council Chambers, Nhill | Making sure all is going well for all parties involved.   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing                                  | Council Chambers, Nhill | Had a good presentation around how and why Nhill has been good for people immigrating to our region.  |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation Meeting                       | Dimboola Library        | Very similar to our Netherby farmers day, we need more of our farmers to point out what's actually needed to help them out, thanks for all who turned up. |

**6.5 CR TONY CLARK**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                    | <b>Location</b>         | <b>Comments</b>  |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| <b>25/02/2026</b> | Farmers Consultation Meeting            | Rainbow                 | A great opportunity to listen to farmers and explain Council's position and actions. |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Yurunga Meeting                         | Yurunga Homestead       |  |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Farmers Consultation Meeting            | Broughton               | Fantastic to hear farmers concerns and discussion.                                   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing                        | Council Chambers, Nhill |  |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Meeting                         | Council Chambers, Nhill |  |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Meeting   | Jeparit                 |  |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | CEO Employment and Remuneration Meeting | Council Chambers, Nhill |  |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing                        | Council Chambers, Nhill |  |

**6.6 CR CHAN UOY**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>   | <b>Location</b>                 | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation  | Netherby Hall                   |   |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Small Business Friendly Council Charter Meeting                      | Online Via Teams                | Lynda McAlary-Smith, Victorian Small Business Commissioner. 67 Councils are part of the charter to share ideas and resources. |
| <b>03/03/2026</b> | Nhill Town Committee Meeting   | Online Via Teams                |   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing & Meeting   | Council Chambers, Nhill         |   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Pride Committee Meeting  | Online Via Teams                |   |
| <b>06/03/2026</b> | Victorian Local Government Grants Commission                         | Online Via Teams                | We need more Federal funding to cover rural councils, but this is the challenge.  |
| <b>08/03/2026</b> | Chillout Festival  | Daylesford                      | It was a great opportunity to introduce Hindmarsh Shire to a diverse audience who are looking for a road trip or tree change. |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Audit & Risk Committee Meeting                                       | Online Via Teams                |   |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism – Caravan & Camping Show Debriefing | Online Via Zoom                 | There's huge potential from the South Australian market as the Wimmera region is closest to them.                             |
| <b>14/03/2026</b> | Big Sky Festival   | Rainbow                         |   |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Wimmera Pioneer Museum Committee Meeting                             | Jeparit                         |   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee Meeting                      | Nhill Council Chamber           |   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing   | Nhill Council Chamber           | Maria Dimopoulos – CEO Settlement Council of Australia attended to learn about the success of the Karen settlement story.     |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation  | Dimboola Library                |   |
| <b>20/03/2026</b> | Shared Table Documentary about multiculturalism in regional Victoria | Nhill Memorial Community Centre | It was great to see Nhill and Dimboola represented in this documentary. We should get international attention as the          |

| Date | Meeting/Event | Location | Comments  |
|------|---------------|----------|---|
|      |               |          | film is nominated for Best Documentary at this year's Cannes Film Festival. |

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**6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                                  | <b>Location</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>24/02/2026</b> | Executive Leadership Meeting                          | Nhill           |   |
| <b>25/02/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation Session                           | Rainbow         |   |
| <b>25/02/2026</b> | CEO Drop-In Session                                   | Nhill           | Joined by Cr Barker and Director Corporate & Community Services.  |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation Session                           | Netherby        |   |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Maddocks  | Online          | Meeting with Maddocks and 8 Councils regarding Municipal Building Surveyor procurement.                           |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Barengi Gadjin Land Council Meeting                   | Online          | Discussion regarding Wimmera River Discovery Trail Interpretive Signage.  |
| <b>26/02/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation Session                           | Broughton       |   |
| <b>27/02/2026</b> | Rainbow Progress Association Meeting                  | Rainbow         | Meeting with Rainbow Progress Association representatives regarding Rainbow Oasis.                                |
| <b>27/02/2026</b> | CEO Drop-In Session                                   | Rainbow         | Joined by Director Corporate & Community Services.  |
| <b>27/02/2026</b> | CEO Drop-In Session                                   | Dimboola        | Joined by Director Corporate & Community Services.  |
| <b>02/03/2026</b> | Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Meeting                | Nhill           | Meeting with Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre representatives.  |
| <b>03/03/2026</b> | Tourist Information Centre Day Trip                   | Rainbow         | Joined volunteers from the Nhill Tourism Information Centre for parts of their day trip to Rainbow and surrounds. |
| <b>03/03/2026</b> | Executive Leadership Meeting                          | Nhill           |   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Customer Service & Councillor Support Officer Meeting | Nhill           |   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Director Meeting                                      | Nhill           | Meeting with Director Corporate & Community Services.   |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Mayor & Deputy Mayor Meeting                          | Nhill           | Monthly meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.  |
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing                                      | Nhill           |   |

