

Council Meeting - 24 June 2026 Attachments

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	2
4.1.1 2026 06 03 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - MEDIA.....	2
7.1 CORRESPONDENCE	55
7.1.1 2026 06 16 NHILL SILO HERITAGE PROJECT TO HSC RE INVITATION TO TOUR NHILL SILO	55
7.1.2 2026 06 11 HSC TO HON. NATALIE SULEYMAN RE PUBLIC HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS IN LIEU OF MELBOURNE CUP	56
8.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORD	57
8.1.1 2026 06 03 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD	57
10.1 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2026/2027 INCORPORATING REVENUE AND RATING PLAN	59
10.1.1 ANNUAL BUDGET 2026-2027	59
10.3 POLICY UPDATES	133
10.3.1 C019 PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY - DRAFT.....	133
10.3.2 C032 COUNCIL GRANTS ADMINISTRATION POLICY	141
10.3.3 C005 HARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY	146
10.3.4 C033 NATIVE VEGETATION ON RATEABLE LAND POLICY	156
11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES.....	161
11.1.1 RAINBOW TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES - 18 MAY 2026	161
11.1.2 NHILL TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES - 2 JUNE 2026.....	170
11.1.4 JEPARIT TOWN COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT - 31 MAY 2026.....	174
11.1.5 NHILL TOWN COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT - 31 MAY 2026	175
11.1.6 RAINBOW TOWN COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT - 01 JUNE 2026	176
11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES	177
11.2.1 JEPARIT MEMORIAL HALL MINUTES - 11 MARCH 2026	177
11.2.2 YURUNGA HOMESTEAD MINUTES - 5 MAY 2026.....	179



04 June 2026

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 3 June 2026

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Nhill Council Chamber,
92 Nelson Street, Nhill

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

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

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



Cr Ron Ismay - Mayor
West Ward



Cr Rosie Barker – Deputy Mayor
West Ward



Cr Roger Aitken
North Ward



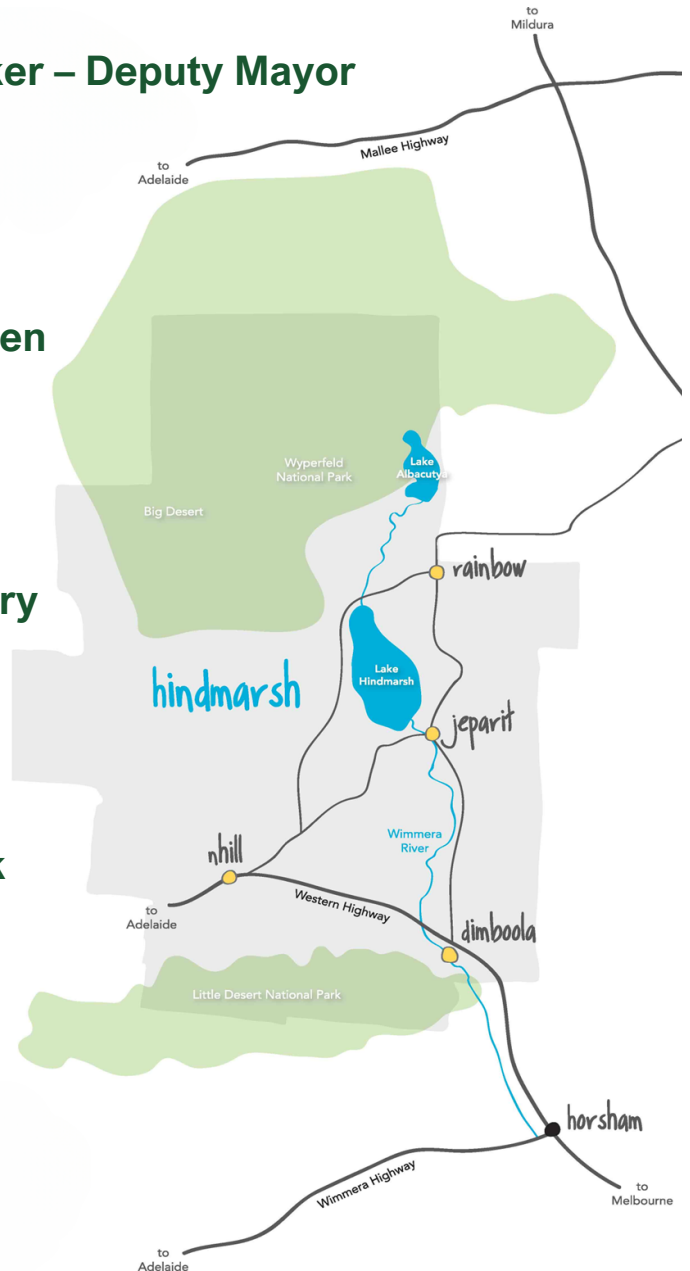
Cr James Barry
East Ward



Cr Tony Clark
North Ward



Cr Chan Uoy
East Ward





Councillor Statement of Values

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

Our Vision

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

Our Values

We value:

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

Our Mission

Our mission is to be leaders in creating:

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



Purpose of Council Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	7
1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT	7
1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES	7
2 APOLOGIES	7
3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	8
4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING	8
4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	8
4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	9
5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME.....	11
6 ACTIVITY REPORTS	12
6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR.....	12
6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR.....	13
6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN	14
6.4 CR JAMES BARRY	15
6.5 CR TONY CLARK.....	15
6.6 CR CHAN UOY	16
6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....	17
7 CORRESPONDENCE	21
8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS.....	22
9 PLANNING PERMITS	22
10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION.....	23
10.1 MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY 2026	23
10.2 CLIMATE ADAPTION STRATEGY UPDATE	27
10.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS.....	42
10.4 COUNCIL PLAN ACTIONS 2026/2027	46
11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES.....	50



11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES.....	50
11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES.....	52
12 LATE REPORTS	53
13 NOTICES OF MOTION.....	53
14 OTHER BUSINESS.....	53
15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.....	53
16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.....	53
17 MEETING CLOSE.....	53



In Attendance:

Councillors:

Cr Ron Ismay (Mayor), Cr Rosie Barker (Deputy Mayor), Cr Roger Aitken, Cr James Barry, Cr Tony Clark and Cr Chan Uoy.

Officers:

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) and Ms Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor, opened the meeting at 3:00pm and read the Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT

Cr Ron Ismay read the Live Streaming Statement.

1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES

Cr Chan Uoy read the Councillor Statement of Values.

2 APOLOGIES

No 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.

No interests declared.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

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

MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr J Barry

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

CARRIED

Attachments:

1. 2026 05 06 Council Meeting Minutes - MEDIA [4.1.1]



4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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



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



5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

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

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

Tony Schneider – Dimboola

Why have the parking lines in the Lloyd Street, Dimboola CBD, been allowed to degrade over the last three years to the point of almost invisibility, and when will these lines be properly repainted?

Answer:

Thank you Tony for submitting your question. The line marking issue in Lloyd Street, Dimboola was identified during our proactive road inspections in early December 2025. Council's works team is currently concentrating on high-risk line marking such as intersections and level crossings. The line marking works for Lloyd Street parking bays has been scheduled to be completed either before the end of financial year or early in the new financial year (subject to weather conditions).

Community members are encouraged to submit a Customer Action Request to report any hazards or concerns through Council's website. This will ensure a timely response and appropriate action in line with our service standards.



6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 28 April 2026 – 25 May 2026

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

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



6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR

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



6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

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



6.4 CR JAMES BARRY

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

6.5 CR TONY CLARK

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



6.6 CR CHAN UOY

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



6.7 MS MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



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



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



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



7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

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

Outwards:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

CARRIED



8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. 2026 05 06 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]
2. 2026 05 20 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.2]

Introduction:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr T Clark

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.

CARRIED

9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.



10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

10.1 MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

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

Discussion:

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

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

Council may request substitute holiday for Melbourne Cup Day

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



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

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

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

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

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

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Risk Management Implications:

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

Relevant Legislation:

Public Holidays Act 1993 Section 8A(1)

Community Engagement:

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



Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

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

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

Communications Strategy:

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

Next Steps:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry



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

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

CARRIED



10.2 CLIMATE ADAPTION STRATEGY UPDATE

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services

Attachments:

Nil

Executive Summary:

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

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

Discussion:

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

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

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Link to Council Plan:

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment

2.1 We care for and connect with our natural environment.

Financial Implications:

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

Risk Management Implications:

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

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Climate Change Act 2017

Community Engagement:

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

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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



Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Communications Strategy:

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

Next Steps:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr J Barry

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

CARRIED



10.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

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

Executive Summary:

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

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

Discussion:

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



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

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

Nominations received for each Community Asset Committee are as follows:

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

Link to Council Plan:

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

Financial Implications:

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

Risk Management Implications:

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

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

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



Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

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

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

Communications Strategy:

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

Next Steps:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint the following nominees to the:

- 1. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee;***
 - a) Craig Proctor***
 - b) Don Pedder***
 - c) Christa Robnik***
 - d) Natalia Aguirre***
 - e) Tige Mannington***
 - f) Mary-Anne Paech***
 - g) Clem Paech***
 - h) Peter Pumpa***
 - i) Morgan Ninnis***
- 2. Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee;***
 - a) Colin Drendel***

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

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council appoint the following nominees to the:

- 1. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee;**
 - a) Craige Proctor**
 - b) Don Pedder**
 - c) Christa Robnik**
 - d) Natalia Aguirre**
 - e) Tige Mannington**
 - f) Mary-Anne Paech**
 - g) Clem Paech**
 - h) Peter Pumpa**
 - i) Morgan Nannes**
- 2. Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee;**
 - a) Colin Drendel**
 - b) Mike Smythe**
 - c) Mark Thomas**
 - d) Jennifer Solly**
 - e) Peter Solly**

CARRIED



10.4 COUNCIL PLAN ACTIONS 2026/2027

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Attachments:

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

Executive Summary:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussion:

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

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

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



- Supports regular monitoring through quarterly reporting to Council

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

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

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

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

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.

4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:

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

Risk Management Implications:

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



Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
	they will have the greatest impact. This regular cycle also strengthens transparency and accountability, reducing the risk that community needs go unmet or unnoticed.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

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

Engagement Opportunities

CEO Drop Ins

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

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

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

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

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

Gender Equality Implications:

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

Confidential Declaration:

Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest:

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Communications Strategy:

Not applicable.



Next Steps:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr T Clark

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

CARRIED



11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

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

Introduction:

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

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

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

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

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

Next Steps:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

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



- b) Nhill Township**
- c) Rainbow Township**

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council:

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

CARRIED



11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

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

Introduction:

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr C Uoy

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

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

CARRIED



12 LATE REPORTS

No late reports.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No confidential reports.

16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No late confidential reports.

17 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 4:09pm.



JUNE 16, 2026

The Mayor and
Councillors
Hindmarsh Shire
Council
PO Box 250
Nhill VIC 3418

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

On behalf of the Nhill Silo Heritage Project Committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to a guided tour of the Noske Silo site in Nhill.

The Noske Silo is a significant piece of local history, and the Nhill Silo Heritage Project is committed to preserving and celebrating its heritage value for the Hindmarsh Shire community. We believe this site has wonderful potential, and we would welcome the opportunity to share our vision with you in person.

We would like to extend this invitation for a tour, prior to your July council meeting, at a time that suits the council's schedule. We hope this will provide a convenient opportunity for councillors to visit the site without adding significantly to your commitments. If this date is not convenient, please let us know of a more suitable day and we will do our best to accommodate.

We look forward to welcoming you and any Hindmarsh Shire staff that may wish to join the tour, and would be delighted to answer any questions you may have on the day. Should you wish to confirm attendance or discuss any details, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Heath
Secretary



Hindmarsh
Shire Council

**Administration
Centre**

PO Box 250
92 Nelson Street
Nhill VIC 3418
Ph: (03) 5391 4444
Fax: (03) 5391 1376

email:
info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

website:
www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

ABN 26 550 541 746

**Customer Service
Centres**

Jeparit

10 Roy Street
JEPARIT VIC 3423
Ph: (03) 5391 4450
Fax: (03) 5397 2263

Dimboola

101 Lloyd Street
DIMBOOLA VIC 3414
Ph: (03) 5391 4452
Fax: (03) 5389 1734

Rainbow

15 Federal Street
RAINBOW VIC 3424
Ph: (03) 5391 4451
Fax: (03) 5395 1436

11 June 2026

The Hon. Natalie Suleyman
Minister for Small and Family Business
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

Re: Public Holiday Arrangements in lieu of Melbourne Cup Day 2026

At its meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026, Hindmarsh Shire Council resolved to request the following alterations to public holiday arrangements within Hindmarsh Shire:

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

Your approval to these dates is sought and subsequent advertising in the Government Gazette would be appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email [REDACTED] or by telephone on 03 5391 4444 should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Council Briefing Session

Date: Wednesday 03 June 2026

Time: 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Assembly Location: Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street Nhill.

Present:

CRS Ron Ismay (Mayor) items 1 to 10, Rosie Barker (Deputy Mayor) items 1 to 10, Roger Aitken items 1 to 10, James Barry items 1 to 10, Tony Clark items 1 to 10, and Chan Uoy items 1 to 10.

Apologies:

None.

In Attendance:

Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 4 and 6 to 10, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 1 and 6 to 10, Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 1 and 6 to 10, and Ms. Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer) items 9 to 10.

Declaration by Councillors or Officers of any Material or General Interest in any item on the Agenda:

- Material; or
- General.

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

Councillors:

No interests declared.

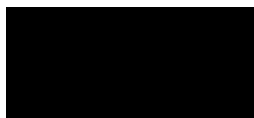


Officers:

No interests declared.

Matters Discussed:

No.	Detail
1.	LUNCH
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
3.	APOLOGIES
4.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
5.	COUNCILLOR ONLY TIME
6.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
6.1	COUNCILLOR SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS
6.2	COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES NOMINEES
6.3	SPEED REDUCTION ON ALBACUTYA ROAD RAINBOW
7.	COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME
8.	BREAK
9.	PREPARE FOR MEETING
10.	COUNCIL MEETING



Monica Revell

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 03 June 2026

This record must be kept for four years from the date of the assembly and be made available for public inspection at Council Offices for 12 months after the date of assembly.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Budget 2026/2027



Contents

Page

Messages from the Mayor and the CEO

3

Budget Reports

1. Link to the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework	4-5
2. Services and service performance indicators	6-20
3. Financial statements	21-27
4. Notes to the financial statements	28-40
5. Performance and financial indicators	41-50
6. Revenue and Rating Plan	51-57
7. Schedule of fees and charges	58-71

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It is not professional advice and should not be used, relied upon or treated as a substitute for specific professional advice. Given the changing nature of laws, rules and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions or inaccuracies in information contained in this document.

The model budget, including financial statements, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document has been accurate and complies with relevant Victorian legislation, each Council remains responsible to ensure that the budget they prepare is compliant with all statutory requirements.

Mayor and CEO's Introduction

We are pleased to present Hindmarsh Shire Council's Budget for 2026/2027.

The Budget has been developed in line with the priorities and objectives contained within the Council Plan 2025–2029 and has been informed by ongoing community feedback and engagement undertaken throughout 2025/2026.

The 2026/2027 Budget continues to focus on the following key result areas:

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

This Budget prioritises financial sustainability while continuing to invest in critical infrastructure and community assets. It has been prepared in an environment of increasing financial pressure for local government, driven by escalating costs for fuel, waste, insurance, construction and road materials, alongside constrained and uncertain funding sources available to rural and regional councils.

Community feedback continues to consistently identify road and pedestrian infrastructure as the highest priority for Council investment. In response, the 2026/2027 Budget allocates significant funding toward the maintenance, renewal and reconstruction of sealed and unsealed road works across the municipality. These investments are essential to safety, accessibility, connectivity and the long-term protection of Council's asset base.

Council remains strongly focused on maximising the efficiency of its available resources. This includes delivering more projects using Council's own staff, plant and equipment where practical, building internal capability, strengthening project planning, and ensuring value for money is achieved across all service and capital delivery. These measures help Council manage rising costs while maintaining service levels wherever possible.

Despite the funding constraints affecting rural councils, Hindmarsh Shire Council remains committed to actively pursuing State and Federal funding opportunities throughout the year to supplement Council's own investment in infrastructure, community facilities and economic development initiatives. The 2026/2027 capital works program has been developed to align with confirmed funding, while reserving a small amount of funding to support the co-contribution requirements for capital grants should opportunities arise that align with our strategic priorities.

Tourism and economic development continue to be important contributors to the resilience of Hindmarsh Shire. The Draft Budget supports projects that enhance tourism and recreation infrastructure, strengthen town centres and improve amenity for both residents and visitors, while also supporting local businesses and employment through the delivery of Council grants.

The proposed capital works program places a strong emphasis on asset renewal and preservation, recognising the importance of responsibly managing Council's extensive infrastructure network. This approach supports long-term financial sustainability and reduces future renewal and maintenance risks.

Key initiatives include reconstruction of a 1.4km section of the Dimboola Minyip Road; construction of a raised pedestrian crossing to improve safety in Hindmarsh Street Dimboola outside the Dimboola Primary School; reconstruction of the Nhill Diapur Road close to the Diapur swamp; reconstruction of the Woorak Ni Ni Lorquon Road between Lorquon Station Road and Marshalls Road; and upgrades to the Dimboola Outdoor Pool.

The Budget proposes a rate increase in accordance with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, as determined by the Essential Services Commission. Council has again carefully balanced the need to fund essential services and infrastructure against ongoing cost-of-living pressures being experienced by households and businesses.

Annual property revaluations mean individual rate outcomes may vary. Council recognises that some residents may experience financial hardship and encourages anyone experiencing difficulty paying their rates to contact Council to discuss available support and payment options.

Importantly, the 2026/2027 budget supports the continued delivery of Council's key strategic documents, including the Council Plan 2025–2029, Long Term Financial Plan 2025–2035 and Workforce Plan 2025–2029, ensuring strong governance, organisational capability and responsible financial management.

We thank our community for their continued engagement and feedback in shaping a Budget that reflects shared priorities and supports a resilient, sustainable future for Hindmarsh Shire.

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

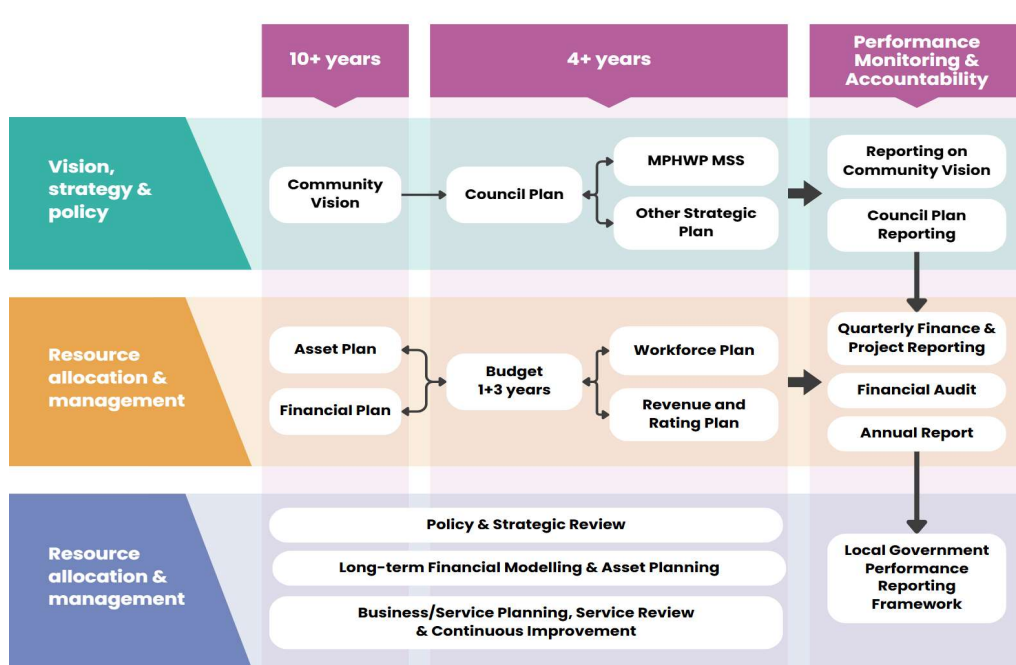
Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

1. Link to the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated strategic planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision, Financial Plan and Asset Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Department of Government Services

The timing of each component of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services - such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning - most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and the management and maintenance of sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works. Community consultation needs to be in line with a councils adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

1.2 Our purpose



1.3 Strategic objectives

Council delivers services and initiatives under 46 service categories. Each contributes to the achievement of one of the four Key Result Areas (KRA) set out in the Council Plan for the years 2025-2029. The following table lists the four KRA as described in the Council Plan.

Strategic Objective	Description
Our Community	<p>Our community is active, healthy and connected - <i>we support physical and mental well-being by providing accessible spaces, services and opportunities to connect.</i></p> <p>Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing - <i>we celebrate diversity, support newcomers and plan for sustainable population growth.</i></p> <p>Our community can access services when and where they need them - <i>we advocate for and enable access to essential services that support daily life.</i></p>
Built and Natural Environment	<p>We care for and connect with our natural environment - <i>we provide access to nature and manage it for current and future generations.</i></p> <p>Our infrastructure supports livability and resilience - <i>we maintain infrastructure to a sustainable standard and plan for future community needs.</i></p> <p>We support development that enhances needs-based growth - <i>we work to ensure that housing and development in Hindmarsh meets our current and future community needs.</i></p>
Competitive and Innovative Economy	<p>Our local businesses are supported to grow - <i>we create conditions that help existing businesses to thrive and new ones to succeed.</i></p> <p>We attract investment that aligns with community values - <i>we position Hindmarsh as a region of choice for industries that reflect our identity and increase employment.</i></p> <p>We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries - <i>we drive economic growth through encouraging diverse and bold investment opportunities.</i></p>
Good Governance & Financial Sustainability	<p>We are a transparent and responsive organisation - <i>we keep our community informed and follow through on commitments.</i></p> <p>We engage our community with respect and openness - <i>we listen well, follow up and value personal interaction.</i></p> <p>We manage our resources responsibly and strategically - <i>we make the most of what we have and invest in what matters most.</i></p>

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2026/2027 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.



Source: Department of Government Services

2.1 Strategic Objective 1: Our Community

The services, initiatives, major initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described over the following pages.

Service area	Description of services provided		2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget
Community Development	Councils Community Development Team works with community groups, organisations and individuals to assist communities reach their aspirations and be healthy, active, and engaged.	Operating Expenditure	252,578	564,044	204,099
		Operating Revenue	247,252	132,024	8,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	5,326	432,020	196,099
		Capital Expenditure	187,087	-	-

Initiatives:

- Support and celebrate volunteering and work collaboratively with volunteer groups.
- Provide ongoing financial assistance and operational support for town committees to ensure they remain strong and focused conduits between community and Council and that their statutory obligations are met.
- Work towards outcomes and projects identified and prioritised in Community Action Plans and other strategic community planning documents.
- Establish stronger links with the indigenous community through the Barengi Gadjin Land Council.
- Continue to support the integration of migrants into the community.

Service area	Description of services provided		2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget
Maternal and Child Health Centres	Maintain Maternal and Child Health facilities in Dimboola and Nhill. Council provides support to early years' services through the Municipal Early Years Plan. Council does not provide Maternal and Child Health Services. This service is provided by West Wimmera Health Services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	970	1,250	1,250
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	970	1,250	1,250
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Support the delivery of Maternal Child Health services through West Wimmera Health Service

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
As Council does not have operational control over the delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services, the prescribed indicators for performance and prescribed measures have not been included in this budget.			

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Kindergarten Services	Provision of Kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow under contract with Emerge. Council does not directly deliver Kindergarten Services.	Operating Expenditure	153,280	259,070	83,828
		Operating Revenue	440,157	112,154	69,331
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(286,877)	146,916	14,497
		Capital Expenditure	323,549	51,015	-

Initiatives:

- Support the contracted delivery of kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow, and ensure buildings comply with Department of Education and Training regulations.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing of and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	161,352	330,519	183,768
		Operating Revenue	134,251	103,000	93,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	27,101	227,519	90,768
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Facilitation of youth activities including school holiday activities as well as Amplify and Engage! events.
- Broaden the engagement of young people in the Shire and continue to facilitate the Hindmarsh Youth Council.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Aged & Disability Services	Council's Aged and Disability Services aim to support people to remain socially connected in the community through positive ageing activities.	Operating Expenditure	82,194	103,038	70,412
		Operating Revenue	12,889	(1,700)	2,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	69,305	104,738	68,412
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Deliver positive ageing services, including events, education and social engagement.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Public Order & Safety	Educate the community about public order and safety and enforce Council's compliance with the local laws when required. Operate the school crossing on the Western Highway in Nhill and maintain school crossings throughout the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	190,763	246,525	191,905
		Operating Revenue	87,197	92,072	92,272
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	103,566	154,453	99,633
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Educate the community in responsible pet ownership.
- Education and enforcement in animal control and local laws, with a particular focus on animal registration and littering.
- Operation and maintenance of the animal pound.
- Enforcement of breaches of animal control regulations.
- Assist with the identification and implementation of initiatives that ensures residents' safety and wellbeing are met.
- Continue implementation of Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Health Promotion	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	Operating Expenditure	186,233	218,327	202,019
		Operating Revenue	48,572	39,410	41,130
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	137,661	178,917	160,889
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Education and enforcement of the legislative regulations pertaining to food preparation, storage and handling, accommodation houses, hairdressers and other licensed premises.
- Issue permits for the installation of septic tanks.
- Work with communities to educate on and improve environmental health issues.
- Continue to implement Municipal Public Health and Community Wellbeing Plan.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill, and improving services to Jeparit and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	245,916	272,628	279,286
		Operating Revenue	139,532	177,107	129,206
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	106,384	95,521	150,080
		Capital Expenditure	30,711	87,301	46,000

Initiatives:

- Support library based initiatives to encourage people to enhance their learning and social connection.

