



18 June 2026

AGENDA

Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 24 June 2026

Time: Commencing at 3:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

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

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

Public Access: This meeting is open to the public and can be attended in-person or viewed online via Live Stream at <https://www.youtube.com/@hindmarshshirecouncil>.



Cr Ron Ismay - Mayor
West Ward



Cr Rosie Barker – Deputy Mayor
West Ward



Cr Roger Aitken
North Ward



Cr James Barry
East Ward



Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



Cr Chan Uoy
East Ward



Councillor Statement of Values

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

Our Vision

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

Our Values

We value:

- Engaging, listening and meeting people where they are at
- Doing the best we can with the people and funding that we have
- Showing respect and embracing diversity
- Taking pride in our community and achievements
- Being bold, creative and ambitious

Our Mission

Our mission is to be leaders in creating:

- Positive change
- A safe environment where everyone feels heard and appreciated
- Inclusive consultation

Purpose of Council Meetings

Council conducts its formal decision-making process through Ordinary Meetings of Council and Special Meetings of Council.

Ordinary meetings are held regularly to conduct the ongoing business of the Council and Special meetings are held from time to time for specific purposes.

Council adopts a schedule for its Ordinary Council Meetings annually. This schedule can be found on Council's website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Council-meetings.

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

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

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

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

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Live Streaming Statement

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

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

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

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Statement of Values

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

2 APOLOGIES

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

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

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

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 03 June 2026 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

Attachments:

1. 2026 06 03 Council Meeting Minutes - MEDIA [4.1.1]
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4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
01 April 2026 Item 10.1	Council officers to engage a suitable qualified consultant to prepare the Investment Attraction Prospectus and develop investor-ready materials.	Council is currently seeking RFQs from suitable suppliers to deliver the Investment Attraction Prospectus.	In Progress
03 June 2026 Item 10.1	Council officers to write to Minister for Small Business to request a substitute public holiday in lieu of Melbourne Cup for Rainbow Show and Nhill Show days.	Letter prepared and emailed to the Minister for Small Business.	Complete
03 June 2026 Item 10.2	Council officers to continue implementing adaption actions and a brief summary of the Climate Adaption Strategy to be included in Council's next newsletter and on social media.	A summary of action updates for the Climate Adaption Strategy was published in an e-newsletter on 10 June 2026. Council will continue to implement the actions contained within the Strategy.	Complete
03 June 2026 Item 10.3	Council officers to prepare letters for successful nominees for the following Community Asset Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Yurunga Homestead 	Letters prepared and sent to all successful nominees.	Complete
03 June 2026 Item 10.4	Council officers to prepare the draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 for community consultation on Council's Have Your Say page.	The draft Council Plan Actions 2026/2027 published for community consultation on Council's Have Your Say page.	Complete
03 June 2026 Item 11.1	Council officers to publish Advisory Committee minutes on Council's website for the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nhill Township Jeparit Township Hindmarsh Pride 	Minutes for Advisory Committees published on Council's website.	Complete

5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

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

6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 26 May 2026 – 15 June 2026

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
26/05/2026	Budget Drop-In Session	Jeparit	
28/05/2026	MAV Conference Evening get together	Melbourne	
29/05/2026	MAV State Conference	Melbourne	
02/06/2026	Nhill Town Committee	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	
15/06/2026	Information Session LUAA	Online	Information session hosted by Department of Premier & Cabinet and BGLC in relation to Land Use Activity Agreements and the implications for Local Government.

6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
02/06/2026	Nhill Town Committee	Nhill	Pro-active and innovative team of community members that are keen to see our town thrive.
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	Council takes time in Briefings to let us know about changes and concerns.
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	Teamwork makes the dream work.
04/06/2026	ALGWA Victoria Meeting	Online	AGM for Australia Local Government Woman's Association Victoria where I was voted in as Victoria Secretary. Such a privilege to be involved with this group of dedicated people working to promote and support women in Local Government.
10/06/2026	Audit and Risk Committee	Online	This group meets to review the Council's finances and risk exposure in depth. A team of professionals who provide good insight and support.
10/06/2026	Nhill CEO Drop-In Session	Nhill	This is a great opportunity for community to meet with our CEO, Staff and myself. We only had one attendee, and they had a lot to contribute to the care of our community.
11/06/2026	ALGWA Meeting	Online	Dr Neryl East, previously an ABC News reporter who talked about how to engage with media in a constructive way.
14/06/2026	Nhill Historical Society Open Day	Nhill	Wonderful to meet with this team of enthusiastic volunteers that commit time to preserving our history for future generations.