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                                  | <b>Location</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <b>04/03/2026</b> | Council Meeting                                       | Nhill           |   |
| <b>05/03/2026</b> | Staff Meeting   | Nhill           | Discussion regarding Council meeting decisions and other matters.   |
| <b>05/03/2026</b> | DJSIR Meeting   | Online          | Meeting regarding the amendments to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework commencing on 1 July 2026. |
| <b>10/03/2026</b> | Customer Service & Councillor Support Officer Meeting | Nhill           |   |
| <b>10/03/2026</b> | Senior Management Team Meeting                        | Nhill           |   |
| <b>10/03/2026</b> | Executive Leadership Meeting                          | Nhill           |   |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Audit & Risk Committee Meeting                        | Nhill           |   |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting              | Online          | Meeting to discuss recent Caravan and Camping Shows in Melbourne and Adelaide.                                      |
| <b>11/03/2026</b> | Riverside Holiday Park                                | Dimboola        | Meeting with team regarding request for native garden establishment.  |
| <b>12/03/2026</b> | Australian Rail Track Corporate Meeting               | Online          | Meeting regarding the Maroona to Portland rail works.   |
| <b>12/03/2026</b> | Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance Meeting      | Horsham         | Meeting with CEOs and Mayors of the WSMCA.  |
| <b>13/03/2026</b> | Resource Ready Councils Meeting                       | Horsham         | Meeting regarding advocacy priorities from the Resource Ready Strategy.   |
| <b>13/03/2026</b> | Thank Duck its Friday                                 | Nhill           |   |
| <b>14/03/2026</b> | Big Sky Festival                                      | Rainbow         |   |
| <b>16/03/2026</b> | MAV CEO Meeting                                       | Online          |   |
| <b>16/03/2026</b> | Economic Development and Tourism Meeting              | Nhill           | Meeting with Manager Economic Development and Tourism to discuss projects within the Shire.                         |
| <b>16/03/2026</b> | Emerging Risk Meeting                                 | Online          | Meeting with Council's WorkCover advisor to discuss emerging risk mitigation.                                       |
| <b>16/03/2026</b> | Executive Leadership Meeting                          | Nhill           |   |

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Meeting/Event</b>                                   | <b>Location</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Customer Service & Councillor Support Officer Meeting  | Nhill           |   |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Senior Management Team Meeting                         | Online          |   |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Department of Transport and Planning Quarterly Meeting | Horsham         | Quarterly meeting with Department of Transport discussing a range of issues raised by our community including condition of arterial roads and speed reduction requests. |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Webinar – Year on Year Changes to Expenditure          | Online          | Webinar looking at NSW Council impacts of Rate Capping and hearing firsthand implications on asset renewal and sustainability.  |
| <b>17/03/2026</b> | Farmers Consultation                                   | Nhill           |   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Staff Induction  | Nhill           | Welcoming four new staff members to Hindmarsh Shire, including 2 new trainees in our infrastructure team.   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting      | Nhill           |   |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Council Briefing Meeting                               | Nhill           | Briefing session included a visit from Maria, CEO Settlement Council of Australia to hear firsthand benefits of multicultural communities.                              |
| <b>18/03/2026</b> | Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting                      | Online          |   |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation                                    | Dimboola        |   |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Meeting with Community Member                          | Jeparit         | Meeting with community member to discuss Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum.   |
| <b>19/03/2026</b> | Farmer Consultation                                    | Jeparit         |   |
| <b>20/03/2026</b> | Shared Table Regional Heroes                           | Nhill           |   |
| <b>23/03/2026</b> | Meeting with Chan Uoy                                  | Dimboola        | Discussion regarding 2027 Steampunk Festival.   |

## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Introduction:**

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

**Inwards:**

- 2026/03/01 - Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP to Council re Housing Target Implementation and Planning Scheme Reviews – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2026/03/02 - Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP to Council re Congratulations on Grant Funding – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)
- 2026/03/06 - Hon. Nick Staikos MP to Council re Gender Equality – (Attachment Number: 7.1.3)

**Outwards:**

- 2026/03/10 - Council to Kenneth Jenkins re WMPM Volunteer Membership – (Attachment Number: 7.1.4)
- 2026/03/10 - Council to Philip Jaboor re Hindmarsh Pride Committee Appointment – (Attachment Number: 7.1.5)
- 2026/03/12 - Council to Regional Arts Victoria re Letter of Support – Gabrielle Therese – (Attachment Number: 7.1.6)
- 2026/03/12 - Council to Regional Arts Victoria re Letter of Support – Menzies Symposium Auspice – (Attachment Number: 7.1.7)

***RECOMMENDATION:***

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

## 8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. 2026 03 04 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]
2. 2026 03 18 Assembly of Councillors Record - CEO ERC [8.1.2]
3. 2026 03 18 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.3]

**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.*

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## 9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.