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Libraries	Participation	Library membership	Number of registered library members compared to population

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	93,237	134,035	121,014
		Operating Revenue	20,577	6,700	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	72,660	127,335	116,014
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Promote and support activities during Volunteer Week, Children's Week, Youth Week, and Senior's Week.
- Promote activities to celebrate International Day for People with a Disability and Harmony Day.
- Support community groups to identify external grant opportunities.
- Assist community groups and project working groups to manage and implement projects in accordance with funding agreements.
- Encourage social connectedness through New Resident Meet and Greet Barbecues in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow hosted by relevant community groups including Town Advisory Committees, and/or Progress Associations.
- Promote and support regional community events.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	Operating Expenditure	68,532	100,698	65,843
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	68,532	100,698	65,843
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Support from staff to achieve long term infrastructure needs in relation to sports and recreation.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Early Years	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	Operating Expenditure	9,523	8,289	7,015
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	9,523	8,289	7,015
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

2.2 Strategic Objective 2: Built & Natural Environment

To achieve our KRA **Built and Natural Environment**, our mission is to provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
		Actual	Forecast	Budget	
Local Roads & Bridges	Provide safe, all-weather access to residences and allow for efficient transport of goods to and from the Shire. • The aim of the road network is to provide property access for local traffic. Council endeavours to provide all-weather access to existing residential homes and dry weather access roads to non-residential properties. • Council's road network comprises 573 kilometres of sealed roads, 845 kilometres of gravel roads (all-weather) and approximately 1470 kilometres of earth roads (dry-weather only, some contain gravel sections, though not maintained to an all-weather standard). The network also comprises six bridges and a significant number of large culverts. • Department of Transport and Planning is responsible for main roads (arterial roads) including highways and marked routes. Similarly, state government agencies are responsible for roads and tracks within declared parks such as the Little Desert, Big Desert and along the Wimmera River.	Operating Expenditure	6,243,419	5,425,420	5,265,037
		Operating Revenue	1,928,439	1,952,210	2,118,810
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	4,314,980	3,473,210	3,146,227
		Capital Expenditure	2,764,186	4,229,345	4,177,723

Routine Maintenance:

The primary aim of the routine maintenance program is to keep the existing network in a serviceable condition. Council's aim is to conduct inspections and provide maintenance according to the Road Management Plan (RMP) which includes:

- Inspection frequency by road classification;
- Risk assessment and response times;
- Services levels and standards; and
- Assessment with roads hierarchy.

Council will undertake programmed inspections in a timely manner to identify defects. These defects are programmed for repair in accordance with the RMP which take account of the road hierarchy and seriousness of the defect.

In addition, reactive inspections are carried out in response to customer action requests. These inspections are carried out within one week of the request and required repairs scheduled as per the RMP. All customer action requests are co-ordinated through Council's asset management system.

Other activities carried out include:

- Sealed roads - shoulder grading, pavement patching, crack sealing, edge repairs and line-marking.
- Unsealed roads - grading of gravel roads on an annual or as needs basis where funds allow.
- Formed only roads – grading on an as needs priority basis as funds allow (on average once in every 5 years).
- Replacement and maintenance of road signage and guideposts.

Capital Expenditure: (Refer to Capital Works Program for further details)

Council's capital expenditure on road assets is split into two basic categories. These are new/upgrade or renewal.

The majority of Council's capital expenditure is spent on renewal to ensure that the current service levels are maintained. In 2021, Council appointed an external road condition assessor to benchmark the performance of Council's road assets. The results of this assessment determined that the level of expenditure required to maintain the network to a serviceable level is \$2.61 million

Council aims to divide the renewal expenditure into the following asset classes:

- Sealed pavement and shoulders - Council's goal is to reconstruct \$1,000,000 per year. The average useful life of this asset class is 88 years.
- Bituminous seals - Council's goal is to reseal \$630,000 per year. The average useful life of this asset class is 19 years.
- Unsealed roads - Council's goal is to resheet \$700,000 per year. The average useful life of this asset class is 30 years.
- Kerbs - Council's goal is to renew kerbs worth \$280,000 per year. The average useful life of this asset class is 100 years.
- Bridges - The average useful life of this asset class is 100 years.

Major Initiatives:

- Undertake Unsealed Road Construction, gravel resheets on Perenna Rd, Greigs Rd and Greigs/McKenzie Rds, Patterson Rd, Gierke Rd, Allans Rd, Oak Rd and Teakles Rd;
- Undertake shoulder resheets on Old Minyip Rd, Kiata South Rd, Pigick Bus Route Rd and Salisbury Woorak Rd;
- Undertake sealed road construction including major stabilised patching, Nhill Diapur Rd, Dimboola Minyip Rd, Lorquon Netherby Rd, Pigick Bus Route Rd and Woorak Ni Ni Lorquon Rd;
- Undertake reseals on Rainbow Nhill Rd and Lorquon East Rd.

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Roads	Environment	Sealed local roads below the intervention level	Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads.

Additional grants may become available, and natural disaster recovery works may be undertaken during the financial year, however the extent and timing is yet to be determined. Any additional works will be funded/reimbursed by the State/Commonwealth and will not impact on the budgeted result of Council.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Drainage Management	Well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	Operating Expenditure	1,023,156	501,951	556,129
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,023,156	501,951	556,129
		Capital Expenditure	12,083	163,655	133,694

Initiatives:

- Maintenance of Council's drainage systems including open drains and culverts, an extensive underground drain network and kerb and channel.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Paths & Trails	Well maintained pedestrian access, including disabled access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	Operating Expenditure	316,595	314,928	280,527
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	316,595	314,928	280,527
		Capital Expenditure	81,203	307,164	99,859

Initiatives: (Refer to the Capital Works Program for further details).

- Council will inspect and maintain the existing network of 40 kilometres of footpaths in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan.
- Maintenance will include grinding to remove tripping edges and removal of hazards.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Tree Management	Conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens, and recreation reserves.	Operating Expenditure	258,415	371,898	325,178
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	258,415	371,898	325,178
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Undertake reactive and programmed inspections in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan in relation to nature strip trees that impede footpaths.
- Trim, remove and replace urban trees as necessary. Maintenance of trees is prioritised to ensure a safe passage for pedestrian, access for vehicle traffic and to protect infrastructure.
- Undertake proactive inspections of trees located in high trafficked areas such as parks and recreation reserves for safety purposes.
- Trim and remove rural trees as necessary for road safety purposes.
- Liaise with Powercor and its agencies in relation to trimming and removal of trees under power lines.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Town Beautification	Maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	923,442	1,064,813	918,410
		Operating Revenue	29,155	6,520	10,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	894,287	1,058,293	908,410
		Capital Expenditure	94,343	158,334	-

Initiatives:

- Mechanical street sweeping of commercial and urban areas eight times per year.
- Cleaning and maintenance of 18 public toilets located within the four towns.
- Maintenance of grassed parks and open spaces to enhance the amenity of each town.
- Delivery of reactive and programmed inspections in relation to Council-controlled playgrounds.
- Maintenance of playground equipment and soft fall at the 15 playgrounds within the four towns.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Council Buildings	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled community buildings.	Operating Expenditure	640,464	857,789	1,023,862
		Operating Revenue	1,189	1,700	1,750
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	639,275	856,089	1,022,112
		Capital Expenditure	24,787	250,000	150,000

Initiatives:

- Maintenance of all Council owned and controlled buildings.
- Inspections and safety audits of buildings.
- Implementation and monitoring of hire agreements for buildings.
- Continue to promote the Nhill Memorial Community Centre.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Recreation Facilities	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council owned and controlled recreational land, buildings and facilities. Council also supports groups that undertake these activities on behalf of Council.	Operating Expenditure	1,983,520	1,141,428	788,789
		Operating Revenue	329,001	617,670	420,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,654,519	523,758	368,289
		Capital Expenditure	2,042,856	1,601,027	430,000

Initiatives:

- Maintenance of Council-owned and controlled recreational buildings and facilities.

Major Initiatives:

- Improvements to Dimboola Pool.

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Aquatic Facilities	Environment	Health inspections of council registered aquatic facilities	number of inspections of Council registered category 1 aquatic facilities / Number of Council registered category 1 aquatic facilities

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	1,775,675	1,921,636	1,862,718
		Operating Revenue	1,521,913	1,506,343	1,568,440
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	253,762	415,293	294,278
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	300,000

Initiatives:

- Weekly kerbside collection of garbage bins.
- Fortnightly kerbside collection of recycle bins.
- Twelve weekly kerbside collection of glass bins for residents.
- Manage the operations of transfer stations.
- Regular removal of litter from commercial and urban areas.
- One free green waste month per year.

Major Initiatives:

- Processing unit for FOGO at Dimboola Transfer Station.

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Waste Management	Environment	Kerbside collection waste to landfill	Waste in tonnage collected from kerbside collection services sent to landfill / number of serviced properties

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	Operating Expenditure	234,986	249,854	278,353
		Operating Revenue	245,539	100,000	130,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(10,553)	149,854	148,353
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Coordinate the timely extraction and crushing of suitable quarry materials to ensure sufficient quantities are available for Council's maintenance and capital projects.
- Ensure quarries are operated and rehabilitated in line with work authority guidelines and statutory obligations.
- Researching and exploring new gravel supplies.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	Operating Expenditure	27,564	31,478	52,151
		Operating Revenue	-	34,687	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	27,564	(3,209)	52,151
		Capital Expenditure	1,626	35,000	-

Initiatives:

- Maintenance of navigational aids on Council-controlled waterways including Dimboola and Jeparit weir pools and Lake Hindmarsh.
- Implement management arrangements for the Dimboola and Jeparit weirs.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Environmental Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	Operating Expenditure	222,778	260,715	254,464
		Operating Revenue	122,911	163,297	153,320
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	99,867	97,418	101,144
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Continue to work with local Landcare groups.
- Host Hindmarsh Landcare Facilitator role.
- Implement Council's Roadside Management Strategy.
- Work with Landcare Groups on pest plants and pest animals.
- Explore innovative waste management options for green waste.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Fire Prevention	Identification of potential fire hazards and prevention of loss of life and property caused by fire.	Operating Expenditure	110,282	132,597	133,753
		Operating Revenue	11,856	36,000	23,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	98,426	96,597	110,253
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Conduct annual inspections of properties that may pose a fire risk.
- Issue notices to property owners to remove potential fire risks.
- Slashing or spraying of roadsides to reduce fire hazards.
- Review the Municipal Fire Management Plan.

2.3 Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy

To achieve our KRA **Competitive and Innovative Economy**, our mission is to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Economic Development	Facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for residents to access employment.	Operating Expenditure	163,571	172,262	190,816
		Operating Revenue	(43,335)	3,000	3,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	206,906	169,262	187,816
		Capital Expenditure	1,200	50,000	141,000

Initiatives:

- Implementation of Hindmarsh Economic Development Strategy.
- Represent Council at local, regional and state shows and expos in order to market the Shire's liveability, tourism assets and opportunities.
- Support local business associations and local businesses.
- Membership of Rural Councils Victoria.
- Support and promote caravan and camping accommodation within the Shire.
- Provide support and advocate on behalf of newly migrated residents.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Tourism	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	Operating Expenditure	330,818	313,407	222,845
		Operating Revenue	1,280,991	280,713	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(950,173)	32,694	222,845
		Capital Expenditure	1,305,504	774,623	10,000

Initiatives:

- Work collaboratively with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre Volunteers.
- Assist community based groups and project working groups to manage projects promoting tourism growth.
- Work with Yurunga Homestead and Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committees of Management to assist them to promote and market their respective assets in order for them to realise their tourism potential.
- Support innovative community-driven events and festivals that stimulate growth in the region.
- Continue to replace old town entry and tourism signs with newly designed signs.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Private Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of private civil works services. • Provide quotations for private works undertaken by Council's works department to residents, contractors and other authorities. • Potential private works include grading of farm driveways, grading of fence lines, construction of driveway cross-overs, and supply of labour, plant and materials. • Private works also include repair to Council's infrastructure caused by repair work to third party assets. 	Operating Expenditure	252,097	415,767	51,221
		Operating Revenue	226,771	2,367,831	30,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	25,326	(1,952,064)	21,221
		Capital Expenditure	-	3,000	-

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	Operating Expenditure	1,167,038	1,173,183	1,197,051
		Operating Revenue	1,427,440	1,649,954	1,510,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(260,402)	(476,771)	(312,949)
		Capital Expenditure	141,459	512,835	-

Initiatives:

- Maintenance and enhancement of buildings and grounds at Council Holiday Parks parks and camping grounds.
- Continue the implementation of the Holiday Park masterplans.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Land Use Planning	To ensure that any development that occurs in Hindmarsh Shire is carried out in accordance with relevant planning policies, principals and controls.	Operating Expenditure	254,763	329,378	141,171
		Operating Revenue	64,526	39,550	33,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	190,237	289,828	107,671
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Provide customers with advice on planning scheme requirements.
- Prepare and assess planning scheme amendments and consider planning permit applications.
- Represent Council at Panel Hearings and at Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- Undertake planning scheme compliance checks when necessary.
- Process subdivisions and planning certificates.

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Statutory Planning	Responsiveness	Planning applications decided within relevant required time	Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / number of planning application decisions made

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community	Operating Expenditure	229,517	222,796	267,381
		Operating Revenue	29,801	28,500	31,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	199,716	194,296	235,881
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Carry out Council's statutory private building requirements.
- Issuing of building permits and certificates.
- Receipt and recording of building permits undertaken by private building surveyors.
- Undertake building enforcement and compliance checks.
- Provision of reports to the Building Control Commission.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome	Operating Expenditure	82,461	105,194	72,826
		Operating Revenue	60,694	5,000	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	21,767	100,194	67,826
		Capital Expenditure	238,585	-	40,000

Initiatives:

- Scheduled inspections and maintenance at the Nhill Aerodrome.
- Provide support to the Nhill Aerodrome Masterplan Advisory Committee to update and implement the Nhill Aerodrome Master Plan.

Major Initiatives:

- Contribution to support the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre expansion

2.4 Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

To achieve our KRA **Good Governance and Financial Sustainability**, our mission is to promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability, and to advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Civic Governance & Leadership	To ensure that Council provides effective leadership and that its decisions are transparent, inclusive and based on sound recommendations and advice.	Operating Expenditure	1,138,486	1,638,386	1,783,219
		Operating Revenue	-	500	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,138,486	1,637,886	1,783,219
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Management support for the Mayor and Council.
- Regular media releases and newsletters to inform the community of current issues.
- Lobbying of politicians and government departments.
- Collaboration with neighbouring Councils through the Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance.
- Advocacy on behalf of the community on key local government issues.
- Memberships include Municipal Association of Victoria, and Rural Council Victoria.
- Community Satisfaction Survey.

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Community engagement	Governance	Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted or engaged in Council decisions	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Customer Service Centre	Operation and maintenance of customer service centres to provide facilities from which Council can efficiently deliver services to the community. Provision of information to ratepayers and the general public on a broad range of services provided by Council and other government agencies.	Operating Expenditure	452,109	430,326	456,711
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	452,109	430,326	456,711
		Capital Expenditure	67,365	38,598	5,000

Initiatives:

- Responsive customer services to community through telephone, in person and email.
- Seek improvement in the community satisfaction survey conducted annually.
- Provision of licensing and registration services on behalf of VicRoads.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Council Elections	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council.	Operating Expenditure	97,430	17,779	13,675
		Operating Revenue	6,249	4,000	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	91,181	13,779	13,675
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Financial Management	To ensure the efficient and effective allocation of resources through sound financial planning and management that secures the long term financial viability of the municipality.	Operating Expenditure	427,708	474,203	535,999
		Operating Revenue	9,478,648	5,275,041	6,538,752
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(9,050,940)	(4,800,838)	(6,002,753)
		Capital Expenditure	-	228,648	-

Initiatives:

- Preparation of Council's annual budget, including the capital works budget, and refinement of Council's 10 year financial plan to aide in Council's long term financial sustainability.
- Preparation of Council's Annual Financial Report.
- Preparation of management reports to Council and Senior Managers.
- Support of the internal and external audit functions.
- Continued lobbying of governments for additional funding and resources.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Rating and Valuations	Management of Council's rating system including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges.	Operating Expenditure	220,163	301,250	340,210
		Operating Revenue	8,718,501	9,027,129	9,222,496
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(8,498,338)	(8,725,879)	(8,882,286)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Review and implementation of Council's Rating Plan.
- Maintenance of property and valuation records, including supplementary valuations.
- Administering Pensioner rate concessions on behalf of the State Government.
- Issue of quarterly Rates and Valuations notices.
- Collection of rates and legal action where necessary.
- Collection and remittance of the State Governments Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund Levy.
- Issue of Land Information Certificates.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Records Management	Effective and efficient recording, storage, retrieval and disposal of records in line with the standards of the Public Records Office of Victoria.	Operating Expenditure	89,840	62,562	68,314
		Operating Revenue	-	-	100
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	89,840	62,562	68,214
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Further enhance the MagiQ records module.
- Provide training and development for staff to implement further efficiencies and features in the records management system.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	Operating Expenditure	382,675	590,161	563,781
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	382,675	590,161	563,781
		Capital Expenditure	68,348	85,000	85,000

Major Initiatives:

- Continue the collaboration with neighboring Councils in the Rural Council's Transformation Project.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Risk Management	Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure.	Operating Expenditure	608,310	788,850	900,250
		Operating Revenue	64,907	10,000	10,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	543,403	778,850	890,250
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Monitor and review the Risk Register.
- Regular review of the risks and control measures by Senior Management.
- Ensuring that Council's assets and interests are insured adequately against risk.
- Management of WorkCover Authority insurance and work place injury claims.
- Advise staff and contractors in relation to Workplace Health and Safety.
- Ensure that Council is aware of, and complies with, all of its statutory obligations.
- Integrate risk management into all Council projects, conducting risk assessments at the strategic, planning and implementation stages.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
		Actual	Forecast	Budget	
Project and Contract Management	Preparation of contract specifications; administration of tender processes and management of Council's contracted services.	Operating Expenditure	171,908	335,241	360,336
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	171,908	335,241	360,336
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Tender preparation and specification development.
- Supervision and management of contracted Council services.
- Ensure that Council's tendering processes (including awarding of tenders and appointment of contractors) comply with Council purchasing policies and statutory obligations.
- Ensure value for money and best products are achieved.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
		Actual	Forecast	Budget	
Payroll and Human Resources Services	Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of Human Resources services to management.	Operating Expenditure	344,741	392,846	379,760
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	344,741	392,846	379,760
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Review payroll processes for employees.
- Ensure compliance with legislation and Council's Enterprise Agreement.
- Support and promote work experience, apprenticeships and cadetships.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
		Actual	Forecast	Budget	
Emergency Management	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	Operating Expenditure	181,745	60,697	72,100
		Operating Revenue	36,543	26,700	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	145,202	33,997	72,100
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Training for staff undertaking emergency management roles.
- Actively participate in the Wimmera Emergency Management Cluster with Horsham Rural City Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council, and West Wimmera Shire Council.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
		Actual	Forecast	Budget	
Depots & Workshops	Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment.	Operating Expenditure	2,883,758	2,198,191	2,551,448
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	2,883,758	2,198,191	2,551,448
		Capital Expenditure	737,651	1,546,917	564,000

Initiatives:

- Securely house plant, equipment and materials.
- Provide a base for the outdoor staff.
- Provide a location to carry out maintenance and repairs of Council's plant and equipment.
- Purchase and maintain plant and equipment to enable the delivery of works.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Asset Management	Provision of skills, resources and systems to ensure the most efficient and effective management of Council's assets. • Ensure that Council targets the correct level of asset expenditure to achieve and maintain the desired levels of service into the foreseeable future. • Ensure that Council's asset renewal expenditure targets the most critical assets. • Provide regular condition and defect audits of Council's assets to ensure safety and levels of service are maintained. • Provide Council's asset valuations.	Operating Expenditure	369,053	337,233	184,104
		Operating Revenue	4,619	3,000	3,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	364,434	334,233	181,104
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Continued review of Council's roads hierarchy and Road Management Plan.
- Management and maintenance of Council's electronic asset management system. The system is used as a repository for infrastructure asset data, and used to manage asset related inspections and corrective actions, and customer action requests.
- Further develop Council's electronic asset management system to store and manage all of Council's asset related data.
- Protect and monitor Council's assets in relation to private works including:
 - o Inspections
 - o Road Opening Permits
 - o Act as a planning referral body
- An asset inspection program which includes:
 - o Up to three (3) road inspections per year (including a night time inspection);
 - o Monthly inspections of kindergartens, playgrounds, exercise equipment and skate parks across the four (4) towns;
 - o Swimming pool inspections four (4) times per year;
 - o Six (6) bridge and numerous car park inspections twice per year;
 - o 542 Fire Plug inspections annually;
 - o Tree inspections twice per year in high use public areas; and
 - o Reactive inspections as a result of Customer Action Requests.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Fleet Management	Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is managed, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and efficient way possible.	Operating Expenditure	366,248	286,458	125,191
		Operating Revenue	77,093	60,000	60,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	289,155	226,458	65,191
		Capital Expenditure	373,270	233,500	253,000

Initiatives:

- Timely maintenance of fleet vehicles.
- Purchase and replacement of fleet vehicles in accordance with Council policy.

Service area	Description of services provided	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Budget	
Accounts	Receival of payments from debtors in an efficient and timely manner.	Operating Expenditure	78,183	93,161	115,287
		Operating Revenue	16,143	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	62,040	93,161	115,287
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Initiatives:

- Monthly invoicing of accounts.
- Ensure Council's Outstanding Debtor are followed up in a timely manner.
- Regular reports to management on outstanding debtors. Maintenance of secure payment systems and processes.
- Payment of invoices in accordance with Council's payment terms (within 30 days).
- All payments to be made via EFT or Direct Credit.

2.5 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

	Net Cost	Expenditure	Revenue
Our Community	(975,500)	1,415,439	439,939
Built & Natural Environment	(7,313,021)	11,739,341	4,426,320
Competitive & Innovative Economy	(525,311)	2,138,311	1,613,000
Good Governance & Financial Sustainability	(3,171,973)	8,450,385	5,278,412
Total	(11,985,805)	23,743,476	11,757,671
Deficit before funding sources	(11,985,805)		
Funding sources added in:			
Rates and charges revenue	9,222,496		
Waste charge revenue	1,333,440		
Total funding sources	10,555,936		
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	(1,429,869)		

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2026/27 has been supplemented with projections to 2029/30

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works
Statement of Human Resources

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000
Income / Revenue						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	10,344	10,630	10,921	11,190	11,465
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	180	162	166	170	175
User fees	4.1.3	2,186	1,879	1,926	1,974	2,023
Grants - operating	4.1.4	3,561	6,194	6,278	6,435	6,596
Grants - capital	4.1.4	6,733	2,519	1,902	1,902	1,902
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	33	7	-	-	-
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		125	320	133	137	141
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures		17	-	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.6	601	493	391	358	312
Total income / revenue		23,780	22,204	21,717	22,166	22,614
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	9,909	9,914	10,016	10,305	10,606
Materials and services	4.1.8	7,522	6,020	6,296	6,749	6,948
Depreciation	4.1.9	5,942	6,195	6,356	6,512	6,670
Other expenses	4.1.10	1,800	1,504	1,542	1,581	1,620
Total expenses		25,172	23,633	24,210	25,147	25,844
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,392)	(1,430)	(2,493)	(2,982)	(3,230)
Total comprehensive result		(1,392)	(1,430)	(2,493)	(2,982)	(3,230)

Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		7,153	5,535	5,013	3,953	2,747
Trade and other receivables		1,574	1,349	1,377	1,395	1,413
Inventories		117	119	119	119	119
Other assets		160	130	130	130	130
Total current assets	4.2.1	9,004	7,133	6,639	5,597	4,409
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		174	174	174	174	174
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		287,587	287,827	285,801	283,879	281,844
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	287,760	288,001	285,975	284,053	282,018
Total assets		296,764	295,134	292,614	289,650	286,427
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		735	485	444	462	469
Trust funds and deposits		142	121	121	121	121
Unearned income		-	-	15	15	15
Provisions		2,245	2,294	2,294	2,294	2,294
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	3,121	2,900	2,874	2,892	2,899
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		513	533	533	533	533
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	513	533	533	533	533
Total liabilities		3,634	3,433	3,407	3,425	3,432
Net assets		293,130	291,701	289,207	286,225	282,995
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		82,946	81,516	79,023	76,041	72,811
Reserves		210,184	210,184	210,184	210,184	210,184
Total equity		293,130	291,701	289,207	286,225	282,995

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
2026 Forecast Actual				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		294,522	84,338	210,184
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,392)	(1,392)	-
Balance at end of the financial year		293,131	82,946	210,184
2027 Budget				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		293,131	82,946	210,184
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,430)	(1,430)	-
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.2	291,701	81,516	210,184
2028				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		291,700	81,516	210,184
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,493)	(2,493)	-
Balance at end of the financial year		289,207	79,023	210,184
2029				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		289,207	79,023	210,184
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,982)	(2,982)	-
Balance at end of the financial year		286,225	76,041	210,184
2030				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		286,225	76,041	210,184
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(3,230)	(3,230)	-
Balance at end of the financial year		282,995	72,811	210,184

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	Notes	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		10,294	10,619	10,893	11,172	11,446
Statutory fees and fines		51	152	166	170	175
User fees		2,235	2,154	1,926	1,974	2,023
Grants - operating		5,279	6,190	6,278	6,435	6,596
Grants - capital		5,016	2,522	1,902	1,902	1,902
Contributions - monetary		33	7	-	-	-
Interest received		380	330	224	192	148
Other receipts		237	163	167	166	164
Employee costs		(9,863)	(9,868)	(10,015)	(10,306)	(10,606)
Materials and services		(9,459)	(7,773)	(7,864)	(8,312)	(8,561)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.4.1	4,203	4,497	3,676	3,393	3,288
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(10,356)	(6,435)	(4,331)	(4,590)	(4,635)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		125	320	133	137	141
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	4.4.2	(10,231)	(6,115)	(4,198)	(4,453)	(4,494)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(6,028)	(1,618)	(522)	(1,060)	(1,206)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		13,181	7,153	5,535	5,013	3,953
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		7,153	5,535	5,013	3,953	2,747

Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property						
Land		-	-	-	-	-
Total land		-	-	-	-	-
Buildings		966	150	250	250	250
Total buildings		966	150	250	250	250
Total property		966	150	250	250	250
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		1,618	717	1,000	1,200	1,000
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		56	5	5	5	5
Computers and telecommunications		85	85	75	75	75
Library books		40	46	40	40	40
Total plant and equipment		1,799	853	1,120	1,320	1,120
Infrastructure						
Roads		4,229	4,178	1,766	1,801	1,947
Bridges		-	-	330	337	364
Footpaths and cycleways		310	100	535	545	590
Drainage		164	134	330	337	364
Other infrastructure		2,888	1,021	-	-	-
Total infrastructure		7,591	5,432	2,961	3,020	3,265
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	10,356	6,435	4,331	4,590	4,635
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		1,855	300	-	-	-
Asset renewal expenditure		7,687	5,945	4,331	4,590	4,635
Asset expansion expenditure		-	40	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure		815	150	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	10,356	6,435	4,331	4,590	4,635
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		5,388	2,684	1,902	1,902	1,902
Contributions		33	-	-	-	-
Council cash		4,935	3,751	2,429	2,688	2,733
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	10,356	6,435	4,331	4,590	4,635

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	9,909	9,914	10,016	10,305	10,606
Employee costs - capital	1,220	1,135	1,170	1,205	1,241
Total staff expenditure	11,129	11,049	11,186	11,510	11,847
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
Total staff numbers	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises		
	2026/27	Permanent		
	\$'000	Full Time	Part time	Casual
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Civic Governance	809	809	-	-
Corporate and Community Services	3,986	2,704	810	472
Infrastructure	5,120	4,409	647	63
Total permanent staff expenditure	9,914	7,922	1,457	535
Capitalised labour costs	1,135			
Total expenditure	11,049			

A summary of human resources operational expenditure categorised according to the funding source is included below:

Department	Budget
	2026/27
	\$'000
Total permanent staff expenditure - Council Funded	8,675
Total permanent staff expenditure - Grant Funded	557
Total permanent staff expenditure - Holiday Parks	682
	9,914

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises		
	2026/27	Permanent		
		Full Time	Part time	Casual
Civic Governance	3.0	3.00	-	-
Corporate and Community Services	36.2	22.00	8.70	5.46
Infrastructure	60.8	54.00	6.00	0.75
Total staff	99.9	79.00	14.70	6.21

4. Notes to the financial statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2026/27 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 2.75% in line with the rate cap.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2026/27 to \$10,629,568.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2025/26		2026/27		Change	%
	Forecast	Actual	Budget			
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000		
General rates*	8,141		8,363	222	2.73%	
Municipal charge*	765		773	8	1.08%	
Service rates and charges	1,293		1,333	40	3.09%	
Revenue in lieu of rates	145		160	15	10.34%	
Total rates and charges	10,344		10,630	285	2.76%	

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2025/26 cents/\$CIV*	2026/27 cents/\$CIV*	Change
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.0019954	0.0020680	3.64%
General rate for rateable farm land	0.0017958	0.0018612	3.64%
General rate for rateable industrial & commercial properties	0.0017958	0.0018612	3.64%
General rate for recreational & cultural land	0.0009977	0.0010340	3.64%
General rat for urban vacant land	0.0039907	0.0041360	3.64%

(* Use CIV or NAV depending on the valuation basis used by the Council)

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2025/26	2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Residential	1,226	1,288	62	5.06%
Farm	6,729	6,864	135	2.00%
Commercial & Industrial	134	155	22	16.19%
Recreational & cultural	3	3	0	5.18%
Urban vacant land	50	53	3	5.76%
Total amount to be raised by general rates	8,141	8,363	222	2.72%

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2025/26	2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Residential	2,593	2,604	11	0.42%
Farm	2,121	2,126	5	0.24%
Commercial & Industrial	325	324	(1)	-0.31%
Recreational & cultural	15	15	-	0.00%
Urban vacant land	169	175	6	3.55%
Total number of assessments	5,223	5,244	21	0.40%

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2025/26	2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Residential	608,705	621,291	12,586	2.07%
Farm	3,747,809	3,688,559	(59,251)	-1.58%
Commercial & Industrial	74,683	83,444	8,761	11.73%
Recreational & cultural	3,038	3,143	105	3.46%
Urban vacant land	12,499	12,614	115	0.92%
Total value of land	4,446,734	4,409,050	(37,684)	-0.85%

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2025/26	Per Rateable Property 2026/27	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal	205	205	-	0.00%

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2025/26	2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Municipal	765	773	8	1.04%

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year and detailed disclosure of the actual service/s rendered for the amount levied

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2025/26	Per Rateable Property 2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
<i>Kerbside waste/recycling collection charge</i>	478	480	2	0.42%
Total	478	480	2	0.42%

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2025/26	2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Kerbside collection & recycling	1,293	1,333	40	3.09%
Total	1,293	1,333	40	3.09%

4.1.1(k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year

	2025/26	2026/27	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General rates	8,141	8,363	222	2.73%
Municipal charge	765	773	8	1.04%
Kerbside collection & recycling	1,293	1,333	40	3.13%
Windfarm in lieu of rates	145	160	15	10.34%
Total Rates and charges	10,344	10,630	285	2.76%

4.1.1(l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Hindmarsh Shire Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2025/26	2026/27
Total Rates	\$ 8,132	\$ 8,363
Number of rateable properties	5,197	5,244
Base Average Rate	1.564754666	1.594749809
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	3.00%	2.75%
Capped Average Rate	\$ 1,712	\$ 1,742
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$ 8,904	\$ 9,144
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$ 8,898	\$ 9,134
Budgeted Supplementary Rates	\$ -	\$ -
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$ 8,898	\$ 9,134

4.1.1(m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa.