6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	
15/06/2026	Rainbow Town Committee Meeting	Rainbow	

6.4 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	
11/06/2026	CEO Drop-In Session	Dimboola	Some good feedback and suggestions from a few locals.

6.5 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
27/05/2026	Rainbow Lions Club Dinner Meeting	Rainbow	
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	

6.6 CR CHAN UOY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	
05/06/2026	Channel 9's Postcard Filming	Dimboola	Neil Devonport cooked lunch for the television crew and selected guests at the caravan park's BBQ shelter and the reporter was Kris Smith. The episode on our region was funded by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.
08/06/2026	Jeparit Town Committee Meeting	Jeparit	On behalf of Hindmarsh Pride Committee, I offered Jeparit first preference to host a 1980s Dynasty-themed party at the Memorial Hall to coincide with the Midsumma Festival in Melbourne in early 2027. The group accepted the opportunity to promote Jeparit to a wider audience.
10/06/2026	Audit & Risk Committee	Online	Cyber security is one of the concerns for the Council and money has to be set aside in the budget for screening and software and hardware updates.
11/06/2026	CEO Drop-in-session	Dimboola	
15/06/2026	Dimboola CWA Meeting	Dimboola	Devonshire Tea for Pride Month via Hindmarsh Pride Committee.
15/06/2026	WJJWJ People Land Use Activity Agreement	Online	

6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
26/05/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	
26/05/2026	Meeting with VORRA & Rainbow Rises Committee	Online	Event Planning discussions with VORRA and Rainbow Rises Committee regarding their upcoming events.
26/05/2026	2026/2027 Budget Drop-In Session	Jeparit	
27/05/2026	LGA Operational Benchmarking Meeting	Online	Meeting with Consulting firm looking to undertake benchmarking across local government. 3 Councils represented on the call with no councils opting to participate.
28/05/2026	MAV Sector Leaders Welcome Reception	Melbourne	Pre-State Council welcome reception for Mayors and CEOs.
29/05/2026	MAV State Council	Melbourne	Hindmarsh Shire Council's motion regarding rural housing innovation framework funding was overwhelmingly supported.
02/06/2026	Senior Management Team Meeting	Nhill	
02/06/2026	VLGGC – Local Roads Data Reconciliation Project	Online	Meeting discussing the changes for collection of data for the VLGGC return.
02/06/2026	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services and DEECA	Nhill	Meeting with new DEECA Regional Director Grampians (Alice Holeywell-Jones) to discuss Hindmarsh specific issues.
02/06/2026	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services	Nhill	
02/06/2026	Meeting with Executive Leadership Team	Nhill	

02/06/2026	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services	Nhill	
02/06/2026	Nhill Town Committee Meeting	Nhill	Discuss Draft 26/27 Annual Budget.
03/06/2026	Meeting with Emergency Management Victoria	Online	Meeting to discuss Jeparit Weir funding opportunity through Disaster Readiness Funding.
03/06/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
03/06/2026	Council Meeting	Nhill	
04/06/2026	Staff Meeting	Nhill	Post Council staff meeting to discuss Council resolutions.
04/06/2026	Meeting with Aegis	Online	Meeting with Peter from Aegis to discuss any emerging risks at Hindmarsh.
04/06/2026	DTM Prime Mentoring	Online	Mentoring to improve occupancy at Hindmarsh Holiday Parks – discussion regarding improving website and consideration for third party booking platforms (eg: Booking.com)
05/06/2026	Postcards Filming	Dimboola	Meet Postcards team at Riverside Holiday Park Dimboola along with Cr Uoy.
09/06/2026	Rapid Meeting HR	Online	HR Team providing short sharp session on specific topics for managers / supervisors.
09/06/2026	Pre-Training Dattner Group	Online	Meeting with Dattner Group representatives in the lead up to the upcoming SMT training.
09/06/2026	Health and Safety Meetings	Nhill	
10/06/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Nhill	
10/06/2026	Nhill CEO Drop-In Session	Nhill	Joined by Cr Barker and Council's Director Corporate & Community Services.
10/06/2026	MAV Pre-Briefing NGA	Online	MAV pre-briefing for Mayors and CEOs prior to the National General Assembly. Victoria has submitted 134 motions (25% of total motions).
11/06/2026	Dimboola CEO Drop-In Session	Dimboola	Joined by Cr Uoy and Cr Barry.