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## 10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

### 10.1 FUNDING FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND INVESTMENT ATTRACTION PROSPECTUS

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

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Hindmarsh Shire Industrial Land Scoping V3 [10.1.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council approval for the allocation of \$40,000 (excl. GST) in the 2025/2026 financial year to produce an Investment Attraction Prospectus, promoting private investment in the development of priority sites identified in the recently completed Industrial Land Scoping and Implementation Report (**Report**). An investment attraction prospectus is a concise, evidence-based marketing and information document that presents Hindmarsh Shire's investment opportunities, competitive advantages and enabling conditions to private investors.

The Industrial Land Scoping and Implementation Report was commissioned by Council in August 2025 and provides an overview of considerations and opportunities for the establishment of industrial estates across three sites within Hindmarsh Shire, in Dimboola, Rainbow and Nhill. The Report is noted as confidential attachment as some of the land identified is currently privately owned, and disclosure of these sites may impact future commercial negotiations.

The Investment Attraction Prospectus translates technical planning work contained in this report into an investor-ready proposition, moving Council from planning to delivery. It enables Council to actively promote identified industrial opportunities, reduce investor uncertainty and facilitate investment aligned with the intended land use outcomes.

**Discussion:**

This report seeks Council approval to allocate \$40,000 (excl. GST) in the 2025/2026 financial year to produce an Investment Attraction Prospectus, promoting private investment in the development of priority sites within Hindmarsh Shire identified in the recently completed Industrial Land Scoping and Implementation Report.

Industrial Land Scoping and Implementation Report Summary

The Report was commissioned in August 2025 to address three (3) of the actions within Hindmarsh Shire's Economic Development Strategic Pillar 2, Reducing Barriers to Investment and Innovation, namely:

- Reviewing planning scheme provisions for industrial land in Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola and conduct initial demand and feasibility assessments for industrial estates in these towns.

- Establishing the viability of at least one trades-hub (with modular factory units and shared services) to attract small trades businesses and local branches of trades businesses and to increase the number of local tradespeople and apprentices.
- Identifying possible infrastructure and industrial development government support programs which could be accessed for detailed planning and provision of industrial estates.

The Report confirms that the Shire is well positioned to attract renewed investment in agricultural value-adding, manufacturing, construction, transport and logistics for the first time in several decades. This opportunity is being driven by emerging niche processing industries, increased construction demand linked to housing, renewable energy and mining activity across the broader region, and the Shire's strategic location between Melbourne and Adelaide. However, the report identifies that a lack of appropriately zoned, serviced and market-ready industrial land presents a material risk to realising these opportunities, with the potential loss of investment and employment growth if proactive action is not taken.

The study concludes that traditional industrial land demand modelling is not appropriate for Hindmarsh Shire and that future industrial land provision should be used as a stimulus for growth, rather than a response to known demand. It identifies structural weaknesses in the local economy, including the under-representation of construction trades and the mislocation of many existing industrial-type businesses in unsuitable or constrained sites. Compared to the State average of 9.4%, the percentage of the Shire's employment in the construction industry in total is 5.8% and the main towns have construction industry employment ranging between 3.9% and 6.6% of the total employed workforce. By town, in 2021: Dimboola had 6.6%, Nhill had 4.7%, Jeparit had 3.9% and Rainbow had 4.3% of its workforce employed in trades and construction. There is a pressing need to implement mechanisms to retain tradespeople and trade businesses in the Shire.

To address these issues, the report recommends the development of new, well-planned and, where appropriate, themed industrial estates supported by targeted planning scheme amendments to improve land use certainty, biosecurity outcomes and orderly development across the Shire's main towns.

Modern industrial estates attract a wide range of businesses - not just manufacturing and construction, but also warehousing, logistics, bulky goods retail, and services such as gyms, laundries, and business incubators. There is also strong potential for new grain, legume, and oilseed value adding industries. These could come from farm-based collaborations, vertically integrated farm businesses, or new processors establishing locally.

Three (3) priority industrial estate opportunities - at Dimboola, Rainbow and Nhill - have been assessed as financially feasible, subject to securing external grant funding or private investment to support a significant proportion of capital development costs. The report also identifies strong potential for the inclusion of Trades Hub facilities featuring modular factory

units to attract and support small and emerging trade businesses, address workforce shortages, and respond to unmet housing and construction demand.