4.1.1(n) Differential rates

The rate and amount of rates payable in relation to land in each category of differential are:

- A general rate of 0.20680% (0.0020680 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all residential properties;
- A general rate of 0.18612% (0.0018612 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all farming properties
- A general rate of 0.118612% (0.00118612 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all Business, Industrial & Commercial properties
- A general rate of 0.10340% (0.0010340 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all recreation and cultural land
- A general rate of 0.41360% (0.0041360 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all urban vacant land.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described below) by the relevant percentages indicated above.

Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the types of classes of land, which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate, are set out below.

The farm rate was proposed to encourage farming and to provide moderate rate relief to farmers whose property values have remained high despite dramatic falls in farm incomes over a sustained period of time

The business rate was introduced as a small measure to encourage economic development in the shire.

The recreational and cultural land rate has been in existence for some years and Council has maintained it at 50% of the residential rate. It is applied to land that is used primarily for recreational and cultural purposes by not-for-profit organisations.

The urban vacant land rate for the four towns is designed to encourage the development of vacant land.

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26	2026/27	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Infringements and costs	46	33	(14)	-29%
Town planning fees	38	35	(3)	-7%
Swimming pools registration	6	3	(3)	-45%
Animal registrations	65	69	4	6%
Building fees	21	23	2	9%
Other	5	-	(5)	-100%
Total statutory fees and fines	180	162	(17)	-10%

Statutory fees and fines consist of fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include animal registrations, building and town planning fees. Increases in statutory fees are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26	2026/27	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Garbage/recycling	183	210	28	15%
Caravan park/camp ground	1,412	1,510	98	7%
Private works	478	43	(435)	-91%
Health and environmental health fees	32	34	2	6%
Local law fees	9	7	(3)	-28%
Other commercial fees	73	75	3	4%
Total user fees	2,186	1,879	(307)	-14%

User fees relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include fees for movie screenings, caravan park and capping grounds, transfer stations and private works.

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	6,520	7,777	1,257	19%
State funded grants	3,738	932	(2,807)	-75%
Total grants received	10,258	8,708	(1,550)	-15%
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	2,826	5,709	2,883	102%
Diesel Fuel Grant	20	20	-	0%
Recurrent - State Government				
Aged care	-	4	4	-100%
16 Days of Activism	3	-	(3)	-100%
Multicultural Storytime	39	-	(39)	-100%
Kindergarten Central Enrolment	45	-	(45)	-100%
School Crossing Supervisor	8	8	-	0%
Libraries	124	124	-	0%
Engage	57	57	-	0%
FreeZa/Amplify	36	36	-	0%
Facilitated Playgroup	67	69	2	3%
Premiers Reading Challenge	6	6	-	0%
Free from Violence	90	8	(82)	-91%
Landcare Facilitator	78	68	(10)	-13%
Roadside Weeds and Pests (DPI)	85	85	-	0%
VicHealth	10	-	(10)	-100%
Total recurrent grants	3,490	6,190	2,700	77%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Children's Week	1	-	(1)	-100%
Sport & Rec Masterplans	36	4	(32)	-89%
Jeparit Weir Design	35	-	(35)	-100%
Total non-recurrent grants	71	4	67	-94%
Total operating grants	3,561	6,194	2,632	74%
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads to Recovery	1,902	1,902	-	0%
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	1,771	146	(1,626)	-92%
Total recurrent grants	3,674	2,048	(1,626)	-44%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Cover to Cover	47	-	(47)	-100%
TAC Community Road Safety	50	71	21	42%
Sport & Recreation - Dimboola swimming pool	500	400	(100)	-20%
Dimboola Boating Pontoon	19	-	(19)	-100%
Country Football Netball Program	25	-	(25)	-100%
Silo Art	281	-	(281)	-100%
Safer Local roads & Streets	1,900	-	(1,900)	-100%
Nhill Cabin Upgrades (DSJR)	238	-	(238)	-100%
Total non-recurrent grants	3,060	471	(2,589)	-85%
Total capital grants	6,733	2,519	(4,215)	-63%
Total Grants	10,295	8,712	(1,582)	-15%

Government grants are grants received for operational or capital programs from various government departments.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Monetary	33	7	(26)	-78%
Total contributions	33	7	(26)	-78%

4.1.6 Other income

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Interest	380	330	(50)	-13%
Sales	27	25	(2)	-7%
Recoupments	129	75	(53)	-41%
Other	65	63	(2)	-3%
Total other income	601	493	(107)	-18%

Other income includes the sale of scrap metal and garbage bin parts as well as interest earned on term deposits.

4.1.7 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Wages and salaries	7,996	7,901	(95)	-1%
WorkCover	492	572	80	16%
Superannuation	1,048	1,086	37	4%
Training/travel/accommodation	191	189	(2)	-1%
Other	181	166	(15)	-8%
Total employee costs	9,909	9,914	5	0%

Employee Costs include all labour related expenditure such as wages, salaries and direct overheads. Direct overheads includes allowances, leave entitlements, employer superannuation, WorkCover premiums, fringe benefits tax and protective clothing.

4.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Aerodrome, saleyard and commercial operations	168	32	(137)	-81%
Building maintenance	454	387	(67)	-15%
Community development, tourism, economic development, childrens' and youth services	758	225	(533)	-70%
Home and community care	46	14	(32)	-70%
Environmental management	232	211	(22)	-9%
Emergency management	76	34	(42)	-56%
Roads, footpaths, & drainage management	1,663	1,805	142	9%
Information technology	359	433	75	21%
Libraries	25	25	-	0%
Office administration	780	626	(154)	-20%
Plant and fleet operations	-	(585)	(577)	7448%
Parks, reserves, camp groups and caravan parks	634	605	(30)	-5%
Quarry operations	148	189	41	28%
Rating & valuation	27	31	4	15%
Swimming pool maintenance & management	299	227	(71)	-24%
Statutory services	347	292	(55)	-16%
Waste	1,514	1,470	(44)	-3%
Total materials and services	7,522	6,020	(1,503)	-20%

Materials and services include the purchase of consumables as well as payments to contractors for the provision of services.

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Property	469	454	(15)	-3%
Plant & equipment	1,422	1,675	252	18%
Infrastructure	4,051	4,066	16	0%
Total depreciation	5,942	6,195	254	4%

Depreciation is an accounting measure which attempts to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life. This relates to Council's property, plant and equipment as well as infrastructure assets such as roads, drains, bridges and footpaths.

4.1.10 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	\$'000	%
Councillor allowances	246	255	8	3%
Advertising	72	72	(1)	-1%
Insurance	464	557	93	20%
Audit fees	95	105	10	11%
Telecommunications	-	-	-	
Postage & printing	33	34	1	4%
Council contributions	146	130	(17)	-11%
Bank charges	32	30	(2)	-6%
Essential Services & Volunteer Fund	35	37	2	6%
Memberships & subscriptions	187	178	(9)	-5%
Legal fees	69	71	2	2%
Other expenses	420	38	(383)	-91%
Total other expenses	1,800	1,504	(295)	-16%

Other expenses includes the Emergency Services & Volunteer Fund levied on Council properties which is payable to the State Government, Councillor allowances as well as administration charges.

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Current assets (\$1.87m decrease) and non-current assets (\$1.63m decrease)

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash and investments such as cash held in the bank, cash floats and in petty cash, as well as the value of investments in deposits of highly liquid investments with short term maturities of three months or less.

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all the land, buildings, roads, vehicles and equipment etc. which has been built up by Council over many years. The decrease in this balance is due to the depreciation.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Current liabilities (\$0.221m decrease) and non-current liabilities (\$0.201m decrease).

Trade and other payables are those to whom Council owes money as at 30 June. Provisions include employee costs (current) which are accrued, including long services leave, annual leave and rostered days off owing to employees, as well as the future rehabilitation of quarries and landfills.

4.2.3 Borrowings

Council does not hold any borrowings but does hold a \$2 million overdraft facility to cover a short term cash deficit which may arise from a timing variance. Council does not propose any new long term borrowings in the near future.

4.3 Statement of changes in Equity

4.3.2 Equity

Total equity always equals net assets and is made up of the following components:

- Asset revaluation reserve which represents the difference between the fair value of the asset and the historic cost.
- Accumulated surplus which is the value of all net assets less reserves that have accumulated over time. The decrease in accumulated surplus of \$0.574m results directly from the operating profit for the year.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Operating activities refers to the cash generated in the normal service delivery functions of Council. Cash remaining after paying for the provision of services to the community may be available for investment in capital works.

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Investing activities refers to cash generated or used in the enhancement or creation of infrastructure and other assets. These activities also include the acquisition or sale of other assets such as vehicles, property and equipment.

**Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure
For the four years ending 30 June 2030**

	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000
GOVERNANCE				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	547	552	567	584
Men	261	263	271	279
Total Governance	809	815	837	863
CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	1,765	1,779	1,829	1,879
Men	939	947	973	999
Permanent - Part time				
Women	649	654	672	690
Men	161	162	167	172
Total Corporate and Community Services	3,514	3,542	3,641	3,741
INFRASTRUCTURE				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	557	562	578	596
Men	3,852	3,883	4,000	4,120
Permanent - Part time				
Women	414	417	430	443
Men	233	235	242	249
Total Infrastructure	5,057	5,097	5,250	5,407
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	535	562	577	595
Capitalised labour costs	1,135	1,170	1,205	1,241
Total staff expenditure	11,049	11,186	11,509	11,847

	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE	2028/29 FTE	2029/30 FTE
GOVERNANCE				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Men	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Permanent - Part time				
Women	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Men	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Governance	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Men	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Permanent - Part time				
Women	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Men	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total Corporate and Community Services	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1
INFRASTRUCTURE				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Men	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
Permanent - Part time				
Women	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Men	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Total Infrastructure	47.8	48.0	48.0	48.0
Casuals and temporary staff	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.8
Capitalised labour	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Total staff numbers	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9

4.5 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2026/27 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year.

4.5.1 Summary

	Forecast Actual 2025/26 \$'000	Budget 2026/27 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property	966	150	(816)	-84.48%
Plant and equipment	1,799	853	(946)	-52.57%
Infrastructure	7,591	5,432	(2,159)	-28.44%
Total	10,356	6,435	(3,921)	-37.86%

	Project Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources		
			Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council cash \$'000
Property	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150
Plant and equipment	853	-	853	-	-	-	-	853
Infrastructure	5,432	300	4,942	150	40	2,684	-	2,748
Total	6,435	300	5,945	150	40	2,684	-	3,751

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources		
			Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council cash \$'000
PROPERTY								
Building Improvements								
Essential building renewal	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150
Leasehold Improvements								
<i>Insert detailed list</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage buildings								
<i>Insert detailed list</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT								
Plant, Machinery and Equipment								
Articulated loader	180	-	180	-	-	-	-	180
Fuel trailer	12	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Fuel trailer	12	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Roller	200	-	200	-	-	-	-	200
Miscellaneous trailers	25	-	25	-	-	-	-	25
Footpath sweeper	35	-	35	-	-	-	-	35
Sedan	60	-	60	-	-	-	-	60
Sedan	68	-	68	-	-	-	-	68
Sedan	75	-	75	-	-	-	-	75
Utility vehicle	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture								
Office furniture	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Computers and Telecommunications								
Workstations & Ipads	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	40
IT Upgrade incl firewall & WIFI	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	45
Library books								
Library resources	46	-	46	-	-	-	-	46
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	853	-	853	-	-	-	-	853

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources		
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council cash \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Roads								
Unsealed road construction								
Perenna Rd - Gravel resheet	110	-	110	-	-	110	-	-
Greigs Rd McKenzie Rd - Resheet	70	-	70	-	-	70	-	-
Greigs Rd - resheet	86	-	86	-	-	86	-	-
Patterson Rd - Resheet	70	-	70	-	-	70	-	-
Gierke Rd - Resheet	30	-	30	-	-	30	-	-
Allans Rd- Gravel resheet	90	-	90	-	-	90	-	-
Oak Rd - Resheet	17	-	17	-	-	17	-	-
Teakles Rd - Gravel resheet	20	-	20	-	-	20	-	-
Gravel Spotting	110	-	110	-	-	-	-	110
Shoulder resheets								
Old Minyip Rd	100	-	100	-	-	100	-	-
Kiata South Rd	30	-	30	-	-	30	-	-
Pigick Bus Route Rd	170	-	170	-	-	170	-	-
Salisbury Woorak Rd	62	-	62	-	-	62	-	-
Sealed road construction								
Indoor salaries	265	-	265	-	-	-	-	265
Major Patch Repairs	327	-	327	-	-	115	-	212
Nhill Diapur Rd	400	-	400	-	-	400	-	-
Dimboola Minyip Rd	455	-	455	-	-	364	-	91
Lorquon Netherby Rd	182	-	182	-	-	-	-	182
Pigick Bus Route Rd	108	-	108	-	-	-	-	108
Woorak Ni Ni Lorquon Rd	638	-	638	-	-	-	-	638
Design/Assessments	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	40
Reseals								
Rainbow Nhill Rd	79	-	79	-	-	79	-	-
Lorquon East Rd	93	-	93	-	-	93	-	-
Reseals - Condition Assessment	400	-	400	-	-	198	-	202
Footpaths								
Indoor salaries	27	-	27	-	-	-	-	27
Footpath replacement	73	-	73	-	-	-	-	73

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources		
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council cash \$'000
Drainage								
Indoor salaries	49	-	49	-	-	-	-	49
Major culvert replacement	85	-	85	-	-	-	-	85
Kerb & channel								
Kerb & channel section replacement	75	-	75	-	-	75	-	-
Hindmarsh St, Dimboola	150	-	-	150	-	75	-	75
Other Infrastructure								
Dimboola pool	430	-	430	-	-	430	-	-
Council contribution to grant funded projects	141	-	141	-	-	-	-	141
Nhill Aviation heritage Centre Expansion	40	-	-	-	40	-	-	40
FOGO Processing Plant	300	300	-	-	-	-	-	300
Depot and workshop	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100
Tourism signage	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	10
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	5,432	300	4,942	150	40	2,684	-	2,748
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	6,435	300	5,945	150	40	2,684	-	3,751

5. Targeted performance indicators (Council selected)

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across eight targeted performance indicators selected by Council from the range of prescribed performance measures contained in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	+/-
Responsiveness	Time taken to decide planning applications								
Statutory planning	median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application	1	120	98	88	80	80	80	+
Environment	Health inspections of council registered aquatic facilities								
Aquatic facilities	Number of inspections of Council registered category 1 aquatic facilities/number of Council registered category 1 aquatic facilities	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	o
Governance	Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public								
Transparency	Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors.	3	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+
Financial management	Average rate per property assessment								
Expenditure and revenue level	Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / number of property assessments	4	\$ 1,660.00	\$ 1,596.00	\$ 1,685.00	\$ 1,731.00	\$ 1,779.00	\$ 1,828.00	+
Governance	Councillor attendance at council meetings								
Transparency	Sum of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (number of Council meetings) x (number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)	5	95%	80%	80%	81%	82%	82%	+
Financial forecasting	Loans and borrowings compared to own source revenue								
Loans and borrowings	Interest-bearing loans and borrowings / own-source revenue	6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	o
Community	Library membership								
Library services	Number of registered library members / population	7	18.25%	20.00%	20.20%	20.40%	20.61%	20.81%	+
Community	Utilisation of aquatic facilities								
Aquatic facilities	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / population	8	2.14	1.50	1.52	1.53	1.55	1.56	-

Key to Target Trend:
+ increase in Council's overall targets
o maintaining Council's overall targets
- decrease in Council's overall targets

5a. Targeted performance indicators (Mandatory)

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Results against these measures and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted service performance indicators - Mandatory

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	+/-
Governance									
Community engagement (council decisions made and implemented with community input)	Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	9	59	60	60	61	62	63	+
Environment									
Roads (sealed local roads are maintained and renewed to ensure a safe network)	Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	10	98%	99%	98%	97%	96%	95%	o
Responsiveness									
Statutory planning (Councils decide on planning applications and fulfill their legislative duties in a timely manner)	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made	11	71%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	+
Environment									
Waste management (waste is minimised and sustainability is promoted)	Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property Waste in tonnage collected from kerbside waste collection services sent to landfill / Number of serviced properties	12	0%	31%	32%	32%	32%	33%	+

Key to Target Trend:
+ increase in Council's overall targets
o maintaining Council's overall targets
- decrease in Council's overall targets

Targeted financial performance indicators - Mandatory

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	+/-
Financial management									
Liquidity (sufficient working capital and cash is available to cover expenses)	Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / current liabilities	13	461%	250%	250%	200%	180%	162%	+
Financial forecasting									
Asset renewal and upgrade (renewal and upgrade of assets is planned and delivered)	Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation	14	71%	85%	85%	80%	80%	80%	o
Financial management									
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	15	41%	47%	47%	48%	48%	49%	+
Financial management									
Expenditure and revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / no. of property assessments	16	\$5,283	\$5,500	\$5,949	\$6,187	\$6,434	\$6,691	+

5b. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend
			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	+/-
Financial forecasting									
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue	17	67%	68%	68%	69%	70%	70%	+
	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue								
Population (population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community)	Expenses per head of population	18	\$2,927	\$3,044	\$3,166	\$3,292	\$3,424	\$3,561	o
	Total expenses / Population								
Revenue and grants (revenue is generated from a range of sources to fund the delivery of services to the community)	Infrastructure per head of population	19	\$39	\$40	\$42	\$43	\$45	\$47	o
	Value of infrastructure / Population								
	Own-source revenue per head of population	20	\$2,220	\$2,281	\$2,343	\$2,408	\$2,474	\$2,542	o
	Own source revenue / Population								
	Recurrent grants per head of population	21	\$522	\$533	\$543	\$554	\$565	\$577	o
	Recurrent grants / Population								
Financial management									
Operating position (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	22	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	+
	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue								
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	Rates compared to property value	23	0.18%	0.18%	0.19%	0.19%	0.20%	0.20%	o
	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district								

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to measures

5

1. Time taken to decide planning applications

This target ensures compliance, provides certainty for applicants and the community, supports efficient processing and keeps reporting consistent over time.

2. Health inspections of Council registered aquatic facilities

This target ensures that Council meet public health and safety obligations in assessing each of the public pools prior to opening for the annual season.

3. Council resolutions made at meetings closed to the public

This target ensures matters are only considered in closed Council meetings when legislatively permitted, promoting transparency and accountability. It encourages strong meeting governance, appropriate confidentiality in decision-making and ongoing review of items that can be considered in open sessions.

4. Average rate per property assessment

This target supports affordability and equity considerations. It helps Council monitor the year-to-year impact of budget decisions on property owners. It also aids in benchmarking against similar councils and communicating the "typical" rating outcome to the community.

5. Councillor attendance at Council meetings

Monitoring attendance supports transparency, helps ensure meetings can reach quorum and make representative decisions and supports accountability for Councillors in undertaking their elected role.

6. Loans and borrowings compared to own source revenue

This target supports long term sustainability by keeping debt at a level Council can service from recurring revenues. It provides an early warning of rising financial risk, maintain prudent borrowing capacity and aligns with sound financial management principles.

7. Library membership

This target reflects community reach and access to learning, information and inclusive services. It supports service planning, tracks engagement trends and customer experience improvements.

8. Utilisation of aquatic facilities

This target helps ensure aquatic facilities are delivering community value and operating costs are supported by participation levels.

5a

9. Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions

This indicator reflects the community's satisfaction with Council's consultation and engagement. Providing clear, practical ways for people to have their say helps Council make better decisions using local knowledge, improves trust and transparency and supports good governance.

10. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

This indicator measures the proportion of sealed local roads that are in poor condition (below the adopted intervention level). Keeping this proportion low supports safe and reliable travel, protects the value of Council's road assets and helps reduce higher costs that can occur when renewals are delayed.

11. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

This indicator shows how effectively Council is meeting statutory planning decision timeframes. Strong performance provides timely decisions for applicants and the community, supports local development outcomes and demonstrates a well-managed planning service with clear processes and appropriate resourcing.

12. Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property

This indicator measures how much kerbside waste goes to landfill per serviced property. Lower results generally indicate better waste avoidance, recycling and organics diversion. It also helps manage disposal costs and support environmental outcomes for the municipality.

5a cont

13. Current assets compared to current liabilities

This financial management indicator (liquidity) shows Council's ability to meet short-term obligations as they fall due. It compares current assets (such as cash), investments and receivables) to current liabilities due within 12 months. A healthy result supports stable cash flow and timely payment of suppliers and other commitments.

14. Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation

This financial performance indicator compares how much Council is renewing and upgrading assets with the annual depreciation expenses (the measure of asset consumption). Maintaining a sound ratio supports long-term asset sustainability by reducing renewal backlogs and the risk of asset failure and helps ensure today's services are not funded by deferring costs to future ratepayers.

15. Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue

This financial sustainability indicator shows the extent to which Council relies on rates to fund its ongoing operations compared with its adjusted underlying revenue. Grants and one-off funding can fluctuate, tracking this measure supports transparent decisions about service levels, affordability and long-term budget sustainability.

16. Expenses per property assessment

This efficiency indicator shows total Council expenses expressed per property assessment. It provides a simple way to monitor changes in cost over time and to explain cost drivers that can be significant for rural councils (such as distance, smaller scale and ageing assets). It supports budgeting and value-for-money conversations with the community.

5b

17. Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue

This indicator checks whether Council's longer-term debt and other long-term obligations are at a level that can be supported by income Council largely controls (such as rates, fees and charges). This helps ensure borrowing is used carefully for major assets and that future repayments do not put pressure on day-to-day service delivery.

18. Expenses per head of population

This indicator shows the average cost of delivering Council services per resident. In rural areas, costs per person can be higher due to distance, smaller scale and maintaining large networks of roads and facilities for a smaller population. Tracking this over time helps explain cost pressures and supports decisions about service levels and efficiency.

19. Infrastructure per head of population

This indicator describes how much infrastructure Council is responsible for, relative to the number of residents. For small rural councils, infrastructure per person is often high (for example, extensive road networks). Monitoring this helps plan for future renewal costs and supports fair discussions about what level of assets the community can afford to maintain.

20. Own-source revenue per head of population

This indicator shows how much ongoing revenue Council generates per resident from sources it controls (mainly rates, fees and charges). It helps assess Council's capacity to fund services locally, especially when grant funding varies. For rural councils with a smaller rates base, this measure supports long-term financial planning and affordability discussions.

21. Recurrent grants per head of population

This indicator shows the level of ongoing grant support Council receives per resident. Recurrent grants is an important part of funding day-to-day services. Tracking this helps Council understand its reliance on external funding, plan for changes in grant programs, and manage the risk of service impacts if grants fluctuate.

22. Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)

This indicator shows whether Council is generating enough ongoing income to cover the ongoing cost of providing services, after removing one-off and non-cash items. A sustainable result (generally a small surplus over time) supports asset renewal, reduces the need for sudden rate increases, and helps ensure services can be maintained in the long term.

23. Rates compared to property value

This indicator shows the overall rates compared with the total capital value of rateable properties. It is a broad measure of rates burden and helps Council consider affordability and equity across the municipality. Monitoring this indicator supports transparent decisions about rating levels and the community's capacity to pay.