15/06/2026	MAV Monday Connect	Online	Monthly CEO update presented by MAV.
15/06/2026	Economic Development Update	Nhill	Monthly meeting with Manager Economic Development & Tourism to discuss Economic Development activities.
15/06/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	

7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 2026/06/16 - Nhill Silo Heritage Project to Council re Invitation to Tour Nhill Silo – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)

Outwards:

- 2026/06/11 - Council to Hon. Natalie Suleyman Minister for Small and Family Business re Public Holiday Arrangements in Lieu of Melbourne Cup – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORD

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. 2026 06 03 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]

Introduction:

As required under Section 33(9) of Hindmarsh Shire Council's Governance Rules, the attached Assembly of Councillors Record is presented as an attachment to the Council Agenda for the information of Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Record as presented.

9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.

10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

10.1 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2026/2027 INCORPORATING REVENUE AND RATING PLAN

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Councillor Portfolio: All Councillors

Attachments:

1. Annual Budget 2026-2027 [10.1.1]

Executive Summary:

This report presents the 2026/2027 Annual Budget, (the Budget) incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The report includes a recommendation that Council adopts the 2026/2027 Annual Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Under Council's Community Engagement Policy, the draft Budget was made available for public inspection and the receiving of submissions for the period Thursday 7 May 2026 to Sunday 7 June 2026. Council also held Budget Drop-In Sessions in Nhill, Rainbow, Dimboola and Jeparit, as well as staff and Councillors attending the Nhill, Rainbow and Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meetings to discuss the draft Budget. No formal submissions were received; however, the budget was viewed 33 times, and the Budget Explainer Video reached 1,124 people.

The total amount to be raised by general rates and charges in 2026/2027 is \$10.630m which is an increase of \$0.285m from 2025/2026. The Revenue and Rating Plan includes differentials for farms and commercial/industrial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount) and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty).

The Budget has been developed to balance the retention of existing community service levels, maintenance and renewal of assets, and new initiatives to improve amenity and make Hindmarsh a better place to live. One of the key focuses of this annual budget – shaped significantly by community consultation – is addressing the priorities identified by our residents. The community has told us that roads and pedestrian infrastructure are the highest priority, so Council is investing \$4.411m in road construction, resheets, reseals and final seals, kerb and channel, and footpaths (capital works).

Discussion:

At the Council meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2026, Council resolved to give notice of the draft Budget, invite submissions from 7 May 2026 to 7 June 2026, and consider the submissions and adoption of the Budget on 24 June 2026.

Council is required under Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to prepare a budget for each financial year and the subsequent three (3) financial years by 30 June each year or any other date fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette. The Budget has been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory requirements, including the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

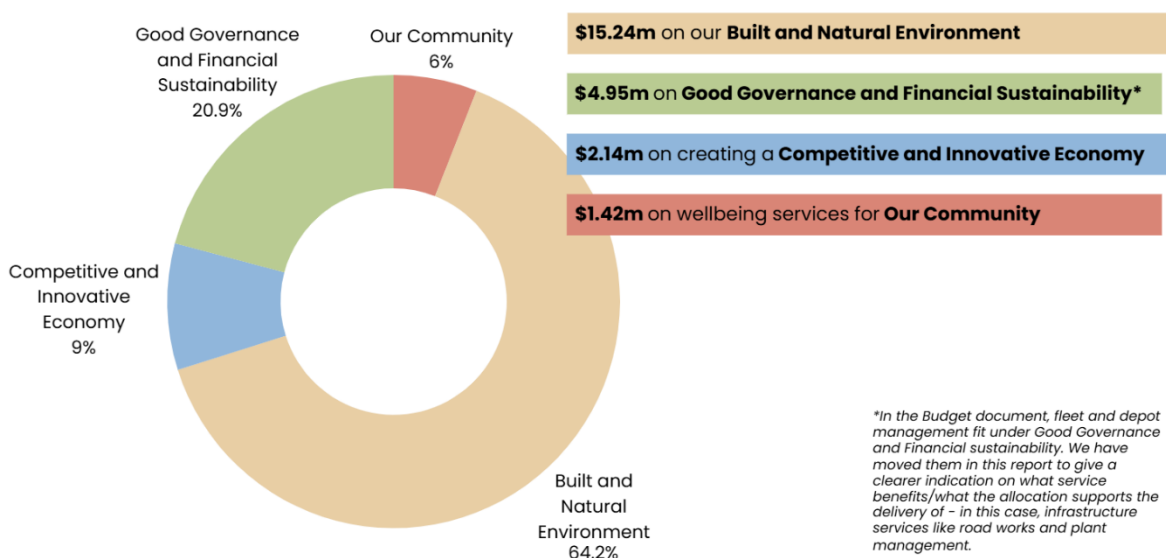
A requirement of the Act is that all Victorian Local Governments adopted a Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June 2021. The Revenue and Rating Plan was developed and adopted by 23 June 2021 and has been revised in conjunction with preparation of the Budget. The updated Revenue and Rating Plan (the Plan) was developed to retain the current differentials for farm and commercial/industrial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount) and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty). As final valuations were received during the consultation period, minor adjustments have been made to rating calculations to reflect final valuations. This does not impact the total value of rates collected.