### Investment Attraction Prospectus

An Investment Attraction Prospectus is therefore an important next step, as it translates the detailed feasibility, planning and financial analysis into a concise, investor-focused narrative that clearly articulates why Hindmarsh Shire is investment-ready. The prospectus would package the identified industrial estate opportunities, Trades Hub concepts and strategic advantages into a single, market-facing document that can be used to proactively engage potential investors, industry partners and funding bodies. In doing so, it bridges the gap between technical land use planning and real-world investment decision-making, positioning Council as an active facilitator of economic development rather than a passive land provider.

Importantly, preparation of an Investment Attraction Prospectus aligns with the feasibility report's conclusion that industrial land provision in Hindmarsh Shire should be used as a stimulus for growth, rather than a response to known demand. By clearly communicating priority sectors, site readiness, infrastructure availability, planning pathways and Council's facilitation role, the prospectus would support targeted investment attraction, strengthen advocacy for State and Commonwealth funding, and maximise the likelihood that the industrial estate opportunities identified through the feasibility work translate into job creation and long-term economic resilience for the Shire.

Should the allocation be approved, Council will commence the development of the Investment Attraction Prospectus.

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

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

2.3 We support development that enhances needs-based growth.

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

3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow.

3.2 We attract investment that aligns with community values.

3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.

### **Financial Implications:**

This report seeks Council approval for an unbudgeted allocation of \$40,000 to develop an Investment Attraction Prospectus to support the promotion of priority industrial land opportunities identified through the Industrial Land Scoping and Implementation and Feasibility work. The proposed funding would cover specialist economic development and marketing services, including prospectus design, preparation of investor-ready content, and supporting materials to enable proactive engagement with potential investors, industry partners and funding bodies.

The \$40,000 allocation represents a one-off operational expenditure and does not create any ongoing financial commitment for Council. While this expenditure is not directly currently included in the adopted 2025/2026 budget, it is proposed that the funding be met from existing savings from the Wimmera Southern Development membership allocation reserved for economic development activities.

The prospectus will strengthen Council’s capacity to advocate for State and Commonwealth infrastructure funding and to attract private sector investment, reducing the risk that the feasibility work undertaken to date does not translate into economic and employment outcomes. In this context, the proposed expenditure is considered proportionate and justified, representing an enabling cost to support future economic growth and job creation within the Shire.

**Risk Management Implications:**

| Strategic Risk Description | Risk Management Discussion   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Financial Sustainability   | <p>By investing a modest, one-off amount to develop an Investment Attraction Prospectus, Council improves the likelihood that the industrial land opportunities identified through the feasibility work will translate into job creation, expanded economic activity and increased demand for services, supporting a more resilient local economy over time.</p> <p>The prospectus also supports early, proactive intervention to address known financial sustainability pressures, including limited revenue growth under the rate cap and dependence on grants. By positioning Council to compete more effectively for State and Commonwealth infrastructure funding and to leverage private investment, this decision improves future financial flexibility and supports Council’s capacity to fund services and asset renewal without increasing financial risk to the organisation.</p> |

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**Community Engagement:**

Community engagement was not required for this decision as it relates to the allocation of internal resources to develop an Investment Attraction Prospectus. Community engagement was, however, undertaken as part of the development of Council’s Economic Development Strategy and feedback from these processes has shaped the strategic direction now being

progressed, with the proposed prospectus acting as a tool to implement and promote outcomes already informed by community input.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Mark Fletcher, Manager Economic Development and Tourism

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

**Communications Strategy:**

If approved, the Investment Attraction Prospectus, when completed, will be published on Council's website and used by officers as a targeted engagement tool with prospective investors, industry stakeholders and funding partners. Broader public promotion is not proposed at this stage, as the prospectus is intended to support proactive investment facilitation and advocacy rather than community consultation.

If the allocation is approved, Council officers will publicise Council's investment in the project to ensure that community is aware of progress against this component of the Economic Development Strategy.

**Next Steps:**

If Council approves the expenditure, officers will engage a suitably qualified consultant to prepare the Investment Attraction Prospectus and develop investor-ready materials aligned with the Industrial Land Feasibility findings. The prospectus will then be used to support targeted investment attraction, funding advocacy and promotion of the priority industrial sites.

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

- 1. approves the allocation of \$40,000 (excl. GST) to develop an Investment Attraction Prospectus to promote priority industrial land opportunities identified in the Industrial Land Scoping and Implementation Report; and***
  - 2. authorises officers to undertake the necessary procurement and engagement to deliver the prospectus.***
-

## 10.2 INTENTION TO ENTER INTO LEASE AT RAINBOW RECREATION RESERVE

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

Nil

### **Executive Summary:**

This report seeks approval to advertise Council's intention to enter into a new lease with Ambulance Victoria for a section of the Rainbow Recreation Reserve for a term of 21 years. Approval is also sought to authorise the CEO to negotiate and execute the lease should no objections be received.

