Council Meeting - 28 October 2026 Attachments

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 3

4.1.2 MEDIA - 2026 09 30 COUNCIL MINUTES 3

7.1 CORRESPONDENCE 98

7.1.1 2026 10 14 TIM RICHARDSON MP TO MAYOR RE 2026-2027 PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE BOOK FUND 98

7.1.2 2026 10 23 BARRY ROENNFELDT TO COUNCIL RE NO CAMERA GLASSES 99

7.1.3 2026 09 28 COUNCIL TO MARGARET AND JOHN MILLINGTON RE RAIL ADVOCACY 100

7.1.4 2026 09 28 COUNCIL TO NHILL TOWN COMMITTEE RE PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES AND NHILL TRAIN STATION 102

7.1.5 2026 09 29 COUNCIL TO BARRY ROENNFELDT RE SMART GLASSES 103

7.1.6 2026 10 01 COUNCIL TO LAUREN BADUA RE GENERAL VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP FOR HINDMARSH PRIDE 104

7.1.7 2026 10 01 COUNCIL TO NIKEATA WILLIAMS RE HINDMARSH PRIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 106

7.1.8 2026 10 01 COUNCIL TO HAYLEY WERNER RE HINDMARSH PRIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 108

7.1.9 2026 10 01 COUNCIL TO JEPARIT TOWN COMMITTEE RE REQUEST TO ALLOCATE FUNDS 110

7.1.10 2026 10 01 COUNCIL TO RAINBOW TOWN COMMITTEE RE REQUEST TO ALLOCATE FUNDS 111

8.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS 112

8.1.1 2026 09 30 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD 112

8.1.2 2026 10 08 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD - VLGGC 114

8.1.3 2026 10 14 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD 116

10.1 ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026 118

10.1.1 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026 118

10.2 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - Q1 2026/2027 328

10.2.1 PERFORMANCE UPDATE QUARTER 1 2026-2027 328

10.3 PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION POLICY 371

10.3.1 DRAFT C028 PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION POLICY 371

10.5 HINDMARSH HOLIDAY PARKS FINANCIAL YEAR REPORT 384

10.5.1 HINDMARSH HOLIDAY PARKS FINANCIAL YEAR REPORT 20252026 384

10.6 DELEGATIONS UPDATE S11A 393

10.6.1 S11A - INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT (PE ACT) 393
10.7 FUNDING APPLICATION FOR RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ELLERMAN STREET - SLRSP 395
10.7.1 ELLERMAN STREET RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - SLRSP 395
10.9 BUILDING MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY 399
10.9.1 DRAFT C011 ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2026 399
10.9.2 DRAFT BUILDING MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2030 406
10.10 SEASONAL SPEED REDUCTION ON WESTERN HIGHWAY, NHILL 448
10.10.1 2026 10 12 EMAIL FROM NHILL SILO COMMITTEE RE REQUEST FOR SPEED REDUCTION ON WESTERN HIGHWAY, NHILL 448
10.10.2 2026 10_ 20 GRAIN CORP TO COUNCIL RE LETTER OF SUPPORT - SEASONAL SPEED REDUCTION 449
10.11 PROPOSED ALTERATION OF SWIMMING POOL SERVICE IN 2026/2027 SEASON 450
10.11.1 HINDMARSH OUTDOOR POOLS PROPOSED BASE SERVICE LEVELS 2026-2027 450
10.12 FLEXIBLE LOCAL TRANSPORT SOLUTION PROGRAM (FLTSP) APPLICATION 452
10.12.1 CHURCH STREET AND JAMES STREET - LAYOUT 1 452
11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES 453
11.1.1 NHILL TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES - 6 OCTOBER 2026 453
11.1.2 HINDMARSH PRIDE COMMITTEE MINUTES - 30 SEPTEMBER 2026 464
11.1.3 JEPARIT TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES - 12 OCTOBER 2026 468
11.1.4 JEPARIT TOWN COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026 474
11.1.5 NHILL TOWN COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026 475
11.1.6 RAINBOW TOWN COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026 476
11.1.7 COMMUNITY PANEL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - OCTOBER 2026 477
11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES 484
11.2.1 YURUNGA HOMESTEAD MINUTES - 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 484
11.2.2 WIMMERA MALLEE PIONEER MUSEUM MINUTES - 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 488

01 October 2026

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 30 September 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 9

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 9

4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES 10

5 PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME 12

6 ACTIVITY REPORTS 13

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR 13

6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR 14

6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN 22

6.4 CR JAMES BARRY 23

6.5 CR TONY CLARK 23

6.6 CR CHAN UOY 24

6.7 MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 25

7 CORRESPONDENCE 29

8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS 30

9 PLANNING PERMITS 30

10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION 31

10.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2025/2026 - ADOPTION IN PRINCIPLE 31

10.2 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2036 36

10.3 BUSINESS BOOST GRANTS 2026/2027 - ROUND 1 41

10.4 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANTS 2026/2027 - ROUND 1 48

10.5 REGIONAL EVENTS SPONSORSHIP 2026/2027 55
10.6 ALGWA 75 ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE - COUNCILLOR REPORT 60
10.7 RURAL COUNCILS VICTORIA ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN 66
10.8 HINDMARSH PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW ADDENDUM AND AMENDMENT 71
10.9 ACTIVE TRANSPORT FUNDING PROGRAM PROPOSED APPLICATIONS 76
10.10 POLICY UPDATES 82
11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES 87
11.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 87
11.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES 89
11.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES 92
12 LATE REPORTS 93
13 NOTICES OF MOTION 93
14 OTHER BUSINESS 93
15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 94
16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 95
17 MEETING CLOSE 95

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 Simon Landrigan (Acting Director Infrastructure Services), Ms Marivic Vix (Manager Finanical Services) item 10.1, Ms Cherylee Shandley (Manager Planning and Environment) items 10.8 and 15.1 (confidential item), Ms Mikayla Mackley (Planning Officer) item 10.8, 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 James Barry read the Councillor Statement of Values.

---

2 APOLOGIES

Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services)

---

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.

Cr Chan Uoy declared a material conflict of interest in item 10.5 as he submitted an application on behalf of Wimmera Steampunk Festival.

Cr Ron Ismay declared a material conflict of interest in item 10.3 as his business provided a quote to an applicant.

Cr Rosie Barker declared a general conflict of interest in item 10.9 as the proposed path is close to her residence.

Ms Monica Revell declared a general conflict of interest in item 10.9 as the proposed path is close to her residence.

---

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 August 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 R Aitken

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 August 2026 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachments:

1. 2026 08 26 Council 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 officers are reviewing the project plan for the Investment Attraction Prospectus in line with submitted RFQs and planning considerations.	In Progress
24 June 2026 Item 10.2	Council officers to appoint a real estate agent to undertake the sale of Tarranyurk Quarry.	Council officers have engaged a real estate agent to undertake the sale of Tarranyurk Quarry, with the auction being held on Monday 19 October 2026.	Complete
29 July 2026 Item 10.4	Council officers to submit a motion to the 2026 MAV State Council.	Letters of support have been received from WSMCA Councils and the motion was submitted.	Complete
29 July 2026 Item 10.7	Council officers to publish the resolution for the Desexing Policy for Domestic Animals (Cats) in the Victorian Government Gazette and newspapers. Communicate the decision, implementation timeframe and registration requirements to the community. Notify consultation participants of the outcome and Council's decision.	The decision is scheduled to be gazetted as well as published in Council newsletters. Letters were sent to the community members who provided feedback during the consultation process. Ongoing communications and education materials will be produced and publicised over time.	Complete
26 August 2026 Item 10.1	Council officers to notify Nhill A&P Society of the outcome of their fee waiver request for the 2026 Nhill Show.	Letter has been prepared and emailed to Nhill A&P Society.	Complete
26 August 2026 Item 10.2	Council officers to submit a speed reduction application to the Department of Transport and Planning for the Winiam East Road Intersection.	The application has been submitted, with Council now awaiting notification of outcome.	Complete
26 August 2026 Item 11.1	Council officers to publish minutes for the following Advisory Committees: • Rainbow Town • Jeparit Town • Nhill Town Prepare a letter to the Rainbow Town Committee advising of the outcome for their funding allocation request. Prepare a letter to Gabby Williams	Advisory Committee minutes have been published on Council's website. The letter for the Rainbow Town Committee has been prepared and emailed. The letter for Gabby Williams has been prepared and emailed.	Complete

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
	regarding her nomination to join the Hindmarsh Pride Committee.		
26 August 2026 Item 11.2	Prepare letters to the following Community Asset Committees regarding the endorsement of their office bearers: • Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum • Yurunga Homestead	Letters have been prepared and emailed to the relevant Community Asset Committee.	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.

No public questions or submissions received.

---

6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 18 August 2026 – 21 September 2026

6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
25/08/2026	Meeting with Dr Anne Webster	Dimboola	
26/08/2026	Meeting with Deputy Mayor and CEO	Nhill	
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
26/08/2026	Tour of refurbished areas of Avonlea with building supervisors	Nhill	
26/08/2026	Inspection of property access with Director Infrastructure Services	Nhill-Harrow Road	
28/08/2026	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group meeting	Horsham	
29/08/2026	Rainbow Rises 240 Event	Rainbow	
30/08/2026	Rainbow Rises 240 Event	Rainbow	
01/09/2026	Nhill Town Committee Meeting	Nhill	
03/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria	Swan Hill	Great evening.
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria Conference	Swan Hill	
09/09/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
10/09/2026	Mayors Lunch	Horsham	
10/09/2026	WSMCA Mayors and CEOs Meeting	Horsham	
17/09/2026	Mayors Institute Oration with Ms Patricia Karvelas	Melbourne	
18/09/2026	Student leadership forum with Tony Abbott, former PM	Wimmera Lutheran College Horsham	
18/09/2026	Discussion with Emma Kealy and the President of the Liberal Party	Horsham	

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
19/09/2026	Wimmera Football and Netball League Grand Final	Horsham	

6.2 CR ROSIE BARKER, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
20/08/2026 - 22/08/2026	Australia Local Government Women's Association National 75th Anniversary Conference	Manly, Sydney	The conference provided valuable insights into contemporary leadership, gender equity, community engagement, and future-focused governance. Key sessions included panels with leading Mayors and former Civic leaders, discussions on engaging diverse communities, and a futurist keynote on strategic thinking for the next 75 years. Participation strengthened national networks, supported professional development, and contributed to ongoing leadership capability within Hindmarsh Shire Council.
25/08/2026	Dr Anne Webster, Federal Member for Mallee	Online	Meeting to discuss several key priorities for Hindmarsh Shire Council. The meeting included an update on the Jeparit Weir replacement project and the critical need for funding to support its progression. We also reviewed current advocacy for mental health challenges across the region and outlined the importance of strengthened advocacy and investment in rural mental health services. In addition, we raised broader matters relating to ongoing support for Hindmarsh Shire, including infrastructure and ongoing financial sustainability needs plus community wellbeing initiatives. The discussion was constructive and reinforced the value of continued collaboration with the Federal Government on regional priorities.

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
26/08/2026	Uniting Wimmera	Online	Meeting with Uniting Wimmera to discuss ongoing mental health needs across Hindmarsh Shire and the broader Wimmera region. The conversation focused on current service gaps, opportunities for strengthened support, and alignment with Council's ongoing advocacy for improved rural mental health access. We explored collaborative approaches to ensure residents have timely, appropriate, and locally accessible services. The meeting reinforced the importance of continued partnership between Council and regional providers to address emerging challenges and support community wellbeing.
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	The Council Briefing included detailed discussion on the purpose and future role of the Township Advisory Committees, including how they can strengthen local engagement and support place-based priorities across Hindmarsh Shire. Briefing also covered current and emerging industry activity within the Shire, with a focus on economic development opportunities and regional workforce considerations. In addition, Council reviewed planning for the Hindmarsh outdoor pools for the 2026/2027 season, including operational needs, community usage, and preparation timelines. The session provided valuable updates to inform upcoming decision-making and strategic planning. The Council Meeting included consideration of a fee waiver request from the Nhill A&P Society to support delivery of the 2026 Nhill Show. Council also reviewed a speed-reduction application for

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			Winiam East Road in response to local safety concerns. The session provided important updates to inform ongoing decision-making and community outcomes.
27/08/2026	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Session	Online	Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (VLGGC) statewide information session, which provided an overview of how local government grants are calculated and the methodology used to assess relative need across Victoria's 79 councils. The session outlined current funding distribution principles, including population, infrastructure, service demand, and regional disadvantage indicators. VLGGC also presented the changes they are advocating to ensure grant allocations more accurately reflect the differing needs and challenges faced by rural and remote councils, especially regarding road funding. The session offered valuable insight into the ongoing work to strengthen equity and sustainability in local government funding.
27/08/2026	MAV: Creating Conditions to Thrive Seminar	Online	The focus was on embedding universal design principles into future council planning and infrastructure. The session emphasised the importance of ensuring parks, buildings, and public spaces are designed to meet the needs of people of all abilities plus the roads being created fit for purpose the vehicles or equipment using them. Discussion centered on practical approaches for councils to integrate accessibility, inclusion, and equitable use into project planning and asset development. The seminar provided valuable guidance to support Hindmarsh Shire Council's commitment to

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			creating environments that are safe, welcoming, and functional for all community members.
01/09/2026	Nhill Town Committee Meeting	Nhill	This meeting included a presentation from Margaret Millington outlining the current condition of the Nhill Train Station and ongoing concerns regarding its preservation and future use. The Committee also progressed planning for the upcoming Nhill Christmas Carols event, discussing logistics, community involvement, and preparation requirements. The meeting provided useful updates on local issues and supported continued coordination of community activities within Nhill.
03/09/2026	ALGA Mary Rogers Awards	Melbourne	Attendance at the Mary Rogers Award ceremony in Melbourne with Cr Chan Uoy, following my nomination as an Emerging Leader in Local Government. The event recognised women's leadership across Victoria and provided an opportunity to engage with sector colleagues. During the ceremony, I met with the State Minister for Local Government, Tim Richardson, and advocated for a dedicated meeting to discuss key priorities and challenges facing Hindmarsh Shire. This engagement supported ongoing efforts to strengthen State–Council collaboration and advance advocacy for our region.
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria 2026 Forum	Swan Hill	Rural Councils Victoria 2026 Forum in Swan Hill, which focused on key issues affecting rural councils across Victoria. Sessions included presentation on AI risks and governance, election-year strategic positioning, and the launch of RCV's *Invest in Victoria* campaign, highlighting the importance of reframing this narrative to emphasise investment

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			in rural communities. Breakout discussions covered financial sustainability, federal advocacy preparation, economic development opportunities, and the need for accurate regional statistics to support future funding bids and growth planning for Hindmarsh Shire. I also attended briefings on cross-border cohesion, small business supports programs, and emergency management. The conference provided valuable insights and strengthened advocacy priorities relevant to Hindmarsh Shire's long-term strategic direction.
05/09/2026	Australian Local Government Women's Association	Online	As Secretary, I participated in the ALGWA Victoria workshop for a full-day strategic planning session facilitated by consultant Libby Mears. The workshop focused on developing a clear 4–5-year strategic plan to strengthen support for women in local government, including leadership pathways, mentoring, advocacy priorities, and statewide engagement. The session provided valuable direction for ALGWA Victoria's future work and reinforced the organisation's commitment to improving gender equity and representation across the sector.
09/09/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	Included a presentation from WSMLLEN on the School to Work Program, outlining current initiatives supporting youth pathways and local workforce development. Council also reviewed the ongoing work relating to Township Advisory Committees, including their purpose, structure, and future engagement approach. A report on the Long-Term Financial Plan was presented, providing an update on financial

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			sustainability considerations and forward planning. The session concluded with a demonstration of the Snap Send Solve app, offering practical insight into how the tool can support community reporting and operational responsiveness. The briefing provided useful updates across strategic, financial, and community engagement areas.
10/09/2026	MAV: Prevention Pays	Online	Focused on the value of early intervention and preventative approaches within local government service delivery. The session highlighted evidence-based strategies that improve community wellbeing, reduce long-term social and economic costs, and strengthen council planning across areas such as public health, community safety, and social development. Presenters outlined practical tools and frameworks councils can use to embed prevention principles into policy, programs, and partnerships. The workshop provided useful insights to support Hindmarsh Shire Council's ongoing commitment to proactive, prevention-focused community outcomes.
10/09/2026	West Wimmera Action Group AGM	Nhill	West Wimmera Action Group provided updates on their current advocacy focus areas, including the ESVFL proposal, fire management, and the impact of dingo/wild dog management and livestock protection. The group is exploring additional matters for future advocacy.
12/09/2026	Just A Farmer Movie Screening and Q&A	Dimboola	The community screening of Just a Farmer at the Dimboola Sound Shell and the facilitated Q&A session following the film. The discussion featured myself, Mal Coutts from the Rural Outreach

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			Program and Justin Knorpp, who shared reflections from his lived experience. The session provided an opportunity to explore themes of rural mental health, farming pressures, and community resilience, while supporting open conversation with attendees about the challenges faced by local farming families. A great initiative organised by Kellie and supported by community including the Dimboola Football Club.
16/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Nhill/Hybrid	Provided updates on Council's financial reporting, internal controls, and risk management processes. The Committee reviewed progress on audit actions, discussed key strategic and operational risks, and considered compliance matters relevant to governance and accountability.
17/09/2026	MAV 2026 Annual Mayors Oration	Melbourne	The event brought together Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Councillors, CEOs, Executives and local government partners from across Victoria ahead of the 2026 State Election. The keynote address was delivered by Ms Patricia Karvelas, one of Australia's leading political journalists, who explored how local priorities are shaping Victoria's election agenda and the implications this has for council leadership. The event provided timely insights into the evolving political landscape, highlighted the importance of strong local advocacy, and offered valuable opportunities for sector connection and discussion relevant to Hindmarsh Shire's strategic positioning.
18/09/2026	MAV & Melbourne Centre for Cities (University of	Online	Session 2 of the Local Leaders Series: Leading Through Crisis and Complexity, which focused on information integrity as a critical

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
	Melbourne): The Local Leaders Series		component of local democracy and social cohesion. The session explored how disinformation and misinformation can undermine trust and emphasised the importance of preparing before harmful narratives take hold. We examined the role of trusted messenger networks, effective response protocols, and the connection between community trust and place-based leadership. The workshop provided practical insights to strengthen Council's readiness and resilience in managing emerging information risks.
18/09/2026	Sir Robert Menzies Spire 60th Anniversary Lighting Ceremony	Jeparit	The event included the playing of a historic recording of Sir Robert Menzies' remarks from the first lighting ceremony, in which he reflected on his upbringing in Jeparit and spoke about the challenges of drought and rural resilience. The celebration acknowledged Jeparit's unique place in Australia's political history and highlighted the enduring connection between the community and Menzies' legacy.
20/09/2026	Nhill Lions Market	Nhill	This was a great opportunity to engage directly with community members in an informal, face-to-face setting. The market provided an opportunity to listen to residents' concerns, discuss local issues, and gather feedback on Council services and emerging community needs. This engagement supported ongoing relationship-building and ensured that local voices continue to inform Council's priorities and decision-making.

6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
17/08/2026	Rainbow Town Committee	Rainbow	
18/08/2026	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum	Jeparit	
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
28/08/2026 – 30/08/2026	Rainbow Rises 240 Off-road Races	Rainbow	What a great turn out and a perfect weekend for the race. Well done to all the committee members and the community who came together to put this event on.
02/09/2026	Met with Dr Anne Webster	Rainbow	
03/09/2026 – 04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria 2026 Forum	Swan Hill	
08/09/2026	VicGrid Visit - Rainbow Consultation	Rainbow	VicGrid are also scheduled to attend an upcoming Briefing before the end of the year.
09/09/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
9/09/2026	Rainbow Recreation Reserve AGM and General Meeting	Rainbow	Thank you to all the outgoing committee members and volunteers who do a great job at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve.
14/09/2026	Jeparit Town Committee Meeting	Jeparit	
15/09/2026	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Meeting	Jeparit	
18/09/2026	Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum	Jeparit	On-site ongoing repairs review
18/09/2026	Sir Robert Menzies Symposium 60th Year Anniversary Relighting of the Spire	Jeparit	An amazing turn out of locals and people from far and wide. Well done to the Symposium Committee for getting this event organised.
21/09/2026	Meeting at Jeparit Wimmera River Weir	Jeparit	On-site meeting to review Weir location.

6.4 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
19/09/2026	Wimmera League Grand Final	Horsham	Great to see Hindmarsh towns in the Wimmera Football/Netball League Grand Finals, close to 30% of our Shires' population were in attendance to watch Nhill win the Seniors and Under 14s in the football. Dimboola were also runners up in the A Grade netball match.