When revising the plan consideration was given to the capacity for each class of ratepayer to pay rates and benchmarking against similar Councils was undertaken.


The Budget has been developed to balance the retention of existing community service levels and maintenance and renewal of assets, as well as new initiatives to improve amenity and make Hindmarsh a better place to live. It replicates the format of the four Key Results Areas used in the 2025-2029 Council Plan, namely:

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

The following table indicates how Council budgets across these areas:



The Budget has been prepared based on available information to inform forecasts and assumptions. The below table demonstrates indicative figures from other Council's in Victoria that provide context to Hindmarsh Shire Council's constrained financial position and significant infrastructure levels:



	Hindmarsh	Horsham	Ballarat	City of Port Phillip
Revenue	\$22.204m	\$67.44m (25/26)	\$296.45m (25/26)	\$318.88m
Rates and Charges	\$10.630m	\$34.88m (25/26)	\$167.11m (25/26)	\$165.594m
Assets (Infrastructure) per Head of Population*	\$51,354	\$32,709	\$16,731	\$8,796
Average Rates per Assessment*	\$1,660	\$2,228	\$2,086	\$1,764
Kilometres of Road	598 (sealed) 2,590 (unsealed)	1,059 (sealed) 1,924 (unsealed)	1,093 (sealed) 382 (unsealed)	over 300km
Population per km	1.81	6.81	79.25	418.84
Area (km²)	7,527	4,267	739	20.7

Capital Works

The Budget includes capital works expenditure of \$6.435m. The proposed key initiatives for the 2026/2027 financial year are outlined below. Further details are included in the relevant sections of the budget document attached to this report.

Community Infrastructure

- \$430,000 on the Dimboola Pool

Infrastructure

- \$602,000 on unsealed road construction
- \$363,000 on shoulder resheets
- \$2,416,000 on sealed road construction
- \$572,000 on reseals
- \$134,000 on drainage
- \$225,000 on kerb & channel

Rates and Charges

In May 2026, the Victorian Valuer General updated the valuation of land for Hindmarsh Shire Council to take effect from 1 January 2026. The total value for all properties within Hindmarsh Shire differed between the preliminary valuations that have been published in the draft Budget, and the final valuations detailed in this report. This change does not impact

the overall value of rates collected by Council across all property classes. This change in valuations has been taken into consideration for the differentials as set out below.

The rates and charges calculated for 2026/2027 are based on revaluation figures as at 1 January 2026. The Revenue and Rating Plan includes differentials for farms and commercial/industrial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount), and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty).

The total value for all properties within Hindmarsh Shire differs between the preliminary valuations that were published in the draft Budget and the final valuations detailed in this report and attached Budget. This is due to the final valuations being received within the consultation period.

The total amount to be raised by general rates and charges in 2026/2027 is \$10.630m which is an increase of \$0.285m from 2025/2026. The following table summarises the rates to be determined for the 2026/2027 year. A more detailed analysis of the rates to be raised is contained in the Budget document under item 4.1.1 Rates and Charges. The rate in the dollar has changed slightly from that originally advertised in the draft Budget due to changes in the CIV as provided by the Valuer General in May 2026.

Type or Class of Land		Budget 2025/2026	Budget 2026/2027	Change
Residential	Cents/\$ CIV	0.0019954	0.0020680	3.64%
Farm Land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.0017958	0.0018612	3.64%
Business, Industrial & Commercial land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.0017958	0.0018612	3.64%
Recreational & Cultural land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.0009977	0.0010340	3.64%
Urban Vacant land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.0039907	0.0041360	3.64%
Municipal Charge	\$/property	\$205.00	\$205.00	0%
Kerbside waste/recycling collection charge	\$/property	\$478.00	\$480.00	0.42%

Submissions

The Budget incorporating the updated Revenue and Rating Plan has been prepared for approval by Council. Under Council's Community Engagement Policy, the draft Budget and updated Revenue and Rating Plan was made available for public consultation for the period Thursday 7 May 2026 to Sunday 7 June 2026. No submissions were received.