### **Discussion:**

The Rainbow Ambulance station is located within the Rainbow Recreation Reserve, with a lease in place to allow Ambulance Victoria to utilise the station. The current lease will end 30 June 2026, with no extensions available. To allow for continued use of the station, Council are proposing to enter into a new lease for the site.

Due to the location of the site on Crown Land, a 17D lease application will need to be submitted to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (**DEECA**). While the lease is ultimately approved by DEECA, as Council is the Committee of Management for the site, Council approval is also required as part of this process.

The majority of the terms of this lease are set by DEECA, however they clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of both Council and Ambulance Victoria. As part of the application process, a maximum term of 21 years and minimum annual rent of \$1 can both be recommended by Council. Due to the nature of the services provided by Ambulance Victoria, it is recommended that Council apply for its maximum term of 21 years and the minimum annual rental fee of \$1.

As per the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must seek community feedback prior to entering into any lease with a term of 10 or more years. To achieve this, Community feedback via submissions will be sought for the period of two (2) weeks between 2 April 2026 to 5pm 17 April 2026 via Council's Have Your Say Page.

The terms within the *Local Government Act 2020* relating to Leases are as follows:

1. *A Council's power to lease any land to any person is limited to leases for a term of 50 years or less.*
2. *Subject to any other Act, and except where section 116 applies, if a Council leases any land to any person subject to any exceptions, reservations, covenants and conditions, it must comply with this section.*
3. *A Council must include any proposal to lease land in a financial year in the budget, where the lease is—*

- a) *for one year or more and—*
    - i. *the rent for any period of the lease is \$100 000 or more a year; or*
    - ii. *the current market rental value of the land is \$100 000 or more a year;*

*or*
  - b) *for 10 years or more.*
4. *If a Council proposes to lease land that is subject to subsection (3) and that was not included as a proposal in the budget, the Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect of the proposal before entering into the lease.*

If no objection is received at the end of submission period, the lease will be signed and approved by the CEO. Any objection received will be brought to Council's attention in future Council meetings.

**Link to Council Plan:**

**Theme One: Our Community**

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

**Financial Implications:**

The revenue received from the lease of this property will have no material impact on Council's annual budget. All associated operating/maintenance costs will be accommodated within ongoing operating budgets where responsibility is not allocated to Ambulance Victoria.

**Risk Management Implications:**

| Strategic Risk Description | Risk Management Discussion   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Community Needs            | Ambulance Victoria is a critical emergency service provider, should Council not enter into the lease with Ambulance Victoria it leaves the community at risk of there being no ambulance service located in Rainbow. |

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*

*Forests Act 1958*

*Land Act 1958*

**Community Engagement:**

Not applicable.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Laura Sonnberger, Contracts and Procurement Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council's intention to enter into a lease agreement will be advertised to the community for public submissions on Council's Have Your Say page, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. Council will utilise our EHQ platform to enable community members to provide feedback.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers to action Communications Strategy as above, and once consultation concludes prepare and execute the lease agreement.

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

- 1. Council officers to begin community consultation for the period of two weeks from 2 April 2026 to 17 April 2026 for the proposed lease with Ambulance Victoria for the Rainbow Ambulance Station located within the Rainbow Recreation Reserve; and***
- 2. the CEO to negotiate and execute the lease agreement if no objections are received.***

### 10.3 SPEED REDUCTION IN DIMBOOLA RAINBOW ROAD NEAR RAINBOW LAKE

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

Nil

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council endorsement to submit an application to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to review and reduce the existing 100 km/h speed limit on Dimboola Rainbow Road in the vicinity of the Rainbow Lake precinct to 80 km/hr.

Reducing vehicle speed adjacent to the lake is expected to improve safety outcomes, encourage greater community use of the precinct, and better align the road environment with the function of a township recreational asset.

**Discussion:**

Rainbow Lake is a key recreational and community asset located on the southern approach to the Rainbow township. While the lake has been developed as a family-friendly destination, its utilisation by residents is constrained by road safety concerns associated with the current 100 km/hr speed environment on Dimboola Rainbow Road at and immediately south of the township boundary.

The road segment adjacent to the Rainbow Lake entrance carries a mix of local traffic, tourist vehicles, and heavy vehicles travelling at highway speeds. The proximity of high-speed traffic to the lake entry presents a perceived and actual safety risk for families, pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles turning into and out of the precinct. This risk is compounded by the absence of a lower-speed transition zone that reflects the recreational land use and increased roadside activity generated by the lake.

A request has been received from a Rainbow resident seeking Council advocacy to extend 80 km/h speed zone further south past the Rainbow Lake entrance. The intent of the request is to create a safer traffic environment that supports community access and use of the lake, consistent with its role as a public open space and recreational facility. The request will extend the current 80 km/h zone by approximately 700m to the South. The Rainbow Lake Committee and Rainbow Township Advisory Committee both support extending the 80 km/hr zone past the entrance into the Rainbow Lake car parking.