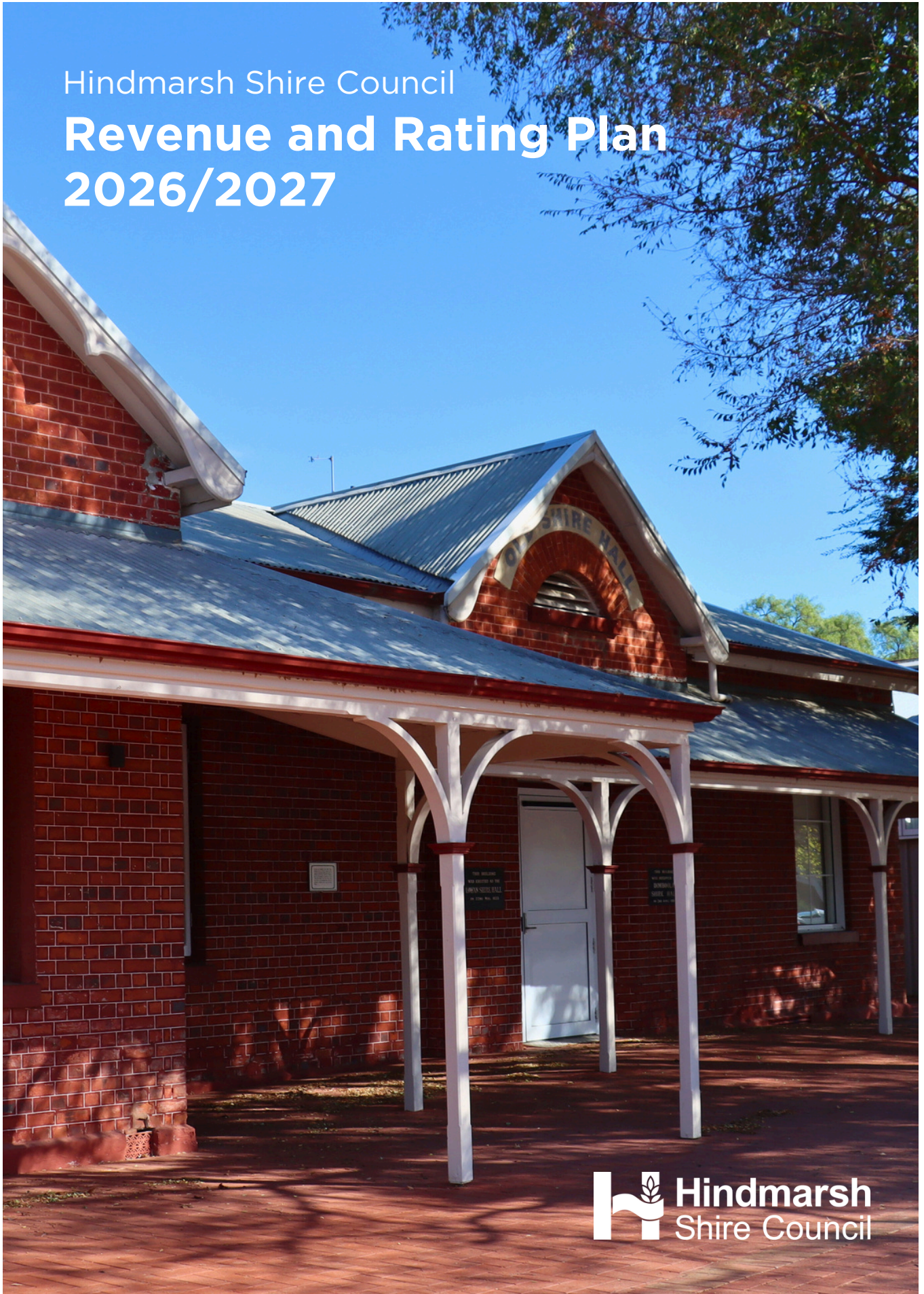
Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure
For the years ending 30 June 2028, 2029 & 2030

2027/28	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buildings	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Heritage Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leasehold improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Buildings	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Total Property	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Plant and Equipment										
Heritage plant and equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	5	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Computers and telecommunications	75	0	75	0	0	75	0	0	75	0
Library books	40	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0
Total Plant and Equipment	1,120	0	1,120	0	0	0	0	0	1,120	0
Infrastructure										
Roads	1,766	0	1,766	0	0	1,766	1,766	0	0	0
Bridges	330	0	330	0	0	330	0	0	330	0
Footpaths and cycleways	535	0	535	0	0	535	0	0	535	0
Drainage	330	0	330	0	0	330	136	0	194	0
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aerodromes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off street car parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure	2,961	0	2,961	0	0	2,961	1,902	0	1,059	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	4,331	0	4,331	0	0	4,331	1,902	0	2,429	0

2028/29	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buildings	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Heritage Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leasehold improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Buildings	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Total Property	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Plant and Equipment										
Heritage plant and equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,200	0	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	0	1,200	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	5	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Computers and telecommunications	75	0	75	0	0	75	0	0	75	0
Library books	40	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0
Total Plant and Equipment	1,320	0	1,320	0	0	0	0	0	1,320	0
Infrastructure										
Roads	1,801	0	1,801	0	0	1,801	1,801	0	0	0
Bridges	337	0	337	0	0	337	0	0	337	0
Footpaths and cycleways	545	0	545	0	0	545	0	0	545	0
Drainage	337	0	337	0	0	337	101	0	236	0
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aerodromes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off street car parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure	3,020	0	3,020	0	0	3,020	1,902	0	1,118	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	4,590	0	4,590	0	0	4,590	1,902	0	2,688	0

2029/30	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buildings	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Heritage Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leasehold improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Buildings	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Total Property	250	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	0
Plant and Equipment										
Heritage plant and equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	5	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Computers and telecommunications	75	0	75	0	0	75	0	0	75	0
Library books	40	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0
Total Plant and Equipment	1,120	0	1,120	0	0	1,120	0	0	1,120	0
Infrastructure										
Roads	1,947	0	1,947	0	0	1,947	1,902	0	45	0
Bridges	364	0	364	0	0	364	0	0	364	0
Footpaths and cycleways	590	0	590	0	0	590	0	0	590	0
Drainage	364	0	364	0	0	364	0	0	364	0
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aerodromes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off street car parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure	3,265	0	3,265	0	0	3,265	1,902	0	1,363	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	4,635	0	4,635	0	0	4,635	1,902	0	2,733	0

Hindmarsh Shire Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2026/2027



7. Revenue and Rating Plan

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for the Hindmarsh Shire Council which, in conjunction with other incomes sources, will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to help Council achieve its vision of "working together to welcome new possibilities and create vibrant towns, connected communities and opportunities for all."

Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and will feed into our budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under our Council's strategic planning framework.



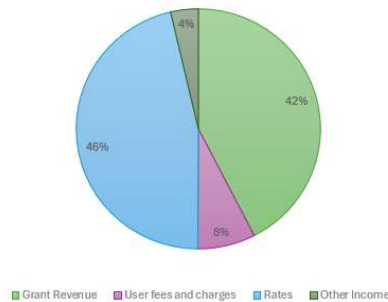
This plan will explain how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

In particular, this plan will set out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council, it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.

1. REVENUE SOURCES

Council provides a number of services and facilities to our local community, and in doing so, must collect revenue to cover the cost of providing these services and facilities.



Council's revenue sources include:

- Rates and charges including kerbside collection and recycling
- Grants from other levels of Government
- User fees and charges including Statutory Fees and Fines
- User fees and charges including Statutory Fees and Fines

Rates are the most significant revenue source for Council and make up roughly 45-50% of its annual income.

The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) has brought a renewed focus to Council's long-term financial sustainability. The FGRS continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue above the rate cap unless applications is made to the Essential Services Commission for a variation. Maintaining service delivery levels and investing in community assets remain key priorities for Council. This strategy will address Council's reliance on rate income and provide options to actively reduce that reliance.

Council revenue can also be adversely affected by changes to funding from other levels of government. Some grants are tied to the delivery of Council services, whilst many are tied directly to the delivery of new community assets, such as roads or recreational facilities. It is important for Council to be clear about what grants it intends to apply for and the obligations that grants create in the delivery of services such as infrastructure.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines Council's decision-making process on how revenues are calculated and collected. The following public consultation process has been and will be followed to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

The Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process is:

- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan prepared by officers;
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan placed on public exhibition following adoption at the May 2026 Council meeting calling for public submissions;
- Community engagement through local news outlets, social media and community consultation meetings;
- Receiving of public submissions from Thursday 7 May 2026 to Wednesday 7 June 2026; and
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan presented to the June Council meeting for adoption.

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

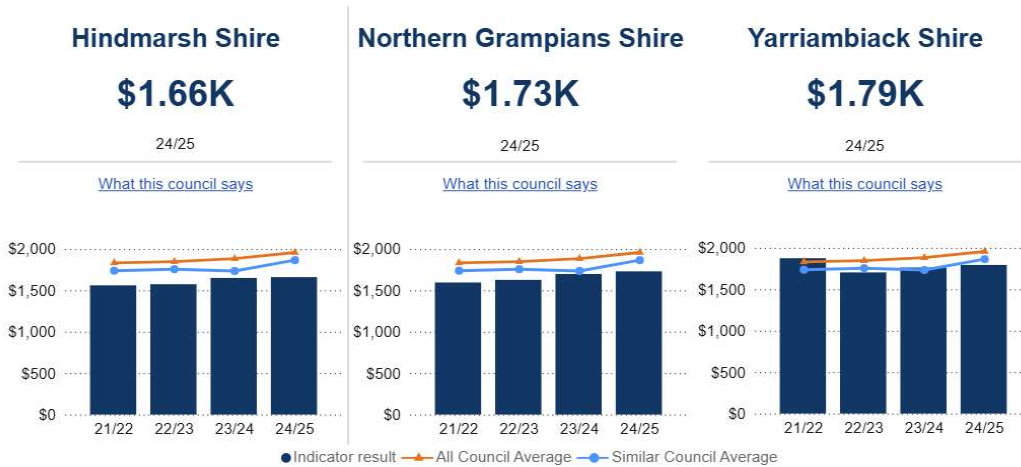
Raising of revenue including the levying of rates and charges by Hindmarsh Shire Council is legislated by the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. The rates and charges provision is contained within the *Local Government Act 1989* pending the outcome of the Local Government Rating System Review.

4. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT RATING LEVELS

Comparing the relativity of rating levels between Council's can be a difficult exercise due to debate over the most appropriate methods to use and the inability to take into account the intricacies of rating structures in different Council's. Each local government sets rates based on an assessment of the desires, wants and needs of its community and as each community is different, direct comparisons can be difficult. For example, cash holdings of municipalities vary and Council's have significantly different infrastructure needs and geographic sizes. Each municipality also has significantly different levels of capital works, funding structures for capital works and varying levels of debt.

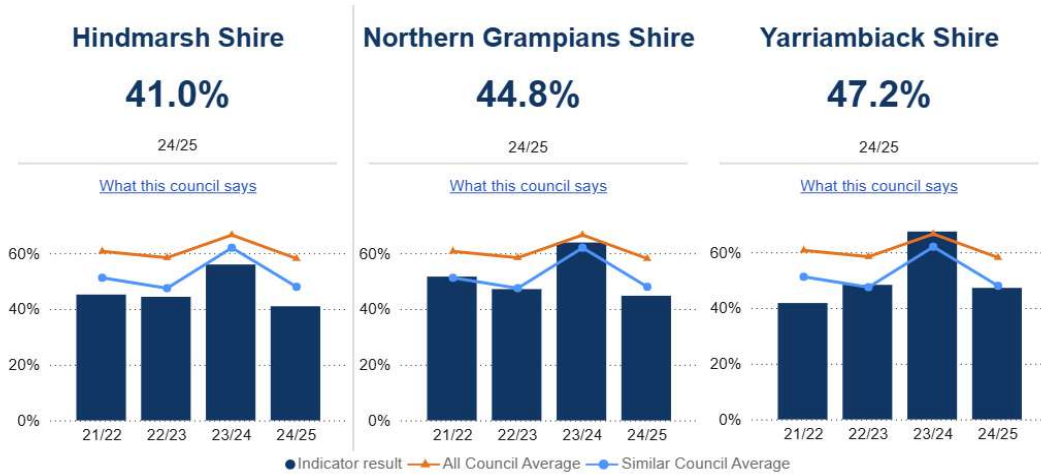
On a rates per assessment basis, Hindmarsh Shire was well within the average for the group of small rural Council's in the 2025/26 financial year.

The graph below show the average level of rates set by Hindmarsh Shire Council compared to 2 other small rural councils in this region.



*source Know Your Council, 2024/25 Annual Reporting data

The graph below, showing that Council is at the lower end of its peer group in terms of rates as a percentage of overall revenue, is an indication of the focus Council places on raising revenue from sources other than rate payers, such as grant revenue.



*source Know Your Council, 2024/25 Annual Reporting data

5. RATE CAPPING

The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount Council's may increase rates in financial year. For 2026/27 the rate cap is set at 2.75% (2024/25 = 3%). The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated based on the average rates payable per assessment.

6. RATES AND CHARGES

Rates are property taxes that allow Councils to raise revenue to fund essential public services which cater to their municipal population. Importantly it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for Councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers.

Council has established a rating structure comprised of three key elements. These are:

- General Rates – Based on property values using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology, which are indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the *Local Government Act 2020*;
- Service Charges – A 'user pays' component for Council services to reflect the recovery of the expenses of Council from ratepayers who benefit from a service; and
- Municipal Charge – A 'fixed rate' portion per property to cover some of the administrative costs of Council.

Striking a proper balance between these elements will help to improve equity in the distribution of the rate burden across residents.

Hindmarsh Shire Council uses the capital improved value (CIV) system of valuation. This means the sum that the land might be expected to realise at the time of valuation if offered for sale on any reasonable terms and conditions which a genuine seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require.

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

- Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type).

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual budget.

Property Valuations

The *Valuation of Land Act 1960* is the principle legislation in determining property valuations. Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations on an annual basis.

Council needs to be mindful of the impacts of revaluations on various property types in implementing differential rates to ensure that rises and falls in Council rates remain affordable and that rating 'shocks' are mitigated to some degree.

Supplementary Valuations

Supplementary valuations are carried out for a variety of reasons including renovations, new constructions, extensions, installation of swimming pools, rezoning, subdivisions, amalgamations, occupancy changes and corrections. The Victorian Valuer-General is tasked with undertaking supplementary valuations and advises Council annually on the basis of valuation and Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) changes.

Supplementary valuations bring the value of the affected property into line with the general valuation of other properties within the municipality. Objections to supplementary valuations can be lodged in accordance with Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. Any objection must be lodged with Council within two months of the issuance of the supplementary rate notice.

Objections to property values

Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* provides that a property owner may lodge an objection against the valuation of a property or the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) within two months of the issue of the original or amended supplementary Rates and Valuation Charges Notice (Rates Notice), or within four months if the notice was not originally issued to the occupier of the land.

Objections to a valuation shown on Council's valuation and rates notice can be lodged electronically with the Victorian State Government's objection portal. Council's website provides further information on Rating Valuation Objections.

Rates differentials

Council makes a further distinction when applying general rates by applying rating differentials based on the purpose for which the property is used. That is, whether the property is used for residential, farming or Commercial/Industrial. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, taking into account the benefits those properties derive from the local community.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's rating structure comprises five differential rates. These rates are structure in accordance with the requirements of Section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Ministerial guidelines for Differential Rating 2013.

The differential rates are currently set as follows:

- General 100%
- Farm 90% (a discount of 10% for farms)
- Commercial/Industrial 90% (a discount of 10% for businesses)
- Recreational 50% (a discount of 50% for recreational and cultural properties)
- Urban Vacant 200% (a penalty of 100% for urban vacant land in Nhill, Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow).

Note: The term 'discount' in relation to farms and businesses means the difference between the rate in the dollar applied to farms and businesses, and the rate in the dollar applied to residential properties. Similarly, the term 'penalty' means the difference between the rate in the dollar applied to urban vacant land and the rate in the dollar applied to residential properties. The rate in the dollar is the figure that is multiplied by a properties capital improved valuation to calculate the rates.

The highest differential rate must be no more than four times the lowest differential rate.

Differential definitions

The definition of each differential rate is set out below:

General

General rates applies to land which is not Farm / Commercial / Industrial / Recreational / or Urban Vacant.

The objective of the general rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Hindmarsh Shire. The money raised by general rates will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Hindmarsh Shire Council budget.

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate of residential land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential under the Hindmarsh Shire Council Planning Scheme. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning. The use of land is any permitted under the Hindmarsh Shire Council Planning scheme.

The types and classes of rateable land within this rate are those having the relevant characteristics described below:

- a. Used primarily for residential purposes; or
- b. Any land that is not defined as Farm Land / Commercial / Industrial / Recreational / or Urban Vacant.

This rate is applicable to land within the municipal district. The types of buildings on the land within this rate are all buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2025/26 financial year.

Farm

Farm land applies to land which is not Residential / Commercial / Industrial / Recreational / or Urban Vacant and which is 'farm land' within the meaning of section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

The objective of the farm rate is to encourage farming and to provide moderate rate relief to farmers whose property values have remained high and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to carrying out the functions of Hindmarsh Shire. The money raised by farm rates will be applied to items of expenditure described in the Hindmarsh Shire Council budget.

The characteristics of the planning zoning are applicable to the determination of farm land which will be subject to the rate of farm land. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types and classes of rateable land within this rate are those having the relevant characteristics described below:

- a. Used primarily for primary production purposes; or
- b. Any land that is not defined as General Land or Commercial / Industrial / Recreational / or Urban Vacant Land.

This rate is applicable to land within the municipal district. The types of buildings on this land are buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2025/26 financial year.

Commercial / Industrial

Commercial / Industrial land applies to land which is not Residential / Farm / Recreational / or Urban Vacant. Commercial / Industrial land is any land which is:

- a. used primarily for carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in goods or services (including tourist facilities) and in the case of a business providing accommodation for tourists, is prescribed accommodation under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act (Vic) 2008*; or
- b. unoccupied building erected which is zoned Commercial or Industrial under the Hindmarsh Shire Council Planning Scheme; or
- c. Unoccupied land which is zoned Commercial or Industrial under the Hindmarsh Shire Council Planning Scheme.

The objective of the commercial / industrial rate is to encourage economic development and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to carrying out the functions of Hindmarsh Shire. The money raised by commercial / industrial rates will be applied to items of expenditure described in the Hindmarsh Shire Council budget.

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Commercial / Industrial Land. The classification of land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types and classes of rateable land within this rate are those having the relevant characteristics described below:

- a. Used primarily for commercial purposes; or
- b. Any land that is not defined as General/Residential Land or Farm Land or Recreational Land or Urban Vacant Land.

This rate is applicable to land within the municipal district. The types of buildings on this land are buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2025/26 financial year.

Recreational

Recreational and cultural land applies to land as defined under the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*.

The objective of the recreational rate is to recognise the contribution that these community organisations and volunteers make to the Hindmarsh Shire in the provision of sporting, cultural and recreational activities. The money raised by recreational rates will be applied to items of expenditure described in the Hindmarsh Shire Council budget.

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of Recreational and Cultural land.

The types and classes of rateable land less than 1500m² within this rate are those having the relevant characteristics described below:

- a. Occupied by a body which exists for cultural or recreational purposes and applies its profits in promoting the furthering of this purpose; or
- b. Owned by the body, by the Crown or by Council;
- c. Not agricultural show grounds.

This rate is applicable to land within the municipal district. The types of buildings on this land are buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2025/26 financial year.

Urban Vacant

Urban Vacant land applies to any land which is not Residential / Farm / Commercial / Industrial / or Recreational; and which no dwelling has been erected in the four towns.

The objective of the urban vacant rate is to encourage development of vacant land and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to carrying out the functions of Hindmarsh Shire. The money raised by urban vacant rates will be applied to items of expenditure described in the Hindmarsh Shire Council budget.

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to residential land.

The types and classes of rateable land within this rate are those having the relevant characteristics described below:

- Residential land within the four towns (Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow) on which no dwelling has been erected.

This rate is applicable to land within the municipal district.

Municipal charge

Council levies a municipal charge.

The Municipal charge is a fixed charge per property or assessment regardless of the valuation of the property. It operates in combination with the general rates based on Capital Improved Value.

Council has proposed the municipal charge will remain steady for 2026/27 at \$205. The municipal charge is designed to recoup some of the administrative costs of Council, and to ensure that lower valued properties pay a fair amount of rates. Council believes that the \$205 municipal charge achieves these objectives.

The budgeted municipal charge for 2026/27 is \$773k which is approximately 10% of the total revenue from rates and charges.

7. SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES

Council may declare a service rate or charge under section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the provision of the following services:

- Collection and disposal of refuse
- Any other prescribed service.

Kerbside waste and recycling collection

Council levies a kerbside waste and recycling collection charge.

The purpose of this charge is to meet the costs of waste disposal and recycling activities throughout the Hindmarsh Shire area, including development and rehabilitation of landfill sites and the operating of transfer stations.

The kerbside waste and recycling collection charge is proposed to increase to \$480 in 2026/27 (\$478 in 2025/26). Unfortunately, Council's garbage and recycling costs are impacted significantly by the global recycling crisis and the State Government's landfill levies.

8. SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES

Council may declare a special rate or charge under section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council does not have any current special rates and charges schemes in place.

9. PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES

In accordance with section 167(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* ratepayers have the option of paying rates and charges by way of four instalments. Payments are due on the prescribed dates belows:

- 1st Instalment: 30 September
- 2nd Instalment: 30 November
- 3rd Instalment: 28 February
- 4th Instalment: 31 May

Council offers a range of payment options including:

- In person at Council Customer Service Centres (EFTPOS, credit/debit cards and cash);
- By phone (credit card only);
- BPay;
- Australia Post (over the counter, over the phone via credit card and on the internet);
- By mail (cheques only);
- Direct Debit (weekly, fortnightly, monthly, by instalment or annually);
- Centrepay.

10. PENALTY INTEREST

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The interest rate applied is fixed under section 2 of the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983*, which is determined by the Minister and published by notice in the Government Gazette.

11. PENSIONER REBATES

Holders of Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession card or a Veteran Affairs Gold card which stipulates TPI or War Widow may claim a rebate on their sole or principal place of residence. Upon initial application, ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner rebate is deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer. Eligible pensioners are also entitled to receive a concession on the Essential Services Volunteer Fund.

12. HARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Council is committed to assisting ratepayers who are experiencing hardship and financial difficulty. Council has approved a Financial Hardship Policy which provides guidance for the collection of rates and charges where the ratepayer is experiencing hardship financial hardship.

Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship should contact Council's Rates Department to confidentially discuss their situation.

13. DEBT RECOVERY

Council makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address but it is the ratepayers' responsibility to properly advise Council of changes to their contact details. The *Local Government Act 1989* section 230 and 231 requires both the vendor and buyer of property, or their agents (eg solicitors and or conveyancers), to notify Council by way of notice of disposition or acquisition of an interest in land.

In the event that an account becomes overdue, Council will issue a notice in accordance with the Financial Hardship Policy. In the event that the account remains unpaid, Council may take legal action to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more and all requirements of the Financial Hardship Policy have been met, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with section 181 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

14. EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER FUND

On 1 July 2025, the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) was replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).

The emergency services and volunteers fund is an annual property levy collected via council rates in Victoria before being forwarded on to the State Government. It applies to residential, commercial, industrial, primary production and public benefit properties. It replaced the fire services property levy and supports a broader range of emergency services.

The Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund is based on two components, a fixed charge, and a variable charge which is linked to the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of the property. The levy is not included in the rate cap and increases in the levy are at the discretion of the State Government.

15. OTHER REVENUE ITEMS

Fees and Charges

Fees and charges consist of statutory fees and fines and user fees charges. Statutory fees mainly relate to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include animal registration fees, building and planning fees, and fines including local laws and animal fines. User fees relate to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services including home and community care, waste depot fees, and hall hire.

The provision of infrastructure and services form a key part of Council's role in supporting the local community. In providing these, Council must consider a range of 'Best Value' principles including service cost and quality standards, value-for-money, and community expectations and values. Council must also balance the affordability and accessibility of infrastructure and services with its financial capacity and in the interests of long-term financial sustainability.

Council must also comply with the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy for significant business activities they provide and adjust their service prices to neutralise any competitive advantages when competing with the private sector.

In providing services to the community, Council must determine the extent of cost recovery for particular services consistent with the level of both individual and collective benefit that the services provide in line with the communities expectations.

Council will develop a table of fees and charges as part of its annual budget each year. Proposed pricing changes will be included in this table and will be communicated to stakeholders before the budget is adopted, giving them a chance to review and provide valuable feedback before the fees are locked in.

Grants

Grant revenue (recurrent and non-recurrent) represents income usually received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects, whilst others can be of a recurrent nature and may or may not be linked to the delivery of projects.

Council will pro-actively advocate to other levels of government for grant funding support to deliver important infrastructure and service outcomes for the community. Council may use its own funds to leverage higher grant funding and maximise external funding opportunities.

Contributions

Contributions represent funds received by Council, usually from non-government sources. Contributions may include funds from user groups towards facility upgrades or community projects.

Other Revenue

Council receives revenue from interest on investments and interest on rates arrears. The amount of revenue earned from these sources fluctuates from year to year depending on the level of cash and investments and outstanding rates and charges balances.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Fees and Charges 2026/2027



6. Schedule of Fees and Charges

This appendix presents the fees and charges which will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the financial year 2026/27.

Note that this schedule only includes fees set by Council. There are other fees that are set by statute and charged by Council in addition to this listing. These are statutory fees, and are made in accordance with legislative requirements. These fees are updated as of 1 July 2026 and will be reflected on Council's website.