Several consultation sessions were held, including farmer consultations in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill, Rainbow and Yanac prior to the development of the draft budget. Draft Annual Budget drop-in sessions were held in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow during the consultation

period, as well as Councillors and Officers attending the Nhill, Jeparit and Rainbow Town Advisory Committee meetings to present and discuss the Draft 2026/2027 Annual Budget.

Council conducted an initial survey that informed the development of the draft Budget through the identification of service priorities.

The draft Budget incorporating the revised Revenue and Rating Plan was also made available for public inspection at Council's Customer Service Centres, online on Council's website including on Council's 'Have Your Say Hindmarsh' community consultation site. There were 33 views of the Budget via this site, and Council's Budget Explainer Video reached 1,124 people.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

The Budget is consistent with the parameters set out in Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	The preparation of a budget that incorporates long-term financial planning is a key pillar of Council's financial sustainability risk management program.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

Community Engagement:

As detailed in the *Submissions* section of the report.

Gender Equality Implications:

Gender Impact Assessments to be completed for specific initiatives within the Budget as the projects are planned and delivered.

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 – Marivic Vix, Manager Financial Services
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

Council must give notice of the adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan. A public notice will be published in the Dimboola Banner, Rainbow Jeparit Argus, Nhill Free Press and Weekly Advertiser advising of the adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Budget. Copies of the adopted Budget incorporating the Revenue and Rating Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan will be published on Council's website and hard copies will be made available from Hindmarsh Shire Council Customer Service Centres.

Next Steps:

As above.

RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:***

- 1. adopts the 2026/2027 Budget (incorporating the revenue and rating plan and service and user fees and charges), in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020;***
- 2. declares the amount of rates and charges intended to be raised from the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 as follows:***
 - a) General rates raised through differential rates – \$8,636,868;***
 - b) Municipal charge - \$773,260;***
 - c) Kerbside waste/recycling collection charge – \$1,333,440;***
 - d) Revenue in lieu of rates (windfarms) – \$160,000;***
- 3. pursuant to the Local Government Act 2020, declares a Municipal Charge of \$205 for the period commencing 1 July 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied;***
- 4. sets the Annual Service Charge for “Kerbside waste / recycling collection charge” at the sum of \$480.00 for each rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which services charges may be levied and where the services are available;***
- 5. adopts the return of the revaluation of all properties within the Hindmarsh Shire as at 1 January 2026 from the Victorian Valuer General:***

Type or class of Land	Estimated Total Value
Residential Land	\$621,290,500
Farmland	\$3,688,559,500
Business, Industrial & Commercial Land	\$83,444,000
Recreational and Cultural Land	\$3,143,000
Urban Vacant Land	\$12,614,000
TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	\$4,409,050,000

6. declares that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified in 4.1.1 of the budget document and below, noting that each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land by the relevant rate in the dollar:

Type of Rate	Rate in Dollar on Capital Improved Value Cents / \$CIV
Residential Land	0.0020680
Farm Land	0.0018612
Business, Industrial & Commercial Land	0.0018612
Recreational and Cultural Land	0.0010340
Urban Vacant Land	0.0041360

7. determines to allow:

- a) in accordance with Section 167(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1989, payment of rates and charges by four approximately equal instalments paid on or before 30 September 2026, 30 November 2026, 28 February 2027 and 31 May 2027;
- b) in accordance with Section 167(2A) and (2B) of the Local Government Act 1989, payment of rates and charges by lump sum on or before 15 February 2027;

8. requires that any person pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which:

- a) that person is liable to pay;
- b) have not been paid by the dates specified for their payment;
- c) is not otherwise waived as part of Council's Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy;

9. authorises the Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate and Community Services or delegate to levy and recover the general rates and service charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989;

10. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make any minor and/or administrative changes to the 2026-2027 Budget as a result of anything that occurs after the making of this resolution; and

11. sets the fee payable in accordance with Section 53(6) of the Act to members of the Audit and Risk Committee who are not Councillors as \$325 per meeting attended for general members and \$375 for the elected chairperson, noting

the lack of increase in accordance with the rate cap in the 2025/2026 financial year.

10.2 PROPOSED SALE OF TARRANYURK QUARRY

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barker

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

This report seeks Council approval to commence the process to dispose of the asset currently known as Tarranyurk Quarry, located at 289 Greig Road, Antwerp, Lot 1 TP218879. The property is 192.59 ha comprising of approximately 92 ha of farmland and approximately 100 ha of salt flats. Community feedback regarding this decision has been sought via Council's 'Have Your Say Hindmarsh' page from 7 May 2026 to 4 June 2026. At the end of the consultation period, five (5) submissions were received with majority of feedback supporting the decision to sell the asset based on it being surplus to Council's needs.