6.5 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
25/08/2026	Rainbow Hall Community Asset Committee	Rainbow	
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
29/08/2026 - 30/08/2026	Rainbow Desert Enduro	Rainbow	
09/09/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
18/09/2026	Menzies Spire Lighting Ceremony	Jeparit	
20/09/2026	Pigick CFA General Meeting	Pigick	
20/09/2026	Pigick CFA, Service Award Presentation	Pigick	Pigick CFA Captain, Trevor Keller was presented with an outstanding service award. This award is the highest CFA award that can be given to a member. Personally, I believe this award gives small justice to Captain Keller who has served with distinction, giving his all to the brigade, the local community and to all Victorians and exemplifies volunteerism to the highest standards.

6.6 CR CHAN UOY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
19/08/2026	Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting	Online	So Last Century event planning.
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
27/08/2026	VLGGC Statewide Info Session	Online	2026/2027 Financial Assistance Grant discussion. Commonwealth to State Government. General Purpose Grants and Local Roads Grant total $642.906 million. Based on the assessment of the relative needs, this grant makes up to 25% of recurrent revenue for Hindmarsh Shire Council. We are 1 of the 8 councils in this category.
31/08/2026	Dimboola Park Run Meeting	Dimboola	There is community appetite for this activity, but a new volunteer committee needs to be formed.
02/09/2026	Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting	Online	So Last Century event – Supported through the Regional Activation Program as part of Victoria's Pride, a Victorian State Government initiative delivered by Midsumma, and West Wimmera Health Service.
03/09/2026	VLGA Mary Rogers Award	Melbourne	Congratulations Cr Rosie Barker for being nominated for the Emerging Woman Leader Award. It was great to see Hindmarsh Shire Council represented.
04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria Forum	Swan Hill	2050 Swan Hill Vision opening statement by the Swan Hill Mayor was inspiring. Launch of 'Invest in Victoria' campaign. Financial Sustainability: Rural councils have a higher dependency on financial assistance grants as it costs more to serve fewer people.
09/09/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	What is the Community's vision? What do we want to experience?
16/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Online	Financial Reports, Performance Statement, results of audits, Hindmarsh Financial Plan 2026-36 & Building Management Plan 2026-30.

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
16/09/2026	Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting	Online	So Last Century: Looking for interviewees to tell their story of the 1970s and 1980s.

6.7 MONICA REVELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
18/08/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	Weekly catch up with CSCSO.
18/08/2026	Meeting with Finance Team and Executive Leadership Team	Nhill	Meeting to discuss finalisation of Performance Statement and End of Year Financials.
19/08/2026	Joint State/Local Government CEO Forum	Online	Included introduction to new Department of Government Services, Local Government Victoria team.
20/08/2026	GWM Tourism Pre-Board Meeting Discussion	Online	Meeting with Wimmera Mallee CEOs to discuss GWM Tourism agenda for upcoming meeting.
20/08/2026	Monthly Scheduled Induction	Nhill	Popped into monthly induction to welcome new staff members to Council.
20/08/2026	Meeting with Manager Assets and Facilities	Nhill	
21/08/2026	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Meeting	Horsham	Meeting included a report from Horsham Golf Club committee on future plans.
21/08/2026	Meeting with Grampians Health CEO, Dale Fraser	Dimboola	Follow up meeting with Grampians Health to discuss Mental Health advocacy in the Wimmera Southern Mallee.
24/08/2026	Executive Leadership Team	Nhill	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services and Director Infrastructure Services.
25/08/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	Weekly catch up with CSCSO.
25/08/2026	Meeting with Dr Anne Webster MP	Online	Joined by Cr Ismay, Cr Barker and Director Corporate & Community Services to discuss priority projects for Hindmarsh Shire including Jeparit Weir, Mental Health services, sustainable rural council

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
			funding, and Dimboola Swimming Pool.
26/08/2026	Meeting with Uniting	Online	Joined by Cr Barker, discussion regarding Uniting Mental Health programs in Hindmarsh Shire and how Council can assist to increase resident access to these services.
26/08/2026	Meeting with Mayor and Deputy Mayor	Nhill	
26/08/2026	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Nhill	
27/08/2026	Staff Meeting	Nhill	Monthly staff meeting both in person and online to provide an update on the Council meeting.
27/08/2026	Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership Meeting	Horsham	
27/08/2026	Meeting with BGLC	Horsham	Discussion with BGLC regarding the Dimboola Ski Club proposed new area.
28/08/2026	Meeting with Manager Project Management Office and Coordinator Libraries & Customer Services	Nhill	Discussion regarding future Living Libraries application and ensuring projects are shovel ready.
28/08/2026	Stop Rescuing Your Underperformers	Online	Online session regarding underperformers.
28/08/2026	Meeting with Department of Transport and Planning	Online	DTP provided an update on changes in their department, discussion also held regarding 26/27 DTP maintenance works, Jeparit Roy Street railway crossing, and S Bends north of Rainbow.
31/08/2026	Meeting with Manager Economic Development and Tourism	Nhill	Discussion regarding next steps in relation to Industrial Land work.
31/08/2026	Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
31/08/2026	Jeparit Depot	Jeparit	Visit to East Team staff out in the field to see current works underway.
01/09/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	Weekly catch up with CSCSO.
01/09/2026	Meeting with Manager Works and Operations	Nhill	Discuss items raised during East Team visit.

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
01/09/2026	LGPro Meeting	Online	Webinar on supporting Leaders through constant change and building resilience.
01/09/2026	Health and Safety Meeting	Nhill	
02/09/2026	Land Use Activity Agreement Session	Horsham	Hosted by Department of Premier and Cabinet the session discussed Local Government implications on changes to legislation in relation to Crown Land where Council is the Committee of Management (COM).
03/09/2026 – 04/09/2026	Rural Councils Victoria	Swan Hill	
07/09/2026	Meeting with Manager Assets and Facilities	Nhill	Discussion re upcoming land sale and council owned vacant land.
07/09/2026	Meeting with Manager Economic Development and Tourism, Manager Planning and Environment and Manager Assets and Facilities	Nhill	Discussion re Four Mile Beach.
07/09/2026	Leadership Charter Brainstorm	Nhill	Facilitated by the People and Performance Team this session discussed content for the Leadership Charter currently being prepared.
07/09/2026	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services	Nhill	
07/09/2026	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services	Nhill	
07/09/2026	Meeting with Manager Financial Services and Coordinator Rates and Revenue	Nhill	
07/09/2026	Meeting to discuss East Team Leader	Nhill	Discussion re Team Leader – East position prior to advertising role.
08/09/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	Weekly catch up with CSCSO.
08/09/2026	Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	
08/09/2026	Executive Leadership Team Meeting	Nhill	

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
08/09/2026	Nhill Depot	Nhill	Visit to West Team staff out in the field to see current works underway.
09/09/2026	Meeting with GrainCorp	Online	
09/09/2026	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services and Community Member	Nhill	Met with community member to discuss a number of items.
09/09/2026	Meeting with Mayor	Nhill	
09/09/2026	Council Briefing	Nhill	
10/09/2026	Meeting with Environmental Protection Agency	Online	Discussion with EPA regarding the Dimboola Ski Club proposed new area.
10/09/2026	WSMCA Mayor and CEO Meeting	Horsham	
10/09/2026	ALGWA Masterclass	Online	Hosted by Fabian Dattner.
14/09/2026	Lowana 50 Year Celebration	Nhill	What a fabulous afternoon well attended by the community. Congratulations to all who have made Lowana such a success over the past 50 years.
15/09/2026	Meeting with Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer	Nhill	Weekly catch up with CSCSO.
15/09/2026	Meeting with Director Infrastructure Services	Nhill	
15/09/2026	Increasing Your Leadership Influence Through Coaching	Online	
16/09/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Nhill	
16/09/2026	Meeting with Director Corporate and Community Services	Nhill	
17/09/2026 – 21/09/2026	Annual Leave		

7 CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Introduction:
The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

Inwards:

- 2026/08/11 - Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) to Council re Letter of Support – MAV Motion – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2026/08/12 - Yarriambiack Shire Council (YSC) to Council re Letter of Support – MAV Motion – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)
- 2026/08/21 - Michaela Settle MP to Council re Applications to Tiny Towns Fund Round 3 – (Attachment Number: 7.1.3)
- 2026/08/24 - Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) to Council re Letter of Support – MAV Motion – (Attachment Number: 7.1.4)
- 2026/09/07 - By Five to Council re Final Chapter – (Attachment Number: 7.1.5)

Outwards:

- 2026/08/24 - Council to Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) re Letter of Support – MAV Motions – (Attachment Number: 7.1.6)
- 2026/08/27 - Council to Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum (WMPM) re Endorsed Office Bearers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.7)
- 2026/08/27 - Council to Yurunga Homestead re Endorsed Office Bearers – (Attachment Number: 7.1.8)
- 2026/08/27 - Council to Rainbow Town Committee re Request to Allocate Funds to Rainbow Landcare Group – (Attachment Number: 7.1.9)
- 2026/08/27 - Council to Gabby Williams re Hindmarsh Pride Committee Membership – (Attachment Number: 7.1.10)
- 2026/08/28 - Council to Nhill A & P Society re Fee Waiver Request – (Attachment Number: 7.1.11)
- 2026/09/10 - Council to By Five re Service Recognition and Appreciation for By Five's Early Years Work – (Attachment Number: 7.1.12)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry

That Council notes the attached correspondence.

CARRIED

8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:
1. 2026 08 26 Assembly of Councillors Record [**8.1.1**]
2. 2026 09 09 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 for the information of Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillors Records as presented.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr T Clark

That Council notes the Assembly of Councillors Records as presented.

CARRIED

---

9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.

---

10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

10.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2025/2026 - ADOPTION IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Uoy & Cr Barker
Attachments:
1. DRAFT Performance Statement 2025/2026 [**10.1.1**]
2. DRAFT Annual Financial Report 2025/2026 [**10.1.2**]

Executive Summary:
This report presents Hindmarsh Shire Council's 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement for Council adoption in principle. Council is required to certify the Financial Statements and Performance Statement in principle each year before they are lodged for formal certification by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). The statements report an operating deficit of $465,000 and a comprehensive result of $15 million, which includes a net asset revaluation gain of $15.48 million.

At 30 June 2026, Council held $17 million in cash at the bank, supported by the early receipt of Financial Assistance Grant funding and the timing of capital and grant funded projects to be carried forward into 2026/2027.

The Financial Statements and Performance Statement have been considered by Council's Audit and Risk Committee and once certified, will form part of Council's Annual Report.

Discussion:
The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to adopt the Financial Statements and Performance Statement in principle before they are submitted for final certification by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office. Council must also appoint two Councillors to sign the statements in their final form on behalf of Council, in accordance with section 99(2) and (3) of the Act.

The Financial Statements comprise Council's general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. The 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement accompanying this report reflect Council's financial results and performance outcomes for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Financial Statements show an operating deficit of $465,000 and a comprehensive result of $15 million. The comprehensive result includes a net asset revaluation gain of $15.48 million.

Total revenue for the financial year was $24.8 million, a net decrease of $163,000 compared with the previous financial year. While some revenue streams increased, including rates, statutory fees and user fees, these increases were offset by reductions in grant funding and other income items. The key factors contributing to the overall decrease in revenue include:

- The net increase in loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment of $817,000 compared with the previous financial year. This increased loss contributed to the overall decrease in reported income.
- Operating grants decreased by $590,000 mainly due to the timing of grant receipts, including Financial Assistance Grants and funding for the Free from Violence, Kindergarten Central Enrolment and Immunisation Services programs.
- Roads to Recovery grant funding decreased by $200,000 due to the timing of funding receipts. The remaining amount relevant to 2025/2026 was received in August 2026.

Total expenditure for the financial year was $25.3 million, an increase of $1.57 million compared with the previous financial year. The variance was mainly due to a $2.5 million increase in depreciation expenses following the asset revaluation and indexation completed as at 30 June 2025. This was partly offset by a $1 million decrease in materials and services, due to the loss on asset disposal being separately presented in the current year as part of “Gain or loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment” in accordance with AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

At 30 June 2026, Council held $17 million in cash at the bank, which was higher than the previous financial year. This increase was mainly due to the receipt of 80% of the 2026/2027 Financial Assistance Grant in June 2026, compared with 50% in the previous financial year, as well as significant capital and grant funded projects that were not completed in 2025/2026 and will be carried forward into 2026/2027.

Capital works expenditure was $6.4 million in 2025/2026 against a budget of $7.03 million. This variation is due to the timing of grant funded projects, with approved works expected to be carried forward into 2026/2027.

Council’s Audit and Risk Committee received and considered the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement, together with the related auditor’s report, at its meeting on Wednesday 16 September 2026. The Committee recommended that Council adopt the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement in principle and appoint the nominated Councillors to sign the statements, subject to any administrative changes required by the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (VAGO).

The Performance Statement contains service indicators and financial indicators that are audited by VAGO. Council provides comments against all indicators in the Performance Statement.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability
4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:
There are no unbudgeted financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. Preparation, audit and certification of the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement form part of Council's normal statutory reporting obligations and are provided for within existing operating budgets. The statements provide an important basis for monitoring Council's financial performance, informing the review of the 2026/2027 Budget, confirming carry forward capital and grant funded projects, and supporting future budget and long-term financial planning.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	The annual financial reporting and audit process supports good governance by providing Council, the Audit and Risk Committee and the community with transparent, independently reviewed information about Council's financial performance and position. The process assists Council to meet its statutory reporting obligations, identify financial risks and variances, and make informed decisions about budget management, carry forward works and future financial sustainability. Adoption of the statements in principle also ensures appropriate oversight before final certification by VAGO.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020
Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020
Audit Act 1994
Australian Accounting Standards

Community Engagement:
Not applicable.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this report 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 – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
Following certification, the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement will be included in Council's 2025/2026 Annual Report and made available to the community. The Annual Report will be published on Council's website and made available in Customer Service Centres and Libraries.

Next Steps:
Subject to Council adoption in principle, the statements will be provided to VAGO for final audit sign off. The nominated Councillors and Principal Accounting Officer will then certify the final statements, with the certified documents to be included in Council's 2025/2026 Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***notes the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement, which have received the endorsement of Council's Audit and Risk Committee;***
2. ***adopts the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statement in principle prior to them being provided to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) for final audit sign off;***
3. ***nominates Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Deputy Mayor Cr Rosie Barker as the two Councillors authorised to certify the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement;***
4. ***authorises the nominated Councillors to accept any further recommended changes by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office; and***
5. ***designates Marivic Vix, Manager Finance, as Principal Accounting Officer to certify the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance***

Statement, as required by the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr T Clark

That Council:

1. ***notes the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement, which have received the endorsement of Council's Audit and Risk Committee;***
2. ***adopts the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and the Performance Statement in principle prior to them being provided to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) for final audit sign off;***
3. ***nominates Mayor Cr Ron Ismay and Deputy Mayor Cr Rosie Barker as the two Councillors authorised to certify the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement;***
4. ***authorises the nominated Councillors to accept any further recommended changes by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office; and***
5. ***designates Marivic Vix, Manager Finance, as Principal Accounting Officer to certify the 2025/2026 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement, as required by the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.***

CARRIED

10.2 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2036

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barker
Attachments:
1. DRAFT - Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 [**10.2.1**]

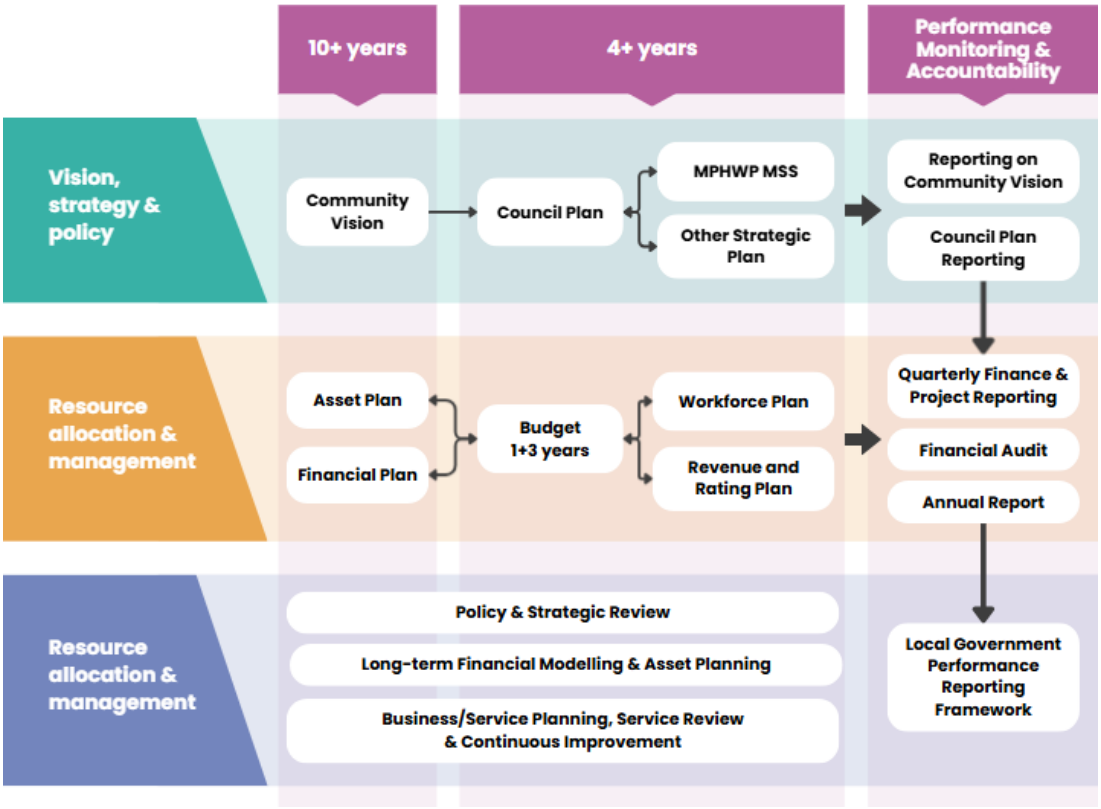
Executive Summary:
This report presents Council's draft revised Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036, (Financial Plan), and recommends that it be endorsed for a period of community engagement. The Financial Plan projects Council's expected income, costs and asset needs over the next ten years and helps Council plan how it can continue to deliver services, maintain community assets and make responsible financial decisions into the future.

The review of the Financial Plan has used the latest financial information, updated asset information and revised depreciation figures. It shows that Council will continue to face financial pressures, including the cost of renewing roads, buildings and other assets, limits on how much rates can increase, and the rising cost of delivering services.

The Financial Plan considers different options for Council's future financial position. The preferred option aims to keep Council in a sustainable cash position over the long term. This means Council expects to have enough cash to meet its day-to-day needs and planned works but still needs to address ongoing underlying budget deficits. To achieve this, Council will need to find ongoing savings, increase revenue where appropriate, or use a mix of both. This may include reviewing service levels, improving efficiency, using better technology, and strengthening asset management.

Council will continue to monitor its financial position and take practical steps to support long-term financial sustainability. It is recommended that Council endorse the Financial Plan 2026-2036 for a period of community engagement from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026 and consider feedback and adoption of the Financial Plan at the Council meeting on 25 November 2026.

Discussion:
Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to prepare and keep a Long Term Financial Plan that sets out how it will manage its finances over at least the next ten years. Long term financial planning is part of all Victorian Local Governments' integrated planning and reporting framework.



The revised Financial Plan has been prepared following a comprehensive review of Council's long-term financial position, incorporating updated financial statements incorporated in the last stages of the 2025/2026 financial audit, revised depreciation calculations, updated asset information and an assessment of future financial sustainability. The review identified several significant challenges facing Council, including increasing depreciation costs, growing asset renewal requirements, rate capping constraints and broader economic pressures affecting operating expenditure. These challenges are consistent with those being experienced across the Victorian local government sector and highlight the need for a proactive and disciplined approach to long-term financial management.

Three scenarios were assessed as part of the development of the Financial Plan.

- Base Case: The current service provision is maintained, and asset renewal outlays are in accordance with the Asset Plan.
- Scenario 1: As for the Base Case but with service provision reduced to a minimum, that meets the community's needs, to achieve a breakeven or better cash result from 2028 onwards.
- Scenario 2: As for the Base Case but with service provision reduced to a minimum, that meets the community's needs, to achieve a breakeven or better underlying result from 2028 onwards.

Based on the financial analysis, the preferred option is Scenario 1, which supports long-term financial sustainability on a cash basis while noting that underlying deficits are still projected in each year. To achieve this outcome, cost savings, revenue increases or a mix thereof will be required to realise $1.8 million of net savings in nominal dollars ongoing over the projection period (i.e., $200,000 per year from 2027/2028 onwards). A debt free position has been maintained over the life of the Financial Plan and asset renewal is in accordance with the Asset Plan but less than depreciation.

The Financial Plan identifies a range of potential financial sustainability opportunities to support this outcome, including service prioritisation, revenue optimisation, operational efficiencies, digital transformation initiatives, asset rationalisation and improvements in asset management practices. Many of these initiatives are already underway and align with Council's broader strategic planning.

While the Financial Plan provides a credible pathway to maintaining financial viability, it also notes that further review will be required following completion of updated asset valuations, condition assessments and a revised Asset Plan. Given the potential for future increases in renewal requirements and depreciation, ongoing monitoring of key financial indicators and regular review of the Financial Plan will be critical to ensuring Council remains financially sustainable and able to continue delivering essential services and infrastructure to the community.