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
ANIMALS						
Registrations (Domestic Animals)						
Dog						
Desexed	Non-taxable	\$ 50.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 3.00	6%	Non-statutory
Standard Registration (not-desexed)	Non-taxable	\$ 145.00	\$ 153.00	\$ 8.00	6%	Non-statutory
Working Dog	Non-taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 3.00	5%	Non-statutory
Dog over 10 years old	Non-taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 3.00	5%	Non-statutory
Dog registered with VCA	Non-taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Breeding animal on registered premises	Non-taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 3.00	5%	Non-statutory
Dangerous/Restricted breed	Non-taxable	\$ 783.00	\$ 829.00	\$ 46.00	6%	Non-statutory
Cat						
Standard Registration (desexed)	Non-taxable	\$ 41.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 2.00	5%	Non-statutory
Standard Registration (not desexed)	Non-taxable	\$ 117.00	\$ 124.00	\$ 7.00	6%	Non-statutory
Animals over 10 years old	Non-taxable	\$ 44.00	\$ 47.00	\$ 3.00	7%	Non-statutory
Animals registered with FCC	Non-taxable	\$ 44.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 1.00	2%	Non-statutory
Breeding animal on registered premises	Non-taxable	\$ 44.00	\$ 47.00	\$ 3.00	7%	Non-statutory
Other						
Late payment penalty fee (after 10 April)	Non-taxable	\$ 23.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Pensioner reduction rate (NA to late payment penalty)	Non-taxable	50% of relevant fee	50% of relevant registration fee			Non-statutory
Animal tag replacement	Non-taxable	\$ 11.00	\$ 11.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
View Animal Register	Non-taxable	\$ 23.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Domestic Animal Business Registration of Premises (annual fee due 10 April)	Non-taxable	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Foster Carer Registration (under the FCR Scheme) (annual fee due 10 April)	Non-taxable	\$ 118.00	\$ 118.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Re-homing						
Dog adoption fee (75% of cost to desex, vaccinate and microchip)	Non-taxable		75% of cost			Non-statutory
Cat adoption fee (75% of cost to desex, vaccinate and microchip)	Non-taxable		75% of cost			Non-statutory
Cat Cage Hire Bond						
Cat Trap	Taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 50.00	\$ (6.00)	-11%	Non-statutory
Cat Trap (Pensioner)	Taxable	\$ 54.00	\$ 20.00	\$ (34.00)	-63%	Non-statutory
Impoundment (Domestic Animals)						
Pound release fee	Taxable	\$ 123.00	\$ 127.00	\$ 4.00	3%	Non-statutory
Daily pound fee - per animal (Monday to Friday)	Taxable	\$ 57.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Daily pound fee - per animal (Saturday and Sunday)	Taxable	\$ 78.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Microchipping fee	Taxable		At cost			Non-statutory
Vet fees (for injured domestic animals)	Taxable		At cost			Non-statutory
Livestock						
Medium animal agistment fee (per day)	Taxable	\$ 52.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Large animal agistment fee (per day)	Taxable	\$ 77.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Livestock Impoundment						
Agistment						
Medium animal agistment fee (per day)	Taxable	\$ 52.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Large animal agistment fee (per day)	Taxable	\$ 77.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Pound release fee	Taxable	\$ 134.00	\$ 138.00	\$ 4.00	3%	Non-statutory
Impound fee (daily rate per animal) chicken/rabbit - small livestock	Taxable	\$ 32.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Impound fee (daily rate per animal) sheep/goat/alpaca - medium livestock	Taxable	\$ 62.00	\$ 64.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Impound fee (daily rate per animal) horses/cattle - large livestock	Taxable	\$ 64.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Impound fee (additional animal) example - base fee (\$64.00) + \$21.00 for each additional animal	Taxable	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 1.00	5%	Non-statutory
Sustenance fees	Taxable	At cost	At cost			Non-statutory
Veterinary fees	Taxable	At cost	At cost			Non-statutory
Identification tag fees	Taxable	At cost	At cost			Non-statutory
Stock trailer callout fee	Taxable		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		Non-statutory
Transport Contractor fees and charges	Taxable	At cost	At cost			Non-statutory
	Taxable					Non-statutory
BUILDING DEPARTMENT						
Note: Prices do not include the statutory government levy applicable to all building works over \$10,000						
New Dwelling / Dwelling - Extension/Alteration						
Up to \$5,000	Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
\$5,001 to \$10,000	Taxable	\$ 869.00	\$ 895.00	\$ 26.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$10,001 to \$20,000	Taxable	\$ 1,138.00	\$ 1,172.00	\$ 34.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$20,001 to \$50,000	Taxable	\$ 1,634.00	\$ 1,683.00	\$ 49.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$50,001 to \$100,000	Taxable	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 2,241.00	\$ 65.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$100,001 to \$150,000	Taxable	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,596.00	\$ 76.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$150,001 to \$200,000	Taxable	\$ 2,964.00	\$ 3,053.00	\$ 89.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$200,001 to \$250,000	Taxable	\$ 3,326.00	\$ 3,426.00	\$ 100.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$250,001 to \$300,000	Taxable	\$ 3,735.00	\$ 3,847.00	\$ 112.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$300,001 to \$350,000	Taxable	\$ 4,236.00	\$ 4,363.00	\$ 127.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$350,000 and above	Taxable	\$ 4,482.00	\$ 4,616.00	\$ 134.00	3%	Non-statutory
<i>Notes:</i>						
<i>Includes partial compliance</i>						
<i>Protection works additional \$800</i>						
<i>Performance solutions additional \$1,000 (up to 2, more than 2 to be negotiated)</i>						
<i>Includes four (4) mandatory inspections - additional inspections \$190 each</i>						
New Dwellings, Re-erection/Re-siting						
Value of works \$1 to \$200,000	Taxable	\$ 3,326.00	\$ 3,426.00	\$ 100.00	3%	Non-statutory
Value of works \$200,001 to \$250,000	Taxable	\$ 3,840.00	\$ 3,955.00	\$ 115.00	3%	Non-statutory
Value of works \$250,001 to \$350,000	Taxable	\$ 4,154.00	\$ 4,279.00	\$ 125.00	3%	Non-statutory
Value of works \$350,001 and above	Taxable	\$ 4,242.00	\$ 4,369.00	\$ 127.00	3%	Non-statutory
<i>Notes:</i>						
<i>Protection works additional \$800</i>						
<i>Performance solutions additional \$1,000 (up to 2, more than 2 to be negotiated)</i>						
<i>Includes four (4) mandatory inspections - additional inspections \$190 each</i>						

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Miscellaneous - Building Permits						
Garage/Carport/Shed/Patio/Verandah/Pergola	Taxable	\$ 1,009.00	\$ 1,039.00	\$ 30.00	3%	Non-statutory
Swimming Pool (Fence Alterations Only)	Taxable	\$ 422.00	\$ 435.00	\$ 13.00	3%	Non-statutory
Swimming Pool Fence (New Fence Only)	Taxable	\$ 747.00	\$ 769.00	\$ 22.00	3%	Non-statutory
Swimming Pool and all Fences	Taxable	\$ 957.00	\$ 986.00	\$ 29.00	3%	Non-statutory
Restumping (works must be performed by a Registered Builder)	Taxable	\$ 1,027.00	\$ 1,058.00	\$ 31.00	3%	Non-statutory
Demolish / Remove Building - Domestic (shed / house)	Taxable	\$ 922.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 28.00	3%	Non-statutory
Demolish / Remove Building - Commercial	Taxable	\$ 968.00	\$ 997.00	\$ 29.00	3%	Non-statutory
Place of public entertainment (POPE) Occupancy Permit	Taxable	\$ 467.00	\$ 481.00	\$ 14.00	3%	Non-statutory
<i>Note: Includes three (3) mandatory inspections - additional inspections \$190 each</i>						
Commercial Works						
Up to \$10,000	Taxable	\$ 1,091.00	\$ 1,124.00	\$ 33.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$10,001 to \$50,000	Taxable	\$ 1,576.00	\$ 1,623.00	\$ 47.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$50,001 to \$100,000	Taxable	\$ 2,334.00	\$ 2,404.00	\$ 70.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$100,001 to \$150,000	Taxable	\$ 2,888.00	\$ 2,975.00	\$ 87.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$150,001 to \$200,000	Taxable	\$ 3,267.00	\$ 3,365.00	\$ 98.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$200,001 to \$250,000	Taxable	\$ 3,851.00	\$ 3,967.00	\$ 116.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$250,001 to \$300,000	Taxable	\$ 4,458.00	\$ 4,592.00	\$ 134.00	3%	Non-statutory
\$300,001 to \$500,000	Taxable	\$ 5,077.00	\$ 5,229.00	\$ 152.00	3%	Non-statutory
Value of Works above \$500,000 (or negotiated with Council)	Taxable	(Value of works + 50)	(Value of works + 50)			Non-statutory
<i>Notes:</i>						
<i>Includes partial compliance</i>						
<i>Protection works additional \$820</i>						
<i>Performance solutions additional \$1,025 (up to 2, more than 2 to be negotiated)</i>						
<i>Includes four (4) mandatory inspections - additional inspections \$195 each</i>						
Community Group (Not for Profit) Building works - Building Permits						
(Discount on Permit fees only - State Government Levy still applies)	Non-taxable		By application through Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy			Non-statutory
Levies / Bonds						
Building Administration Fund Levy (State levy)	Non-taxable	Value of work x 0.00128	Value of work x 0.00128			Non-statutory
Bond/Guarantee for Re-erection of buildings	Non-taxable	(The lesser the cost of the building work or \$5,000)	(The lesser the cost of the building work or \$5,000)			Non-statutory
Inspections						
Additional Mandatory Inspections - per hour	Taxable	\$ 221.00	\$ 228.00	\$ 7.00	3%	Non-statutory
Inspections of Swimming Pool and Spa Barriers (compliance inspections)						
First Inspection	Taxable	\$ 350.00	\$ 361.00	\$ 11.00	3%	Non-statutory
Re-inspection	Taxable	\$ 216.00	\$ 222.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
<i>Note:</i>						
<i>Includes compliance certificate - FORM 23 or FORM 24 (non-compliance)</i>						
<i>Excludes prescribed lodgement fees</i>						

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Other						
Building Order Administration Fee	Taxable		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		Non-statutory
Building Order Demolition Charge	Taxable		at cost +10%			Non-statutory
Request for Information (Regulation 326(1), 326(2) and 326(3))						
Request for Professional Advice/Consultation - per hour	Taxable	\$ 185.00	\$ 191.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
File Retrieval / Search						
File Retrieval - Minor Document (eg building / Occupancy Permit / Plans) each	Taxable	\$ 53.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
File Retrieval/Search (eg Permit History) each	Taxable	\$ 140.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 4.00	3%	Non-statutory
Amended Building Permit						
Amended Building Permit - minor alterations	Taxable	\$ 199.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Amended Building Permit - major alterations	Taxable	\$ 327.00	\$ 337.00	\$ 10.00	3%	Non-statutory
Time Extension - Building Permit - first request	Taxable	\$ 339.00	\$ 349.00	\$ 10.00	3%	Non-statutory
Time Extension - Building Permit - second request	Taxable	\$ 385.00	\$ 397.00	\$ 12.00	3%	Non-statutory
Time Extension - Building Permit - third request	Taxable	\$ 432.00	\$ 445.00	\$ 13.00	3%	Non-statutory
Inspection fee for permits issued by private building surveyors	Taxable	\$303 + \$1.90 per km outside of Nhill	\$303 + \$1.90 per km outside of Nhill			Non-statutory
Refunds						
Withdrawn Application – Permit Lodged Not Yet Assessed	Taxable	\$ 420.00	\$ 433.00	\$ 13.00	3%	Non-statutory
Withdrawn Application – Permit Assessed Not Yet Issued	Taxable	40% of fees (Minimum \$492.00)	40% of fees (Minimum \$492.00)			Non-statutory
Permit Cancellation – After Permit Issued (Refund only for inspections not carried out, based on inspection fee at time of cancellation)	Taxable	Permit fees retained	Permit fees retained			Non-statutory
Permit Cancellation - After Permit Expired	Taxable	No refund	No refund			Non-statutory
CAMPING FEES						
Note: Some items may not be available at all times						
Caravan Park Fees - Jeparit and Rainbow						
Daily Rates						
Powered site (2 persons + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 28.50	\$ 32.00	\$ 3.50	12%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 persons + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Jeparit - Studio Cabin	Taxable	\$ 120.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 10.00	8%	Non-statutory
Jeparit - 2 bedroom cabin luxury (2 persons + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Rainbow - 2 bedroom cabin luxury (2 persons + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	New	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00		Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years	Taxable	New	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		Non-statutory
Linen fee - to be charged when customers want linen changed during lengthy stay in cabins	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (45.00)	-82%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Weekly Rates (less than 40 days)						
Powered site (2 persons + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 180.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 12.00	7%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 persons + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00	50%	Non-statutory
Extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 49.00	\$ 49.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 35.00	\$ 30.00	\$ (5.00)	-14%	Non-statutory
Jeparit - Studio Cabin	Taxable	\$ 660.00	\$ 780.00	\$ 120.00	18%	Non-statutory
Jeparit - 2 bedroom cabin luxury	Taxable	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 220.00	28%	Non-statutory
Rainbow - 2 bedroom cabin luxury	Taxable	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 220.00	28%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	New	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00		Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years	Taxable	New	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00		Non-statutory
Linen fee - to be charged when customers want linen changed during lengthy stay in cabins	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (45.00)	-82%	Non-statutory
Caravan Park Fees - Dimboola						
Daily Rates						
Peak Times						
Powered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 46.00	\$ 46.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 0.50	4%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 5.00	\$ (7.00)	-58%	Non-statutory
Ensuite site	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 62.00	\$ (8.00)	-11%	Non-statutory
Cabin (Number 53 & 54) - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 120.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 5.00	4%	Non-statutory
Cabin 53 & 54 Pet Cleaning Fee	Taxable	New	\$ 50.00			Non-statutory
Std Cabin (2 bedroom) - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (2 bedroom) 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Studio Cabin - No's 10 & 11 - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (3 Bedroom) - No 9 - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 3.00	25%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (2.00)	-17%	Non-statutory
Linen fee - to be charged when customers want linen changed during lengthy stay in cabins	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (45.00)	-82%	Non-statutory
Off Peak Times						
Powered site -2 adults + 2 children	Taxable	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site - 2 adults + 2 children	Taxable	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 0.50	4%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 5.00	\$ (7.00)	-58%	Non-statutory
Ensuite site - 2 adults + 2 children	Taxable	\$ 62.00	\$ 58.00	\$ (4.00)	-6%	Non-statutory
Cabin (Number 53 & 54) - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 115.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 5.00	4%	Non-statutory
Std Cabin (2 bedroom) - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 175.00	\$ 170.00	\$ (5.00)	-3%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (2 bedroom) 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 180.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 10.00	6%	Non-statutory
Studio Cabin - No's 10 & 11 - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (3 Bedroom) - No 9 - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 3.00	25%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (2.00)	-17%	Non-statutory
Linen fee - to be charged when customers want linen changed during lengthy stay in cabins	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (45.00)	-82%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Weekly Rates (less than 40 days)						
Peak Times						
Powered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 260.00	\$ 276.00	\$ 16.00	6%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 165.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 9.00	5%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 5.00	7%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ (20.00)	-40%	Non-statutory
Ensuite site	Taxable	\$ 340.00	\$ 372.00	\$ 32.00	9%	Non-statutory
Cabin (Number 53 & 54) - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 720.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 30.00	4%	Non-statutory
Std Cabin (2 bedroom) - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 40.00	4%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (2 bedroom) 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 1,135.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 125.00	11%	Non-statutory
Studio Cabin - No's 10 & 11 - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 800.00	\$ 870.00	\$ 70.00	9%	Non-statutory
Cabin (3 Bedroom) - No 9 - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 1,265.00	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 175.00	14%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	New	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00		Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	New	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00		Non-statutory
Off Peak Times						
Powered site (2 adults + 2 children)		\$ 230.00	\$ 252.00	\$ 22.00	10%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 135.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 15.00	11%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 5.00	7%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 52.00	\$ 30.00	\$ (22.00)	-42%	Non-statutory
Ensuite site - 2 adults + 2 children	Taxable	\$ 62.00	\$ 52.00	\$ (10.00)	-16%	Non-statutory
Cabin (Number 53 & 54) - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 660.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 60.00	9%	Non-statutory
Std Cabin (2 bedroom) - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 895.00	\$ 1,030.00	\$ 135.00	15%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (2 bedroom) 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 920.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 220.00	24%	Non-statutory
Studio Cabin - No's 10 & 11 - 2 adults	Taxable	\$ 725.00	\$ 810.00	\$ 85.00	12%	Non-statutory
Cabin (3 Bedroom) - No 9 - 2 adults, 2 children	Taxable	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 65.00	5%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	New	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00		Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	New	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00		Non-statutory
*Peak Times: November to March, Public Holidays, Special Events Dimboola weekends.						
Other items						
Fire drum hire (per visit)	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Fire wood - 20kg bag	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 10.00	67%	Non-statutory
Caravan Park Fees - Nhill						
Daily Rates						
Powered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 46.00	\$ 46.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 0.50	4%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 5.00	\$ (7.00)	-58%	Non-statutory
Ensuite site	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 62.00	\$ (8.00)	-11%	Non-statutory
Budget Cabin 3	Taxable		\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00		Non-statutory
Budget Cabin 5 - w/ ensuite	Taxable	\$ 115.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 5.00	4%	Non-statutory
Budget Cabin 7 & 8	Taxable	\$ 125.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 10.00	8%	Non-statutory
Cabin 6	Taxable	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Cabin (Number 9 & 10)	Taxable	\$ 195.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 15.00	8%	Non-statutory
Studio Cabins	Taxable	New	\$ 135.00			Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 3.00	25%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (2.00)	-17%	Non-statutory
Linen fee - to be charged when customers want linen changed during lengthy stay in cabins	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Weekly Rates (less than 40 days)						
Powered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 260.00	\$ 276.00	\$ 16.00	6%	Non-statutory
Unpowered site (2 adults + 2 children)	Taxable	\$ 165.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 9.00	5%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 65.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 10.00	15%	Non-statutory
Camping extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 325.00	\$ 30.00	\$ (295.00)	-91%	Non-statutory
Ensuite site	Taxable	\$ 500.00	\$ 372.00	\$ (128.00)	-26%	Non-statutory
Budget Cabin 3	Taxable		\$ 870.00	\$ 870.00		Non-statutory
Budget Cabin 5 - w/ ensuite	Taxable	\$ 650.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 70.00	11%	Non-statutory
Budget Cabin 7 & 8	Taxable	\$ 725.00	\$ 810.00	\$ 85.00	12%	Non-statutory
Cabin 6	Taxable	\$ 825.00	\$ 810.00	\$ (15.00)	-2%	Non-statutory
Lux Cabin (Number 9 & 10)	Taxable	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 160.00	15%	Non-statutory
Studio Cabins	Taxable	New	\$ 810.00			Non-statutory
Cabin extra person > 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 78.00	650%	Non-statutory
Cabin extra person < 16 years old	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 48.00	400%	Non-statutory
Linen fee - to be charged when customers want linen changed during lengthy stay in cabins	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (45.00)	-82%	Non-statutory
COMMUNITY BUS						
Community Group Hire Fees - per kilometre *Note: Fuel at cost of hirer; bus must be returned with full tank of fuel.	Taxable	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.05	10%	Non-statutory
Other Hirer Fees - per kilometre *Note: Fuel at cost of hirer; bus must be returned with full tank of fuel.	Taxable	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.35	\$ 0.10	8%	Non-statutory
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES						
Food Act - Fixed Premises						
Food premises class 1 (hospital / aged care / child care)	Non-taxable	\$ 478.00	\$ 492.00	\$ 14.00	3%	Non-statutory
Food premises class 2 standard	Non-taxable	\$ 372.00	\$ 383.00	\$ 11.00	3%	Non-statutory
Class 3 & 3A (service stations, jam manufacturing, B & B accommodation)	Non-taxable	\$ 185.00	\$ 191.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Class 4 (Service of low rest foods)	Non-taxable		nil			Non-statutory
Non-for profit class 2 or 3 home kitchens	Non-taxable	\$ 30.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Limited operation premises (pool kiosks, home business)	Non-taxable	50% of relevant fee	50% of relevant fee			Non-statutory
Community Groups	Non-taxable	\$ 100.00	50% of relevant fee		0%	Non-statutory
Mobile Food Premises - for up to 12 Events per yr with Food Premises Registration - class 2 or 3, 3A						
Private Individuals and Business's (each mobile premises - food van)	Non-taxable	new	\$ 100.00			Non-statutory
Community Group	Non-taxable	50% of applicable fee	50% of applicable fee			Non-statutory
Public Health and Wellbeing						
Prescribed accommodation (hotel, motel, hostel, student dormitories, holiday camps, rooming houses, labour hire accommodation).	Non-taxable	\$ 212.00	\$ 218.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Transfer of Registration - Accommodation	Non-taxable	50% of annual fee	50% of annual fee			Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Health and Beauty Business						
Health and Beauty Premises - Low Risk (* hairdresser ongoing)	Non-taxable		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		Non-statutory
Health and Beauty Premises - Medium Risk	Non-taxable		\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00		Non-statutory
Health and Beauty Premises - High Risk	Non-taxable		\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00		Non-statutory
Health and Beauty Premises - Transfer	Non-taxable	New	50% of relevant renewal fee			Non-statutory
*Premises should be registered to the highest risk activity						
Aquatic Facilities						
Pools public / private accommodation / spas	Non-taxable	\$ 212.00	\$ 218.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Caravan Parks Registrations						
Fees are dependent on number of sites and calculated according to the prescribed number of fee units						
Transfer of Registration - Caravan Park	Non-taxable	\$ 96.00	50% if relevant renewal fee		0%	Non-statutory
Other						
Late payment penalty for all registrations	Taxable	10% of annual fee	10% of annual fee			Non-statutory
Additional & compliance inspections	Non-taxable	\$ 160.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Inspection by request	Non-taxable	\$ 160.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Sample testing	Taxable		At cost + 10%			Non-statutory
Pro rata registration - all businesses after 30 September	Non-taxable		50% of prescribed fee			Non-statutory
Septic Tanks						
Application to install a septic system	Non-taxable	\$ 371.00	\$ 382.00	\$ 11.00	3%	Non-statutory
Application to amend/alter an existing system	Non-taxable	\$ 159.00	\$ 164.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Application to extend a septic application	Non-taxable	\$ 186.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
EQUIPMENT HIRE						
<i>Equipment hire bonds and fees do not apply to Committees of Council</i>						
Bond						
Large Equipment	Non-taxable	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Small Equipment	Non-taxable	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hire Charges						
Small Equipment - Community Group (per day)	Taxable	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Small Equipment - Private Hire (per day)	Taxable	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Large Equipment - Community Group (per day)	Taxable	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Large Equipment - Private Hire (per day)	Taxable	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
EVENTS & HIRE OF PUBLIC SPACES						
Events						
Event in public places (over 50 people)	Taxable	\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Consumption or possession of liquor in public places	Taxable	\$ 49.00	\$ 49.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hire of variable message sign (per week) (including set up of message)	Taxable	\$ 225.00	\$ 232.00	\$ 7.00	3%	Non-statutory
Recycling trailer hire (per event)	Taxable	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Recycling trailer hire - bond (per event)	Taxable	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Hire of Public Places						
Other Public Places						
Minor use of facilities – Soundshells, Rotundas etc.	Taxable	\$ 37.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Major use of facilities – Soundshells, Rotundas etc.	Taxable	\$ 184.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Temporary Road Closures						
Completion of Traffic Management Plan (per hour)	Taxable	\$ 67.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Temporary Road Closure Permit	Taxable	New	\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00		Non-statutory
Set-up and pack-up of Temporary Road Closure signage (per hour)	Taxable	\$ 198.00	\$ 204.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Signage hire (per day)	Taxable	New	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		Non-statutory
Public Spaces						
High Risk Activity Bond*	Taxable	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
*High risk activity includes activities involving alcohol, crowds >200, events involving machinery, livestock and/or motor vehicles.						
PRIVATE PROPERTY						
Fire Prevention Notices						
Fire prevention maintenance works	Taxable	New	At cost +10%			Non-statutory
Vegetation and obstruction removal	Taxable	New	At cost +10%			Non-statutory
Unightly or dangerous property clean up	Taxable	New	At cost +10%			Non-statutory
Property impoundment (daily rate)	Taxable	New	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		Non-statutory
Garbage Bin Sales						
120 litre bin	Taxable	\$ 83.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 2.00	2%	Non-statutory
240 litre bin	Taxable	\$ 105.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory
Replacement bin lid - 120 litre	Taxable	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Replacement bin lid - 240 litre	Taxable	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Replacement set of 2 wheels (120L/240L bin)	Taxable	New	\$ 19.00			Non-statutory
Replacement set of 2 wheels (120L/240L bin) including axle	Taxable	New	\$ 25.00			Non-statutory
HALL HIRE						
Bonds						
Meetings - Community Group	Non-taxable	\$ 52.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Meetings - Private/Commercial	Non-taxable	\$ 103.00	\$ 106.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory
Functions - Community Group	Non-taxable	\$ 258.00	\$ 266.00	\$ 8.00	3%	Non-statutory
Functions - Private/Commercial	Non-taxable	\$ 258.00	\$ 266.00	\$ 8.00	3%	Non-statutory
Functions with Alcohol	Non-taxable	\$ 412.00	\$ 424.00	\$ 12.00	3%	Non-statutory
High Risk Activity Bond*	Non-taxable	New	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00		Non-statutory
*High risk activity (includes activities involving alcohol, crowds >200, events involving machinery, livestock and/or motor vehicles).						
Jeparit Hall						
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (1 hour)	Taxable	New	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00		Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (1 to 3 hours)	Taxable	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (Over 3 hours)	Taxable	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (after 1am per hour)	Taxable	\$ 59.00	\$ 61.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Kitchen Use	Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Cool Room	Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Small meeting room (hourly)	Taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Community Groups	Taxable	50% of applicable fee	50% of applicable fee			Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Nhill Memorial Community Centre						
Functions with Alcohol	Taxable	\$ 410.00	\$ 410.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (Over 3 hours)	Taxable	\$ 255.00	\$ 255.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (Up to 3 hours)	Taxable	\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (after 1am per hour)	Taxable	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Set up / Pack up (daily)	Taxable	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Kitchen / Bar / Cool room Hire	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Baby Grand Piano	Taxable	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Table Cloths (round or oblong) - each	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Cleaning	Taxable	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Community Groups	Taxable	50% of applicable fee	50% of applicable fee			Non-statutory
Old Shire Hall (Dimboola Civic Hub & Meeting Room)						
Meeting Room - Community Group Hire - per hour*	Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
Meeting Room - Private Function Hire - per hour*	Taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (Over 3 hours)	Taxable	\$ 258.00	\$ 266.00	\$ 8.00	3%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (Up to 3 hours)	Taxable	\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Hall Hire - Functions and Meetings (after 1am per hour)	Taxable	\$ 59.00	\$ 61.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Exhibitions & Displays - (per day)	Taxable	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 1.00	5%	Non-statutory
Community Groups	Taxable	50% of applicable fee	50% of applicable fee			Non-statutory
NHILL CINEMA AND FILM SCREENING						
Movie Tickets						
Adult	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Concession	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Family (2 Adults & 3 Children/Concession)	Taxable	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Bulk Buy - Adult (6)	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Bulk Buy - Child/Concession (6)	Taxable	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Bulk Buy - Family (6)	Taxable	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Classic Movies	Non-Taxable	Gold Coin Donation	Gold Coin Donation			Non-statutory
Special Movie Event Tickets						
Adult	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Concession	Taxable	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
INSURANCE						
Stall holder - per event	Taxable	\$ 41.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 1.00	2%	Non-statutory
Hirer of Public Hall - Daily	Taxable	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 1.00	6%	Non-statutory
Hirer of Public Hall - Yearly	Taxable	New	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		Non-statutory
Performers / Buskers / Artists - per event	Taxable	\$ 41.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 1.00	2%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
LIBRARIES						
Lost or damaged items	Taxable		Cost of replacement plus processing fee			Non-statutory
Processing Fee	Taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
LOCAL LAWS PERMIT FEES						
Document processing fee (Admin fee)	Taxable	\$ 22.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 1.00	5%	Non-statutory
Signs on pavement, street furniture and/or merchandise - 3 years (pro rata in accordance with renewal cycle)	Taxable	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Light a Fire in the Open Air in Residential Areas	Taxable	\$ 43.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 1.00	2%	Non-statutory
Temporary Road Closure	Taxable		\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00		Non-statutory
Large waste containers (Skip Bins) in Public Places	Taxable	\$ 67.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
Recreational Vehicles	Taxable	\$ 34.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Streets and Roads - Heavy or Long Vehicles	Taxable	\$ 101.00	\$ 104.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory
Streets and Roads - Removal of Firewood	Taxable	\$ 34.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Streets and Roads - Removal of Firewood (Pensioner)	Taxable	\$ 22.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 1.00	5%	Non-statutory
Camping on Private Property	Taxable		New \$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		Non-statutory
Camping on Public Places	Taxable		New \$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		Non-statutory
Excess Vehicles, Storage, Repair or Servicing on Private Property (for a period of three years)	Taxable		New \$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		Non-statutory
Construction noise outside of prescribed hours	Taxable		\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00		Non-statutory
Conduct Fireworks	Taxable		\$ 76.00	\$ 76.00		Non-statutory
Street collector	Taxable	\$ 50.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Street trader	Taxable	\$ 50.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
<i>For community events see Events & Public Spaces section</i>						
Keeping of Animals						
Excess Animals (where no planning permit required) - 3 years	Taxable	\$ 235.00	\$ 235.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Droving Livestock	Taxable		New \$ 73.00	\$ 73.00		Non-statutory
Grazing	Taxable		New \$ 73.00	\$ 73.00		Non-statutory
Protection of Council Assets						
<i>*Note: These fees are set by VicRoads on 01 July each year.</i>						
Road Opening Permit - L1	Taxable	\$ 715.00	\$ 736.00	\$ 21.00	3%	Non-statutory
Road Opening Permit - L2	Taxable	\$ 389.00	\$ 401.00	\$ 12.00	3%	Non-statutory
Road Opening Permit - L3	Taxable	\$ 154.00	\$ 159.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Road Opening Permit - L4	Taxable	\$ 100.00	\$ 103.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Infrastructure Services						
Bonds						
Council Infrastructure (Asset) Protection Bond	Non-taxable	\$ 817.00	At cost + 10%		0%	Non-statutory
				\$ -		Non-statutory
Inspections						
Mandatory/Compliance Inspections - per hr	Taxable	\$ 221.00	\$ 228.00	\$ 7.00	3%	Non-statutory
Works Within Road Reserves (WWRR)						
WWRR Permit Application fee	Taxable		\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00		Non-statutory
New Crossover or additions	Taxable		At cost + 10%			Non-statutory
Road works (construction/sealing/kerbing/drainage)	Taxable		At cost + 10%			Non-statutory
Design services (roads/infrastructure) - per hr	Taxable		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		Non-statutory
Other						
Removal of abandoned and left standing vehicles (towing contractor fees)	Taxable		At cost + 10%			Non-statutory
Impoundment (daily rate)	Taxable		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		Non-statutory
PHOTOCOPIES & SCANNING						
A4 - Black and White	Taxable	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A4 - Colour	Taxable	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A3 - Black and White	Taxable	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A3 - Colour	Taxable	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Engineering plans	Taxable	\$ 7.90	\$ 7.90	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A2 - Black and White	Taxable	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A2 - Colour	Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A1 - Black and White	Taxable	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A1 - Colour	Taxable	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A0 - Black and White	Taxable	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
A0 - Colour	Taxable	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
B Size Surcharge	Taxable	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Laminating A4	Taxable	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Laminating A3	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
PLANNING						
Planning Additional Fees - Advertising (conducted on applicants behalf)						
Newspaper advertisement - At cost			At cost			Non-statutory
Placing of notice onsite	Taxable	\$ 123.00	\$ 127.00	\$ 4.00	3%	Non-statutory
Notice of planning permit by mail (if more than 10 letters, per letter)	Taxable	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Planning - Additional Fees						
Secondary Consent Application	Non-taxable	\$ 224.00	\$ 231.00	\$ 7.00	3%	Non-statutory
Extension of Time to planning permit	Non-taxable	\$ 280.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 8.00	3%	Non-statutory
Section 173 Agreements	Non-taxable	\$ 226.00	At cost + 10%		0%	Non-statutory
Written Advice on Planning Controls	Taxable	\$ 168.00	\$ 173.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Hard copies of past Permits and Endorsed Plans - per/hr	Taxable		\$ 127.00	\$ 127.00		Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Planning - Withdrawal of Application						
After lodgement (no work undertaken)	Non-taxable	75% of app fee refundable	75% of app fee refundable			Non-statutory
After request for further information but prior to commencement of advertising	Non-taxable	50% of the application fee refunded	50% of the application fee refunded			Non-statutory
After advertising	Non-taxable	Refund discretionary	Refund discretionary			Non-statutory
Secondary Consent	Non-taxable	Refund discretionary	Refund discretionary			Non-statutory
Extension of Time	Non-taxable	No refund	No refund			Non-statutory
RATES						
Rates - debt recovery fees	Non-taxable	Cost recovery	Cost recovery			Non-statutory
RECYCLING TRAILER						
Recycling Trailer Hire (per event)	Taxable	\$ 25.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Recycling Trailer Hire - Bond (per event)	Taxable	\$ 300.00	\$ 310.00	\$ 10.00	3%	Non-statutory
				\$ -		Non-statutory
SALEYARD FEES						
Pigs (per pig / day)	Taxable	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Sheep (per sheep / day)	Taxable	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Yard fee per sale (per agent)	Taxable	\$ 1,497.00	\$ 1,542.00	\$ 45.00	3%	Non-statutory
SWIMMING POOLS - Council owned						
General admission	Taxable	Free	Free			Non-statutory
Lap Swimming or swimming outside of public opening house (single occasion) - per person - Minimum 5 people per session	Taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
School Swimming activities per liveguard per hour	Taxable	\$ 54.00	\$ 56.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Paid lessons/groups (single occasion)	Taxable	\$ 26.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Paid lessons/groups (season)	Taxable	New	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00		Non-statutory
WASTE DEPOT FEES						
Unsorted recyclables, general waste and hard plastic						
Wheelie Bin - 120L - per bin	Taxable	New	\$ 7.00			Non-statutory
Wheelie Bin - 240L - per bin	Taxable	New	\$ 10.00			Non-statutory
Car boot	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 1.00	7%	Non-statutory
6 x 4 trailer / ute – Level	Taxable	\$ 36.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
6 x 4 trailer / ute – Heaped	Taxable	\$ 67.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
6 x 4 caged trailer - level	Taxable	New	\$ 69.00			Non-statutory
6 x 4 caged trailer - heaped	Taxable	New	\$ 84.00			Non-statutory
Tandem trailer / Light truck – Level	Taxable	\$ 95.00	\$ 98.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory
Tandem trailer / Light truck – Heaped	Taxable	\$ 180.00	\$ 185.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Builders waste clean sorted – Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 82.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 2.00	2%	Non-statutory
Builders waste dirty non-sorted – Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 196.00	\$ 202.00	\$ 6.00	3%	Non-statutory
Concrete Non-sorted – Per tonne	Taxable	\$ 139.00	\$ 143.00	\$ 4.00	3%	Non-statutory
Concrete Clean, sorted – Per tonne	Taxable	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Heavy truck loads	Taxable	Not accepted	Not accepted			Non-statutory
Mattresses (All sizes)	Taxable	\$ 52.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 2.00	4%	Non-statutory
Asbestos (per kilogram)	Taxable	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.50	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	GST Status	2025/26 Fee Inc GST	2026/27 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
		\$	\$	\$	%	
Clean Fill Dirt (per tonne)	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Sorted recyclables						
Newspapers, Cardboard, Bottles, Cans etc.	Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
Cardboard - businesses	Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
Tyres						
Car and Motorcycle	Taxable	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Light Commercial	Taxable	\$ 31.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Truck –Standard	Taxable	\$ 93.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory
Tractor - under 2 metres high	Taxable	\$ 155.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	3%	Non-statutory
Tractor - over 2 metres high	Taxable	\$ 309.00	\$ 318.00	\$ 9.00	3%	Non-statutory
Car bodies						
Car bodies / scrap steel	Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
Green Waste & Timber						
Car boot	Taxable	\$ 8.50	\$ 8.50	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
6 x 4 trailer / ute – Level	Taxable	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
6 x 4 trailer / ute – Heaped	Taxable	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 1.00	5%	Non-statutory
Tandem trailer / Light truck – Level	Taxable	\$ 26.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Tandem trailer / Light truck – Heaped	Taxable	\$ 34.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 1.00	3%	Non-statutory
Heavy truck	Taxable	\$ 65.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 2.00	3%	Non-statutory
E-waste						
Flourescents	Taxable	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
High bay lights	Taxable	\$ 11.00	\$ 11.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
E-Waste - per kg	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Furniture						
Small Item – e.g. Chair (per unit)	Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Medium Item – e.g. bed, dressing table etc. (per unit)	Taxable	\$ 41.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 1.00	2%	Non-statutory
Large Item – e.g. Couch, wardrobe etc. (per unit)	Taxable	\$ 113.00	\$ 116.00	\$ 3.00	3%	Non-statutory
Oil						
Oil (per litre)	Taxable	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Oil Drum disposal (per drum)	Taxable	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
FEES SET BY COUNCIL ASSET COMMITTEES - MUSEUM FEES						
Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum						
Adult	Non-taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Pensioner	Non-taxable	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Adult over 90	Non-taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
Children under 5	Non-taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Non-statutory
Children over 5 but under 12	Non-taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Family	Non-taxable	\$ 26.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Groups of 10 or more (per person)	Non-taxable	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
School groups (per student - teachers no charge)	Non-taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Yurunga Homestead						
Adult	Non-taxable	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Secondary School Student	Non-taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Children under 12	Non-taxable	Free	Free			Non-statutory
Groups - per person						
Lunch	Non-taxable	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Lunch plus tour	Non-taxable	\$ 26.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory
Morning or afternoon tea	Non-taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	0%	Non-statutory
Morning/Afternoon plus tour	Non-taxable	\$ 23.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 1.00	4%	Non-statutory