Discussion:

Council owns a number of assets that are surplus to Council and community needs which are regularly reviewed for future use, lease, or sale. The land located at 289 Greig Road Antwerp was previously part of several quarries that Council maintained for road making materials. This land has since become unsuitable for this purpose, with the quarry being rehabilitated, and is now proposed for sale as there is no alternative critical use. Ongoing ownership of the site presents financial and operational risk exposure to Council. Sale of this property will support Council's long term financial sustainability by converting a surplus asset into capital. Council has been leasing the land since 1997, with the current lease expiring on 31 December 2026.

Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (Act) Restriction on power to sell or exchange land*, details Council's requirements in relation to this decision:

- (2) Before selling or exchanging the land, the Council must—
 - (a) at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land, publish notice of intention to do so—
 - (i) on the Council's Internet site; and
 - (ii) in any other manner prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection; and
 - (b) undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its community engagement policy; and
 - (c) obtain from a person who holds the qualifications or experience specified under section 13DA(2) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 a valuation of the land which is made not more than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.

Community feedback was sought on the proposal via Council's 'Have Your Say Hindmarsh' page from 7 May 2026 to 4 June 2026. At the end of consultation period, five (5) submissions

were received with majority of feedback supporting the decision to sell the asset based on it being surplus to Council's needs. Community feedback and officer responses are summarised in the table below.

Community Feedback	Officer Response
<p>Can use the land to make some sort of racetrack, for drifting, race meets and other car events for car enthusiasts in the area, seeing as there is no where we can take our pride and joys out for the sport, a lot of companies would be on board with it, as a sponsorship It would also bring more people into the community and make a name for us and put us on the map.</p>	<p>A dedicated facility for racing has been developed at Rainbow Rises Centre in Rainbow. This includes development of an amenities block, shed and parking. We encourage community groups to work together to better utilise the available facilities. Using this site for the suggested purpose would create additional ongoing management obligations for Council, including requiring an annual budget allocation for maintenance.</p>
<p>I would like to see the approx 97 Ha of derived Salt Paperbark Woodland/ Samphire Shrubland mosaic, Wimmera EVC 0741, have some sort of protection overlay on it so it doesn't end up a dumping ground for agricultural refuse, or chopped up by motorbikes etc. This EVC mosaic is not well represented in protected reserves yet can support a unique suite of saline adapted flora and fauna. Perhaps even consider dividing the parcel into two allotments, enabling the arable portion to be potentially sold for the same price as Council was looking for the whole c. 192 Ha, then selling the samphire section as a conservation block?</p>	<p>Council has identified the land as a surplus asset, with disposal intended to reduce ongoing financial and operational risks and support long-term financial sustainability. Retaining or subdividing the land for conservation purposes would require a separate statutory planning process, which is likely to significantly delay the sale. It would also create additional ongoing management obligations for Council, including the need for an annual maintenance budget.</p> <p>Council's Landcare Officer will liaise with the buyer to facilitate potential vegetation program in the salt flat area. External funding opportunities may exist for such environmental projects.</p>
<p>Support the proposal</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Support the proposal</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Support the proposal</p>	<p>NA</p>

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

Council will incur fees for the sale of the land, however, these fees will be recouped through the sale of the land. Proceeds for the sale of the land will be incorporated in Council's general revenue and contribute to the implementation of budgeted activities for 2026/2027.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management Financial Sustainability	Ongoing ownership of the rehabilitated quarry land presents a strategic risk to Council, including unnecessary financial and operational exposure associated with maintaining an asset that is no longer required for service delivery. Disposal of the land also responds to strategic risks relating to community expectations, compliance with statutory processes, and ensuring the sale achieves an appropriate value and future use outcome aligned with Council's long-term financial sustainability objectives.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

Council advertised its intention to dispose of this asset and engaged with community via Council's 'Have Your Say Hindmarsh' page from Thursday, 7 May 2026 to Thursday, 4 June 2026. Five (5) submissions were received, with three (3) supporting the sale and asking to be contacted when the sale will be, and two (2) not supporting the sale of the asset. Submissions are detailed in the body of the report.

Gender Equality Implications:

Gender Impact Assessments are required by the *Gender Equality Act 2020* when the project, policy or plan subject to Council decision has a direct and significant impact on the community.

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this project 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 – Mick Henderson, Manager Assets and Facilities

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

Communications Strategy:

Following Council's decision, the disposal of the surplus land will be communicated to the community via Council's social media channels.