\*Current and proposed 80 km/hr signage

Consistent with previous Council-endorsed speed reduction proposals, the appropriate pathway to achieve this outcome is for Council to submit a formal speed zone review application to the Department of Transport and Planning. DTP is the responsible authority for approving changes to speed limits on arterial and declared roads, and any change would be subject to their assessment criteria, traffic data, and safety analysis.

**Link to Council Plan:**

**Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment**

2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.

Reducing vehicle speeds adjacent to Rainbow Lake supports safer access to community infrastructure, enhances liveability, and improves the functionality of public open spaces within the township.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications associated with submitting a speed reduction application to the Department of Transport and Planning. Should a speed limit change be approved, costs associated with new or amended signage will be funded by Department of Transport and Planning.

**Risk Management Implications:**

| Strategic Risk Description | Risk Management Discussion  |
|----------------------------|---|
| Community Needs            | Maintaining a 100 km/h speed environment adjacent to a recreational precinct increases the risk of vehicle/pedestrian conflict and discourages community use. Advocating for a reduced speed limit would mitigate safety risks and better align the road environment with surrounding land use. |

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Road Management Act 2004*

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

No broader community engagement has been undertaken at this stage, noting that the submission of a speed review application does not in itself change speed limits. Any approved changes would be communicated to the community prior to implementation.

**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:**

If Council endorses the submission of a speed reduction application, the community will be informed through Council's usual communication channels once advice is received from the Department of Transport and Planning regarding the outcome of the request.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers to prepare and submit a formal speed reduction application to the Department of Transport and Planning for Dimboola Rainbow Road adjacent to the Rainbow Lake precinct.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council authorise Council officers to submit a speed reduction application to the Department of Transport and Planning for Dimboola Rainbow Road in the vicinity of the Rainbow Lake precinct to extend existing 80 km/h speed zone 700 metres further south.*

## 10.4 JEPARIT WEIR FEASIBILITY STUDY

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

1. Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study [10.4.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report provides Council with an update on the current work being undertaken to position Council strongly for future grants to replace the Jeparit Weir.

The replacement of the Jeparit Weir is a high priority for Council, with Council advocating to both State and Federal Government for funding to replace the structure. The estimated cost for replacement is \$5.4 million, something Council cannot fund from within the current budget.

As a first step towards the replacement Council received funding from Wimmera Catchment Management Authority to complete a feasibility study to assess the condition, risks, and future options for the Jeparit Weir on the Wimmera River. The study confirms the existing weir is in very poor condition, presents unacceptable safety risks to Council staff, and, if left unoperated or allowed to fail, has the potential to increase flood impacts within the Jeparit township.

The feasibility study identifies that refurbishment of the existing structure is not viable and that full replacement of the weir represents the most appropriate long-term solution. The study also outlines the social, environmental and economic value of the Jeparit Weir pool, with an estimated annual benefit of approximately \$386,000 to the community.

The feasibility study will be used to support future funding applications to State and Commonwealth Governments and to guide subsequent design and approval processes.

**Discussion:**

The Jeparit Weir was constructed in 1902 and has sustained significant damage during major flood events in 2011, 2016 and 2022. Subsequent condition assessments undertaken in 2017 and 2025 found that the weir no longer meets contemporary engineering and safety standards and has reached the end of its operational life.

Council engaged Water Technology to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study to:

- Assess the structural condition of the weir;
- Examine flood behaviour under different operating scenarios;
- Identify replacement options;
- Assess safety, flood, economic, social and environmental considerations; and
- Provide indicative cost estimates and benefit–cost analysis.

The feasibility study found that:

- The weir is currently unsafe to operate, with manual removal of boards presenting significant risk to Council staff.
- If the weir cannot be operated during major flood events, flood levels within Jeparit are likely to increase, resulting in additional properties being inundated above floor level.
- Complete replacement of the weir is required, as repair or refurbishment would not adequately address structural or safety risks.
- Replacement of the weir is estimated to cost approximately \$5.4 million (including contingencies and professional fees).
- The benefit–cost ratio for replacement is estimated at approximately 1.11, indicating that long-term benefits outweigh costs.

The Jeparit Weir is a critical piece of community infrastructure supporting flood management, recreational use, environmental values, and the liveability of Jeparit. The feasibility study provides an evidence base to support external funding submissions and long-term infrastructure planning.

Officers have been advocating for funding via every available state and federal funding opportunities.

**Link to Council Plan:**

**Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment**

2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no immediate financial implications associated with noting this report. Any future financial commitments relating to design, approvals or construction of a replacement weir will be subject to separate Council reports and external funding outcomes.