(Asset committees are not registered for GST)



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POLICY

C019 Public Transparency Policy

1 Purpose

The Public Transparency Policy (the Policy) supports Council in its ongoing drive for good governance and reinforces the importance of open and accountable conduct. In practice, it provides guidance as to how Council information is to be made publicly available. Council must adopt and maintain a public transparency policy under section 57 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). This Policy gives effect to the public transparency principles outlined in section 58 of the Act -

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless –
 - (i) the information is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
 - (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- (d) public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all Councillors, delegated committees under the Act and all employees of Hindmarsh Shire Council.

3 Definitions

Community

Community is a flexible term used to define groups of connected people. It is used to describe people of a municipality generally, including individuals or groups who live, work, play, study, visit, invest in or pass through the

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

municipality. More specifically, it can refer to everyone affiliated with the municipality, or smaller groups defined by interest, identity or location, and not necessarily homogenous in composition or views. Different types of communities often overlap and extend beyond municipal boundaries. Communities may be structured, as in clubs or associations or unstructured, such as teens. Communities are flexible and temporary and subject to individual identity and location.

Confidential information	has the same meaning under section 3 of the Act and is further described under clause 7(a) of this Policy
Council	means Hindmarsh Shire Council
Closed Meetings	Under section 66(5) of the Act, Council may determine that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information. A meeting may therefore be closed to the public if Council resolves to close the meeting, to consider a confidential matter regarding issues of a legal, contractual or personnel nature and other issues deemed not in the public interest.
Transparency	means a lack of hidden agendas or conditions, and the availability of all information needed to collaborate, cooperate and make decisions effectively. Importantly, transparency is also a human right under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, namely, “the right to have the opportunity, without discrimination, to participate in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
Contrary to Public Interest	means where Council may refuse to release information if it determines that the harm likely to be created by releasing the information will exceed the public benefit in being transparent. When considering possible harm from releasing information, Council will only concern itself with harm to the community or members of the community. Potential harm to the Council will only be a factor if it would also damage the community, such as where it involves a loss of public funds or prevents the Council from performing its functions.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

4 Policy

4.1 Policy Statement

Transparency and accountability go hand in hand. Openness, accountability, and honesty define local government transparency and Council's obligation to share information with the community. Transparency is central to the ability of the community to hold its elected officials accountable.

Public transparency, in the local government context, requires that the decision-making processes of the Council be conducted openly with information made freely and proactively available to individuals and participation in decision-making is encouraged. There should be minimal exceptions and in accordance with legal requirements. An explanation should always be provided as to why information will not be released or why a decision cannot be made with full transparency.

As a result this policy seeks to promote:

- a) Greater clarity in Council's decision-making processes;
- b) Increased confidence and trust in the community through greater understanding and awareness;
- c) Enhanced decision making by the community;
- d) Improved performance of Council;
- e) Enhanced access to information that is current and disseminated in a timely manner;
- f) Reassurance to the community that Council is spending public monies wisely.

4.2 Application

To enact the principles of transparency, Council will apply them to the following processes.

4.2.1 Decision-making at Council Meetings

Decision-making at Council meetings –

- will be undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules.
- will be conducted in an open and transparent forum, unless the meeting is closed in accordance with the provisions in the Act and Governance Rules.
- will be informed through community engagement, in accordance with the Community Engagement Principles and the Community Engagement Policy.
- will be made fairly and on the merits of the issue at hand. Where any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of Council, that person will be entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered.

4.2.2 Council Information

Council delivers a range of services to residents, business and visitors to the municipality and our services and functions are documented. Council will publish information about Council services

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

and administration activities on Council's website or will make this information available upon request.

Part II of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* requires Council to publish several statements designed to assist individuals in accessing the information it holds. A list of available information is provided in the Part II Statement published in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. This information includes:

Documents such as:

- Plans and Reports adopted by Council;
- Policies adopted by Council;
- project and service plans adopted by Council;
- grant applications and tenders open for application;
- service agreements, contracts, leases and licences;
- Council leases, permits and notices of building and occupancy; and
- relevant technical reports and / or research that informs decision making.

Procedural information such as:

- Practice notes and operating procedures;
- application processes for approvals, permits, grants, access to Council services;
- decision making processes;
- guidelines and manuals;
- community engagement processes; and
- complaints handling processes.

Council records including but not limited to the details below, will be made available where possible on Council's website or on request:

- Council and Delegated Committee meeting agendas and minutes;
- reporting from Committees required to in accordance with the Governance Rules;
- details of Delegated Committees, Community Asset Committees and Advisory Committees;
- registers of gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to Councillors or Council Staff;
- registers of travel undertaken by Councillors or Council Staff;
- registers of Conflicts of Interest disclosed by Councillors or Council Staff;
- submissions made by Council to State or Federal processes;
- details of any Memorandum of Understanding entered by Council that are not subject to confidentiality clauses;
- registers of donations and grants made by Council;
- registers of leases entered by Council, as lessor and lessee;
- register of Delegations;
- register of Authorised officers;
- register of Election campaign donations;
- summary of Personal Interests; and
- any other Registers or Records required by legislation or determined to be in the public interest.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

Publications

Council publishes a range of newsletters and reports for residents, businesses and visitors to Hindmarsh. These can be downloaded from Council’s website or by contacting Council for a copy. Some of these publications are available at Council’s Libraries.

4.3 Transparency Considerations and Limitations

Some Council information that informs decision making by Council may not be made publicly available. This will only occur if the information is confidential information or if its release would be contrary to the public interest or in compliance with relevant legislation.

4.3.1 Legislation and Policy

The information made available is subject to the provisions of:

- the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*;
- the *Local Government Act 2020*;
- the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;
- the *Health Records Act 2001*; and
- Council’s Privacy Policy.

4.3.2 Confidential Information

“Confidential information” is defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It includes the types of information listed in the following table.

Type of Information	Description
Council business	Information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
Security	Information that is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person if released.
Land use planning	Information that is likely to encourage speculation in land values if prematurely released.
Law enforcement	Information which would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person if released.
Legal privileged	Information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.
Personal	Information which would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs if released.
Private commercial	Information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or that would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage if released.
Confidential meeting	Records of a Council and/or Delegated Committee meeting that are closed to the public to consider confidential information.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

Internal arbitration	Confidential information relating to internal arbitration about an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct – Councillors.
Councillor Conduct Panel	Confidential information relating to a Councillor Conduct Panel matter.
Confidential information under the 1989 Act	Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> .

Council may decide, in the interests of transparency, to release information to the public even though it is confidential under the Act. However, this will not happen if release is contrary to law, in breach of contractual requirements or if releasing the information is likely to cause harm to any person or is not in the public interest to do so.

Where information is not confidential, and not already available, Council will apply the principles of a public interest test with consideration also of the resources required to respond to the request.

4.3.3 Public Interest Test

Council is not required to make publicly available information if the release would be Contrary to the Public Interest, in accordance with the Act. Council may refuse to release information if it is satisfied that the harm to the community, an individual or a group of individuals likely to be created by releasing the information will exceed the public benefit in it being released.

When considering possible harm from releasing information, Council will only concern itself with harm to the community or members of the community. Potential harm to the Council will only be a factor if it also damages the community, such as where it involves a loss of public funds or prevents the Council from performing its functions.

4.4 Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* gives individuals a right to apply for access to documents held by Council. Council is committed to proactive and informal release of information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1982, and the Professional Standards issued by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner. Individuals are encouraged to contact Council prior to applying under Freedom of Information, as Council staff can advise what documents are available for inspection and in some instances can assist with providing the requested information informally.

5 Responsibilities

All Councillors and Council Officers are responsible for facilitating access to council information in accordance with this policy.

Specific responsibilities are detailed below -

Party/parties	Roles and responsibilities
Council	Champion the commitment and principles for public transparency through leadership, modelling practice and decision-making.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

Executive Management Team	Champion behaviours that foster transparency and drive the principles through policy, process and leadership. Monitor implementation of this policy.
Senior Management Team	Manage areas of responsibility to ensure public transparency, good governance and community engagement is consistent with this policy.
All Staff	Public transparency is the responsibility of all employees as appropriate to their role and function. All staff respond to requests for information and facilitate provision of information in consultation with their manager and in alignment with this Policy.
Manager People and Performance	To monitor implementation of this policy and conduct periodic reviews to drive continuous improvement.

6 Non-Compliance

If a member of the community wishes to question a decision about the release of information, this should be raised directly with the officer handling the matter in the first instance. If the member of the community is still not satisfied and would like to contest the decision, this can be reported to Council's Manager People and Performance on (03) 5391 4444.

If you are not satisfied with Council's response, the concerns can be raised directly with the Victorian Ombudsman's office on (03) 9613 6222. or via the website www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au.

7 Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter Compatibility Statement

This policy has been reviewed against and complies with section 13 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. Importantly, transparency is a human right under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, namely, "the right to have the opportunity, without discrimination, to participate in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Additionally, this policy also provides for the protection of an individual's right not to have their privacy unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with.

8 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Council commits to monitoring processes, information sharing and decision making to understand the overall level of success in the Policy's implementation.

A periodic review of this policy will be undertaken to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the policy are made in a timely manner.

9 References

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Public Transparency Policy

Related documents	Legislation
Governance Rules Public Transparency Principles Privacy and Data Protection Policy Community Engagement Policy Privacy Policy	<i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i>

10 Document Control

C019 Public Transparency Policy		Policy Category	COUNCIL
Version Number	1.2	Policy Status	DRAFT
Approved/Adopted By	COUNCIL	Approved/Adopted on:	
Responsible Officer	CEO	Review Date	
Version History	Date	Version	Description
	August 2020	1.0	New policy required by <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
	September 2023	1.1	Scheduled Policy Review
	June 2026	1.2	Scheduled Policy Review



POLICY

C032 Council Grants Administration

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish Council's overarching framework for the administration of Council grant programs to support community, cultural, environmental, economic and social outcomes that align with Council's strategic objectives and community priorities.

This Policy is intended to ensure that Council grants are administered in a manner that is fair, transparent, accountable and consistent, and that public funds are allocated, managed and monitored responsibly for the benefit of the community.

- establish a clear and consistent approach to the design, assessment, approval, payment and acquittal of Council grant programs;
- embed fraud and integrity controls across the full lifecycle of Council grants to reduce the risk of fraud, error, bias or misuse of public funds, and to support public confidence in Council decision-making;
- ensure grant applications are assessed objectively and consistently against approved eligibility criteria and assessment guidelines, with decisions appropriately documented and capable of independent scrutiny, as highlighted by the Victorian Auditor-General as a critical control gap in local government grants administration;
- reinforce the identification, disclosure and appropriate management of conflicts of interest by Councillors, members of Council staff and members of delegated committees involved in grant decision-making, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Governance Rules; and
- support compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and broader principles of transparency, accountability and the proper use of public resources.

2 Scope

This Policy applies to all Council-funded grant programs, whether recurrent or one-off, discretionary or budget-funded, that involve the allocation of financial assistance to external individuals, community groups, not-for-profit organisations, businesses or other entities. This Policy provides the foundation for detailed grant guidelines, procedures and program-specific criteria adopted by Council from time to time and applies to all Council-funded grant programs, unless otherwise determined by Council.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Council Grants Administration

2.1 Exclusions

Unless otherwise determined by Council, this Policy does not apply to:

- procurement of goods or services governed by Council's Procurement Policy;
- sponsorship arrangements where Council receives a commercial or promotional benefit;
- fee waivers, rebates or concessions administered under separate Council policies; or
- statutory payments or funding arrangements required by legislation.

3 Definitions

Council means Hindmarsh Shire Council

4 Responsibilities

Council Council is responsible for:

- approving this Policy and any significant amendments;
- approving the annual budget allocation for Council grant programs;
- approving grant programs and funding allocations where required by delegation or Council resolution; and
- providing oversight of Council's grant framework to ensure transparency, accountability and alignment with Council's strategic objectives.

Chief Executive Officer The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- ensuring Council grant programs are administered in accordance with this Policy, the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Governance Rules;
- establishing and maintaining appropriate systems, controls and resources to support effective, ethical and compliant grant administration;
- ensuring consistent fraud and integrity controls are applied across all Council grant programs, consistent with better practice expectations identified by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office;
- ensuring appropriate delegations are in place for grant approvals and administration; and
- reporting to Council, where appropriate, on the performance and outcomes of Council grant programs.

Council staff involved in the design, administration, assessment, recommendation or management of Council grants are responsible for:

- administering grant programs in accordance with this Policy, approved guidelines and any relevant delegations;
- ensuring grant applications are assessed fairly, consistently and objectively against approved eligibility criteria and assessment guidelines;

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Council Grants Administration

- maintaining accurate and complete records of grant assessments, recommendations, decisions, payments and acquittals;
- implementing fraud and integrity controls throughout the grant lifecycle, including appropriate checks, segregation of duties and monitoring of grant use;
- identifying, declaring and managing any conflicts of interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council's Governance Rules and relevant Codes of Conduct; and
- ensuring grant recipients meet reporting and acquittal requirements as a condition of funding.

5 Policy

Council is committed to administering its grant programs in accordance with the following principles, which reflect better practice expectations for Victorian local government grants and address the key risks identified by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office in relation to fraud control, integrity and transparency in grant administration.

Council grant programs will be administered in accordance with the following principles:

- **Equity and Fairness**
Grant opportunities will be accessible and assessed consistently and objectively, with decisions based on merit and alignment with Council objectives.
- **Transparency**
Grant processes, assessment criteria and decisions will be clear, documented and capable of public and independent scrutiny.
- **Accountability**
Clear roles, responsibilities and delegations will apply to grant administration, and grant recipients will be accountable for the appropriate use of public funds.
- **Integrity and Probity**
Councillors, Council staff and delegated committee members must act impartially and declare and manage conflicts of interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules.
- **Risk and Fraud Awareness**
Council recognises grants as an area of inherent risk and will apply proportionate fraud and integrity controls across the grant lifecycle to protect public funds and maintain community confidence.

5.1 Fraud and Integrity Controls

Council recognises that grant programs involve an inherent risk of fraud, error, bias and misuse of public funds and is committed to maintaining strong integrity and fraud control arrangements across all Council grant programs.

Council will apply proportionate fraud and integrity controls across the full grant lifecycle, including program design, application, assessment, approval, payment, monitoring and acquittal.

Key controls include:

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Council Grants Administration

- clear eligibility criteria, assessment guidelines and decision-making authorities for each grant program;
- documented assessment, recommendation and approval processes that support transparency and independent scrutiny;
- segregation of duties where practicable to reduce the risk of inappropriate influence or error;
- requirements for grant funds to be used only for approved purposes, supported by monitoring and acquittal processes;
- mechanisms to identify, manage and respond to suspected or actual fraud or misuse of grant funds; and
- periodic review of grant programs and controls to ensure they remain effective and proportionate to risk.

Fraud and integrity controls for grant programs will align with Council's broader fraud and corruption control framework and reflect better practice expectations for Victorian local government grant administration.

5.2 Conflicts of Interest

Council is committed to ensuring that all decisions relating to the allocation and administration of grants are made impartially and in the public interest.

All Councillors, members of Council staff and members of delegated committees involved in the design, assessment, recommendation, approval or administration of Council grants must:

- identify and disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest; and
- manage conflicts of interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council's Governance Rules and relevant Codes of Conduct.

A person with a conflict of interest must not participate in the assessment, discussion, recommendation or decision-making process in relation to the relevant grant application, except as permitted under legislation.

Council will ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to support the identification, disclosure and management of conflicts of interest throughout the grant lifecycle, recognising that effective conflict-of-interest controls are a key integrity safeguard for Council grant programs.

5.3 Monitoring, Review and Reporting

Council will monitor the administration and outcomes of its grant programs to ensure compliance with this Policy and the effective use of public funds.

Monitoring and reporting activities may include:

- tracking grant approvals, payments and acquittals;
- reviewing compliance with funding conditions and approved purposes; and
- assessing grant outcomes against program objectives, where appropriate.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Council Grants Administration

Council will periodically review grant programs and associated controls to ensure they remain effective, proportionate to risk and aligned with better practice expectations for local government grants.

This Policy will be reviewed at least every four years, or earlier if required by legislative change, audit findings, or material changes to Council's grant programs.

6 References

Related documents	Legislation
Hindmarsh Shire Council Grant Guidelines	<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
Fraud Prevention and Control Policy and Plan	<i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i> <i>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014</i>

7 Document Control

Council Grants Administration		Policy Category	Council
Version Number	1.0	Policy Status	Draft
Approved/Adopted By	Council	Approved/Adopted on:	
Responsible Officer	CEO	Review Date	
Version History	Date	Version	Description
	May 2026	1.0	Policy drafted in line with VAGO audit on grants administration within the Victorian Local Government sector.



POLICY

C005 Hardship and Financial Hardship

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy is to provide Council with a policy framework for assisting individuals and businesses experiencing hardship or financial hardship to manage the payment of rates and charges, in accordance with sections 170, 171, 171A, 171B, 172, 180, 180A, 181 and 181AA of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Ministerial Guidelines relating to payment of rates and charges (issued under section 181AA).

The Policy also aims to ensure communication is clear and accessible, options are offered early and proportionately, and decisions are made consistently and compassionately. It sets out how Council will offer flexible payment options, payment plans, deferrals and (where appropriate) waivers, and how applications will be assessed, reviewed and communicated to support sustainable payment outcomes for both Council and the ratepayer.