Next Steps:

Should Council resolve to dispose of 289 Greig Road Antwerp, a real estate agent will be appointed to undertake the sale of the property and relevant advertising.

RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:***

- 1. approves the disposal of 289 Greig Road Antwerp; and***
 - 2. authorises the CEO to undertake the sale process and sign all necessary documents for the sale of land located at 289 Greig Road, Antwerp.***
-

10.3 POLICY UPDATES

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barker and Cr Uoy

Attachments:

1. C019 Public Transparency Policy - Draft [10.3.1]
2. C032 Council Grants Administration Policy [10.3.2]
3. C005 Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy [10.3.3]
4. C033 Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy [10.3.4]

Executive Summary:

This report presents three (3) policies for adoption, and one (1) draft policy for consideration and endorsement for a period of public consultation.

Policies presented for adoption are as follows:

- The **Council Grants Administration Policy**, a new policy that outlines how Council grants will be administered in terms of oversight, transparency, and community benefit.
- The **Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy**, which now addresses both financial hardship and hardship arising from other personal circumstances. It provides a framework for managing payments, ensures options offered are proportionate, consistent and clearly communicated.
- The **Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy**, which outlines the rebates available to properties with existing arrangements with Council through Landcare Management Agreements or Conversation Covenants.

The policies have been available for a period of community consultation through Council's 'Have Your Say Hindmarsh' page from Thursday 7 May – Thursday 28 May 2026.

The draft policy presented for endorsement to be made available for a period of public consultation is **Public Transparency Policy**. This policy has been reviewed in line with the review schedule and assessed against the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) for its appropriateness in reflecting how Council makes information available to the public, as well as the open and accountable conduct of Council.

Discussion:

There is one (1) draft policy presented to Council. The draft **Public Transparency Policy** was presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting held Wednesday 10 June 2026 and was recommended for Council consideration for endorsement for a period of public consultation from 25 June – 17 July 2026. The Local Government Inspectorate reviewed several Council policies required under the Act in 2022 and has since made available a sample of best-practice policy examples. The Public Transparency Policy has been reviewed against these guideline policies along with the requirements of the Act.

Additional information included in the policy is:

- the definition of Community has been expanded to include all individuals or groups who live, work, play, study, visit, invest in or pass through the municipality.
- the Policy statement has also been expanded to include a clear list of objectives
- the affirmation that where information is not confidential, and not already available to the public, Council will apply the principles of a public interest test with consideration also of the resources required do respond to the request, in considering if the information shall be made available.

There are three (3) policies presented for adoption.

The **Council Grants Administration Policy** clarifies how grants programs administered by Council will be fair, transparent and based on community need. In May 2022, the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) released its assurance report *Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants*, examining whether Victorian councils had effective and consistently applied fraud controls across their grants programs. The audit reviewed six (6) councils over a five-year period and assessed the design and operation of fraud controls, decision-making processes, and oversight mechanisms. VAGO concluded that fraud controls within local government grant programs were often inconsistently applied or missing, exposing councils to elevated risks. Key issues identified included:

- inconsistent identification and management of conflicts of interest
- lack of consistent assessment criteria and transparent decision-making
- inadequate documentation of assessment and approval processes
- limited monitoring of how grant funds were used
- insufficient evaluation of grant program outcomes.

The Grants Administration Policy responds to these governance matters. Following a period of community consultation there was one (1) submission received addressing concerns that grant funding is given to various groups that include similar individuals. Council recognises that Hindmarsh has incredibly high rates of volunteering and many people volunteer their time across multiple community groups. Each application is assessed based on the project and the value or benefit it brings to the community. No changes were made.

The **Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy** considers matters of both financial hardship and hardship experienced from other personal circumstances. In December 2025, the Minister for Local Government issued Ministerial Guidelines relating to the payment of rates and charges under Section 181AA of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Guidelines provide mandatory direction to councils and require existing hardship, financial hardship, and debt management policies to be reviewed and updated to ensure consistency with the principles and expectations set out in the Guidelines.

Key changes include -

1. Clear distinction between hardship and financial hardship;
2. Mandatory principles embedded in the policy;
3. Flexible payment and relief options;
4. Accessibility and early engagement;

5. Assessment, decision-making and review processes;
6. Family violence and economic abuse considerations.

Following the period of community consultation, no feedback was received and no changes have been made to the policy.