Council officers will use the Financial Plan to inform ongoing financial sustainability planning, including consideration of approaches used by other councils across the sector. This will help translate the Financial Plan's findings into practical efficiency measures and support continued improvement in Council's long-term financial position.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability
4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.
4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:
The Financial Plan provides Council with a long-term financial framework to support the delivery of services, infrastructure and strategic objectives over the next ten years. The preferred scenario will require the achievement of ongoing savings, additional revenue, or a combination of both to maintain financial sustainability and preserve Council's financial capacity into the future. The Financial Plan will continue to be reviewed and updated as financial assumptions, asset renewal requirements and operational priorities evolve.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Financial Sustainability	The Financial Plan helps mitigates Council's strategic financial sustainability risk by establishing a ten-year framework to monitor financial performance, identify future financial pressures and guide decisions on service levels, revenue, expenditure and asset investment. The Financial Plan supports proactive financial management and informed decision-making to maintain Council's long-term financial viability.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020
Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020
Local Government Act 1989

Community Engagement:
Subject to Council endorsement, the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 will be made available for feedback through Have Your Say Hindmarsh from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as the project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

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:
Subject to Council endorsement, the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 will be made available for feedback through Have Your Say Hindmarsh from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026. The consultation opportunity will be promoted via Council's communication

channels, including Council's website, social media, newsletters and local media where appropriate.

Next Steps:
Following the close of the exhibition period, Council officers will review submissions, identify any proposed amendments and prepare a further report for the November 2026 Council meeting to support final consideration of the Financial Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***endorses the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 for community engagement from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026; and***
2. ***receives a further report at the 25 November 2026 Council Meeting to consider community feedback and adoption of the Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036.***

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr J Barry

That Council:

1. ***endorses the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 for community engagement from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026; and***
2. ***receives a further report at the 25 November 2026 Council Meeting to consider community feedback and adoption of the Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036.***

CARRIED

10.3 BUSINESS BOOST GRANTS 2026/2027 - ROUND 1

Cr Ron Ismay declared a material conflict of interest and left the meeting at 3:40pm.

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Uoy
Attachments:
1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026/2027 Business Boost Grants Applications Round 1 [**10.3.1**]
2. 2026/2027 Business Boost Grants Grading Round 1 [**10.3.2**]

Executive Summary:
This report presents recommendations for Round 1 of the 2026/2027 Business Boost Grant Program for Council decision.

A total of eleven (11) applications were received seeking funding of $23,484.86. Following assessment against the approved grant guidelines, it is recommended that Council approve the following ten (10) applications totalling $19,738.39 (excl. GST).

- Focus on Façade Stream:
  - Eleven & Us, Dimboola - $1,250.91
  - Nhill Silo Heritage Project, Nhill - Up to $3,000.00
  - Hills Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, Rainbow - $3,000.00
  - Zero Inn Motel, Nhill - $3,000.00
  - John G O'Halloran (Dimboola Store), Dimboola - $3,000.00
  - Find Your Flow Body Co, Dimboola - $215.15
  - Lots Of Laughter Coffee and Food Van, Nhill - $1,754.18
  - The Curious Gallery, Jeparit - $764.40
- Start and Grow Stream
  - Jacko's Deli, Dimboola - $1,820.42
  - Country Catering Co, Jeparit - Up to $1,933.33

One grant application from Buptan Star Constructions in Rainbow is not recommended for an allocation this funding round, however Council officers will work with this applicant to support a future application subject to Council's decision. Due to strong demand in Round 1 and the quality of eligible applications received, it is recommended that $4,738.39 from the business training and development allocation be used to support the recommended grant applications. If recommended applications are approved, there will be no second round of the Business Boost Grants Program in 2026/2027.

The recommended projects align with Council's strategic objectives by supporting economic development, tourism and business growth within Hindmarsh Shire.

Discussion:

Program Overview

The Business Boost Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible businesses and commercial property owners to support projects that contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of Hindmarsh Shire. The objectives of the program are to:

- strengthen the viability of local businesses
- improve the presentation and activation of retail and commercial areas
- encourage business growth, visitation and economic activity
-

The program is divided into two (2) streams, both requiring businesses to match $1 for every $2 received through the grant:

- Stream 1: Focus on Façade (up to $3,000 per application), provides funding to help businesses improve shopfronts and building façades, creating more attractive and welcoming town centres.
- Stream 2: Start and Grow (up to $2,000 per application), provides a practical 'leg up' for new and growing local businesses to get established or take the next step.

Funding Round Summary

Total budget available	$15,000 (plus $10,000 for business training and development activities)
Number of applications received	Eleven (11)
Total funding requested	$23,484.86
Number of applications recommended	Ten (10)
Total funding recommended (excl. GST)	$19,738.39
Funding remaining	$5,261.61 (for business training and development activities)

Assessment Process

Applications were assessed in accordance with the approved Grant Guidelines and Grants Administration Policy. Applications were evaluated against the published assessment criteria by an internal assessment panel comprising appropriately qualified Council officers. All assessors were required to declare an actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest prior to the assessment process and not participate in reviewing any application where a conflict was declared.

Recommended Allocations

Applicant	Project	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended (excl. GST)	Total Project Cost (excl. GST)
Eleven & Us	Purchase of new business signage.	$2,064.00	$1,250.91	$1,876.37
Hills Equine Assisted Psychotherapy	Revitalise façade of commercial property in Federal Street, Rainbow.	$3,000.00	$ 3,000.00	Up to $9,069.74
Zero Inn Motel	Purchase of new business signage.	$3,000.00	$3,000.00	$6,000*
John G O'Halloran (Dimboola Store)	Revitalise façade of Dimboola Store.	$3,000.00	$3,000.00	$4,500.00
Find Your Flow Body Co	Purchase of window decals for business.	$230.00	$215.15	$322.70
LOL Coffee and Food Van	Purchase of outdoor furniture and gazebo.	$1,929.60	$1,754.18	$2,631.27
Nhill Silo Heritage Project	New "Nhill" sign for the top of Nuske Silo.	$3,000.00	Up to $3,000.00*	$8,550.00*
The Curious Gallery	Painting of mural and footpath in Lloyd Street, Jeparit.	$1,261.26	$764.40	$1,146.60
Jacko's Deli	Purchase of commercial food equipment.	$2,000.00	$1,820.42	$2,730.63
Country Catering Co	Purchase of commercial food equipment.	$2,000.00	Up to $1,933.33*	$2,900*
Buptan Star Constructions	Support starting new business.	$2,000.00	$0.00	$4,000.00

**Final figure subject to the provision of additional quotes.*

Recommended funding varies from amounts requested largely due to the treatment of GST and the requirement to meet the $1: $2 co-contribution. Where the application amounts differ from provided quotes, officers have referred to the quotes in consultation with applicants.

With the adoption of the new Business Boost Grants guidelines, the allocation for grant funding was to be $15,000.00 with $10,000.00 reserved for business training and development. Due to in Round 1 being oversubscribed, the assessed value of the projects within the applications, and training for businesses that Council has been able to plan and implement with limited cost, it is recommended that $4,738.39 of the training and development allocation be utilised to fund the recommended applications.

Subject to Council's final decision, based on recommended allocations, there will be no second round of the Business Boost Grants program in 2026/2027.

Assessment Outcomes

Officers are satisfied that the recommended applications:

- Meet the eligibility requirements of the program.
- Demonstrate community, economic and/or social benefit.
- Represent value for money.
- Align with Council priorities and strategic objectives.
- Have the capacity to successfully deliver the proposed project.

The application not recommended for funding scored insufficiently against the assessment criteria due to project readiness and not providing clearly defined expenditure plans.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow.

Financial Implications:

Funding allocations recommended in this report are provided for within the adopted Budget. The total value of grants recommended for approval is $19,738.39, leaving a remaining balance of $5,261.61 to be utilised for business training and development.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The grant program supports Council's strategic objective of responding to community needs through investment in locally led initiatives that strengthen community wellbeing, economic development and social connection.
Governance	Assessment processes have been conducted in accordance with Council's Grants Administration Policy and approved guidelines, supporting transparent, fair and accountable decision making.

Relevant Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, community engagement is not required as this report relates to the administration of an adopted grant program. The grant

round was publicly promoted through Council's website, social media channels, newsletters and direct stakeholder engagement.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:
Not applicable.

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Jeff Woodward, Tourism and Economic Development Officer
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing following Council's decision. Council-approved projects may be promoted through Council's website, social media channels and newsletters.

Next Steps:
Upon Council approval:

- Applicants will be formally advised of the outcome.
- Funding agreements will be issued.
- Payments will be processed in accordance with Council procedures.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete acquittal reporting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***approves funding under the Business Boost Grant Program for the following applicants:***
   a) ***Eleven & Us, Dimboola - $1,250.91***

b) Nhill Silo Heritage Project, Nhill - Up to $3,000.00
c) Hills Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, Rainbow - $3,000.00
d) Zero Inn Motel, Nhill - $3,000.00
e) John G O'Halloran (Dimboola Store), Dimboola - $3,000.00
f) Find Your Flow Body Co, Dimboola - $215.15
g) Lots Of Laughter Coffee and Food Van, Nhill - $1,754.18
h) The Curious Gallery, Jeparit - $764.40
i) Jacko's Deli, Dimboola - $1,820.42
j) Country Catering Co, Jeparit - Up to $1,933.33

2. ***notes that the total funding approved is $19,738.39, comprising the $15,000 Business Boost Grant Program allocation and $4,738.39 from the business training and development allocation, with the remaining $5,261.61 to be retained for business training and development activities; and***
3. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants, and to determine final grant amounts for Country Catering Co and Nhill Silo Heritage Project, subject to the provision of valid quotes for approved projects.***

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council:

1. ***approves funding under the Business Boost Grant Program for the following applicants:***
   a) Eleven & Us, Dimboola - $1,250.91
   b) Nhill Silo Heritage Project, Nhill - Up to $3,000.00
   c) Zero Inn Motel, Nhill - $3,000.00
   d) John G O'Halloran (Dimboola Store), Dimboola - $3,000.00
   e) Find Your Flow Body Co, Dimboola - $215.15
   f) Lots Of Laughter Coffee and Food Van, Nhill - $1,754.18
   g) The Curious Gallery, Jeparit - $764.40
   h) Jacko's Deli, Dimboola - $1,820.42
   i) Country Catering Co, Jeparit - Up to $1,933.33
2. ***does not approve funding under the Business Boost Grants Program for the following applicants:***
   a) Hill's Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, Rainbow
   b) Buptan Star Constructions
3. ***notes that the total funding approved is $16,738.39, comprising the $15,000 Business Boost Grant Program allocation and $1,738.39 from the business training and development allocation, with the remaining $8,261.61 to be retained for business training and development activities; and***

4. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants, and to determine final grant amounts for Country Catering Co and Nhill Silo Heritage Project, subject to the provision of valid quotes for approved projects.***

CARRIED

Cr Ron Ismay returned to the meeting at 3:48pm.

10.4 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANTS 2026/2027 - ROUND 1

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Councillor Portfolio: All Councillors
Attachments:
1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026/2027 Connected Communities Grants Applications Round 1 [**10.4.1**]
2. 2026/2027 Connected Communities Grants Grading Round 1 [**10.4.2**]

Executive Summary:
This report presents recommendations for Round 1 of the 2026/2027 Connected Communities Grants Program for Council decision.

A total of eleven (11) applications were received, seeking funding of $13,922.74. Following assessment against the approved grant guidelines, it is recommended that Council approve the following eight (8) applications, totalling up to $9,223.65 (GST exclusive).

1. Dimboola Bowling Club - $500.00
2. Nhill Motorsports Club - up to $2,000.00
3. Nhill Park Run - $480.00
4. Rainbow District Badminton Club - $1,326.55
5. Jeparit Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. - $2,000.00
6. CWA of Victoria Nhill Twilight Branch – up to $917.10
7. Nhill College Kindergarten (Emerge) - $1,500.00
8. Jeparit Tennis Club - up to $500.00

The recommended projects align with Council's strategic objectives by supporting community wellbeing, economic development, community participation, recreation, and cultural engagement within Hindmarsh Shire.

Discussion:
Program Overview
The Connected Communities Grants Program (previously known as the Community Action Grants Program) provides financial assistance to community groups to support projects that contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of Hindmarsh Shire. The objectives of the Connected Communities Grants program are to:

- Strengthen community wellbeing
- Increase participation
- Increase volunteer capacity

This is achieved by supporting local groups with funding to deliver activities, programs and events that bring people together. The Program provides flexible funding across four streams:

- **Active Communities:** provides funding up to $1,500 to support sports and recreation initiatives that align with Council's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Sports and Recreation Strategy and the Fair Access Principles.
- **Social Communities:** provides funding up to $2,000 to support events and activities that bring people together.
- **Creative Communities:** provides funding up to $1,500 to support arts and culture and projects, programs or activities that celebrate creativity.
- **Resourced Communities:** provides funding up to $500 to support community groups that require resources to enable meaningful community activities.

The Connected Communities Grants Program opens for two (2) rounds if the funding allocation is not exhausted in the first round. Round One (1) opened on Monday 6 July 2026 and closed on Monday 31 August 2026. As the total budgeted allocation should not be exhausted, Round Two (2) is anticipated to open in early January 2027 and close in late February 2027.

Funding Round Summary

Total budget available	$20,000.00
Number of applications received	Eleven (11)
Total funding requested (excl. GST)	$13,922.74
Number of applications recommended	Eight (8)
Total funding recommended (excl. GST)	Up to $9,223.65
Funding remaining	Minimum $10,776.35

Assessment Process

Applications were assessed in accordance with the approved Connected Communities Grant Guidelines and Grants Administration Policy. Applications were evaluated against the published assessment criteria by an internal assessment panel comprising appropriately qualified Council officers. All assessors were required to declare an actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest prior to the assessment process and not participate in reviewing any application where a conflict was declared.

Recommended Allocations

Applicant	Project/Event	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended (excl. GST)
Dimboola Bowling Club	Purchase of an electric hand dryer for clubrooms	$1,500.00	$500.00
Nhill Motorsports Club	To hold a 'day ride' event	$2,000.00	Up to $2,000.00*

Applicant	Project/Event	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended (excl. GST)
Nhill Park Run	Purchase of a powered leaf blower and signage	$1,500.00	$480.00
Rainbow District Badminton Club	Purchase of new badminton racquets	$1,363.64	$1,326.55
Jeparit Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	To book Tiny Goats and Co and Fair Dinkum Fauna for the Annual Show	$2,000.00	$2,000.00
CWA of Victoria Nhill Twilight Branch	Upgrade lighting and blinds in the Nhill CWA Branch	$967.10	Up to $917.10*
Nhill College Kindergarten (Emerge Early Years Service)	Create signage using Children's artwork that will be installed at the Nhill Dog Park or Jaypex Park (pending Council's approval)	$1,500.00	$1,500.00
Jeparit Tennis Club	Purchase of a new tennis net and tennis balls	$500.00	Up to $500.00*
Dimboola Cemetery	Purchase of a lawn mower	$799.00	$0.00 (ineligible - received funding in 25/26)
Nhill and District Historical Society	Purchase of archive storage boxes for documents and photos	$500.00	$0.00 (ineligible – received funding in 25/26)
Rainbow Cemetery Trust	To hold a walk on a Sunday prior to Remembrance Day to honour the 125 graves of serviceman and women in the Boar War in Rainbow	$1,300.00	$0.00 (application rescinded)

**Subject to the provision of quotes.*

The following points discuss applications where officers are not recommending the requested grant value:

- **Dimboola Bowling Club**: Upon review, it was determined that the project does not directly align with the eligibility criteria of the Active Communities Stream, which supports sport and recreation initiatives. As a result, the maximum grant of $500.00 is recommended through the Resourced Communities Stream to support the purchase of a hand dryer for the club.
- **Rainbow District Badminton Club:** Upon review, the applicant had provided two (2) amounts within the application. The recommendation is based on the amount confirmed in the budget and supported by quotes.
- **CWA of Victoria Nhill Twilight Branch:** Upon review, partial funding has been recommended due to the original application including $50 of voluntary labour for the installation of blinds. This component has been deemed ineligible and as a result the recommended allocation has been reduced.
- **Nhill Park Run**: Upon review, partial funding has been recommended under the Active Communities Stream to support the purchase of signage only. The powered leaf blower does not fit within the Active Communities Stream criteria and as only one

category of funding can be applied for per round, has not formed part of the recommendation for funding through another category.

- **Dimboola Cemetery**: Upon review, this application was determined to be ineligible as the applicant received a Community Action Grant in 2025/2026 Round One.
- **Nhill & District Historical Society**: Upon review, this application was determined to be ineligible as the applicant received a Community Action Grant in 2025/2026 Round One.
- **Rainbow Cemetery Trust:** Upon review, the Rainbow Cemetery Trust were requested to resubmit a quote. The Rainbow Cemetery Trust then rescinded their application formally via email.

Assessment Outcomes

Officers are satisfied that the recommended applications:

- Meet the eligibility requirements of the program;
- Demonstrate community, economic and/or social benefit;
- Represent value for money;
- Align with Council priorities and strategic objectives; and
- Have the capacity to successfully deliver the proposed project.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme One: Our Community
1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.
1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.
1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them.

Financial Implications:
Recommended funding allocations are provided for and confirmed within the adopted 2026/2027 Budget. The total value of grants recommended for approval is up to $9,223.65, leaving a remaining balance of minimum $10,776.35 within the annual program budget for Round Two. No additional budget allocation is required.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The grant program supports Council's strategic objective of responding to community needs through investment in locally led initiatives that strengthen community wellbeing, economic development and social connection. Assessment processes have been conducted in accordance with Council's Grants Administration Policy and approved guidelines, supporting transparent, fair and accountable decision making.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:
In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, community engagement is not required as this report relates to the administration of an adopted grant program. The grant round was publicly promoted through Council's website, social media channels, newsletters and direct stakeholder engagement in the lead-up to, and during, the opening period.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:
Not applicable.

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Nan Da San Bleh Dah, Community Development and Youth Officer
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing following Council's decision. Council-approved projects will be promoted through Council's website, social media channels and newsletters.

Next Steps:
Upon Council approval:

- Applicants will be formally advised of the outcome.
- Funding agreements will be issued.
- Payments will be processed in accordance with Council procedures.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete reporting through Council's funding acquittal process.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***approves funding under the Connected Communities Grants Program for the following applicants:***
   a) ***Dimboola Bowling Club - $500.00;***
   b) ***Nhill Motorsports Club - up to $2,000.00;***
   c) ***Nhill Park Run - $480.00;***
   d) ***Rainbow District Badminton Club - $1,326.55;***
   e) ***Jeparit Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. - $2,000.00;***
   f) ***CWA of Victoria Nhill Twilight Branch - up to $917.10;***
   g) ***Nhill College Kindergarten (Emerge Early Years Service) - $1,500.00;***
   h) ***Jeparit Tennis Club - up to $500.00;***
2. ***does not approve funding under the Connected Communities Grants for the following applicants:***
   a) ***Dimboola Cemetery due to receiving a Community Action Grant in 2025/2026 (Round One);***
   b) ***Nhill and District Historical Society due to receiving a Community Action Grant in 2025/2026 (Round One);***
3. ***acknowledges that the following application was rescinded by the applicant and therefore does not need approval for funding under the Connected Communities Grants:***
   a) ***Rainbow Cemetery Trust;***
4. ***notes that the total funding approved is up to $9,223.65, to be funded from the adopted Connected Communities Grants budget; and***
5. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants, and to determine final grant amounts for Jeparit Tennis Club, CWA of Victoria Twilight Branch and Nhill Motorsports Club, subject to the provision of valid quotes for approved projects.***

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry

That Council:

1. ***approves funding under the Connected Communities Grants Program for the following applicants:***
   a) ***Dimboola Bowling Club - $500.00;***
   b) ***Nhill Motorsports Club - up to $2,000.00;***
   c) ***Nhill Park Run - $480.00;***
   d) ***Rainbow District Badminton Club - $1,326.55;***
   e) ***Jeparit Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. - $2,000.00;***

f) CWA of Victoria Nhill Twilight Branch - up to $917.10;
g) Nhill College Kindergarten (Emerge Early Years Service) - $1,500.00;
h) Jeparit Tennis Club - up to $500.00;

2. ***does not approve funding under the Connected Communities Grants for the following applicants:***
   a) Dimboola Cemetery due to receiving a Community Action Grant in 2025/2026 (Round One);
   b) Nhill and District Historical Society due to receiving a Community Action Grant in 2025/2026 (Round One);
3. ***acknowledges that the following application was rescinded by the applicant and therefore does not need approval for funding under the Connected Communities Grants:***
   a) Rainbow Cemetery Trust;
4. ***notes that the total funding approved is up to $9,223.65, to be funded from the adopted Connected Communities Grants budget; and***
5. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants, and to determine final grant amounts for Jeparit Tennis Club, CWA of Victoria Twilight Branch and Nhill Motorsports Club, subject to the provision of valid quotes for approved projects.***

CARRIED

10.5 REGIONAL EVENTS SPONSORSHIP 2026/2027

Cr Chan Uoy declared a material conflict of interest and left the meeting at 3:54pm.