**Risk Management Implications:**

| Strategic Risk Description          | Risk Management Discussion  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Asset Management<br>Community Needs | The feasibility study identifies significant safety, structural and flood risks associated with the existing weir. Noting the report allows Council to formally recognise these risks and supports proactive planning and funding advocacy to mitigate them over the medium to long term. |

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Water Act 1989*

*Environment Protection Act 2017*

**Community Engagement:**

Direct community engagement was not undertaken as part of this feasibility study. The report draws on existing community use data and socio-economic studies of the Wimmera River system. Future stages of the project, subject to funding, will include community and stakeholder engagement.

**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:**

No external communications are proposed at this stage. Future communications will be considered as part of funding applications or project progression.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers will use the Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study report to support applications for State and Commonwealth funding.

***RECOMMENDATION:***

***That Council notes the Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study report.***

## 10.5 POLICY UPDATES

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

**Attachments:**

1. C022 Procurement Policy - Draft [10.5.1]
2. C006 Fraud Prevention and Control Policy - Draft [10.5.2]
3. C016 Public Interest Disclosure Policy - Draft [10.5.3]

**Executive Summary:**

This report presents three (3) draft policies to Council for endorsement to be presented for a period of community engagement from Thursday 2 April 2026 – 5pm on Wednesday 22 April 2026.

The policies being reviewed are as follows:

- The Public Interest Disclosure Policy, which outlines how Council will handle reports of wrongdoing. This policy has been updated with minor administrative changes in line with its review cycle.
- The Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan, which details how fraud will be prevented, detected and responded to within Hindmarsh Shire Council. This policy has been reviewed in line with its review cycle, with the notable change being the inclusion of evidentiary requirements for supported study.
- The Procurement Policy, which has been reviewed to include additional oversight of related parties procurement, alongside other amendments that clarify the application of certain procurement processes.

These policies have been presented to and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 11 March 2026. The policies will be presented to Council for adoption on 6 May 2026, alongside feedback received and a discussion of any changes made because of that feedback.

**Discussion:**

This report presents three (3) draft policies to Council for endorsement to be presented for a period of community engagement from Thursday 2 April 2026 – 5pm on Wednesday 22 April 2026. In reviewing these policies, Council officers have undertaken benchmarking activities against other like policies, reviewed legislation, and applied a contextual lens to practical implementation, to ensure compliant and comprehensive policy development that supports consistent and effective organisational practice.

The **Public Interest Disclosure Policy** establishes a system for reporting disclosure of improper or corrupt conduct, or detrimental action. It applies to Councillors, special committee members, volunteers, contractors and employees of Hindmarsh Shire Council. Council first adopted the Public Interest Disclosure Policy in July 2013 following the introduction of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* and has been regularly reviewed.

In this instance the Public Interest Disclosure Policy has been reviewed against legislation and with organisation context to ensure ongoing relevance and reliability. Minor changes to wording have been made for clarity within the definition of Detrimental Action. Further detail in the definition of improper conduct has also been added for consistency with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act (2012)*. There have been no changes which significantly alter the intent of the existing policy.

The **Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan** demonstrates Council's commitment to the prevention, detection and investigation of any or all instances of fraudulent and corrupt activity. This policy centres on Council's commitment to transparent and impartial decision making. Through a benchmarking process, it was determined that Council's policy is a comprehensive and thorough document. This review sees the addition of a dedicated section outlining requirements for evidence of completion or enrolment in study in the Fraud Prevention Plan. Other minor administrative changes have been made to reflect role or title changes which do not change the intent or content of the policy.

### **Procurement Policy**

This policy establishes a transparent, ethical and accountable approach to procurement that promotes open and fair competition, ensures value for money, and supports efficient practices. A comprehensively revised Procurement Policy was adopted in 2025, and after reviewing risks relating to related party procurement and having implemented the Policy operationally for several months, some amendments are proposed. This includes an Appendix that considers additional market engagement and reporting for related party procurement, reintroduction of a minimum threshold for purchase orders, removing the blanket exception for purchase orders where there is a market engagement exemption, enabling procurement approvals under thresholds where there has been legitimate market engagement attempts and enabling practical or emergency purchases without a purchase order but with clear approval processes.

These policies have been presented to and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 11 March 2026. The policies will be presented to Council for adoption on 6 May 2026, alongside feedback received and a discussion of any changes made because of that feedback.

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

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

4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications.