The **Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy** outlines the arrangements for ratepayers with existing Landcare Management Agreements or conservation covenants. Currently, Hindmarsh Shire Council provides a 75% rebate on for properties with a total Conservation Covenant. Those with a Landcare Management Agreement receive a flat rebate of \$5.00 per hectare for the affected area, with a minimum rebate of \$50.00 and a maximum of \$250.00 providing the rebate does not exceed 75% of the rate payable. Council administers this program annually by reviewing the current active list and calculating and processing the rebate according to the new rates and charges after the new year rates calculations have been completed. At the Council meeting in May 2016, Council adopted the above policy, putting it in place for 10 years. As this expires in May 2026, Council is required to review the policy arrangements. It is proposed that the current policy is retained for existing arrangements only but with strengthened requirements for assessing eligibility, as per the attachment. Following the period of community consultation, two (2) responses were received that did not suggest any amendments were required. The Policy is now presented for adoption with no additional amendments.

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:

Financial implications relating to the Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy are included in the report (an impact of around \$7,500 annually on total rates collected). There are no other material financial implications involved with the endorsement and adoption of these policies.

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 Public Transparency Policy be made available for a period of Community engagement in line with Councils Community Engagement Policy from 25 June 2026 to 17 July 2026.

The Council Grants Administration Policy, Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy, and Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy were made available for a period of Community engagement in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy from 7 May 2026 to 28 May 2026 with submissions and responses detailed in the report.

Gender Equality Implications:

Gender Impact Assessments are required by the *Gender Equality Act 2020* when the project, policy or plan subject to Council decision has a direct and significant impact on the community.

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Janelle Reichelt, Manager People and Performance

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

Communications Strategy:

Not applicable.

Next Steps:

If adopted, the three (3) policies will be uploaded on Council's website, publications will be prepared, and staff training will be delivered.

If approved, one (1) policy will be open for a period of community consultation through Council's 'Have Your Say Hindmarsh' page.

RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:***

- 1. adopts the:***
 - a) Council Grants Administration Policy;***
 - b) Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy;***
 - c) Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy; and***
- 2. endorses the Public Transparency Policy for a period of Community Engagement from 25 June – 17 July 2026.***

11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Responsible Councillor: Cr Aitken

Attachments:

1. Rainbow Town Committee Minutes - 18 May 2026 [11.1.1]
2. Nhill Town Committee Minutes - 2 June 2026 [11.1.2]
3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 10 June 2026 [11.1.3]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report - 31 May 2026 [11.1.4]
5. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Nhill Town Committee Financial Report - 31 May 2026 [11.1.5]
6. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report - 01 June 2026 [11.1.6]
7. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026 06 12 Expression of Interest Form Jeparit Town Committee - Natalia Aguirre [11.1.7]

Introduction:

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

- **Rainbow Town Committee**
General Meeting on 18 May 2026
- **Nhill Town Committee**
General Meeting on 02 June 2026
- **Audit and Risk Committee**
General Meeting on 10 June 2026

A copy of the minutes for each of the meetings held are included as attachments for the information of Council. The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting are included as a confidential attachment for the information of Council.

A copy of the financial statements for the month of May for the following Advisory Committees have been included as confidential attachments for the information of Council:

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

An Expression of Interest form for the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee was also received on Friday 12 June 2026 from Natalia Aguirre. This has been included as a confidential attachment.

Next Steps:

Advisory Committee minutes will be published on Council's website except for the Audit and Risk Committee minutes.

Contact applicant and advise of the outcome of their nomination to the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:***That Council:***

- 1. notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
 - a) Rainbow Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 May 2026;***
 - b) Nhill Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 02 June 2026;***
 - c) Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 10 June 2026;***
- 2. notes the financial statements for the month of April 2026 for the following Advisory Committees:***
 - a) Jeparit Township;***
 - b) Nhill Township;***
 - c) Rainbow Township; and***
- 3. appoints Natalia Aguirre to the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee.***

11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Responsible Councillor: Cr Aitken

Attachments:

1. Jeparit Memorial Hall Minutes - 11 March 2026 [**11.2.1**]
2. Yurunga Homestead Minutes - 5 May 2026 [**11.2.2**]

Introduction:

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

- **Jeparit Memorial Hall Committee**
General Meeting on 11 March 2026
- **Yurunga Homestead Committee**
General Meeting on 05 May 2026

Copies of the minutes of the above meetings have been included as attachments for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

- 1. Jeparit Memorial Hall meeting held on 11 March 2026; and***
- 2. Yurunga Homestead meeting held on 05 May 2026.***

12 LATE REPORTS

No late reports.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

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

- a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;
- b) security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;
- c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;
- d) law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;
- e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
 - i. 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 close the Council meeting:

15.1 CONTRACT 2025-2026-33 PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES – this report contains “private commercial information, being information provided

by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage”.

16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No late confidential reports.

17 MEETING CLOSE