2 Scope

This policy applies to property owners and ratepayers within Hindmarsh Shire Council in accordance with sections 170, 171, 171A, 171B (*payment plans*), 172 (*interest on unpaid rates and charges*), 180 and 180A (*recovery of unpaid rates or charges*), 181 (*Council may sell land*) and 181AA (*Ministerial guidelines*) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, as amended by the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022*. Council must comply with Ministerial Guidelines issued under section 181AA.

Specifically, this refers to revenue on the rates notice, including rates, waste charges, interest, and other related fees. It is important to note that this policy does not apply to fines issued under Council's Local Laws or any other Act.

Where financial hardship cannot be established, Council may utilise the collection options available under Sections 180 and 181 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to recover overdue amounts. These recovery methods may include initiating legal action and, in extreme cases, proceeding with the sale of the property.

When implementing this policy, Council will consider the payment arrangement that best suits each property owner's individual circumstances. In every case, Council is committed to ensuring that compassion, respect and transparency are maintained throughout the assessment and management of financial hardship applications.

3 Definitions

CEO	means Chief Executive Officer of Hindmarsh Shire Council
Council	means the Hindmarsh Shire Council
Employee	means a person employed by Council, including the Chief Executive Officer, Directors, Managers, and any person engaged as a short term Employee or a contractor undertaking duties on behalf of Council.
Financial Hardship	is referenced in s171 and a171A of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> . Financial hardship is being experienced when, due to prescribed circumstances, the payment of rates and charges means that Ratepayer would not be able to afford the necessities of life for themselves or their dependants.
Hardship	is referenced in s170 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> . Hardship will depend on a person's particular circumstances. Hardship may include financial or economic hardship but also includes a diverse range of other personal circumstances and events which may be detrimental to a person's quality of life.
Ratepayer	means any person, corporation, business or other entity owing money to Council in respect of rates and charges. This includes those who may not legally own a property, but who are required to pay rates and charges such as those determined by lease agreements.

4 Policy Statement

4.1 General Principles

This Policy reflects the following principles in relation to hardship, financial hardship and debt management:

- Council will ensure a flexible, place-based approach in offering modern and flexible payment options tailored to community needs.
- Council communication will be clear and accessible, providing simple and varied methods of communication about rates and charges.
- All ratepayers will be treated equitably, compassionately and proportionately, including the treatment of hardship or financial hardship applications.
- All applicant information will be treated in accordance with privacy legislation and Council's Privacy and Data Protection Policy.
- Council commits to continuously improving policies in relation to hardship and debt management to align with community needs and expectations.

Council will enforce the legislative powers available under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) in the pursuit of outstanding rates and charges debts. Council is committed to assisting Ratepayers who are experiencing financial difficulty, ensuring that the collection process is transparent and that all Council Employees have the training and resources necessary to effectively and consistently manage ratepayer hardship; and

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

Where Council Employees have identified that a ratepayer is experiencing hardship or financial hardship, outstanding rates and charges owed to the municipality shall be pursued in accordance with this Policy.

An interpreter service is available to communicate with ratepayers if required, such a request will not be refused.

Council will pursue recovery only when essential, taking into account ratepayer history, hardship and financial hardship applications, and existing payment plans. Recovery will not proceed if prohibited by laws such as section 180A of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

4.2 Flexible Payment Options

Council will offer flexible payment options for levied rates and charges. This includes, but is not limited to:

- in person at Council offices (EFTPOS, credit/debit cards and cash);
- direct debit for periodic payments/bill smoothing (on instalment due dates, monthly or fortnightly); Payment arrangements can be made weekly, fortnightly, monthly or by instalment
- Payment through the mail
- Payment over the phone by contacting one of our customer service offices
- CentrePay arrangements
- BPAY
- Australia Post

Council commits to continually reviewing and revising payment methods in line with advances in technology.

5 Hardship and Financial Hardship

Hardship and financial hardship are identified as two separate terms under the *Local Government Act 1989* (section 170 and sections 171 to 171A respectively). While situations of hardship may cause financial hardship, the two situations are not always present together.

Hardship, (including financial hardship), can arise from a variety of causes which may include, but are not limited to:

- employment difficulties, loss of employment or unemployment of the ratepayer or family member;
- reduced, insufficient or lack of income;
- medical issues, injury, illness or mental illness of the ratepayer or family member; alcohol, drug or substance use;
- death of a family member or loved one;
- family circumstances;
- family violence or economic abuse;
- elder abuse;
- gambling;
- scams or fraud;
- incarceration;
- natural disaster;

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

- barriers to accessing essential services including event-based circumstances and systemic and market-based factors, which result in economic and/or social exclusion or harm.

If a Ratepayer is experiencing any of the circumstances above and the payment of rates and charges means that they would not be able to afford the necessities of life for themselves or their dependants, they will be in financial hardship. Necessities of life include, but are not limited to, essential medical treatment or supplies, essential utilities and access to basic living needs to food, accommodation, clothing, childcare, education, transport and insurance.

Under the legislation, a Ratepayer does not need to demonstrate financial hardship to be applicable for support when applying for deferral of rates and charges, or when applying for a payment plan. Rather, the Ratepayer must show that payment would cause hardship to them in their circumstances, at the time the rates and charges are payable.

By contrast, when applying for waiver of rates and charges, the Ratepayer will need to demonstrate that payment would likely result in financial hardship. Determination of whether a Ratepayer is in 'hardship' or 'financial hardship', will always be dependent on an individual's circumstances.

If a Ratepayer is receiving a subsidy, including a rebate or concession, this does not preclude them from being assessed as being in hardship or financial hardship and eligible for deferred payment or waiver (as appropriate).

5.1 Conditions Relating to Hardship

Section 170 of the *Local Government Act 1989* enables Council to defer, either in full or in part, any rate or charge which is payable, for a specific period and subject to any conditions determined by the Council, if an application by a ratepayer shows that payment would cause hardship to the person.

A deferral will enable payment to be made at a future agreed date, giving the ratepayer a grace period where no payments are made. Councils may also elect to apply deferred payments under the condition that a payment plan is subsequently put in place.

5.2 Conditions Relating to Financial Hardship

The concept of 'financial hardship' is referenced in sections 171 and 171A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, which allow a Council to waive the whole or part of a payment of any rate, charge or interest, where it considers that the person is suffering financial hardship, or payment would cause financial hardship to the person.

5.3 Deferment of Rates and Charges

Under Section 170 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may allow partial or full deferral of rates where they consider that paying rates and charges would create hardship for the applicant.

Deferral of rates and charges is made available to all property owners and ratepayers who satisfy the eligibility criteria under this policy and will be granted based on the following conditions:

- The deferral ceases and the deferred rates and accrued interest rate are immediately payable if the property owners or ratepayer ceases to own or occupy the property on which the rates are imposed; and

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

- The deferral will be reviewed each year within one month of the issue of the annual 'Valuation and Rate Notice'; and
- An increase in the valuation of a property and a subsequent increase in rates cannot be considered grounds for a deferred payment of rates of their own accord.

5.4 Waiver of Rates and Charges

The concept of 'financial hardship' is referenced in sections 171 and 171A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, which allows Council to waive the whole or part of a payment of any rate, charge or interest, where it considers that the person is suffering financial hardship, or payment would cause financial hardship to the person.

5.5 Waiver of Interest and Legal Charges

Under Section 171A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, property owners and ratepayers may have interest charges and legal charges, or part thereof, waived where they have demonstrated financial hardship, subject to compliance with the following conditions and approval by Council Officers:

Waiver will be granted only to:

- Property owners and ratepayers whose property is the sole or principal place of residence and is used exclusively for residential purposes;
- Farm land which is the sole or principal place of residence of the applicant;
- Commercial/industrial land owned and operated by the applicant.

An application for a waiver of interest charges will be considered where genuine hardship or financial hardship can be demonstrated and if granted, the waiver will be reassessed by officers every six (6) months.

Applications will be reviewed in accordance with relevant delegations. The property owners and ratepayer will be advised in writing of the outcome of the application.

5.6 Applications

Applications can be submitted online, in person, over the phone by the Ratepayer or a person authorised to act on their behalf. Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and on the information provided by the Ratepayer. Council will only request and collect information directly relevant and necessary to decide on hardship or financial hardship.

Council will advise applicants regarding evidentiary requirements and confirmation of personal details.

Pursuant to Sections 170, 171 and 171A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, property owners may apply for the following, depending on their individual circumstances:

- Deferral of rates and charges;
- Waiver of interest and legal charges invoiced to date; or
- Waiver of rates and charges.

Any applications made under this policy and the associated procedure will be considered, however applications will only be granted where there is genuine hardship or financial hardship.

Council will take into consideration whether the applicant is seeking professional assistance for their financial hardship when making its decision.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

Once all documentation and evidence is received, applicants will be formally notified of the decision as soon as is practically possible, but within 30 days, unless otherwise advised to the applicant.

In addition to hardship, this policy will also cover compassionate grounds. This generally relates to immediate family illness or death up can also include:

- A sudden death in the family;
- Family violence;
- A life-threatening illness or injury, acute or chronic pain or acute or chronic illness;
- Modifications to the home or vehicle to accommodate their needs or their dependents to accommodate a severe disability;
- The need to pay for palliative care for themselves or a dependent with a terminal medical condition;
- Expenses associated with a dependents death, funeral or burial; and
- Unable to work due to a medical condition and the support of Government assistance to pay living expenses.

5.6.1 Assessment of Applications

Property owners and ratepayers may apply for a full or partial waiver of rates and charges subject to an assessment of the following factors:

Whether the ratepayer:

- has provided appropriate evidence including but not limited to:
 - circumstances of hardship (whether short term or prolonged) from the list provided within this Policy, and
 - an indication that paying rates and charges means that they would be unable to afford necessities of life for themselves and/or dependents
- receives Centrelink or other benefits
- is on a low or fixed income such as pension or superannuation payment
- has been referred by an accredited financial counsellor, welfare agency or legal assistance service, or
- has a payment history that indicates they have difficulty in meeting payments in the past.

The applicant may also be an eligible recipient within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*.

Council will only request information directly relevant to the decision on hardship and financial hardship.

Examples of what may be considered relevant includes (but is not limited to) the below:

- Government agency documentation: Centrelink, ATO, NDIA, Victoria Police, Victorian Courts
- Certified documentation: medical certificates, referral from financial counsellors, legal documentation, statutory declarations
- Personal information: payslips, evidence of job loss or reduced hours, unpaid bills or repayment notices, bank statements (only where necessary, not mandatory).

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

Applicant ratepayers may benefit from a referral by a Council to a financial counsellor, a community lawyer, a government-funded assistance program or specialist family violence support service. Councils will provide details to applicants that request these services.

If granted, the waiver will apply only for the rating year in which the application was made and the previous financial year. Retrospective applications for a waiver of unpaid Rates and Charges greater than two years will be presented to the Chief Executive Officer or Council for decision, subject to adopted delegations. The application will be assessed by Council officers on the grounds of genuine financial hardship only and approved by Council resolution.

5.6.2 Decisions and Reviews

Council will advise applicants in writing of the outcome of their application as soon as is practicable, but with 30 days unless otherwise advised.

Council will not undertake recovery or enforcement activity while an application is under review.

If the applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of their application, they may request a review of the decision. The review will be undertaken by someone not involved in the original decision. The decision will be reviewed to ensure that:

- The process was fair and transparent;
- The decision was based on relevant evidence and considerations;
- Relevant laws were complied with; and
- The decision was reasonable and justifiable in the circumstances.

5.7 Payment Plans

Council may enter into a payment plan for unpaid rates or charges upon request, either verbally or in writing. This applies to charges being paid in instalments, deferred under section 170, or partially waived under sections 171 or 171A.

Council will set the plan's duration, instalment amounts, frequency, and other terms, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation.

If a ratepayer misses payments or fails to contact Council, a reminder notice will be sent outlining the timeframe to respond or pay.

Under these conditions, Council may cancel a payment plan at any time if the person is not complying with the terms of the plan. If a payment plan is cancelled, the amount owing becomes due and payable and may be recovered by the Council in accordance with section 180 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. A cancellation notice will be sent to the ratepayer formally notifying them in writing that the payment plan has been cancelled.

5.8 Discontinuation of Financial Hardship Assistance

Under Section 170(3) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Councils can require repayments of deferred amounts if they consider that payment would no longer cause hardship, or if the land changes hands. Despite any payment agreement in place, outstanding rates and charges become immediately payable in the following circumstances:

1. In the case of a person, the property owner and/or ratepayer ceases to occupy the property applicable to the agreement.

2. In the case of a business, the property owner and/or ratepayer enters into administration or liquidation.
3. The applicable property is sold or transferred to another person or entity.
4. There is a material alteration to the ratepayer's circumstances and making the payment would no longer cause financial hardship to the person.

5.9 Defaults

Where payment arrangements have been made and the ratepayer has not followed the agreement without prior conveying of their circumstances to the rates department, this will be seen as a default.

The rates department will make reasonable attempts to contact the ratepayer to resolve the situation, as per the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022*.

5.10 Commencing Proceedings for Recovery of Unpaid Rates and Charges Debts

Council will not commence a proceeding under section 180(1) for an unpaid rate or charge that has not been deferred under section 170 or has not been the subject of a payment plan unless -

- (a) the Council, in writing -
 - a. notifies the person liable to pay the rate or charge of the arrears; and
 - b. advises the person of the payment options available including deferrals and payment plans; and
- (b) it has been at least 24 months since the person was notified and advised and the person has not deferred payment, entered into a payment plan or used any other available payment option.

Council will not commence a proceeding under section 180(1) for an unpaid rate or charge that has been deferred under section 170 unless—

- (a) the Council has sent a notice under section 170(3); and
- (b) the person has failed to make payment as required by the notice.

Council will not commence a proceeding under section 180(1) for an unpaid rate or charge that is subject to a payment plan.

Council will commence a proceeding under section 180(1) for an unpaid rate or charge that was subject to a payment plan unless it has been at least 24 months since the plan was cancelled.

Council will list debt recovery costs on the Hindmarsh Shire Council website, which can only be applied to unpaid rates after obtaining a Court Order. If a ratepayer is found during collection efforts, Council will conduct a hardship assessment before taking further debt recovery action.

5.11 Rate Recovery Sales

Section 181 of the Act allows Council to sell property, or transfer the land into Council's ownership, for the purposes of collecting outstanding rates and charges outstanding for a period of three (3) or more years. Council will consider the sale of property when all previous attempts to engage with the ratepayer have failed, and the legislative requirements have been met.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

This is provided that no current arrangement, including a payment plan, exists for the payment of the amount to Council. For the purposes of this clause, 'current arrangement' means a payment plan, pending application, or within the period where a deferral or waiver has been approved.

Where Council approves the sale or transfer of land, the following steps will guide the transaction:

- Preparation of all required legal, valuation, and statutory documentation
- Compliance with relevant provisions of the Local Government Act and Ministerial Guidelines
- Transparent communication with affected parties and the community where required
- Completion of settlement and transfer in accordance with legislative and probity requirements

Council will ensure that all decisions relating to the sale or transfer of land are formally recorded and supported by documentation that outlines the rationale for the decision, including community benefit, financial implications, and alignment with Council strategies. Decisions will be published on Council's website or other public platforms where required by legislation or policy.

5.12 Financial Counselling

Council may suggest support from the Financial & Consumer Rights Council of Victoria (FCRC), National Debt Helpline, or other providers. FCRC assists in finding financial counsellors, while the National Debt Helpline offers free, confidential government counselling for Australians facing debt issues.

5.13 Family Violence and Economic Abuse

Where family violence or economic abuse is indicated, Council will fast-track support, limit repeat disclosures, and adopt safety measures in communications (e.g., alternate contact methods, account flags).

5.14 Conflict of Interest

All decisions, recommendations and approvals in this policy are subject to the conflict of interest provisions in the Employee Code of Conduct and Councillor Code of Conduct.

6 Responsibilities

The Revenue Officer may make decisions pertaining to payment arrangements with ratepayers to assist with their financial obligations. All applications requesting to have their rates and charges waived partially or in full will be referred to the officer holding the relevant delegation, or where no delegation is in place, Council.

7 Communication

This policy will be published on Council's website and made available at Council's Customer Service Centres for public access.

8 Charter of Human Rights

This policy does not unreasonably infringe any human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

9 Responsibility

Policy Owner: CEO

10 Supporting Documents

Legislation
<i>Local Government Act 1989</i>
<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
<i>Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022</i>
<i>Family Violence Protection Act 2008</i>
<i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)</i>

11 Document control

Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy		Policy Category	Council
Version Number	1.3	Policy Status	Draft
Approved/Adopted By	Council	Approved/Adopted on:	
Version History	Date	Version	Description
	June 2016	1.1	Original Policy
	March 2019	1.2	Update to format of Policy. Change in approval requirements for interest waiver.
	October 2022	1.3	Update format of Policy, increased clarity across implementation areas.
	April 2026	1.4	Updated in line with Ministerial Guidelines.



POLICY

C033 Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Conservation Covenants and Landcare Rebates

1 Purpose

To provide Council with a policy framework to guide how an annual rate rebate (rebate or concession) may be granted to eligible properties with a registered Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant and/or a Landcare Management Agreement. The rebate is provided under section 169(1)(b) and (c) of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)* (rebates and concessions for environmental interest). This policy sets out eligibility criteria, evidence requirements and how the rebate is calculated, applied and administered to support the protection and ongoing management of native vegetation on private land within the municipality.

Council has established a rate rebate scheme to encourage landholders to preserve and manage native vegetation, including through conservation covenants and land management agreements. The scheme is reviewed periodically to ensure it remains clear, equitable and efficient to administer.

2 Scope

This policy applies to privately owned, rateable land within the municipality where all or part of the property is subject to either:

- a registered Conservation Covenant (including a Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant); and/or
- a current Landcare Management Agreement accepted/approved by Council for the purposes of this policy.

Principles

- Preservation of native vegetation: Council recognises the community benefit of protecting and managing native vegetation on private land and supports this through targeted rate rebates.
- Grandfathering: this policy applies only to properties that have an existing eligible arrangement (a registered Conservation Covenant and/or a current Landcare Management Agreement accepted/approved by Council). No new properties will be added to the rebate scheme unless Council resolves otherwise.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | NATIVE VEGETATION ON RATEABLE LAND

Exclusion

This policy does not apply to:

- Land that is not rateable under the *Local Government Act 1989* (for example, Council-owned land or land owned by State Government authorities).
- Properties without either (i) a registered Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant recorded on title, or (ii) a current Landcare Management Agreement accepted/approved by Council for the purposes of this policy.
- Charges that are not part of General Rates, including service rates/charges, special rates/charges and State Government charges.

3 Definitions

Conservation Covenant	means a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a private landowner and Trust for Nature to permanently protect high-value biodiversity on private land. Registered on the property title, it binds current and future owners, prohibiting actions like clearing vegetation, subdivision, or development.
Council	means Hindmarsh Shire Council
General Rates	means an annual property-based tax administered by Hindmarsh Shire Council, calculated by multiplying a property's Capital Improved Value (CIV) by a set "rate in the dollar". General Rates exclude: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service rates or service charges• Special rates or special charges• State Government charges.
Municipal Charge	means the annual charge declared by Council under Section 159 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> .
Service Rates or Service Charges	means a service rate or an annual service charge or any combination of such a rate or charge declared under Section 162 of <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> for any of the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waste, recycling or resource recovery• Any other prescribed service.
Landcare Management Agreement	means a written agreement between a landowner and Council that sets out management requirements for eligible vegetation areas and is accepted/approved by Council for the purposes of this policy.
Total Conservation Covenant	means a Conservation Covenant that applies to the entire rateable property.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | NATIVE VEGETATION ON RATEABLE LAND

Partial Conservation Covenant	means a Conservation Covenant that applies to part of the rateable property.
Affected area	means the area (in hectares) covered by a Partial Conservation Covenant and/or Landcare Management Agreement.
Rate rebate	means a reduction is applied to the property General Rates payable in accordance with this policy.
Adequate Fencing	means fencing maintained to effectively exclude stock from areas of native vegetation that is subject to a Landcare Management Agreement or conservation covenant, as well as exclude pests that may be present in the relevant area from any adjacent agricultural land.

4 Policy

4.1 Conservation Covenants (Trust for Nature)

A Conservation Covenant is a voluntary, legally binding agreement that is registered on the land title and restricts activities that may damage native habitat. Trust for Nature Conservation Covenants are administered by Trust for Nature under the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* (Vic) and are typically notified to Council through the land title record and/or advice from Trust for Nature.

4.1.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for a rebate under this policy, a property must meet the requirements below and Council must be satisfied the rebate delivers a community benefit consistent with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic). Consistent with the grandfathering principle, eligibility is limited to properties with an existing eligible arrangement.

- a. Be rateable land under section 154 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic) (that is, land on which Council may lawfully declare and levy rates and charges).
- b. Be privately owned and located within the municipal boundaries.
- c. Have an **existing** registered Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant recorded on title under the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* (Vic) and be identified by Council as part of the existing rebate scheme.

4.1.2 Conservation Covenant Rebate

Where a Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant applies to the entire rateable property (total covenant), the rebate is 75% of the property's General Rates for the rating year. Council may confirm the ongoing status of a Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant (including any variation or discharge) through title searches and/or direct confirmation from Trust for Nature.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | NATIVE VEGETATION ON RATEABLE LAND

4.1.3 Calculating the Rebate

The annual rebate will be calculated each rating year and applied against the property's General Rates component only (excluding the Municipal Charge and any service rates/charges, special rates/charges and State Government charges).

- For properties with a total Conservation Covenant, the rebate is 75% of the property's General Rates for the rating year.
- For properties with a partial Conservation Covenant and/or a Landcare Management Agreement, the rebate is calculated at \$5.00 per hectare for the affected area, subject to a minimum rebate of \$50.00 and a maximum rebate of \$250.00, and provided that the rebate does not exceed 75% of the General Rates payable.
- Council will record the calculation and apply the rebate to the rating account for the relevant rating year.

4.2 Landcare Management Agreements

A Landcare Management Agreement is a written agreement between a property owner and Council that sets out management requirements for eligible native vegetation areas on a rateable property. The agreement is administered by Council (including through the Landcare Facilitator or delegate) and may include requirements such as agreed management actions, access for inspection, and provision of information needed to calculate the affected area. Requirements of the agreement should include that the landholder –

- Maintains adequate fencing of affected areas;
- Controls pest animals including rabbits, hares and foxes;
- Controls all pest plants listed as noxious weeds in Victoria and significant regional weeds such as Fleabane.
- Not remove or allow the removal of native vegetation, including dead trees, without a prescribed exemption applying; and
- Not substantially modify the management of the area unless agreed to by Hindmarsh Shire Council.

4.2.1 Eligibility

To remain eligible, landholders must continue to comply with the Landcare Management Agreement, including completing required management actions and participating in any scheduled reviews. Council may review agreements periodically and may vary, suspend or end an agreement (and any associated rebate) where requirements are not met.

4.2.2 Landcare Rebate

Where a property is covered by a Landcare Management Agreement, the rebate is calculated at \$5.00 per hectare for the affected area (minimum \$50.00 and maximum \$250.00), capped at 75% of the General Rates payable.

Hindmarsh Shire Council | NATIVE VEGETATION ON RATEABLE LAND

4.3 Evidence

Property owners must provide ongoing evidence of the relevant eligible arrangement, being either (a) the registered Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant recorded on the title, and/or (b) a current Landcare Management Agreement accepted/approved by Council. Where relevant, owners must also provide evidence of the affected area (hectares) used to calculate the rebate. Council may request additional information reasonably required to confirm ongoing eligibility (including under the grandfathering principle) and any conditions attached to the rebate under section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Council may verify covenant status through title searches and/or confirmation from Trust for Nature.

4.4 Cessation, Changes and Review

All properties receiving a rebate under this policy are subject to review (and may be subject to inspection) at least once each year by the Landcare Facilitator (or delegate) to confirm covenant/agreement status and the eligible (affected) area. The Landcare Officer will report to Council on the condition of the property and any recommended action to support compliance with the covenant/agreement. Where covenant/agreement conditions are not met, the rebate may be cancelled (and/or eligibility suspended) effective 1 July of the next financial year. Where a property is sold, revalued, becomes non-rateable, or the Conservation Covenant is varied or discharged (or a Landcare Management Agreement is varied or ceases), Council may amend or remove the rebate from the effective date of the change. If the rebate has been applied in error, Council may recover the amount as a debt in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)* and Council's standard rates and charges processes.

5 References

Related documents	Legislation
Hindmarsh Shire Council Revenue and Rating Plan	<i>Local Government Act 1989 (Vic) (including ss 154 and 169)</i> <i>Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972 (Vic)</i>

6 Document Control

Native Vegetation on Rateable Land		Policy Category		Council
Version Number	1.0	Policy Status		Draft
Approved/Adopted By	Council	Approved/Adopted on:		
Responsible Officer	Manager Financial Services	Review Date		
Version History	Date	Version	Description	
	May 2026	1.0	Policy required review after 10 year implementation period.	

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES



01 June 2026

To Committee Members,

NOTICE is hereby given that a Rainbow Township Advisory Committee Meeting of the Hindmarsh Shire Council will be held at Rainbow P-12 College on Monday 18th May 2026 commencing at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

- | |
|--|
| 1. Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community |
| 2. Apologies |
| 3. Disclosure by Committee members or Councillors or Council Officers of any interest or conflicts of interest in any item on the agenda |
| 4. Confirmation of Minutes |
| 5. Business Arising from the Minutes |
| 6. Correspondence
Mark Fletcher Bootcamp Events session Mon 4 th May
Katherine Colbert National Volunteer Week Fri 8 th May |
| 7. Events |
| 8. General business as notified to the Chair
1. Lights at Llew's silo
2. Early years community meeting
3. Draft Budget 2026/27
4. Dates for upcoming meetings |
| 9. Councillor Report |
| 10. Officer Report |
| 11. Urgent business |

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

12. Finance report

13. Decisions to be made

14. Meeting Closed

15. Council Officer Authorisation

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community

We acknowledge 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.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Greg Roberts, Rob Koning, Roger Aitken, Allira Roberts, Graham Nuske, Norelle Eckermann*, Belinda Eckermann, Colleen Petschel, Ram Upadhyaya, Monica Revell & Petra Croot
*online

APOLOGIES

Ron Ismay

Apologies be moved and accepted Graham/Allira AiF C

3. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS OR OFFICERS OF ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

N/A

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the RTAC Committee Meeting held on 20th April 2026 at the Rainbow P-12 College, circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved and accepted Graham/Allira AiF C

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- The witches' hat is still in the main street
- The Shire is waiting for quotes from Wimmera Mallee Waste in regards to the Ewaste skips
- Bin wraps – the RTAC and Shire both prefer photos of tourist attractions on the bins to promote the area
- Allira completed her mobility scooter tour of Rainbow streets and sent her findings in to the Shire
- Discussion on the lights at Llew's silo. Roger gave an update of the lighting situation. See general business for more details

6. CORRESPONDENCE- IN

Mark Fletcher
Katherine Colbert

Bootcamp Events session
National Volunteer Week

Mon 4th May
Fri 8th May

All Correspondence be received Allira/Belinda AiF C

7. EVENTS

N/A

8. GENERAL BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

1. Lights at Llew's silo

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

- Local residents have complained about the lights shining into their houses
- It was agreed to turn the lights off an hour after closing
- Winter – 8pm and Summer – 10pm
- There was also a discussion on whether they can be dulled down

2. Early years community meeting

- Colleen just highlighted the Early Years Community Meeting on Thursday 21st May at the College
- Monica outlined the grant application that Emerge is submitting to see if we can get a kinder/childcare facility on site at the College.