**Risk Management Implications:**

| Strategic Risk Description | Risk Management Discussion   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Governance                 | Ensuring Policies are reviewed and up to date means that Council's practices can be appropriately aligned to legislation, regulations and best practice. Strong policy frameworks ensure consistent, transparent, fair and appropriate decision-making at all levels of the organisation and allows employees, Councillors and the community to have a shared understanding. |

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

**Community Engagement:**

It is recommended that the attached policies, Public Interest Disclosure, Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan, and Procurement, be made available for a period of Community engagement in line with Councils Community Engagement Policy from 2 April 2026 to 22 April 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 – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Next Steps:**

If approved, these policies will be open for a period of community consultation through Council's Have Your Say page. Council officers will then review the policies based on any feedback received and provide a report to Council 6 May 2026, recommending the policies for adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorses the following policies for a period of Community Engagement from 2 April 2026 to 22 April 2026:***

- 1. the draft Public Interest Disclosure Policy;***
  - 2. the draft Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan; and***
  - 3. the draft Procurement Policy.***
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## 11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 11.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026 03 11 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes [11.1.1]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Strategic Internal Audit Plan - Hindmarsh Shire Council [11.1.2]
3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Audit and Risk Committee Chair Report March 2026 [11.1.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026 03 25 Audit Risk Committee - Resignation Simon Coutts [11.1.4]

**Discussion:**

The Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council established pursuant to Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act). In accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, recommendations and reports on activity of the Committees are presented to Council for noting and decision where required.

This report notes:

- That the three policies presented to Council on 1 April 2026 were endorsed by the Committee on 11 March 2026;
- Arrangements regarding the election of Chairperson for 2026;
- The Chairperson's report for 2025 as presented by Ashley Roberts;
- The rolling Strategic 3-year Audit Plan, recommended for adoption.

The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 March 2026 are also presented for noting by Council.

Council received correspondence from Simon Coutts, independent member, on 25 March notifying of his resignation from the Audit and Risk Committee.

**Next Steps:**

Council officers to prepare a letter to Simon Coutts accepting his resignation and thank him for his time on the Audit and Risk Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

1. *notes the minutes for the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 March 2026.*

- 2. notes Ashley Roberts as the Chairperson for the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 11 March 2026 and that the Chairperson for the remainder of 2026 will be elected at the June Audit and Risk Committee meeting;***
  - 3. accepts the Chairperson's Report for the 2025 calendar year and notes the considerable achievements of the Committee;***
  - 4. adopts the Strategic 3-year Audit Plan; and***
  - 5. notes the resignation of Simon Coutts from the Audit and Risk Committee.***
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## 11.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Nhill Town Committee Meeting Minutes 3 March 2026 [11.2.1]
2. Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting Minutes 4 March 2026 [11.2.2]
3. Jeparit Town Committee Meeting Minutes 9 March 2026 [11.2.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report - 28 February 2026 [11.2.4]
5. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Nhill Town Committee Financial Report - 28 February 2026 [11.2.5]
6. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report - 28 February 2026 [11.2.6]

**Introduction:**

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

- **Nhill Town Committee**  
General meeting on 03 March 2026
- **Hindmarsh Pride Committee**  
General Meeting on 04 March 2026
- **Jeparit Town Committee**  
General Meeting on 09 March 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 February for the following committees have been included as confidential attachments for the information of Council:

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

**Next Steps:**

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 03 March 2026;***
  - b) ***Hindmarsh Pride meeting held on 04 March 2026;***
  - c) ***Jeparit Township meeting held on 09 March 2026; and***
2. ***the financial statements for the month of February 2026 for the following Advisory Committees:***

- a) Jeparit Township;**
  - b) Nhill Township; and**
  - c) Rainbow Township.**
-

### 11.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 16 December 2025 [11.3.1]
2. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 17 February 2026 [11.3.2]
3. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 22 January 2026 [11.3.3]
4. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 26 February 2026 [11.3.4]
5. Rainbow Civic Centre Minutes 27 February 2026 [11.3.5]

**Introduction:**

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

- **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum**  
General Meetings on 16 December 2025 and 17 February 2026
- **Yurunga Homestead**  
General Meeting on 22 January 2026 and 26 February 2026
- **Rainbow Civic Centre**  
General Meeting on 27 February 2026

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

1. ***Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meetings held on 16 December 2025 and 17 February 2026;***
2. ***Yurunga Homestead meetings held on 22 January 2026 and 26 February 2026;***  
***and***
3. ***Rainbow Civic Centre meeting held on 27 February 2026.***

## **12 LATE REPORTS**

No late reports.

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## **13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motion.

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## **14 OTHER BUSINESS**

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## 15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the meeting be closed in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider reports that contain confidential information as defined by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020, and/or Part IV of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, and following consideration of items 15.1 to 15.2 close the Council meeting:***

**15.1 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2025-2026-25 PROVISION OF RESOURCES TO EXTRACT QUARRY MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES AT COUNCIL**

**QUARRIES** – *this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council’s position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released”;* and

**15.2 CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE** – *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”.*

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## **16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

No late confidential reports.

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## **17 MEETING CLOSE**

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