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Councillor Portfolio: All Councillors
Attachments:
1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026/2027 Regional Event Sponsorship Program Applications [**10.5.1**]
2. 2026/2027 Regional Community Events Program Grading [**10.5.2**]

Executive Summary:
This report presents recommendations for the 2026/2027 Regional Events Sponsorship Program funding program Council decision.

A total of three applications were received seeking funding of $14,500 (excl. GST). Following assessment against the approved grant guidelines, it is recommended that Council approve the following three (3) applications totalling $13,500 (excl. GST).

- Wimmera Steampunk Festival Inc for the Wimmera Steampunk Festival 2027 - $7,500;
- Marathon Adventures for the Dimboola Dash 2027 - $5,000; and
- Dimboola Bowls Club for the Dimboola Bowls Club Annual Tournament - $1,000.

The recommended projects align with Council's strategic objectives by supporting economic development, community participation, tourism and recreation within Hindmarsh Shire.

Discussion:
Program Overview
The Regional Events Sponsorship Program supports high-quality events that attract visitors, stimulate local economic activity and showcase the unique character of Hindmarsh Shire. The program provides sponsorship of up to $7,500 per applicant to assist event organisers in delivering regionally significant events that enhance tourism, strengthen community pride and contribute to the vibrancy of our towns.

Funding Round Summary

Total budget available	$ 25,000.00
Number of applications received	Three (3)
Total funding requested (excl. GST)	$ 14,500.00
Number of applications recommended	Three (3)
Total funding recommended (excl. GST)	$ 13,500.00

Funding remaining	$ 11,500.00

Assessment Process

Applications were assessed in accordance with the approved Grant Guidelines and Grants Administration Policy. Applications were evaluated against the published assessment criteria by an internal assessment panel comprising appropriately qualified Council officers. All assessors were required to declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest prior to the assessment process and not participate in reviewing any application where a conflict was declared.

Recommended Allocations

Applicant	Project/Event	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended	Total Project Cost (excl. GST)
Wimmera Steampunk Festival Inc	Wimmera Steampunk Festival 2027	$7,500.00	$7,500.00	$13,200.00 (component cost only, not total event cost)
Marathon Adventures	Dimboola Dash 2027	$5,000.00	$5,000.00	$17,000.00
Dimboola Bowls Club	Dimboola Bowls Club Annual Tournament	$2,000.00	$1,000.00	$6,166.00

The Dimboola Bowls Club application included $1,000 allocated for “Prize Money”. This element was considered ineligible in the officer evaluation process, reducing the recommended funding to $1,000 for other aspects of the event.

Assessment Outcomes

Officers are satisfied that the recommended applications:

- Meet the eligibility requirements of the program.
- Demonstrate community, economic and/or social benefit.
- Represent value for money.
- Align with Council priorities and strategic objectives.
- Have the capacity to successfully deliver the proposed project.

Link to Council Plan:

Theme One: Our Community

1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.

Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy

3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow.

Financial Implications:
Funding allocations recommended in this report are provided for within the adopted Budget. The total value of grants recommended for approval is $13,500, leaving a remaining balance of $11,500 within the annual program budget. No additional budget allocation is required.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The grant program supports Council's strategic objective of responding to community needs through investment in locally led initiatives that strengthen community wellbeing, economic development and social connection.
Governance	Assessment processes have been conducted in accordance with Council's Grants Administration Policy and approved guidelines, supporting transparent, fair and accountable decision making.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:
In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, community engagement is not required as this report relates to the administration of an adopted grant program. The grant round was publicly promoted through Council's website, social media channels, newsletters and direct stakeholder engagement.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:
Not applicable.

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Jeff Woodward, Tourism and Economic Development Officer
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing following Council's decision. Council-approved projects may be promoted through Council's website, social media channels and newsletters.

Next Steps:
Upon Council approval:

- Applicants will be formally advised of the outcome.
- Funding agreements will be issued.
- Payments will be processed in accordance with Council procedures.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete acquittal reporting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***approves funding under the Regional Events Sponsorship Program for the following applicants;***
   a) ***Wimmera Steampunk Festival Incorporated for Wimmera Steampunk Festival 2027 - $7,500;***
   b) ***Marathon Adventures for Dimboola Dash 2027 - $5,000;***
   c) ***Dimboola Bowls Club for Dimboola Bowls Club Annual Tournament - $1,000;***
2. ***notes that the total funding approved is $13,500.00, to be funded from the adopted Regional Events Sponsorship Program budget; and***
3. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants.***

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr T Clark

That Council:

1. ***approves funding under the Regional Events Sponsorship Program for the following applicants;***
   a) ***Wimmera Steampunk Festival Incorporated for Wimmera Steampunk Festival 2027 - $7,500;***
   b) ***Marathon Adventures for Dimboola Dash 2027 - $5,000;***
   c) ***Dimboola Bowls Club for Dimboola Bowls Club Annual Tournament - $1,000;***

2. ***notes that the total funding approved is $13,500.00, to be funded from the adopted Regional Events Sponsorship Program budget; and***
3. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants.***

CARRIED

Cr Chan Uoy returned to the meeting at 3:58pm.

10.6 ALGWA 75 ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE - COUNCILLOR REPORT

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barker
Attachments:
Nil

Executive Summary:
Cr Barker recently attended the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) 75th Anniversary National Conference in Manly, Sydney. This milestone event brought together elected representatives, sector leaders, academics, policy experts, and community advocates from across Australia. The conference theme, *Bold Beginnings, Brighter Futures*, honoured the women who founded ALGWA in 1951 and challenged today's leaders to continue shaping inclusive, representative, and future-focused councils.

Across three days, Cr Barker engaged with keynote speakers, panel discussions, case studies, and workshops that explored leadership, gender equity, innovation, advocacy, resilience, and the evolving role of local government. This report outlines the key insights, learnings, and strategic value for Hindmarsh Shire Council.

Discussion:
Conference Overview
The conference was co-hosted by ALGWA National and Northern Beaches Council. The program included:

- Welcome to Country and historical reflections;
- Keynotes from national leaders including Annabel Crabb, Sally Capp AO, Major Matina Jewell (Retired) SCP, and Minister Kristie McBain;
- Panels on gender equity, advocacy, women on boards, AI innovation, and rural leadership;
- Case studies on community safety, youth engagement, and behavioural change; and
- Celebrations marking ALGWA's 75 years of national leadership.

The event provided a rare opportunity to connect with councillors and sector leaders from metropolitan, regional, and rural councils nationwide.

Key Learnings and Insights

1. **Women's Experience in Local Government Matters**

ALGWA National President Cr Kylie Spears emphasised the importance of women being able to speak openly about their experiences in council. Her message reinforced that representation is not only about numbers - it is about culture, safety, and the ability to contribute authentically.

2. Welcome to Country – Reclaiming Women's Stories

Local Aboriginal Elder Karen Smith shared the history of Manly Cove, originally named Eve's Cove before settlers renamed it. Her reflection highlighted how women's stories are often erased from public memory - a theme echoed throughout the conference.

3. Annabel Crabb – Clarity, Calm and Evidence-Based Leadership

Annabel Crabb's keynote was a highlight. She explored George Megalogenis' Three Shocks, outlining demographic and political shifts reshaping Australia:

- Australia is now majority migrants and their children
- Professional women are the largest workforce segment
- Global allies and trade partners have become unreliable

Annabel encouraged councils to:

- Use statistics and evidence to drive productivity
- Model calm and clarity in leadership
- Build knowledge and expertise to reduce chaos
- Encourage schools to attend council meetings
- Teach constructive debate through the Principle of Charity approach

Her message: ***authenticity and preparation are powerful antidotes to uncertainty.***

4. AI and Innovation – Tools for Better Decision-Making

Speakers Kate Kendall, Dr Rachel Swift, and Bonnie Shaw highlighted how AI can support councils by prompting deeper analysis, improving data interpretation, and strengthening decision-making.

5. Case Study: ebike Safety in Manly

Northern Beaches Council presented a compelling case study on unsafe ebike use by young people. Speakers included:

- CEO Scott Phillips, Northern Beaches Council
- Mayor Sue Heins, Northern Beaches Council
- Julie Steele, Communications Lead, Northern Beaches Council
- Peter McLean, Bicycle NSW
- Superintendent Martin Searle, NSW Police

Key learnings:

- Students were bypassing speed limiters via phone apps
- Police lacked legislative tools to intervene
- Council responded by partnering with schools and students
- The **"Know Your Code"** campaign used stories, advocacy, and behavioural insights
- State legislation is now being reviewed

This case study demonstrated the effectiveness of collaboration, youth engagement, and evidence based communication.

6. Gender Equity and Advocacy

Kerry Wilson presented the *Put Her Name On It* project, highlighting the gender imbalance in naming public places. Recommendation: councils should prepare a "list of notable women" to guide future naming decisions.

The advocacy panel (Coral Ross AM, Micaela Drieberg, Matt Burnett, Dr Diane Colman) provided practical guidance:

- Budget advocacy should begin 18 months before elections
- Push for 80% federal / 15% state / 5% LGA funding model
- Mentoring for women should be federally funded
- Childcare should be provided for councillors of all genders
- Advocacy documents must be one page, costed, and sent to Ministers, Directors, Department Heads, and Advisors

7. Women on Boards – Diversity Drives Performance

Speakers Claire Braund and Victoria Weekes shared:

- Optimal board composition: 40% men, 40% women, 20% other
- When seeking board roles, be specific about your value
- Claire's example of supermarket trolley design illustrated how women's lived experience can solve problems men overlook

8. Major Matina Jewell – Resilience and Leadership

Major Jewell's story of surviving a catastrophic injury during UN peacekeeping operations was deeply moving. Her reflections on resilience, recovery, and advocacy for Defence reform were powerful reminders of leadership under extreme pressure.

9. Rural Women's Leadership – Geography Matters

Keli McDonald highlighted:

- Rural women face higher rates of chronic illness
- Rural women are 40 times more likely to experience misogyny and gendered violence
- Advocacy for universal childcare is hindered by the lack of rural childcare centres
- Farhat Firdous added: *"If I want to see change, I need to be the change."*

10. Leadership Futures – Sally Capp & Simon Waller

Sally Capp AO encouraged leaders to embrace bold ideas: *"The boldest thing to do is to be willing to lose."*

Simon Waller encouraged councils to:

- Ask better questions
- Make time for deep thinking
- Scan for signals that hint at future trends
- Notice anomalies — they are clues to the future

He guided attendees to imagine ALGWA's next 75 years.

Strategic Value to Hindmarsh Shire Council

1. **Strengthened Leadership Capability**

The conference provided insights directly relevant to rural leadership, advocacy, and governance. These learnings will support Cr Barker in her role as Deputy Mayor and strengthen our collective leadership capacity.

2. **Enhanced Advocacy Skills**

Clear guidance was provided on:

- Timing of advocacy
- Structuring one-page briefs
- Targeting Ministers, Directors, and Advisors
- Funding models for Financial Assistance Grants

These insights will improve Hindmarsh's ability to advocate effectively for rural communities.

3. **Gender Equity and Representation**

The conference reinforced the importance of:

- Supporting women in leadership
- Providing childcare for councillors
- Ensuring safe, inclusive council culture
- Recognising women through naming and public memory

These themes align with Hindmarsh's commitment to inclusive governance.

4. **Innovation and Future Planning**

Sessions on AI, behavioural insights, and future thinking will support Council's strategic planning, digital transformation, and community engagement.

5. **Rural Voice in National Conversations**

The rural leadership sessions validated the unique challenges faced by councils like ours. Cr Barker's attendance ensured Hindmarsh's perspective was represented and connected to national networks.

Recommendations for Hindmarsh Shire Council

1. **Strengthen advocacy processes,** including one page briefs and early budget planning.
2. **Explore childcare support options** for councillors and publicise it for future Councillors.
3. **Schedule leadership deep-thinking sessions** for Councillors and Executive Team.
4. **Develop a "Notable Women of Hindmarsh" list** for future naming decisions.
5. **Introduce school engagement initiatives,** including invitations to attend council meetings.

Conclusion

The ALGWA National Conference was a highly valuable professional development opportunity. It provided national insights, practical tools, and strategic guidance directly relevant to Hindmarsh Shire Council's governance, advocacy, and community leadership. Cr Barker left inspired, connected, and equipped with new ideas to strengthen our Council's future direction.

Cr Barker recommends continued support for Councillor attendance at ALGWA events and ongoing engagement with ALGWA Victoria.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy
3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.

Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability
4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.
4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness.
4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically.

Financial Implications:
There are no financial implications associated with the noting of this report.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Councillor professional development supports good governance by strengthening Councillors' knowledge, decision-making capability, and understanding of their roles and responsibilities under the local government framework.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020
Gender Equality Act 2020

Community Engagement:
Not applicable.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this report 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 – Cr Rosie Barker, Deputy Mayor
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
Prepare publications for inclusion in Council's newsletter and social media posts for Council's Facebook page.

Next Steps:
Utilise the recommendations in future planning strategies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes Cr Rosie Barker's report on her attendance at the Australian Local Government Women's Association 75th Anniversary National Conference.

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr T Clark

That Council notes Cr Rosie Barker's report on her attendance at the Australian Local Government Women's Association 75th Anniversary National Conference.

CARRIED

10.7 RURAL COUNCILS VICTORIA ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Portfolio: All Councillors
Attachments:
Nil

Executive Summary:
Rural Councils Victoria has launched the 'Invest in Rural Victoria' campaign ahead of the 2026 Victorian State Election.

The campaign seeks stronger and more equitable State Government investment in rural communities. Its priorities include roads, community infrastructure, housing-enabling infrastructure, emergency preparedness, economic development and the long-term financial sustainability of rural councils.

Rural Councils Victoria has asked member councils to formally endorse the campaign and support its local promotion. The campaign is non-partisan and does not endorse any political party or candidate. Formal endorsement would provide Council officers with a clear mandate to participate in campaign activities, including local communications, engagement with candidates and MPs, and appropriately authorised signage.

Endorsement aligns with Council's established advocacy regarding fairer funding arrangements for small rural councils, funding for rural roads and community infrastructure including the Jeparit Weir, and funding for housing.

Discussion:
Hindmarsh Shire Council is a member of Rural Councils Victoria, an advocacy alliance representing the interests of rural councils and communities across the state.

Following consultation with its regional representatives, Rural Councils Victoria developed a statewide election platform calling for increased investment in rural communities and a stronger, long-term partnership between State and local government.

The headline proposal is the establishment of a $1 billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund, delivered across four (4) streams:

1. community wellbeing and local places renewal;
2. economic development;
3. council sustainability; and
4. housing supply.

The broader platform also seeks increased roads funding, improved council sustainability, reforms relating to councillor safety and reform of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

The campaign reflects many of the issues Council has consistently raised through its advocacy activities.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is responsible for a substantial road, bridge, building, recreation and community asset network across a large geographic area. This responsibility is compounded by a comparatively small population and rate base.

Council cannot sustainably renew and maintain its asset network through rates and existing funding programs alone. Continued State and Federal Government investment, including predictable and flexible grant funding, is necessary to maintain essential infrastructure and deliver practical outcomes for our community.

The campaign also recognises that:

- safe and reliable roads are essential to community safety, freight, agriculture and economic productivity;
- housing shortages affect local businesses and Council's ability to attract and retain workers;
- investment in community facilities supports health, social connection, volunteer participation and resilience;
- rural councils are important delivery partners for emergency preparedness and recovery; and
- investment models must recognise that rural councils have different financial and operational circumstances from metropolitan and larger regional councils.

Subject to Council endorsement, officers propose to support the campaign through the installation of high-visibility, co-branded corflute signage at Council's Nhill office.

The Nhill office provides a visible location on the Western Highway, a major transport route between Adelaide and Melbourne, and would allow Council to promote the campaign effectively without incurring the cost of installing signage in every town. This approach is intended to maximise visibility and value for money.

Figure 1: Proposed poster and location at the Nhill Customer Service Centre.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy
3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries.

Financial Implications:
Any costs associated with printing and installing signage or preparing campaign communications will be met from existing operational budgets. The cost of signage for the Nhill office is expected to be less than $500.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Signage will be authorised in line with the requirements under the *Electoral Act 2002* and be placed on Council's Nhill office. Signage will not be displayed within 100m of the entrance to a voting centre and will not obstruct roads, footpaths or visibility for motorists, cyclists or pedestrians.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020
Electoral Act 2002

Community Engagement:
Not applicable.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as this project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:
Not applicable.

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

Officer Responsible – 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 Council endorsement, Officers will finalise authorised campaign signage.

Next Steps:
Signage will be prepared and installed at the Nhill office, a series of social media posts will be prepared, and Council will continue to advocate for practical State Government investment that recognises the financial and operational realities of small rural councils.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***notes the Rural Councils Victoria advocacy campaign on behalf of rural councils and communities;***
2. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to support and promote the campaign through Council's existing advocacy, communications, and community engagement activities; and***
3. ***supports the installation of appropriately authorised campaign signage at Hindmarsh Shire Council's Nhill office.***

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry

That Council:

1. ***notes the Rural Councils Victoria advocacy campaign on behalf of rural councils and communities;***
2. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to support and promote the campaign through Council's existing advocacy, communications, and community engagement activities; and***
3. ***supports the installation of appropriately authorised campaign signage at Hindmarsh Shire Council's Nhill office.***

CARRIED

10.8 HINDMARSH PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW ADDENDUM AND AMENDMENT

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barry
Attachments:
1. 2026 Planning Scheme Review Supplementary Report [**10.8.1**]
2. Planning Scheme Amendment (C25hind) Explanatory Report [**10.8.2**]
3. Planning Scheme Amendment (C25hind) Instruction Sheet [**10.8.3**]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - C25hind Ordinance Draft [**10.8.4**]

Executive Summary:
Hindmarsh Shire Council's Planning Scheme (Scheme) was comprehensively reviewed in March 2025. As the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* also requires Council to review the Scheme within 1 year of adopting its Council Plan, with the current review due by 31 October 2026, a Supplementary Report to the 2025 Review has been prepared which updates the 2025 Scheme Review, confirms that its recommendations remain relevant, and enables Council to meet its statutory obligations without unnecessarily duplicating the work undertaken as part of the 2025 review. This report seeks Council's endorsement of the Supplementary Report for submission to the Minister for Planning.

The Supplementary Report also identifies a series of recommendations for a planning scheme amendment. The proposed amendment is intended to be low impact and non-controversial, with the primary purpose of maintaining the currency of the Planning Scheme rather than introducing substantive policy changes. This report also seeks Council's endorsement to commence the planning scheme amendment process to implement the recommended changes.

Discussion:
Planning Scheme Review and Supplementary Report
Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) requires a municipal council to review its planning scheme within 1 year of the date by which it is required to adopt a Council Plan.

Council adopted the last review at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 05 March 2025 and subsequently submitted it to the Minister for Planning in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The review represented the first comprehensive review of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme (the Scheme) since 2008 and was completed through a State Government supported program called the Regional Planning Hub (the Hub).

Following the 2024 local government elections, Council was required to adopt a new Council Plan by 31 October 2025. As a result, Council was required to undertake a further Scheme review by October 2026. Given the recent completion of the 2025 Scheme Review, officers sought advice from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding an

appropriate approach to satisfy the statutory requirement without unnecessarily repeating work already undertaken.

DTP advised that the preparation of a Supplementary Report to the 2025 Scheme review would satisfy Council's obligations under the Act. The purpose of the Supplementary Report is to consider any relevant legislative, policy or strategic changes that have occurred since completion of the original review and to confirm whether the findings and recommendations of the review remain relevant. The Hub agreed to undertake preparation of the Supplementary Report on Council's behalf. The completed Supplementary Report largely confirms that the recommendations identified in the 2025 Scheme review remain appropriate and should continue to be progressed.

This report seeks Council's adoption of the Supplementary Report to fulfil the requirements of Section 12B of the Act. Once adopted, the Supplementary Report can be submitted to the Minister for Planning.

Planning Scheme Amendment to Implement the Review and Supplementary Report

The review, together with the Supplementary Report, provides a comprehensive assessment of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme against current legislative requirements, planning practice and Council's strategic framework. The recommendations are not intended to introduce substantial changes to planning policy or land use outcomes but instead focus on ensuring the Planning Scheme is current, accurate and easy to use through the removal of outdated content, correction of drafting inconsistencies, alignment with contemporary planning practice and implementation of Council's adopted strategies and policy positions.

Where broader strategic issues or more significant policy matters were identified, the review generally recommends further strategic work or separate planning scheme amendment processes before any changes are considered. Development of a Rural Land Use Strategy, Housing Strategy, review of Environmental Significance Overlay Schedules 5 and 6, and preparation of a new Nhill Aerodrome Incorporated Document are among the key strategic projects identified for future work in the Supplementary Report.