3. Draft Budget 2026/27

- Monica, Ram & Petra went through a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed budget for 2026/27
- A budget review handout was also presented on the night

4. Dates for upcoming meetings

- There was a request from the Shire to provide upcoming dates of RTAC meetings
- Here are the dates for the next 4 meetings:
 - Monday 15th June
 - Monday 20th July
 - Monday 17th August
 - Monday 21st September

5. Silo update & questions

- The binoculars have been installed
- Questions about whether seating at the base of the silo can be provided
- Asked if there was a provision for water for the dogs
- The gate issues were discussed
- Hoping to get some grants to get projections of historical videos on farming life etc in the second silo.

6. Other business

- Greg mentioned the possibility of a Heritage Week in rainbow May next year. In its very early planning stages at this point. Watch this space!!!
- Discussion on the need for some Dry Weather Roads Only signs out Pella way, particularly the Pella-Pigick Rd and Schillings Rd. Ram asked if Norelle can provide a list of roads to the Shire.

9. COUNCILLOR REPORT

Roger talked about the lighting projects that he has co-ordinated around town. He will endeavour to add the Archives and Yurunga to the list.

10. OFFICER REPORT

Action Items from April Meeting:

Action Item	HSC Response
Skip Bins for E-Waste Collection at Rainbow Transfer Station.	Waiting for contractor to provide the quote for skip bins with lid for Jeparit and Rainbow Transfer

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

	Station.
Bin Wrap in Rainbow Bins – Jeparit bins have bin wraps. When will this be installed for Rainbow. Who will pick the picture to go in the bin wrap.	Officers awaiting confirmation on used of photo or artwork for bin wraps. Discussion at the May 2026 meeting confirmed the RTAC is happy to use tourism photos. HSC to follow up with installation of bin wraps.
Silo Lighting – We should consider turning lights off 1 hour after the closing time to save some power. Perhaps 9PM in winter and 10PM in summer.	Cr Aitkin confirmed that lights can be programmed to switch off 1 hour after the closing time.
Footpath defect – on the west side of Hospital (Swinbourne Avenue) has been marked for over 12 months and has not been rectified. Dangerous Trip Hazard.	Initial make safe repair has been completed. Full repair works to be programmed.
Aggressive dog at the front yard of 16 Grey Street. It is intimidating residents and pedestrians on footpath. Can LLO have a discussion with the owner of dog.	Local Laws Officer has discussed this with the property owner.
Can council create a FB and newsletter post to remind dog owners to have their dog on lead in public place	FB post on responsible pet ownership was published in April. This is to continue on an ongoing basis.
Additional signage for Silo to display opening hours. To be placed on the road reserve facing traffic. Additional caravan parking signage on the road reserve preferably blue sign and larger.	Parking Sign to be installed in the street opposite to the gate. Waiting on sign delivery. Another signage with project detail and opening hours is also on order.
Consider adding additional seating and shelter at the Silo ground to enable camper to eat their food while enjoying the view.	No additional funding for this. RTAC to discuss it with Mark and Simon on this project.
Car park at the hospital, school and doctors' surgery to be painted while doing the line marking in the main street.	This line marking will be installed as a part of Federal Street line marking.
EV Charger – Tesla users were having issue with EV charger. It was disconnecting itself within a few minutes.	Facilities team will organise the inspection and relevant repair.
<p>General Update: <u>Budget:</u> Draft 2026/2027 Annual Budget incorporating the draft Revenue and Rating Plan has been put out for public consultation for the period 7 May 2026 to 7 June 2026.</p> <p><u>Have Your Say:</u> <i>Domestic Animal Desexing Policy:</i></p>	

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

The Hindmarsh Domestic Animal De-sexing Policy provides the operational framework for delivering the cat-desexing action identified in the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029, supporting Council's obligations under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to promote responsible pet ownership and reduce animal nuisance. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm on Thursday 28 May 2026.

Sale of Tarranyurk Quarry Land:

Council has advertised its intention to dispose of the surplus land 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 on the proposal will be sought via Council's Have Your Say page for the period of four (4) weeks from Thursday 7 May 2026 to Thursday 4 June 2026.

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. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm on Thursday 28 May 2026.

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. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm on Thursday 28 May 2026.

Council Grant Administration Policy:

A new policy that outlines how Council grants will be administered in terms of oversight, transparency, and community benefit. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm on Thursday 28 May 2026.

Caravan Park Entrance: Tender is closed and awaiting to be evaluated.

Community Action Grant: Grants was awarded to 7 applicants at the May council meeting and are listed as below:

Community Assistance

1. A grant of \$1,000.00 – Dimboola Arts Inc.
2. A grant of \$743.43 – Menzies Symposium
3. A grant of \$872.73 – Rainbow Archive and Historical Society.

Small Equipment

1. A grant of \$1,000.00 – Kenmare Community and Historical Committee
2. A grant of \$943.20 – Dimboola Golf Club Event

Sponsorship

1. A grant of \$350.00 – Netherby Community Inc.
2. A grant of \$500.00 – Nhill A&P Society Inc.

Also, as discussed at the meeting, below is the information about Supported Playgroup Program.

An initiative of the Victorian Government delivered by local Councils, the Supported Playgroup program seeks to engage families with children from birth through to school

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

age. The Supported Playgroups include time for play, parent / child interaction, music, and morning tea – all in a fun, informal environment! Attendees will also learn about the Smalltalk program, which aims to increase parent’s confidence to do the things that have an impact on their child’s learning. Smalltalk is about using everyday opportunities and activities that parents already do in the home to engage and enhance their child’s learning and development.

There is no cost for eligible families to participate in the Supported Playgroup program. Eligible families include those with a health care card; who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; care for children in out of home care; and those referred by Child FIRST or Maternal Child Health Services. Each session is managed by the Group Facilitator, leaving parents and children to simply participate and enjoy the experience.

All reports moved and accepted Allira/Belinda AiF C

11. URGENT BUSINESS

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 Summary of Balances in Finance Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance Report (sent out with agenda) be accepted

Moved and seconded Rob/Roger AiF C

12.2 Purchase Orders to be raised - \$2,000 or less

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council Officer raise the following Purchase Orders, being a value of \$2,000 or less

Creditor	Value \$	Description of Goods or Services

12.3 Purchase Orders to be raised – Greater than \$2,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council Officer, following approval by Council or the CEO, raise the following Purchase Orders greater than \$2,000.

Moved
Seconded

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

Creditor	Value \$ (> \$2,000)	Description of Goods or Services

13. DECISIONS TO BE MADE

The following decisions are recommendations to Council for endorsement:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Business Arising from Minutes	
6	Correspondence	
7	Events	
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	
9	Councillor's Report	
10	Officer's Report	
11	Urgent Business	
12.1	Finance Report	Confirmation of financial report
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised (above \$2,000)	

14. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 20:56

NEXT MEETING : Monday 15th June via Teams

15. COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

*to be completed by the Council Officer

I, Ram Upadhyaya, accept the following recommendations made by the Rainbow Town Advisory Committee at this meeting held on : 18 May 2026

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL | ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA / MINUTES

4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Business Arising from Minutes	
6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	
9	Councillor's Report	
10	Officer's Report	
11	Urgent Business	
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report as provided with the Agenda be approved.
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised (\$2,000 or less)	That the Council Officer raise the Purchase Orders listed.

I Ram Upadhyaya, advise that the following items:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised (above \$2,000)	That the Council Officer, following approval by Council or the CEO, raise the following Purchase Orders listed which are greater than \$2,000.

- Need to be referred to a Council Meeting / CEO for a decision
- Require more Information
- Do No align with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan

SIGNED:



Council Officer: Ram Upadhyaya

Dated: 01/06/2026



Hindmarsh Shire Council Nhill Township Advisory Committee Meeting

5 June 2026

MINUTES of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 2 June 2026 from 7pm at the Nhill Council Chambers.

MINUTES

In Attendance

Alison Dahlenburg – Chairperson

Natalie Farmers – Secretary

Julie McDonald – Committee Member

Cr Rosie Barker – Councillor Delegate

Cr Ron Ismay – Mayor

Petra Croot – Director Corporate and Community Services, Hindmarsh Shire Council

Ram Upadhyaya – Director Infrastructure Services, Hindmarsh Shire Council

Monical Revell – Chief Executive Officer, Hindmarsh Shire Council

In Attendance – Community Representatives

Des Smith – SES

Don Keam – Nhill Historical Society

Vicki Sherwell – Community Member

Jenny Creek – Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

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

2 APOLOGIES

Lisa Olds

Mark Shandley

Hindmarsh Shire Council Nhill Township Advisory Committee Minutes 2 June 2026

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil declared.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOTION

That the Minutes of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 May 2026 at the Council Chambers circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved: Julie McDonald

Seconded: Alison Dahlenburg

CARRIED

5 2026/2027 Draft Budget Discussion

Monica, Ram and Petra presented Hindmarsh Shire Council's 2026/2027 Draft Budget.

[Hindmarsh Shire Council 2026/2027 Draft Budget](#)

6 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Inward

Quote and Proofs – Tear Drop Banners

Email from Kat Colbert – Volunteers week

6.2 Outward

WWHS Wellbeing Grant Application – Sensory Garden

Letter – Nhill Silo Committee

Letter – CWA re op shop

Letter – ARTC re Train Station work

MOTION

That the Committee notes the attached correspondence.

Moved: Julie McDonald

Seconded: Don Keam

CARRIED

Hindmarsh Shire Council Nhill Township Advisory Committee Minutes 2 June 2026

7 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

7.1 Finance Report (Income and Expenditure)

MOTION

That the Finance Report as provided be noted.

Moved: Cr Rosie Barker

Seconded: Julie McDonald

CARRIED

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Community and Project Updates

- Community Pantry/Foodbank – Going well. Eight people attended last week. Bin at the IGA for community to put donations in.
- Accessible toilet upgrades at Goldsworthy Park – No update, waiting on outcome of Tiny Towns application.
- Emergency Services training facilities – Cr Rosie will follow up with CFA to discuss any issues.
- Railway Station Beautification – Letter sent seeking scope for works.
- Yanac Hockey Club – No update.
- Op Shop – Letter sent re expanded operation.
- Sensory Garden next to the Patch. – an application for a WWHS Health and Wellbeing grant has been submitted.
- New Residents Welcome – Will discuss at future meeting.
- Shelves for Jaypex Park Storeroom – Some work done. Alison will have a look.
- Poles in Main Street – Des Smith has been researching poles that will fold down to enable easy installation of Christmas decorations and community events marketing.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Nhill Township Advisory Committee Minutes 2 June 2026

8.2 Truck Bay Gardens

- No update this meeting.

8.3 Other Projects

- New Lowan Entry signs at each end of town can be used by community groups to advertise events. Groups can organise their own corflute signs 2300mm X 900mm - [Temporary Event Signage Hindmarsh Shire Council](#)

8.4 Council Report

- As per attached

8.5 Officer Report

- As per attached
- Voted for option 3 for tear shaped banners.

9 MEETING CLOSED

8.10pm

Action: Lesley/Rosie to purchase Bubble Machine

Action: Natalie to create new Gmail account

Action: Cr Rosie to liaise with CFA

Action: Alison to look at Jaypex Park Storeroom

Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report 2025/2026

As at 31/5/2026

Date	Supplier/Reference	Comment	Amount	Balances
1/07/2025	Opening Balance 25/26		\$ 51,106.49	
5/02/2026	Australia Day Contribution		\$ 500.00	
				\$ 51,606.49
	Less Expenditure to date			
13/01/2026	Clugston Butchers	Meet for BBQ Menzies Symposium	\$ 315.55	
13/01/2026	Horsham Music		\$ 1,000.00	
14/04/2026	Ms C A Quinn		\$ 95.91	
				\$ 1,411.46
	Amount Remaining (unspent)			\$ 50,195.03
	Less Amounts committed for Expenditure (invoices not yet paid)			
	Purchase orders raised			
				\$ -
	Amounts committed from TC funds			\$ -
	Amount Available for use			\$ 50,195.03

Nhill Town Committee Financial Report 2025/2026
As at 31/05/2026

1/07/2025	Opening Balance 25/26		\$ 21,145.52	
				<u>\$ 21,145.52</u>
	Less Expenditure to date			
20/08/2025	Contribution to Dog Park		\$ 2,500.00	
28/11/2025	Kmart Horsham	Glow Sticks	\$ 10.91	
26/11/2025	North West Press	Flyers for Carols	\$ 131.82	
01/12/2025	Leos Club Nhill	lollie Bags	\$ 400.00	
01/12/2025	Facepainting by Millie	Christmas Carols	\$ 400.00	
03/12/2025	Breuers Hire	Bubble machine	\$ 78.18	
04/12/2025	Home Hardware	Christmas Carols	\$ 200.00	
12/12/2025	North West Press	Christmas Carols	\$ 405.45	
15/12/2025	M Lieschke	Sound Equip for carols	\$ 850.00	
22/12/2025	Facepainting by Millie	Christmas Carols	\$ 200.00	
3/02/2026	Lions Club Nhill	BBQ	\$ 1,427.71	
12/03/2026	Leos Club Nhill	Easter 2026	\$ 1,700.00	
1/05/2026	Alison Dahlenburg	NTC Expense	\$ 485.41	
				<u>\$ 8,789.48</u>
	Amount Remaining (unspent)			<u>\$ 12,356.04</u>
	Less Amounts committed for Expenditure (invoices not yet paid)			
25-Nov	Nhill State Emergency	Cherry Picker Hire	\$ 200.00	Excl GST
				<u>\$ 200.00</u>
	Commitments to Projects			
	Tiny Towns - Goldsworthy Park		\$ 5,000.00	
	Lowan Entry Signs		\$ 1,500.00	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>
	Amount Available for use			<u>\$ 5,656.04</u>

Rainbow Town Committee 2025/2026

As at 1/6/2026

1/07/2025	Opening Balance 25/26		\$ 63,154.32
	Rainbow Town Mural Restorations Carry forward		\$ 2,585.00
			<u>\$ 65,739.32</u>
Less Expenditure to date			
	Rainbow Progress Association	Rainbow Lighting Project	\$ 2,000.00
	Dare Telecom	Rainbow Telecommunication & Domanin Fee	\$ 171.77
	THE OASIS RAINBOW	Transfer of \$2000 to Rainbow Oasis Committee for Invoice 0020	\$ 2,000.00
			<u>\$ 4,171.77</u>
	Amount Remaining (unspent)		\$ 61,567.55
	Less Amounts committed for Expenditure (invoices not yet paid or projects committed to)		
			<u>\$ -</u>
	Amount Available As per Council Information		<u><u>\$ 61,567.55</u></u>
Rainbow TC data not available to Council			
Commitments to projects			
	Rainbow Silo Art		\$ 7,400.00
	Town Entrance Project		\$ 10,021.95
	Art Restoration Project		\$ 5,040.00
			<u>\$ 22,461.95</u>
Working Group data not available to Council			
Commitments from working groups			
	Rainbow Town Traders		\$ 7,079.58
			<u>\$ 7,079.58</u>
	Amount Available for use		<u><u>\$ 32,026.02</u></u>

JEPARIT MEMORIAL HALL

General Meeting

11/03/2026 @ 7pm in the RSL Rooms

PRESENT: Amanda King, Debra Schumann, Campbell & Sheryl McKenzie, Maxine Spokes & Ebony Spokes

APOLOGIES: Mel and Tony, Alicia and Floss.

Moved by Campbell and 2nd by Maxine that these apologies be accepted.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes were read by Debra. They were moved by Debra and seconded by Sheryl that they are true and correct.
All in favour. Carried.

TEASURERS REPORT: Debra reported that the Hall Committee have a total of \$2130.79 and a term deposit of \$11772.48

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Jeparit Advisory Committee dated Oct 2 2025, about Community Asset Workshop re community thinking that the hall and community would benefit from dances in the hall re old fashioned dinner/dances. 1950's rock and roll. Maybe some dance lessons such as ballroom, Zumba, Latin dances, cha cha that could bring the town together.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Wings – don't know of any photos of wings at this stage/wings were white ant eaten and were thrown away many years ago. (Debra found one the following week in HS)

Sound system – Gary Lamb will be contacted over Easter when he is in Jeparit.

125 year of Agricultural show went ahead – cabaret a success – not heaps there but a good roll up.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Hall 100 year celebration May 2025 – planned at last minute – only 40 there

Foundation stone needs attention – hard to read. Debra will contact Mellors re cost of repairing the stone.

Time capsule- Debra will talk to Craige Proctor to see if he knows anything more about it.

Historical Society up and going strong and therefore people are interested in the hall as well but the state of the back of the stage is overwhelming when showing people around. A working bee is to be planned to tidy same. New legs are needed on the tables as well.

Tapestry needs moving too as it is fading out near the front. We are trying to track down the key to the tapestry too. Jackie has been asked as she is the cleaner but she does not have it. Debra will ask Sharon at the Customer Service in Jeparit

Mr Livingstons picture needs moving as well.

Abby from Absolute Curtains are coming to the hall tomorrow to fix broken ropes on the stage curtains.

Amanda Campbell and Debra attended a meeting in Nov 2024 with Hannah from the shire. They were wanting hall committee to take bookings/pay cleaner etc etc. Amanda has sent emails to them but we have not heard from them since.

Campbell suggested that he would like to see a member of the Historical Society to attend meetings of the Hall Committee as well.

At the last Heritage Walk meeting they discussed having a bigger plaque under the Customer Service sign at the front of the Hall.

Ebony moved a motion that we contribute to the cost of the sign.

Ask Shire 1st if they will pay something otherwise we will contribute \$300.

Heritage to pay \$300 and the Hall committee pay \$300. We will leave the amount up to Campbell to contact shire and Heritage walk committee. Seconded by Maxine.

Committee members looked at back of hall and foundation stone on the way home.

Sheryl asked about heating/cooling in the Historical Society with consideration to purchasing heating/cooling. Debra will take to Historical Society next meeting.

RSL grant?? Sorry forgot what that was for.

With no further agenda Amanda thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8pm.

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

General Meeting Tuesday May 5th at 2 pm.

Minutes

Meeting opened at 2:00pm

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

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

Members present: Jenny Solly - Chair, Peter Solly - Secretary/Treasurer, Heather Drendel, Colin Drendel

Visitors: Cr Tony Clark – Hindmarsh shire

Apologies: Mark Fletcher – Hindmarsh Shire

Moved: Heather Drendel, Colin Drendel – That the apology be accepted. c/d

- Good news, the Conservation Management Plan has been completed

Additional items for General Business (to be accepted at Chairperson's discretion)

- Sealing the verandah – we have permission to obtain materials through Ismay's on the Shire account
- Setting up the underground room

Declaration by a Councillor, Officer or Committee Member of any direct or indirect interest in any item on the agenda.

Nil

Minutes of the previous meeting as circulated

Moved: Colin Drendel, Heather Drendel – That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on Thursday 26th March 2026 as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record. c/d

Correspondence In:

(Emails)

- March 27th: From Cr Clark apology for not attending last meeting.
- April 15th: From Mark Fletcher re Horizon Tourism Workshop, Dimboola on April 23rd
- April 16th: From Volunteering@hindmarsh, Mary-Ann Speakman re expressions of interest for committees 2026 – 28

- April 24th: From Mark Fletcher re Krahe's pest inspection May 5th
- April 29th: From Hindmarsh Shire, remittance advice for tour March 3rd

Late Correspondence In:
(Emails)

- May 4th: From Mark Fletcher. Apology for the meeting and report.

Correspondence Out:
(Emails)

- March 27th: To Cr Clark thanks for the apology
- April 21st: To Volunteering@Hindmarsh, draft minutes of March meeting
- April 21st: To Mark Fletcher re inability to attend Horizon Tourism Workshop
- April 22nd: To Mark Fletcher re ongoing issues: roof plumbing, treating the new decking, high ladder work, underground room and urns, bathroom and passage floor repairs, visitor brochures, tour invoice, grant application for assessment of our collection. (cc all committee)

Late Correspondence Out
(Emails)

- May 4th: To Mark Fletcher. Thanks for the apology and the report.

Moved: Heather Drendel, Colin Drendel – That the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.

Business arising:

- March 27th: Visit from 16 members from Warracknabeal Ladies Probus Club.
- March 29th: Ararat Probus rang to postpone their planned visit on May 5th due to price and uncertainty of fuel supplies.
- April 1st and 30th: Peter worked in orchard. Wiper snippering picking up old fruit.
- April 9th and 27th: Bernard Young updated Peter on progress being made by the Men's Shed on repairing our garden seats. They are being reassembled.
- Sealing the new verandah:

April 13th: Jenny rang Locks Constructions for advice. She was referred to their regular painter, Craig Bennett

April 15th: Craig recommended oil based Intergrain decking oil. Wash down first then 2 or 3 coats. Redo every 12 months.

April 16th: Peter spoke to builder Marcus Feher. He also recommended the Intergrain oil based product.

April 16th: Dr Gary rang Peter. He approves use of the Intergrain oil.

- April 16th: Dr Gary's phone call – he is very busy and will not be back until the new financial year. We can go ahead cleaning and setting up the underground room. Skirting boards and trim can have the nails cut off, not pulled out and propped in place. He will reattach them. Lights and leads can be left in the coach house. Work will be done on the plinths and urns.
- April 18th, 19th, 30th: Jenny gardening and cleaning, pruning geraniums etc.

- April 22nd: Alan Roberts (injured) organized mowing of the lawns and some surrounding grass. Thanks very much.
- May 5: Krahe's treated Yurunga for spiders and Checked termites

Reports

Financial

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Financial Report

March 1st 2026 to March 31st 2026

Opening Balance per statement at 1st March \$8,753.54

Plus Income:

General entries	\$290.00
Entries Warracknabeal Ladies Probus	\$160.00
Donation	\$20.00
Craft Shop plums and peaches	\$56.00
Sales	\$7.00
Total Income	<u>\$533.00</u>

Less Expenses:

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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Closing Balance per statement March 31st \$9,286.54

Term Deposit reinvested with interest plus
\$5,000 from general account on 8th February
at 3.05% pa for 3 months
To be reinvested by May 8th 2026 \$15,775.07

Bequest Term Deposit reinvested 12th February
at 3.10% pa for 3 months
To be reinvested by May 12th 2026 \$50,359.18

Total available funds at March 31st \$75,420.79

Peter Solly Secretary/Treasurer, Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Financial Report

April 1st 2026 to April 30th 2026

Opening Balance per statement at 1st April \$9,286.54

Plus Income:

General entries	\$290.00
Entries Nhill Volunteers March 3 rd	\$130.00
Total Income	<u>\$420.00</u>

Less Expenses:

Powercor Electricity	\$199.64
Total Expenses	\$199.64

Closing Balance per statement April 30th \$9,506.90

Term Deposit reinvested with interest plus \$5,000 from general account on 8th February at 3.05% pa for 3 months To be reinvested by May 8th 2026 \$15,775.07

Bequest Term Deposit reinvested 12th February at 3.10% pa for 3 months To be reinvested by May 12th 2026 \$50,359.18

Total available funds at April 30th \$75,641.15

Peter Solly Secretary/Treasurer, Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Moved: Peter Solly, Col Drendel – That the financial reports for March and April be accepted. That the term deposits due on May 8th and 12th be renewed for 3 months at the best available rate. c/d

~Hindmarsh Shire –

From Mark Fletcher by email

Good afternoon all,

I will be an apology for tomorrows meeting. Apologies for the late response, I have had some unplanned leave.

Following up on a few outstanding items as requested in Peter's email;

- **Roof Plumbing:** Shannon received the supplies to do the work late last week. He is aiming to be in Rainbow towards the end of this week, otherwise will definitely be early next week to complete works.
- **Treating the new veranda:** Yes, you can source this and the necessary other items including brushes through Ismay's on the Shire account as we have in the past.
- **High Ladder work:** Council have our trades job application close today and we are planning to get them to be able to make repairs to that side of things.
- **Underground room and Urns:** Dr Gary has told us that he will be returning in the new financial year. When he returns, he will work on replacing skirting boards, beading in the underground room, and installing the urns. Additionally, Council has received the final version of the Conservation Management Plan and Maintenance Priority List.
- **Bathroom and passage floor repairs:** Tim Miller has been asked to complete this work. Dan Krahe has discussed and sent images of works required to Aiden.
- **Yurunga brochures:** I have printed a bulk lot out and will get to Rainbow Customer Service and advise once there.
- **Nhill VIC visit** invoice has been processed and will be paid Wed 29/4.
- **Grant application:** Have met with National Libraries re Community History Grant application for the Significant Collection grant and have received the application form to apply. Requested quotes from a number of suppliers.

Kind Regards
Mark

Cr Tony Clark

Finances: rates are capped at 2.75%

Recruiting for the committee is being done via the local paper and social media.

There was discussion re registration processes to volunteer and to join the committee.

Moved: Col Drendel, Heather Drendel – That the Hindmarsh Shire reports be received. c/d

General Business:

- Sealing the verandah – we have permission to obtain materials through Ismay's on the Shire account Col and Peter will follow this up.
- Setting up the underground room. We can clean it. It can be set up as for an afternoon tea
- Mowing around outside and trees – seek assistance from Lions Club.
- Curtains – We are still looking for fabric. Pinning and supporting needs to be looked at. We will get Horsham businesses up. Heather is to make contact
- May and June meetings? Do we wait until June 25th – 7 weeks? We will leave as it is meeting on June 25th. We will meet in Hayden's Café in winter

Outstanding issues: Most are covered in Mark Fletcher's email but need to be monitored and followed up.

- Plumbing above back door and leaks on to south verandah. Keep checking!
- Under floor repairs, bathroom and front door area. - Krahe's inspected this morning
- Underground room. - We can work on it
- Oiling the new verandah. - We can order materials through Ismay's and do it ourselves

- Plinths for the urns - Dr Gary will be here in the new financial year
- High ladder work – is being organised
- Visitor brochures - In progress
- Grant application for assessment of our collection - In progress

Bookings:

- Friday May 1st: Wimmera Caravan Club 20+ ppl 10:15am tour only. Contact
- Tuesday May 5th: Ararat Probus lunch and tour. 1 pm. Contact – Postponed due to fuel cost and uncertainty.
- Wednesday May 27th: Rainbow Day Centre tour approx 15 ppl, 10 am. Contact We provide hot water
- New booking May 5th – Friday June 19th: Jeparit Hospital Ladies Group arrive 10:00am 6 – 8 ladies and 3 staff. We provide boiling urn. Contact .
- Sunday October 11th: Probable Seymour Heritage Rail visit.
- October or November: Maffescioni Bus Company Maryborough, afternoon tour only. No contact since initial phone call February 21st.

Meeting closed: 3:15 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday May 28th 2026 at 2:00 pm at Yurunga.

If you have anything that should be included, please get it to us a week before the meeting so that it can be included in the agenda. Otherwise it can be added as a late item at the meeting.