While the Review and Supplementary Report identify recommended improvements, adoption of these documents does not amend the Planning Scheme. Any changes must instead be implemented through the formal planning scheme amendment process prescribed by the Act.

The Hub is also able to assist with preparing the amendment to implement the recommendations of the 2025 Scheme review and Supplementary Report. This includes preparation of amendment documentation and assistance through the authorisation and exhibition stages of the amendment process. This assistance will reduce the financial and resourcing impacts on Council while enabling the recommendations of the review and

Supplementary Report to be progressed efficiently. Preliminary amendment documentation has already been prepared and amendment number C25hind has been assigned.

Accordingly, this report seeks Council's endorsement to commence a planning scheme amendment to implement the recommendations of the 2025 Scheme Review and Supplementary Report.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability
4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation.

Financial Implications:
Most of the amendment preparation and administrative tasks associated with implementation will be supported through the Hub at no cost to Council other than minimal officer time. Council officer involvement will be limited to standard statutory tasks, including coordination during the exhibition phase and uploading documentation to the amendment tracking system. These tasks can be accommodated within existing staff resourcing and form part of normal operational duties.

There is potential for additional costs to Council if an amendment proceeds to a Planning Panel following exhibition, particularly where objections cannot be resolved. Panel hearings can involve costs associated with panel fees, potential expert advice, and officer attendance. Throughout the amendment process, Council retains discretion to modify or remove aspects of an amendment (where appropriate) that attract unresolved submissions, or to otherwise manage the scope of the amendment, in order to avoid the need for a panel hearing.

At this stage, no additional budget allocation is required, however any future costs associated with amendment progression beyond exhibition would be subject to further consideration and Council decision making.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Adoption of the Planning Scheme Review Supplementary Report and progression of the amendment process supports Council's strategic objective of maintaining a contemporary and effective planning framework. This helps ensure that planning controls remain aligned with current community needs, strategic directions and legislative requirements, providing greater certainty and transparency for residents, landowners and developers.
Governance	This decision assists Council to meet its statutory obligations under Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by completing the required planning scheme review process following adoption of a new Council Plan. Progressing the amendment also supports good

	governance through the maintenance of an accurate, current and legally compliant planning scheme.

Relevant Legislation:
Planning and Environment Act 1987
Local Government Act 2020

Community Engagement:
Community engagement is not required at this stage. Statutory consultation and exhibition will be undertaken as part of the planning scheme amendment process in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:
Not applicable.

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Mikayla Mackley, Planning Officer
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
Not applicable

Next Steps:
Subject to Council adopting the recommendation, the following actions will occur:

- The adopted Supplementary Report will be submitted to the Minister for Planning.
- The Regional Planning Hub will commence preparation of Planning Scheme Amendment C25hind, including documentation required for authorisation and exhibition.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***adopts the Hindmarsh 2026 Supplementary Review Report (August 2026, Department of Transport and Planning) and forwards it to the Minister for Planning as evidence that Hindmarsh Shire Council, as the planning authority for the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme, has met its obligations under Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to review the planning scheme;***
2. ***requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C25hind to the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to implement the recommendations of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme Review (2024) and the Hindmarsh 2026 Supplementary Review Report (August 2026);***
3. ***authorises the CEO to approve necessary changes to Planning Scheme Amendment C25hind to ensure consistency with the requirements of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) as necessary.***

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr J Barry

That Council:

1. ***adopts the Hindmarsh 2026 Supplementary Review Report (August 2026, Department of Transport and Planning) and forwards it to the Minister for Planning as evidence that Hindmarsh Shire Council, as the planning authority for the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme, has met its obligations under Section 12B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to review the planning scheme;***
2. ***requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C25hind to the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to implement the recommendations of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme Review (2024) and the Hindmarsh 2026 Supplementary Review Report (August 2026);***
3. ***authorises the CEO to approve necessary changes to Planning Scheme Amendment C25hind to ensure consistency with the requirements of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) as necessary.***

CARRIED

10.9 ACTIVE TRANSPORT FUNDING PROGRAM PROPOSED APPLICATIONS

Cr Rosie Barker and Ms Monica Revell declared general conflicts of interest and left the meeting at 4:16pm.

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure Services
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barry
Attachments:
Nil

Executive Summary:
This report seeks Council endorsement to submit funding applications in the current round of the Federal Government's Active Transport Funding Program. The proposed applications are as follows:

- **Wimmera Street Footpath Connection**, to construct a 450m long concrete footpath connection on Wimmera Street and Upper Regions Street, Dimboola with a total cost of $150,000 (excl. GST) with the contributions being 80% from the funding body and the remaining 20% from Council. The intention is to provide all abilities connection between the overpass and School Street. Council's contribution of up to $30,000 (excl. GST) will be referred for inclusion in the Capital Works Program to be set out in the 2027/2028 Annual Budget.
- **Townsend Street Footpath Connection**, to construct a 1050m long concrete footpath connection on Townsend Street, Nairn Street and Glenferness Street, Nhill with a total cost of $300,000 (excl. GST) with the contributions being 80% from the funding body and the remaining 20% from Council. The intention is to connect pedestrians along Glenferness and Townsend Street to the school crossing, hospital and shopping precinct. The Council contribution of up to $60,000 (excl. GST) will be referred for inclusion in the Capital Works Program set out in the 2028/2029 Annual Budget.

Discussion:
The Federal Government's Active Transport Funding Program (ATF) provides opportunities for Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to improve road safety and promote active and liveable communities. To be eligible for funding, applications must primarily focus on road safety, reducing transport emissions and promoting active and liveable communities by addressing issues relating to cyclists and/or pedestrians on Council-managed roads. The program generally requires applicants to match ATF funding on a 1:1 basis. However, ministerial exemptions may apply for regional councils with a low rate base. Officers are seeking an exemption to enable an 80:20 funding contribution, with 80% funded by the Australian Government and 20% funded by Council.

Officers have identified two significant gaps in the pedestrian networks of Nhill and Dimboola. The proposed Townsend Street Footpath Connection and Wimmera Street Footpath

Connection would provide continuous, accessible walking routes between established residential areas and important community destinations. At present, sections of both routes lack suitable footpath infrastructure, requiring some pedestrians to walk on roadways, road shoulders or uneven roadsides. This particularly affects people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walking frames and prams, as well as older residents, school-aged children and other pedestrians who may have difficulty safely negotiating an unsealed or discontinuous route.

The Wimmera Street project responds to a particularly important accessibility and network-completion issue. An all-abilities railway overpass walking bridge already allows people with accessibility requirements to cross the rail corridor safely. However, the bridge terminates on the southern verge of Upper Regions Street without a compliant landing, connecting footpath or pedestrian crossing. Consequently, a person using a wheelchair, mobility scooter, walking frame or pram can cross the railway line but does not have a compliant route from the bridge into the broader Dimboola footpath network.

Figure 1: Proposed locations of footpaths in Dimboola.

The project would construct approximately 450 metres of new, 1.5-metre-wide accessible concrete footpath and connect the railway overpass with the existing School Street and High Street footpath networks. A concept design with a budget estimate of $150,000 (excluding GST) has been developed internally. Should the application be successful, the project must be delivered by June 2028, allowing for the Council contribution to be budgeted in 2027/2028 financial year.

The Townsend Street project is required to address a substantial missing connection within Nhill's pedestrian network. The project proposes approximately 1,050 metres of new, 1.5-metre-wide accessible concrete footpath, together with a compliant pedestrian crossing on Townsend Street. The route would connect residential areas with Nhill Hospital, the Nhill CBD, Nhill College, recreational facilities, the local gym and Avonlea Aged Care by linking into existing pedestrian infrastructure.

Figure 2: Proposed locations of footpaths in Nhill.

A concept design with a budget estimate of $300,000 (excluding GST) has been developed internally. Should the application be successful, the project must be delivered by June 2029, allowing for the Council contribution to be budgeted in 2028/2029 financial year.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme One: Our Community
1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected.

Theme Two: Built and Natural Environment
2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience.

Financial Implications:
Subject to approval of a ministerial exemption, the Wimmera Street Footpath Connection project would require an 80:20 co-contribution, with 80% funded by the Australian Government and 20% funded by Council. Council funds of up to $30,000 (excl. GST) would

be required to complete the project in the 2027/2028 financial year. This co-contribution will be referred to the 2027/2028 Annual Budget should the application be successful.

Subject to approval of a ministerial exemption, the Townsend Street Footpath Connection project would require an 80:20 co-contribution, with 80% funded by the Australian Government and 20% funded by Council. Council funds of up to $60,000 (excl. GST) would be required to complete the project in the 2028/2029 financial year. This co-contribution will be referred to the 2028/2029 Annual Budget should the application be successful.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	The proposed Townsend Street Footpath Connection project in Nhill and Wimmera Street Footpath Connection project in Dimboola respond to identified gaps in Council's pedestrian network. In both locations, the absence of continuous and accessible footpath infrastructure increases the likelihood of pedestrians walking on the roadway, road shoulder or uneven verge. This particularly affects older residents, school-aged children, people with disability, people using mobility aids and families with prams. The main risk of not proceeding with the projects is that pedestrians would continue to interact with vehicles in environments where suitable separation is not currently available. Retaining the existing conditions would also limit independent access to local services and community facilities for people who cannot safely use an unsealed verge or negotiate an incomplete pedestrian route. The projects manage these risks by providing defined, continuous and accessible paths of travel, supported by compliant crossing points and traffic-calming treatments.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020
Local Government Act 1989
Road Management Act 2004

Community Engagement:
A letter of support has been received from Dimboola Memorial Secondary College for the Wimmera Street Footpath Connection application. Further consultation with the community will be undertaken should the applications be successful.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment is not required as the project does not have a direct and significant impact on the community.

Confidential Declaration:
Not applicable.

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Lakshdeep Chawla, Infrastructure Engineer
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:
If the funding applications are successful, Council will communicate project updates through its usual channels, including Council's website, social media and direct engagement with affected residents and stakeholders where required.

Next Steps:
If endorsed by Council, officers will finalise and submit the funding applications under the Active Transport Funding Program. Should the applications be successful, the required Council contributions will be referred to the relevant annual budget processes.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***endorses the proposed funding application under the Active Transport Funding Program for construction of concrete footpath connections in Wimmera Street and Upper Regions Street, Dimboola;***
2. ***refers the Council contribution of up to $30,000 (excl. GST) for the Wimmera Street Footpath Connection project to the 2027/2028 Annual Budget;***
3. ***endorses the proposed funding application under the Active Transport Funding Program for construction of concrete footpath connections in Townsend Street, Nairn Street and Glenferness Street, Nhill; and***
4. ***refers the Council contribution of up to $60,000 (excl. GST) for the Townsend Street Footpath Connection project to the 2028/2029 Annual Budget.***

MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Aitken

That Council:

1. ***endorses the proposed funding application under the Active Transport Funding Program for construction of concrete footpath connections in Wimmera Street and Upper Regions Street, Dimboola;***
2. ***refers the Council contribution of up to $30,000 (excl. GST) for the Wimmera Street Footpath Connection project to the 2027/2028 Annual Budget;***
3. ***endorses the proposed funding application under the Active Transport Funding Program for construction of concrete footpath connections in Townsend Street, Nairn Street and Glenferness Street, Nhill; and***
4. ***refers the Council contribution of up to $60,000 (excl. GST) for the Townsend Street Footpath Connection project to the 2028/2029 Annual Budget.***

CARRIED

Cr Rosie Barker and Ms Monica Revell returned to the meeting at 4:21pm.

10.10 POLICY UPDATES

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Barker and Cr Uoy
Attachments:
1. DRAFT Human Rights Policy - 2026 Review [**10.10.1**]
2. DRAFT Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy - 2026 Review [**10.10.2**]
3. DRAFT Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy [**10.10.3**]

Executive Summary:
This report presents the draft *Human Rights Policy*, *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy* and *Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy* for Council consideration and endorsement for community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The Human Rights Policy ensures that Council is enacting the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* which requires Council to consider and protect human rights when making decisions, developing policies and delivering services. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy builds on the Human Rights Policy and establishes Council's commitment to fostering a welcoming, equitable and inclusive organisation and community. The Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy guides how Council will endeavour to make Council meetings accessible online.

All policies are recommended to be made available for a period of community engagement from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026.

Discussion:
This report presents three (3) Council policies for consideration, based on both review schedules and new policy development.

<u>Human Rights Policy</u>
The first is the Human Rights Policy, which has been reviewed in accordance with its review schedule. This policy gives effect to Council's obligations under the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.* Human rights under the Charter are as follows:

- Right to recognition and equality before the law (section 8)
- Right to life (section 9)
- Right to protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (section 10)
- Right to freedom from forced work (section 11)
- Right to freedom of movement (section 12)
- Right to privacy and reputation (section 13)
- Right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (section 14)
- Right to freedom of expression (section 15)

- Right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association (section 16)
- Right to protection of families and children (section 17)
- Right to take part in public life (section 18)
- Cultural rights (section 19)
- Property rights (section 20)
- Right to liberty and security of person (section 21)
- Right to humane treatment when deprived of liberty (section 22)
- Rights of children in the criminal process (section 23)
- Right to a fair hearing (section 24)
- Rights in criminal proceedings (section 25)
- Right not to be tried or punished more than once (section 26)
- Retrospective criminal laws (section 27)

No substantial changes have been made to the content policy; however, it has been re-written and restructured to improve how the information flows.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy outlines Hindmarsh Shire Council's commitment to being a welcoming, fair and inclusive organisation and community. As the level of government closest to residents, Council has an important role in ensuring everyone can participate in community life, access services, feel safe and be treated with respect. Diversity refers to the visible and invisible differences that make each person unique, including culture, language, ethnicity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic background, religion and lived experience.

Development of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy was identified as a Council Plan action for 2025/26. The policy supports Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 202*0 and other relevant legislation, including the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*, *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, and *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. It provides a framework to guide Council's approach to promoting inclusion, addressing barriers to participation, and supporting equitable outcomes for all members of the community.

The principles of the Policy are:

- **Respect and dignity** - Everyone has the right to be treated with respect, free from discrimination, harassment and exclusion.
- **Fair access and participation** - Council will work to reduce barriers that prevent people from accessing services, employment or civic participation.
- **Continuous improvement** – Council practices will evolve over time as capacity, resources and community engagement opportunities expand.

- **Evidence informed practice** - Council will draw on available data, legislation, sector guidance and community insights to inform future initiatives.
- **Participation and collaboration** - Council will seek opportunities to work with community organisations, service providers and government agencies to support inclusive outcomes.

This draft Policy presents a first step and a set of foundational principles that can be socialised across the organisation and publicised to demonstrate to Council's diverse communities that Council is there to serve them.

Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy

The Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy has been reviewed in accordance with its review schedule. The policy has been updated to strengthen accessibility provisions, including the use of closed captions where available and a commitment to providing livestreams and recordings in accessible formats wherever reasonably practicable (s13). Minor spelling, grammar, and phrasing amendments have been made; however, the remainder of the content of the Policy remains relevant and comprehensive.

Link to Council Plan:
Theme One: Our Community
1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing.

Financial Implications:
The draft policies do not create any financial implications beyond the associated programs, activities and resourcing already provided for in Council's adopted budget. Any consultation and communication activities will be managed within existing operational budgets and resources.

Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs Governance	The policies mitigate the strategic risks of Community Needs and Governance by strengthening Council's ability to make fair, transparent and inclusive decisions that reflect the needs of the community. The Human Rights and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies support equitable access to services, reduce barriers to participation and help ensure Council meets its legislative and human rights obligations. The Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy further supports good governance by improving public access to Council decision-making, increasing transparency and strengthening community trust.

Relevant Legislation:
Local Government Act 2020
Equal Opportunity Act 2010
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Community Engagement:
If endorsed, the draft Human Rights Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, and Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy will be made available for community feedback from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, with the draft policies published through Council's engagement channels and key stakeholder groups invited to provide feedback directly.

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

A Gender Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to this policy where required.

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:
If endorsed, the draft Human Rights Policy, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, and Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy will be published on Council's Have Your Say Hindmarsh platform for community feedback from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026. The consultation opportunity will be promoted through Council's usual communication channels, including social media, newsletters and a media release, with information presented in a clear and accessible way to support community awareness and participation.

Next Steps:
If endorsed, the draft policies will be made available for community consultation from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026. Feedback received during the consultation period will be reviewed and considered, with a further report to be presented to Council seeking adoption of the final policies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the following draft policies for the purpose of community consultation from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy:

1. ***Human Rights Policy;***
2. ***Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy; and***
3. ***Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy.***

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr C Uoy

That Council endorses the following draft policies for the purpose of community consultation from 1 October 2026 to 30 October 2026, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy:

1. ***Human Rights Policy;***
2. ***Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy; and***
3. ***Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy.***

CARRIED

11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

11.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Aitken
Attachments:
1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026 09 16 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes [**11.1.1**]
2. Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2027-2029 [**11.1.2**]
3. DRAFT Audit and Risk Committee Charter [**11.1.3**]

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

The Audit and Risk Committee has recommended that Council adopt the following:
- Strategic Internal Audit Plan – 2027-2029
- Audit and Risk Committee Charter

The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 16 September 2026 are also presented for noting by Council.

Next Steps:
If Council adopts the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2027-2029 and the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, officers will finalise and publish the adopted documents, circulate them to the Audit and Risk Committee and relevant Council officers, and commence implementation of the actions and audit program outlined in the Strategic Internal Audit Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:
1. ***adopts the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2027-2029;***
2. ***adopts the Audit and Risk Committee Charter; and***
3. ***notes the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 16 September 2026.***

MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr R Aitken

That Council:

1. ***adopts the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2027-2029;***
2. ***adopts the Audit and Risk Committee Charter; and***
3. ***notes the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 16 September 2026.***

CARRIED

11.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Aitken
Attachments:

1. Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting Minutes 19 August 2026 [**11.2.1**]
2. Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting Minutes 02 September 2026 [**11.2.2**]
3. Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting Minutes 16 September 2026 [**11.2.3**]
4. Jeparit Town Committee Minutes 10 August 2026 [**11.2.4**]
5. Jeparit Town Committee Minutes 14 September 2026 [**11.2.5**]
6. Rainbow Town Committee Minutes 17 August 2026 [**11.2.6**]
7. Nhill Town Committee Minutes 1 September 2026 [**11.2.7**]
8. Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report August 2026 [**11.2.8**]
9. Nhill Town Committee Financial Report August 2026 [**11.2.9**]
10. Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report August 2026 [**11.2.10**]
11. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026 08 24 Volunteers Expression of Interest Form Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee - Hayley Werner [**11.2.11**]
12. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2026 09 04 Volunteers Expression of Interest Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee - Nikeata Williams [**11.2.12**]

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

- **Hindmarsh Pride Committee**
  General meetings on 19 August 2026, 02 September 2026, and 16 September 2026
- **Jeparit Township**
  General meetings on 10 August 2026 and 14 September 2026
- **Rainbow Township**
  General meeting on 17 August 2026
- **Nhill Township**
  General meeting on 01 September 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 August for the following Advisory Committees have been included as attachments for the information of Council:

- Jeparit Township
- Nhill Township
- Rainbow Township

Two expressions of interest were also received for the Hindmarsh Pride Committee, these are included as confidential attachments.

Next Steps:
Council officers to publish Advisory Committees minutes on Council's website. Council officers to notify committees of the outcome of their funding allocation requests. Council officers to contact the people who submitted an expression of interest and advise them of the outcome of their application to join Hindmarsh Pride Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. ***notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
   a) ***Hindmarsh Pride meetings held on 19 August 2026, 02 September 2026 and 16 September 2026;***
   b) ***Jeparit Township meetings held on 10 August 2026 and 14 September 2026;***
   c) ***Rainbow Township meeting held on 17 August 2026;***
   d) ***Nhill Township meeting held on 01 September 2026;***
2. ***notes the financial statements for the month of August for the following Advisory Committees:***
   a) ***Jeparit Township;***
   b) ***Nhill Township;***
   c) ***Rainbow Township;***
3. ***approves the request for Jeparit Township to allocate up to $30,000 (excl. GST) for installation and completion of 3 Jeparit town entrance signs;***
4. ***approves the request for Rainbow Township to allocate $5,000 (excl. GST) to the Rainbow A&P Society for the 2026 Rainbow Show; and***
5. ***endorses membership for the Hindmarsh Pride Committee to:***
   a) ***Hayley Werner; and***
   b) ***Nikeata Williams.***

MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr T Clark

That Council:

1. ***notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
   a) ***Hindmarsh Pride meetings held on 19 August 2026, 02 September 2026 and 16 September 2026;***
   b) ***Jeparit Township meetings held on 10 August 2026 and 14 September 2026;***
   c) ***Rainbow Township meeting held on 17 August 2026;***
   d) ***Nhill Township meeting held on 01 September 2026;***
2. ***notes the financial statements for the month of August for the following Advisory Committees:***

a) Jeparit Township;
b) Nhill Township;
c) Rainbow Township;

3. ***approves the request for Jeparit Township to allocate up to $30,000 (excl. GST) for installation and completion of 3 Jeparit town entrance signs;***
4. ***approves the request for Rainbow Township to allocate $5,000 (excl. GST) to the Rainbow A&P Society for the 2026 Rainbow Show; and***
5. ***endorses membership for the Hindmarsh Pride Committee to:***
   a) Hayley Werner; and
   b) Nikeata Williams.

CARRIED

11.3 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Portfolio: Cr Aitken
Attachments:
1. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 18 August 2026 [**11.3.1**]
2. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 27 August 2026 [**11.3.2**]

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

- **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee**
  General meeting on 18 August 2026
- **Yurunga Homestead Committee**
  General meeting on 27 August 2026

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:
1. ***Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meeting held on 18 August 2026; and***
2. ***Yurunga Homestead meeting held on 27 August 2026.***

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

That Council notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:
1. ***Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meeting held on 18 August 2026; and***
2. ***Yurunga Homestead meeting held on 27 August 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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

15.1 MUNICIPAL BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACT APPROVAL – this report contains "Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released"; and

15.2 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2026-2027-06 – CONSTRUCTION OF RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND CONCRETE FOOTPATH IN WHITEHEAD AVENUE, NHILL – this report contains "Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released".

MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken

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

15.1 MUNICIPAL BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACT APPROVAL – this report contains "Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released"; and

15.2 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2026-2027-06 – CONSTRUCTION OF RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND CONCRETE FOOTPATH IN WHITEHEAD AVENUE, NHILL – this report contains "Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released".

CARRIED

16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

No late confidential reports.

17 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further confidential business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 5:01pm.

The Hon Tim Richardson MP

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Renters

Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone +613 8663 1006

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor
Hindmarsh Shire Council
[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Cr Ismay

I am pleased to inform you that funding of $5,538 has been allocated to your council's library service as part of the 2026-2027 Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund.

The Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund is an annual program that provides public libraries with assistance to purchase materials to support participation in the annual Premiers' Reading Challenge. Since its inception, more than 4.75 million children and young people have turned the pages of more than 66 million books.

In addition to the funding support provided through the Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund, the Victorian Government supports public libraries through both the Public Libraries Funding Program and the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

The Department of Government Services will shortly provide your council's Chief Executive Officer with a funding agreement for signing.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Colin Morrison, Director, Sector Engagement and Program Delivery, at the Department of Government Services on [redacted]

Thank you for your ongoing support of public library services in Victoria.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

The Hon Tim Richardson MP
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Renters

13 October 2026

cc: Ms Monica Revell, CEO

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1973 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address.

From: Barry Roennfeldt [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2026 2:36 PM
To: Info
Subject: No camera glasses

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear Mayor Ismay,

I'm a local resident, concerned about the spread of covert recording devices. 'Smart glasses' with built-in cameras are now cheap and almost impossible to tell apart from ordinary eyewear. People have no way of knowing they're being filmed in the places they're most exposed, and no chance to object before it's happened. Everyone should be able to get changed, swim or take their kids to the playground without wondering who is filming them. Brisbane, Yarra and Canterbury-Bankstown have already banned these devices at their pools, change rooms and children's facilities.

I'm asking Hindmarsh Shire Council to do the same:

- Release a public statement banning camera glasses in all council-operated facilities.

- Update your terms and conditions of entry to prohibit them, and signpost it clearly at every entrance.

- Authorise and train staff to act, asking anyone wearing a camera-enabled device to remove it or leave, with a clear escalation process behind it.

- Exempt assistive use for people who rely on these devices as a disability aid, including people who are blind or have low vision and people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Write to the Prime hat the by and Attorney-General calling for stronger federal regulation of wearable surveillance devices.

Council doesn't need to wait for federal law to protect the people who use its facilities.

Will Hindmarsh Shire Council act on this major potential impact on personal privacy?

I'm sure that the by-laws officer will look forward to identifying, and attending to, offenders to such orders.

Kind regards,
Your friend in perpetuity,
Barry Roennfeldt

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

28 September 2026

Margaret Millington OAM and John Millington OAM
[redacted]
Via email: [redacted]

Dear Margaret and John

Re: Advocacy for improved passenger rail services

Thank you for writing to Council and for sharing your thoughtful suggestions regarding improved passenger rail services for Nhill and communities along the western rail corridor.

Council recognises the significant transport challenges faced by residents who need to travel for health care, education, and other essential services. The examples you have provided clearly demonstrate the impact that limited and impractical transport options can have on older people, people with disability and families, particularly where frequent travel to Melbourne or regional centres is required.

Council will discuss opportunities for further advocacy on improved passenger rail services at a future Councillor briefing. Council is also engaging with the Rail Freight Alliance, which has established connections with VicTrack, V/Line and the Australian Rail Track Corporation on rail matters relevant to our Shire and the wider region. This engagement provides an important avenue to raise shared regional priorities and identify opportunities for coordinated advocacy.

Your proposals for an additional mid-week Overland service and the extension of passenger rail services beyond Ararat will be considered as part of that discussion. While Council is not yet in a position to commit support to a specific funding or service proposal, it agrees that better transport connections are important for equitable access to services and for the long-term social and economic development of our communities.

Thank you again for your continued advocacy for country communities. Your correspondence and attached suggestions will help inform Council's future briefing and consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

28 September 2026

Alison Dahlenburg
Chairperson
Nhill Town Committee
Via email: [redacted]

Dear Alison

Re: Passenger rail services and Nhill Train Station

Council has noted the motion carried under item 7.1 at the Nhill Town Committee meeting held on 1 September 2026.

Council works closely with the Rail Freight Alliance, which liaises with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), VicTrack and V/Line to advocate for improved rail services and infrastructure across the municipality and the wider region. Through this partnership, Council will continue to raise the need for increased passenger rail services and investment in the Nhill Train Station with relevant rail agencies and government representatives.

Council appreciates the Committee's ongoing advocacy for improved rail services and facilities for the Nhill community.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

29 September 2026

Barry Roennfeldt
By email: [redacted]

Dear Barry

Re: Smart Glasses

Thank you for your email detailing concerns around the use of “smart glasses” and the role that Councils can play in safeguarding public spaces.

As Council prepares for the Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools season, we are working to ensure that we have policies, procedures, and signage in place to prevent unlawful and inappropriate recording within pool facilities. Council will consider other appropriate ways to regulate use in public places where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

As you have noted, smart glasses can also be key accessibility tools for people who are blind, vision-impaired or living with other disabilities and any restrictions will consider safety and privacy considerations against accessibility needs.

We will provide community updates as policy considerations progress and thank you again for your care for community safety and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

01 October 2026

Lauren Badua
[redacted]
Via Email: [redacted]

Dear Lauren

Re: Volunteer Membership for Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee Events

Thank you for submitting an expression of interest to volunteer for Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee events.

We are excited to welcome you as a volunteer of Hindmarsh Shire Council and thank you for your commitment to our community. All volunteers are required to complete volunteer documentation when becoming a volunteer for Council. Please provide the required documentation as outlined below, as soon as possible but no later than **30 November 2026** to enable you to continue to serve as a volunteer.

You will be required to complete a **Police Check**. Please see instructions attached and a link to where you can complete the application. Please contact our People and Safety team at hresources@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au or (03) 5391 4444 if you require any assistance with this.

A current **Volunteer Working with Children Check** is also required. If you already have a Working with Children Check, you can add Hindmarsh Shire Council as a volunteer organisation here: https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children-check-update-details/home.

If you do not have a current Working with Children Check, volunteers can apply for them for free here: https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check.

Please send all completed paperwork to volunteering@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

We are so pleased to have you on board and look forward to working with you! The volunteer coordinator for the Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee is:

Petra Croot
Director Corporate and Community Services
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Please contact Petra if you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any other health or accessibility concerns that may impact your ability to volunteer in this position, please let us know and we'll do what we can to support you.

Again, thank you for your willingness to volunteer for Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee events. Council values and appreciates all volunteers throughout Hindmarsh.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

01 October 2026

Nikeata Williams
[redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Dear Nikeata,

Re: Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee Membership

I refer to your application for membership to Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee. I am pleased to inform you that at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30 September 2026, Council endorsed your membership for the current term ending 30 June 2027.

We welcome you as a volunteer of Hindmarsh Shire Council and thank you for your commitment to our community. The role of Advisory Committees is to –

- Provide advice to Council on issues, ideas and projects that matter to the community area you are representing;
- Promote the liveability of the area you are representing through projects and events that enrich the amenity, social connectivity and culture of Hindmarsh; and
- Maintain good governance and fair and transparent decision-making.

The next meeting of the Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday 28 October 2026 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

All Advisory Committee members and volunteers are required to complete volunteer documentation when becoming a volunteer for Council. Please provide the required volunteer documentation, as outlined below, as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days to enable you to continue to serve as a volunteer.

- Current Working with Children Check, volunteers can apply for them for free at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply-1
- On-line Police Check, instructions attached.

Please send all completed paperwork to volunteering@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

We are so pleased to have you on board and look forward to working with you for the current term!

If you have any further queries, please contact Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services, on [redacted] or email [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

01 October 2026

Hayley Werner
[redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Dear Hayley

Re: Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee Membership

I refer to your application for membership to Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee. I am pleased to inform you that at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30 September 2026, Council endorsed your membership for the current term ending 30 June 2027.

We welcome you as a volunteer of Hindmarsh Shire Council and thank you for your commitment to our community. The role of Advisory Committees is to –

- Provide advice to Council on issues, ideas and projects that matter to the community area you are representing;
- Promote the liveability of the area you are representing through projects and events that enrich the amenity, social connectivity and culture of Hindmarsh; and
- Maintain good governance and fair and transparent decision-making.

The next meeting of the Hindmarsh Pride Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday 28 October 2026 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

All Advisory Committee members and volunteers are required to complete volunteer documentation when becoming a volunteer for Council. Please provide the required volunteer documentation, as outlined below, as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days to enable you to continue to serve as a volunteer.

- Current Working with Children Check, volunteers can apply for them for free at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply-1
- On-line Police Check, instructions attached.

Please send all completed paperwork to volunteering@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

We are so pleased to have you on board and look forward to working with you for the current term!

If you have any further queries, please contact Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services, on [redacted] or email [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

01 October 2026

Jason Hutson
Chairperson
Jeparit Town Committee
Via Email: [redacted]

Dear Jason

Re: Request to Allocate Funds to Completion and Installation of Jeparit Town Entrance Signage

I refer to the minutes of the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 16 September 2026 where the committee moved that Council approve the following:

- **Item 12.3** The JTAC approves up to $30,000 (excl. GST) towards the completion and installation of 3 x Jeparit Town Entrance signs.

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30 September 2026, Hindmarsh Shire Council approved Jeparit Township Advisory Committee's request to allocate $30,000 (excl. GST) to the completion and installation of Jeparit Town Entrance Signage.

All invoices in relation to this project should be addressed to Hindmarsh Shire Council clearly stating that they are for the Jeparit Town Entrance Signs and forwarded to [redacted] for payment.

Council thanks the Committee for their contribution and their support for this important community project. We look forward to working with you and seeing the completed signs.

If you have any questions in relation to the approval or invoicing, please contact Katherine Colbert, Manager Community Strategy and Engagement, via email [redacted] or telephone [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

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

01 October 2026

Colleen Petschel
Chairperson
Rainbow Town Committee
Via Email: [redacted]

Dear Colleen

Re: Request to Allocate Funds to Rainbow A&P Society

I refer to the minutes of the Rainbow Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 August 2026 where the committee moved that Council approve the following:

- **Item 12.3** The RTAC agrees to provide financial support to the Rainbow A&P Society of $5,000 for the 2026 Rainbow Show being held on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30 September 2026, Hindmarsh Shire Council approved Rainbow Township Advisory Committee's request to allocate $5,000 (excl. GST) to the Rainbow A&P Society for the 2026 Rainbow Show being held on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

All invoices in relation to this project should be addressed to Hindmarsh Shire Council clearly stating that they are for the 2026 Rainbow Show and forwarded to [redacted] for payment.

If you have any questions in relation to the approval or invoicing, please contact Katherine Colbert, Manager Community Strategy and Engagement, via email [redacted] or telephone [redacted]

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Council Briefing Session

Date: Wednesday 30 September 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:
Ram Upadhyaya

In Attendance:
Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 4; 6 to 10, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 1 to 4; 6 to 10, Mr. Simon Landrigan (Manager Project Management Office) items 1 to 4; 6 to 10, Ms. Marivic Vix (Manager Financial Services) item 6.2, Mr. Mark Fletcher (Manager Economic Development and Tourism) item 6.4, and Ms. Mary-Ann Speakman (Customer Service and Councillor Support Officer) items 8 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	**CARRY FORWARDS**
6.2	**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2025/2026**
6.3	**PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION POLICY**
6.4	**HINDMARSH HOLIDAY PARKS FINANCIAL YEAR REPORT**
6.5	**COUNCIL GRANTS APPLICATIONS – ROUND 1 2026/2027**
6.6	**MAV MAYORS ANNUAL ORATION 2026 – COUNCILLOR REPORT**
7.	**COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**
8.	**BREAK**
9.	**PREPARE FOR MEETING**
10.	**COUNCIL MEETING**

[redacted]
Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 30 September 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.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Victorian Local Government Grants Commission

Date: Thursday 8 October 2026 **Time:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm

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, James Barry items 1 to 10, and Chan Uoy items 1 to 10.

Apologies:
Cr Roger Aitken and Cr Tony Clark.

In Attendance:
Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 10, Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services) items 1 to 10, Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 1 to 10 and Ms. Marivic Vix (Manager Financial Services) items 1 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.	**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2.	**COUNCIL PRESENTATION**
3.	**COMMISSION ROLE AND OVERVIEW**
4.	**GRANTS HISTORY**
5.	**GENERAL PURPOSE GRANTS**
6.	**LOCAL ROADS GRANTS**
7.	**TRENDS IN GRANT OUTCOMES**
8.	**CONSULTATION, DATA AND INFORMATION**
9.	**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION**
10.	**MEETING CLOSE**

[redacted]
Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 8 October 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.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Title of Meeting: Council Briefing Session

Date: Wednesday 14 October 2026 **Time:** 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Assembly Location: MECCA Supper Room, 15 Federal Street, Rainbow

Present:
CRS Ron Ismay (Mayor) items 1 to 7, Rosie Barker (Deputy Mayor) items 1 to 7, Roger Aitken items 1 to 7, James Barry items 1 to 7, Tony Clark items 1 to 7, and Chan Uoy items 1 to 7.

Apologies:
Ms. Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services)

In Attendance:
Ms. Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer) items 1 to 7, Ms. Katherine Colbert (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services) items 1 to 7, Mr. Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) items 1 to 7.

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.

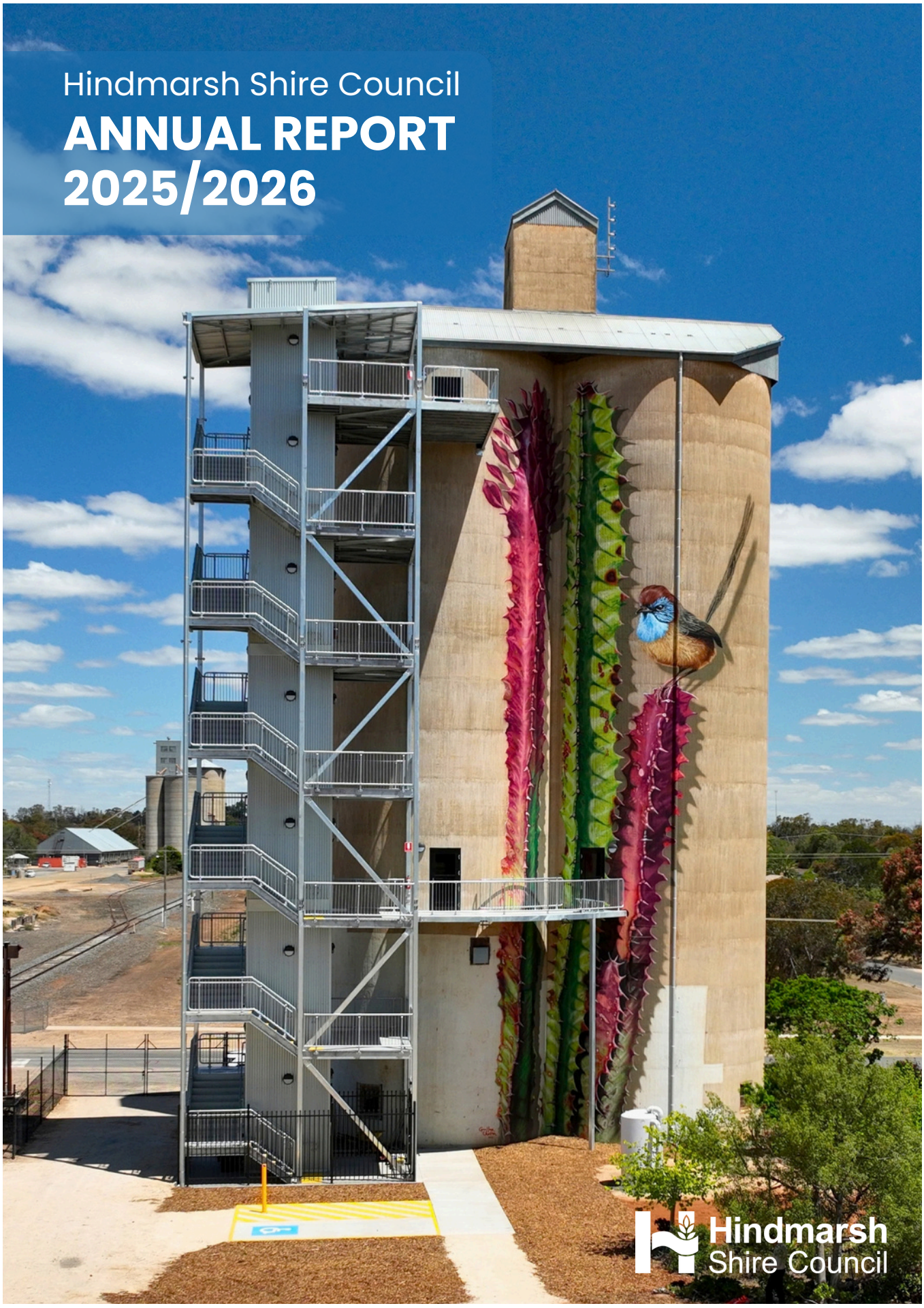
Officers:
No interests declared.

Matters Discussed:

No.	Detail
1.	**LUNCH**
2.	**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
3.	**APOLOGIES**
4.	**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
5.	**DEPUTATIONS**
5.1	**RAINBOW P-12 COLLEGE**
5.2	**RAINBOW LEARNING GROUP AND NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.**
5.3	**VICGRID**
6.	**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
6.1	**DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS LAND AND BUILDINGS**
6.2	**BUILDING MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY**
6.3	**DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026**
6.4	**COMMUNITY PANEL MEMBERSHIP**
7.	**COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**

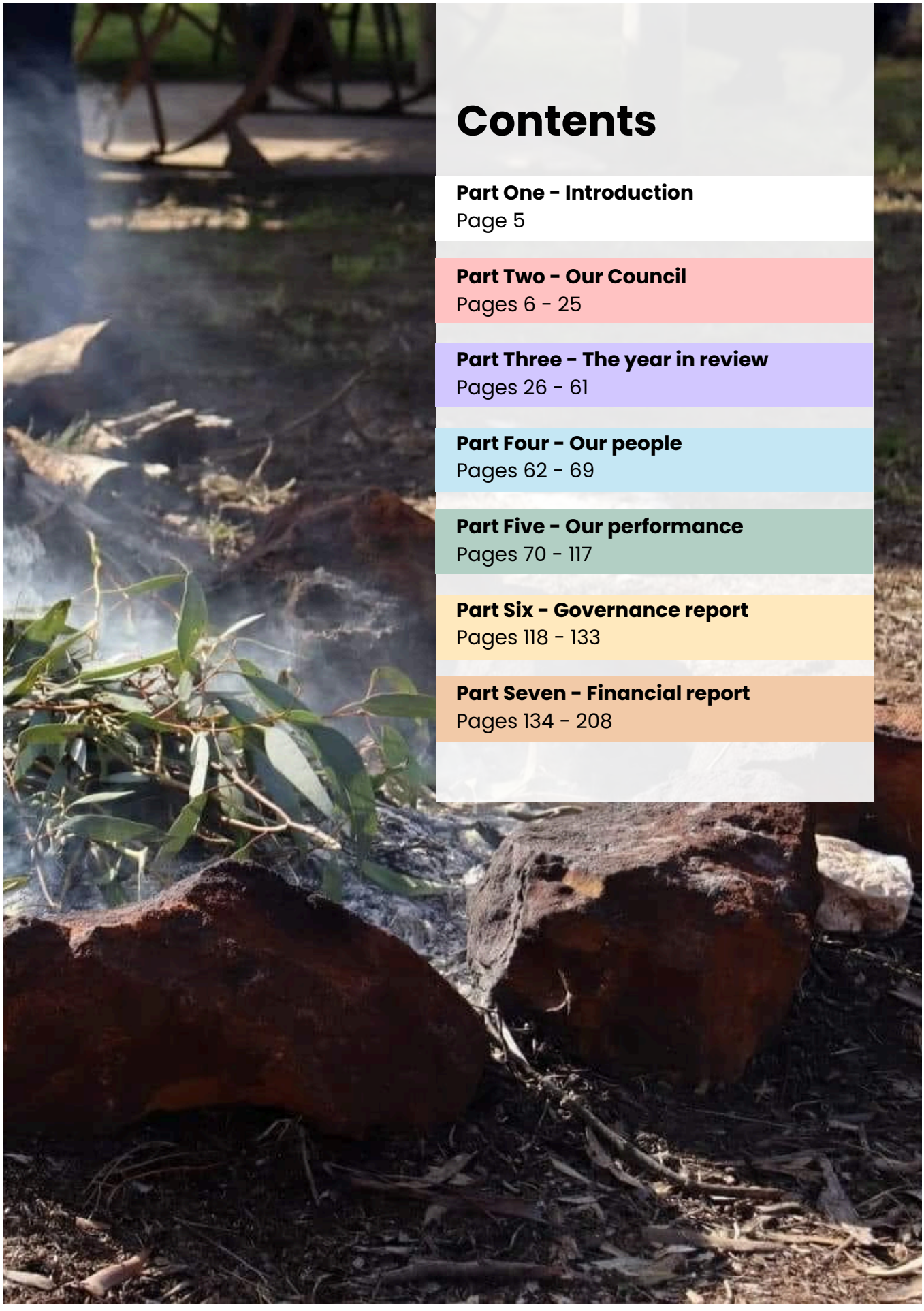
[redacted]
Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 14 October 2026

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 REPORT
2025/2026
Hindmarsh
Shire Council

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

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



Contents

Part One - Introduction
Page 5

Part Two - Our Council
Pages 6 - 25

Part Three - The year in review
Pages 26 - 61

Part Four - Our people
Pages 62 - 69

Part Five - Our performance
Pages 70 - 117

Part Six - Governance report
Pages 118 - 133

Part Seven - Financial report
Pages 134 - 208

How to read this report

This report is designed to provide our community and stakeholders with an overview of how we performed in 2025/2026 against the budget, Council Plan and other key performance indicators relating to specific services like planning, waste management and libraries.

The report contains the minimum information required under legislation, like the financial report and report of operations, but we have also included additional information on community engagement, events and projects as these services are also part of the important role that councils play in supporting communities.

The Annual Report presents the information that our community might find most interesting at the start, with information that is more detailed and specific, such as the financial report, contained towards the back of the document.

The Annual Report is divided into the following sections:

Part One – Introduction

Part Two – Our council
Find out all about Hindmarsh Shire, your Council and Councillors.

Part Three – The year in review
This section reflects on both the achievements and challenges of Council and the community, celebrating what has been achieved and acknowledging the things that impacted our services.

Part Four – Our people
This section looks at the staff employed to run the organisation and deliver projects and services. It provides our organisational structure and information around Council as a key employer in our small community.

Part Five – Our performance
This section details how we have set about achieving the goals of the Council Plan. It includes what we have undertaken to achieve our strategic direction over the last financial year and how this measures against our budget.

Part Six – Governance report
Presents the Corporate Governance and statutory information.

Part Seven – Financial report
Presents the audited performance and financial statements detailing our financial performance over the last financial year. A quick and easy-to-read summary of our finances is also provided.

Giving Feedback
We are keen to hear any thoughts or ideas regarding the Annual Report. If there is information that you think needs to be included or any ideas on how we can improve the document, please let us know - info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

Part One
Introduction

This Annual Report details the achievements and performance of Hindmarsh Shire Council (Council) during the 2025/2026 financial year. We are committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community, and the report of operations provides a transparent record of Council's operations and performance during the financial year.

The Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Councils prepare an Annual Report and present the report at a public Council meeting within four months of the end of the financial year.

The report details our performance against our commitments set out in the Council Plan 2025–2029 and provides an analysis of our financial performance.

This report also demonstrates the breadth of our operations and the diversity of services delivered daily to the Hindmarsh community.

The Annual Report acknowledges all the great things that have been happening across the municipality and notes the challenges that have marked the year.

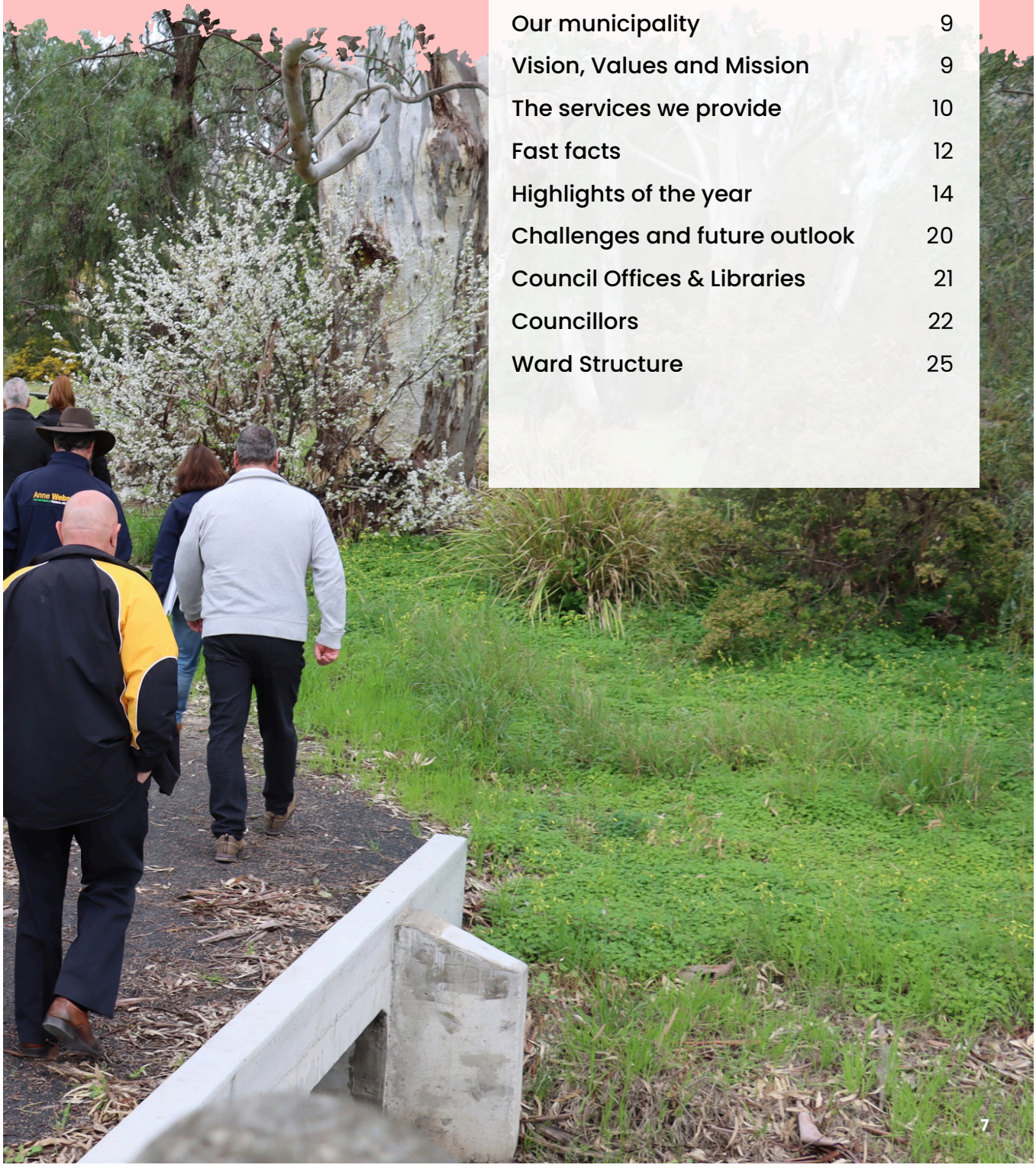
We hope you enjoy reading about the 2025/2026 financial year and we thank our community for your continued support and direction.

Part Two
Our Council

Contents

Part Two - Our council

Snapshot of Council	8
Our municipality	9
Vision, Values and Mission	9
The services we provide	10
Fast facts	12
Highlights of the year	14
Challenges and future outlook	20
Council Offices & Libraries	21
Councillors	22
Ward Structure	25



Snapshot of Council

Hindmarsh Shire Council is in the Wimmera region in Western Victoria, covering an area of 7,524 km2.

We are bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North.

Most of our operations are based in or around the Shire's four main towns of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.

We are a closely linked community of approximately 5,698 people, with a median age of 50 years.

Hindmarsh Shire is rich in natural beauty with the Wimmera River flowing through Dimboola and Jeparit into Lake Hindmarsh, and is home to a natural salt lake (Pink Lake) and the often-dry Lake Albacutya.

The economy is largely dependent on agriculture (primary and secondary), health services, manufacturing and retail.

The median average weekly household income is $1,159 with the median monthly mortgage repayments being $750 and median rent $180 per week.

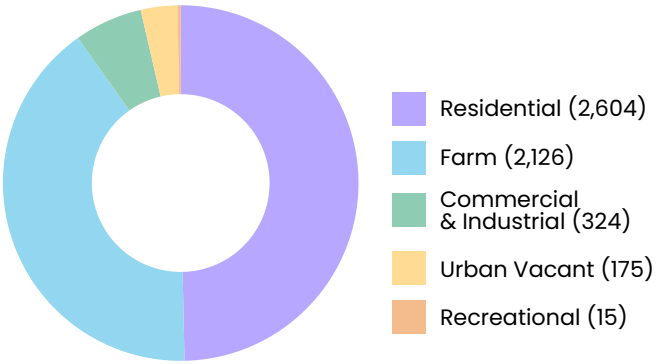
50.1% of the population are male and 49.9% are female. 82.6% of people were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 86.0% of homes. 1.6% of Hindmarsh's population are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations being the recognised Traditional Owners of Country in the Wimmera region.

Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 213 people speaking Karen language at home.

(Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census)

Our municipality

5,244 rateable properties at at 30 June 2026 consisting of the following:



5,698 population total, 50.1% male, 49.9% female.

14.9 % 0-14 years

56.9% 15-64 years

28.2% 65+ years

2,492 residents in the labour force

3,251 do unpaid domestic work

3 secondary schools

7 primary schools

4 outdoor pools

4 skate parks

4 libraries

6 early education centres

Vision, Values and Mission

Our Vision

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

Our Values

We **value**:

- engaging with, listening to 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

The services we provide

For families, children and young people
Supported Playgroup
Story Time at local libraries
Youth Council, programs and events
School Holiday programs
Early Years Services including Kindergarten and Childcare (managed by third party)

For older people
Cuppa connections and social support
Monthly classic movies
Positive ageing services
Seniors Month concert and activities

For business
Business grants
Business concierge services
Planning and building permits
Food safety regulation programs
Investment attraction
Tourism
Trading permits
Street furniture permits
Workshops and training

For the community
Advocating to state and federal bodies for community needs
Community and event grants
Collection and management of waste
Building and planning permits
Emergency management coordination
Environmental services
Sports and recreation reserves, public parks and playgrounds
Community planning and development
Locals Laws and community safety
Outdoor swimming pools
Events and community activities
Australian citizenship ceremonies
Libraries
Town maintenance and beautification

Fast facts

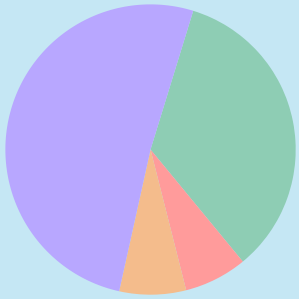
1,600
net tonnes of kerbside waste collected (general waste, glass and recycling)

~64,982km
distance travelled by bin trucks to collect kerbside waste across Hindmarsh Shire

~3,025kms
of **Council-managed roads** throughout the Shire

741 **customer action requests** were received and closed consisting of:

- Roads **254**
- Footpaths **52**
- Drainge and Culverts **55**
- Other Maintenance Requests* **380**



*(e.g. tree trimming/removal, weeds, rubbish, damaged infrastructure, graffiti removal, playground equipment, etc)

6,858
calls answered by our Customer Service team

40
Council newsletters prepared and published

$44,572
spent on community, business and events grants

30
groups assisted by annual Council Grants

1,349
attendees at our Hindmarsh FREE School Holiday programs

7,345
physical library items borrowed

8,526+
visitors used library services and facilities

11 **Nhill Cinema** screenings

12 **Classic Movie** screenings

12,520
attendees at outdoor swimming pools

2,347
individual swimming pool registrations

9 **residents** became Australia Citizens

23 **planning permits** were issued

13

Highlights of the year

July 2025

- July Free School Holiday Program *(including Science with Ellen & Jess, Painting with Matilda, Tiny Goats & Co, Yoga with Janelle, Make your own Kokedama, Movie screening of How to Train Your Dragon and Elio, Level Up Gaming, Dimboola Pottery sessions and Badminton Clinics)*
- Free Budgeting Basics Workshops held in Nhill and Rainbow in partnership with Rainbow Learning Group and Neighbourhood House and Nhill Learning Centre
- Secured funding for upgrades to Dimboola Swimming Pool
- Secured funding to develop master plans for Nhill's Davis Park, Dimboola Recreation Reserve and Jeparit Tennis Club and Caravan Park Precinct
- Adoption of Road Management Plan 2025-2029
- Welcomed two new Australian Citizens

August 2025

- Youth Councillors hosted a Games, Trivia and Karaoke Night
- Council Grants Programs opened for applications
- Launched two new Rainbow Library programs – The Creation Station and Rainbow Crochet Corner
- CEO and Councillor Drop-In Sessions held in all four towns
- Secured funding from Transport Accident Commission (TAC), in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), to improve road intersections, footpaths and pedestrian crossings throughout the Shire
- Councillors presented the Ebenezer and Lowan CFA Groups with cheques of $900 each, money raised through a Community Thank You event that Council hosted earlier in 2025

September 2025

- Official Opening of the Wimmera River Discovery Trail
- Nhill Cinema screening of 'Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale'
- September/October Free School Holiday Program (including Crafty Arts with Ellen, Cooking with Sharon, Roller Disco, Fishing Workshops, Board Games and Puzzles, Dimboola Pottery classes and a Nhill Cinema screening of 'The Bad Guys 2')
- Hindmarsh Tourism and Business Forum held at Antwerp Hall

October 2025

- Council held Free Green Waste Month, accepting green waste disposal free of charge at all Hindmarsh Transfer Stations
- Seniors Month Concert featuring Melissa Langton: Colour my World - The songs of Petula Clark
- Seniors Month Men's Day Tour exploring the north parts of Hindmarsh Shire
- Seniors Month Information Sessions including Fire Readiness with CFA, Environmental Health and Planning Ahead with Seniors Rights Victoria
- CEO Drop-In Sessions held in all four towns
- Completion of garden bed upgrades in Roy Street, Jeparit
- Celebrated Children's Week with a pop-up playgroup with West Wimmera Health Service
- Nhill College students visited Hindmarsh Shire Council

November 2025

- Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools 2025/2026 season commenced with free entry to pools
- Youth Movie Night at the Nhill Cinema – How to Train Your Dragon
- CEO and Director Drop-In Sessions held in all four towns
- Welcomed three new Australian Citizens
- 16 Days of Activism Youth Event - Mental Health and Relationships Panel

December 2025

- Run for Respect - 16 Days of Activism Colour Runs held in all four towns
- Youth Councillors hosted a Golden Hour Formal
- Opened second round of applications for our Regional Community Events Grants
- Soft community opening of Rainbow Silo Art attraction
- Appointed Youth Councillors for 2026

January 2026

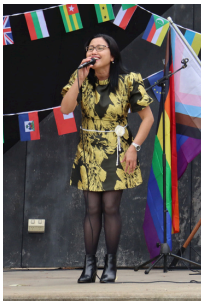
- Hosted NGV Kids on Tour at Hindmarsh Shire Libraries
- Held Pool Parties at all four Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools
- Completion of all-new Grandstand and Changerooms facilities at Davis Park, Nhill
- Australia Day Awards presented at events held throughout the Shire:
  - *Hindmarsh Citizen of the Year – Robert Blackwood*
  - *Hindmarsh Young Citizen of the Year – Jake Smith*
  - *Hindmarsh Young Citizen of the Year – Dah Lay Htoo Shwe*
  - *Hindmarsh Community Event of the Year – Thank Duck It's Friday*
  - *Hindmarsh Shire Lifetime Achievement Award – Beverly Rethus*

February 2026

- International Day of People with a Disability Lawn Bowls event
- CEO and Director Drop-In Sessions held in all four towns
- Completion of curation works at Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum
- Round 2 of Community Action Grants open for applications

March 2026

- Farmer Consultations held in Rainbow, Netherby, Broughton, Nhill, Dimboola and Jeparit
- Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta celebrating International Women's Day
- Partnered with The Vet Project to hold subsidised Cat Desexing Clinics in Nhill and Rainbow
- Free screening of 'Shared Table: Regional Heroes' documentary at Nhill Memorial Community Centre
- Market and Performances held in Nhill to celebrate Harmony Day 2026
- Partnered with West Wimmera Health Service to host Cancer Support Nurse at Cuppa Connections in Nhill and Jeparit
- Secured funding for improvements at The Patch in Nhill



April 2026

- April Free School Holiday Program *(including Create and Relate with Headspace, Pickleball with Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, Level-Up Gaming, Science with Ellen and Jess, Karaoke and a Nhill Cinema movie screening of 'Goat')*
- Official Opening of Davis Park Grandstand and Changerooms
- Nhill Holiday Park new multi-unit cabin completed
- Secured funding from Transport Accident Commission (TAC) to construct a raised pedestrian crossing on Hindmarsh Street in Dimboola
- Completion of new raised pedestrian crossing on Macpherson Street Nhill
- Secured funding through the Federal Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) to upgrade Dimboola-Minyip Road.

May 2026

- Youth Councillors held a Winter Wonderland Disco
- Volunteers celebrated with various events and initiatives held across the shire for National Volunteer Week
- Introduction of reviewed Council grants program

June 2026

- CEO Drop-In sessions held in all four towns
- Nhill Cinema screening of 'The Devil Wears Prada 2'
- Dimboola featured on Channel Nine's 'Postcards' TV show
- Council joins the Western Victoria Careers Expo

Challenges and future outlook

Major Challenges and Opportunities

Like many small rural councils, Hindmarsh Shire Council continues to navigate significant challenges while seeking opportunities to strengthen the long-term sustainability and liveability of our communities. For 2025/2026, Council remains heavily reliant on external funding sources, including Financial Assistance Grants and project-based grants, to deliver services and maintain essential infrastructure.

Financial sustainability remains one of Council's most pressing challenges. Rising construction costs, asset renewal requirements, increasing service expectations, and constrained revenue growth continue to place significant pressure on Council's long-term financial position. Like many rural councils across Victoria, Hindmarsh faces the challenge of maintaining a large and geographically dispersed asset base with limited revenue sources available to fund asset renewal and replacement.

A key priority for Council is continued advocacy to both the State and Commonwealth Governments for the establishment of a dedicated and ongoing Rural funding stream. Such a fund would recognise the unique challenges faced by rural councils and provide sustainable investment for the maintenance and renewal of essential community assets, particularly local roads, and bridges. Council has actively participated in inquiries and advocacy initiatives highlighting the growing infrastructure funding gap experienced by rural and regional local government.

One of the most significant infrastructure challenges facing the Shire is the future of the Jeparit Weir. The weir is an important environmental, community, and tourism asset that contributes to the amenity and character of Jeparit and the Wimmera River precinct.

Recent assessments indicate that replacement of the structure may cost in the order of $6 million, a cost well beyond the capacity of Council to fund independently. Securing support from other levels of government will be critical to ensuring the long-term future of this important asset.

Council also continues to experience cost escalation and supply chain pressures, which have impacted the delivery of infrastructure projects and capital works programs. While economic conditions have begun to stabilise, elevated construction costs continue to affect project budgets and timelines. Council remains committed to careful project planning, prudent financial management and adapting project scopes where necessary to ensure value for money is achieved for the community.

Cost of living pressures continue to impact residents, businesses, and community organisations across the Shire. Housing availability, workforce attraction, childcare access, and the ongoing viability of local businesses remain important issues. In response, Council continues to focus on improving community infrastructure, public spaces and recreational facilities while seeking to minimise financial barriers to participation and access to services.

Despite these challenges, Hindmarsh Shire Council remains committed to working collaboratively with government, industry, and the community to identify opportunities for growth and investment. Through strong advocacy, careful financial stewardship and strategic planning, Council will continue to prioritise the infrastructure, services and projects that deliver the greatest benefit to our communities.

Council Offices and Libraries

Nhill Customer Service Centre
92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418
P: 03 5391 4444

Dimboola Library & Customer Service Centre
101 Lloyd Street
DIMBOOLA VIC 3414
P: 03 5391 4452

Jeparit Library and Customer Service Centre
10 Roy Street
JEPARIT VIC 3423
P: 03 5391 4450

Rainbow Library and Customer Service Centre
49 Federal Street
RAINBOW VIC 3424
P: 03 5391 4451

Nhill Library
5 Clarence Street
NHILL VIC 318
P: 03 5391 4449

Postal address:
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

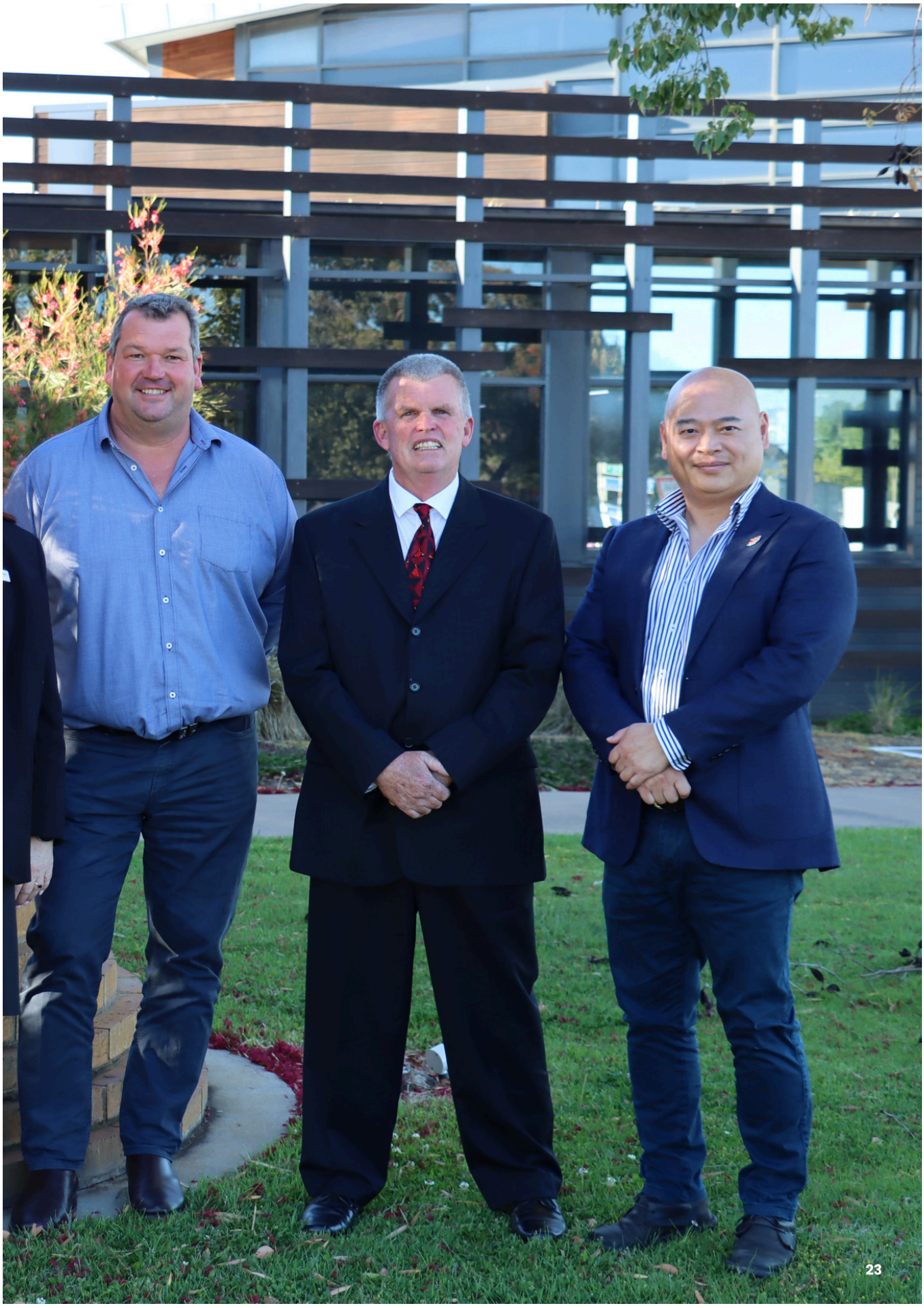
Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@hindmarshshirecouncil

Councillors

Hindmarsh Shire Council comprises six democratically elected Councillors who represent our community. As the locally elected representatives, they advocate on behalf of residents and undertake critical tasks such as approving the Council Plan and annual Budget.

Council, comprising the elected Councillors, has a responsibility as stewards of community resources to drive the strategic management of Council's assets, provide a wide range of services and facilities and ensure finances are allocated in the best interests of the whole community.


23

Cr Ron Ismay, Mayor
West Ward
Re-elected November 2024
rismay@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0429 951 094

Cr Rosie Barker, Deputy Mayor
West Ward
Elected November 2024
rbarker@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0451 371 009

Cr Roger Aitken
North Ward
Elected November 2024
raitken@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0475 747 141

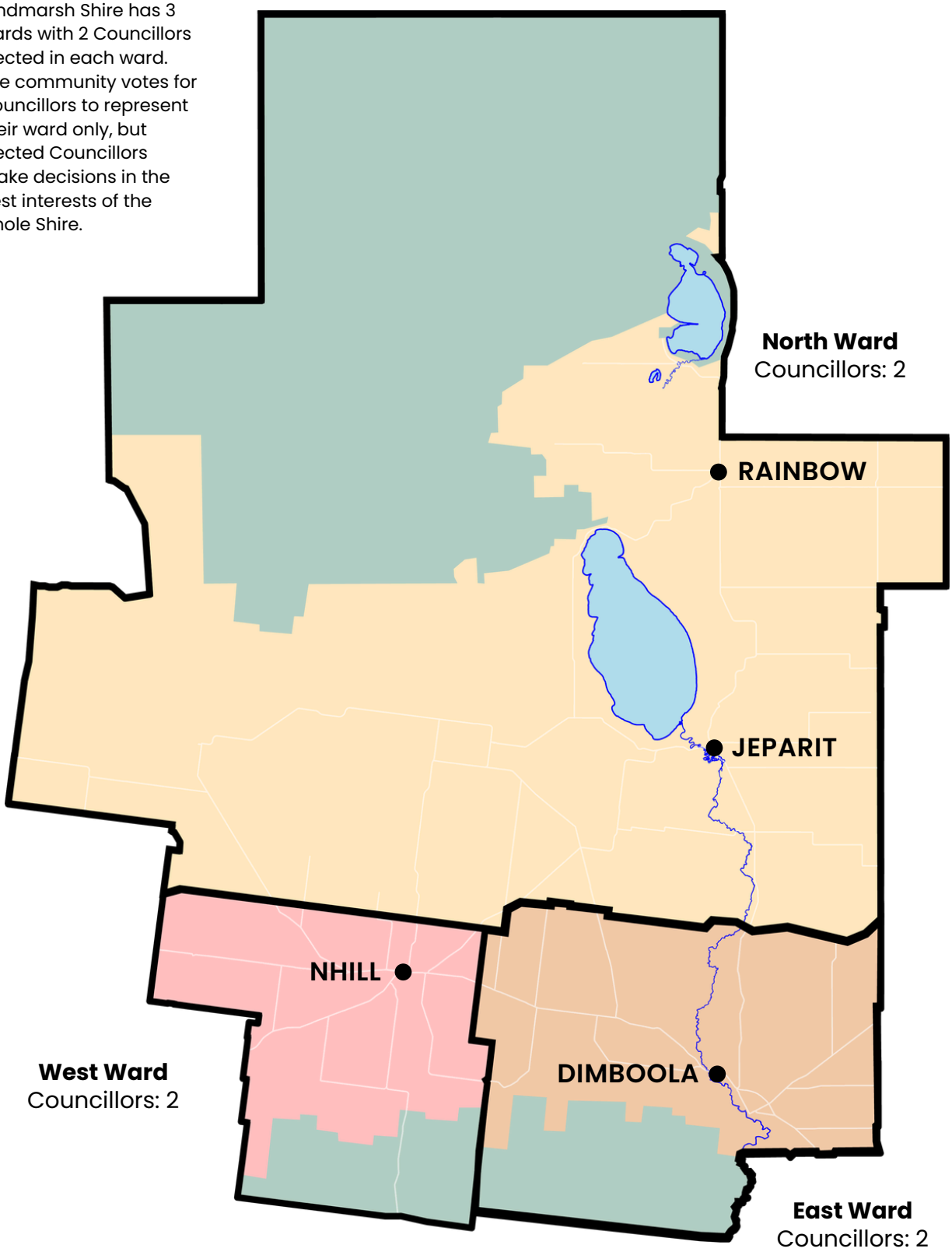
Cr James Barry
East Ward
Elected November 2024
jbarry@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0400 657 178

Cr Tony Clark
North Ward
Elected November 2024
tclark@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0475 101 458

Cr Chan Uoy,
East Ward
Elected November 2024
cuoy@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
0425 705 591

Ward Structure

Hindmarsh Shire has 3 wards with 2 Councillors elected in each ward. The community votes for Councillors to represent their ward only, but elected Councillors make decisions in the best interests of the whole Shire.



Part Three
The year in review

Contents

Part Three - The year in review

Message from the Mayor and CEO	28
Advocacy Priorities	30
Financial Summary	36
Description of Operations	40
Major Capital Works	42
Major Achievements	44
Other Council Services	48
Hindmarsh Shire Libraries	48
Youth Council	50
Business and Tourism	52
Community Wellbeing	56
Planning	58
Transfer Stations and Waste Management	58
Landcare	59
Council Communications	60
Council Grants Programs	60

Message from the Mayor and CEO

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of Hindmarsh Shire Council, it is a great pleasure to present the 2025/2026 Annual Report.

This report presents the combined efforts of our staff, Councillors, community and partners, to deliver on our vision - **Working together to welcome new possibilities and create vibrant towns, connected communities and opportunities for all.** Council remains committed to transparent and responsive leadership, sound financial stewardship, and delivering inclusive services that support a strong local economy and benefit all residents.

Hindmarsh Shire, like many regional areas, is comprised of small towns with big hearts. As well as being rich in natural beauty, agriculture, industry, small business, it is the generosity, commitment and drive of our community members that makes this a brilliant community to live in and visit. We are supported by quality education and health services for people of all ages and are committed to initiatives and planning that supports the health and wellbeing of people who call this community home.

While we are proud of the progress made, we also recognise the ongoing challenges facing our community. Council remains focused on addressing these challenges and continuing to deliver services and projects that support the wellbeing and growth of our Shire.

Community Engagement

Council continues to livestream Council meetings through our YouTube channel, with members of the community also encouraged to attend Council meetings in person.

During the financial year, Council held a variety of community consultations asking members of the community to provide their feedback on the following:

- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2025-2035
- Youth Strategy 2025-2029
- Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy
- Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy
- Councillor Candidature at State and Federal Elections Policy
- Asset Plan 2025-2035
- Procurement Policy (October 2025 and March 2026 Reviews)
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029
- Frequency for Kerbside Collection of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)
- Volunteers Policy and Code of Conduct
- Proposed Goldsworthy Park Amenities and Nhill Information Centre Upgrades
- Proposed Dimboola Dog Park at Old Tennis Courts
- 2026/2027 Annual Budget
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Intention to Enter into Lease at Rainbow Recreation Reserve (Rainbow Ambulance Station)
- Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools Post-Season Review Survey
- Development of three Master Plans - Davis Park, Dimboola Recreation Reserve and Jeparit Tennis Court, Caravan Park and Riverbank Precinct
- Hindmarsh Domestic Animal De-Sexing Policy
- Proposed Sale of Tarranyurk Quarry Land - 289 Greig Road Antwerp
- Native Vegetation on Rateable Land Policy
- Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy
- Council Grants Administration Policy

Throughout February and March 2026, Council hosted in-person Farmer Consultation sessions in Rainbow, Jeparit, Netherby, Broughton, Nhill, and Dimboola. These meetings gave farmers and Council officers a valuable opportunity to discuss key topics such as strategic roads, tree trimming, pest and weed management, funding constraints, and on-the-ground frustrations. These sessions will continue to ensure open and ongoing communication with our farming community.

Since my appointment as Chief Executive Officer in April 2024, I have continued to prioritise direct engagement with our towns and communities. I have attended Town Committee meetings to discuss Council's budget and have continued regular CEO Drop-in Sessions at libraries across the Shire to hear directly from community members and understand their concerns, ideas and vision for Hindmarsh Shire. To increase transparency, a CEO Activity Report is now included in every Council meeting Agenda.

To keep the community informed, Council continued to circulate fortnightly e-newsletters and monthly printed newsletters, available at Customer Service Centres, Libraries, and participating businesses. We also continued with the quarterly newsletter delivered to all households via Australia Post, improving accessibility and reach across the municipality.

Local Government, Global Context

As we navigate an increasingly complex world, global challenges and opportunities such as economic uncertainty, climate change, technological change and shifting demographics continue to influence decisions made at a local level. Council remains committed to understanding these broader trends and their impact on our community, ensuring we plan strategically, advocate effectively and make informed decisions that support a resilient and sustainable future for Hindmarsh Shire. In an earlier sections of the report, we discuss the specific impacts of global conflict on crises on delivering core services to our community throughout 2025/2026 and how this has impacted our planning for future years.

Events

Throughout the year, Council has worked closely with community groups, volunteers and event organisers to support a diverse program of events that contribute to the vibrancy and liveability of Hindmarsh Shire. From community celebrations and festivals to sporting events, markets, school holiday activities and cultural initiatives, these events provide opportunities for residents and visitors to connect, participate and enjoy all that the Shire has to offer. Council acknowledges and sincerely thanks the many volunteers, committees and organisations whose commitment and enthusiasm help create a thriving events calendar and strengthen community connections throughout Hindmarsh.

Volunteers

Hindmarsh Shire boasts more than double the state average of people who volunteer - an incredible reflection of the strong community spirit that defines our region. From managing community assets like Yanac Hall, the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, Yurunga Homestead, Rainbow Recreation Reserve, and Jeparit Hall, to supporting services like the Visitor Information Centre, Community Taxi, and local libraries - volunteers play a vital role in keeping our community thriving.

Across the Shire, residents also volunteer through organisations such as the CFA, Lions and Leos, Landcare, Rotary, sporting clubs, and countless other community groups. Their contributions include everything from mowing lawns, baking for fundraisers, serving as treasurers or presidents, greeting visitors, and running events, to planting trees, maintaining public spaces, and driving people to medical appointments. Our community simply wouldn't be the same without them.

Emergency Management

Council continues to build on our regional relationships through the Wimmera Emergency Management Team to ensure we are best positioned to respond and recover from emergency incidents. In 2025/2026, Council endorsed a new Municipal Emergency Management Plan that supports our collaboration with partners and clarifies our role in emergency situations.

The impacts of the 2025 Little Desert fire and following Grampians and Grass Flat fire in neighbouring Councils are not gone. These events had a profound impact on local communities, landscapes and livelihoods, while also demonstrating the strength, generosity and determination of those affected.

Grant Funding

Grants continue to play a vital role in helping Council deliver a wide range of projects, as well as employ staff to deliver services, that would not be possible within our limited budget.

In 2025/2026 Council received grants to support a broad range of community programs, including:

- Facilitated playgroups
- Youth activities and events
- Free From Violence Local Government program
- Multicultural Storytime
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Seniors' activities
- Landcare facilitation
- Roadside pest and weed control

Grants were also secured for road upgrades and maintenance, contributing to the ongoing improvement of our transport infrastructure.

Community Satisfaction

In 2025/2026 Council undertook quarterly Community Satisfaction Surveys, the results of which are shown below -

Performance Measures	Hindmarsh 2022	Hindmarsh 2023	Hindmarsh 2024	Hindmarsh 2025	Hindmarsh 2026	Small Rural Shires 2025
Overall Performance	58	53	55	59	**61**	60
Community Consultation (community consultation & engagement)	52	54	52	59	**61**	59
Advocacy (lobbying on behalf of the community)	55	53	52	57	**59**	56
Making Community Decisions (decisions made in the interest of the community)	55	52	52	58	**59**	56
Sealed Local Roads (condition of sealed local roads)	55	48	48	47	**49**	48
Customer Service	69	64	65	70	**69**	70
Overall Council Direction	48	42	46	53	**50**	52

Complete results, as well as results from previous years, can be accessed at **www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/CSS**.

Summary

Council is proud of the extremely skilled and hardworking team of staff members who are committed to the Hindmarsh community. We are pleased to reflect on the first year of the 2025-2029 Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) and celebrate the progress made on actions identified for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

Advocacy Priorities

Advocacy Priorities 2025/2026		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Sports and recreation reserves and facilities that meet community need		
Davis Park precinct project completion	The Davis Park project, which delivered tiered seating and AFL-compliant changerooms, was completed during 2025/2026. Council is also developing master plans for key sport and recreation precincts, including Davis Park, to identify future priority projects and strengthen opportunities to secure external funding.	**Ongoing**
Lighting upgrades at high-use ovals	Lighting upgrades at Davis Park and Dimboola Recreation Reserve will be considered through the Country Football Netball Program following the completion of master plans for both precincts. Development of the master plans is currently underway and will help identify future infrastructure priorities and funding opportunities.	**Ongoing**
Masterplans for key sporting precincts	Development of master plans for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Davis Park and Jeparit Riverside Precinct is underway and expected to be completed in early 2026/2027.	**Underway**
Improved and protected rail network and crossings		
Improved access to the rail line for grain receival and transport sites	Council continued to advocate for improved rail freight access and infrastructure through ongoing engagement with GrainCorp, the Rail Freight Alliance and government stakeholders. Key activities included supporting upgrades to the Nhill grain receival site and participating in the Rail Freight Forum to highlight the impacts of major rail infrastructure projects on regional freight networks. Council is scheduled to meet with Reid Mather, CEO of Rail Freight Alliance, in early 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**
Improved level crossings, including upgrading High Street, Dimboola, to improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles and be all-abilities friendly	Council continued to advocate for improved rail level crossing infrastructure to enhance safety, accessibility and connectivity across the municipality. Advocacy efforts included seeking recognition of the High Street (Dimboola), Roy Street (Jeparit), Railway Street (Rainbow) and Davis Avenue (Nhill) crossings within strategic rail freight planning processes, including the Rail Freight Strategic Plan. Council also investigated funding opportunities and project planning for future improvements, with a focus on safety, accessibility and all-abilities access, while representing local transport priorities through the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group.	**Ongoing**

Advocacy Priorities 2025/2026		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Recreational water protection		
Replacement of Jeparit Weir	Council continued to advocate for replacement of the Jeparit Weir, achieving completion and endorsement of the Jeparit Weir Replacement Feasibility Study during 2025/2026. Ongoing discussions with WCMA, DEECA and EMV have focused on securing funding support, including opportunities through the Disaster Ready Fund, with advocacy now directed towards funding the detailed design phase of the project.	**Ongoing**
Commitment for water retention at Lake Hindmarsh and along the Wimmera River	Council continued to advocate for improved water retention and long-term water security across the Wimmera River system and Lake Hindmarsh catchment. This included supporting the ongoing maintenance of the Jeparit Weir and working with WCMA and GWM Water on the development of three water top-up locations between Dimboola and Jeparit to improve drought resilience and water availability within the region.	**Ongoing**
Funding to enhance tourism opportunities at the Jeparit Weir Pool	Council continued to advocate for funding to enhance the Jeparit Weir Pool precinct as a key tourism and recreation asset. Discussions with Regional Development Victoria explored opportunities to support future riverfront improvements, including recreational infrastructure upgrades and expansion of the Jeparit Holiday Park. Advocacy also continued for the estimated $5.6 million renewal of the Jeparit Weir and upgrades to Holiday Park facilities to support the precinct's long-term growth and appeal.	**Ongoing**
Sustainable Local Government funding model that supports key infrastructure renewal		
Fair allocation of Federal Assistance Grants and settling of the Rate Cap	Council continues to advocate through MAV, RCV, and meetings with Ministers for increased Federal Assistance Grants and setting of Rate Cap that reflects actual cost escalations on Council.	**Ongoing**
Fair State Government levies	Council continues to advocate through MAV, RCV, and meetings with Ministers for fair state government levies - including the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund being reviewed and collected by the State.	**Ongoing**
Grant co-contributions that Council can afford	Council continues to advocate for consideration of the small rate revenue in Rural Councils and inability to meet the grant co-contribution requirement.	**Ongoing**
Public amenities that support our diverse community		
Rainbow MECCA all-abilities amenities	Council continues to advocate for all-abilities amenities at Rainbow MECCA through election priorities.	**Ongoing**

Advocacy Priorities 2025/2026		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Changing Places facilities in key locations	Council officers are continuing to investigate funding opportunities for a changing places facility and will look to resource a project scope in 2026/2027 subject to other Council project priorities.	**Ongoing**
Safer local roads		
Reduced speed limits in central business districts and high pedestrian areas, like schools, that keep pedestrians safe	Council successfully advocated for reduced speed limits within key township centres to improve road safety and create safer, more accessible environments for pedestrians, school communities and road users. During 2025/2026, 40 km/h speed reductions were approved and implemented within the Dimboola and Rainbow town centres, while approval was also secured for a similar reduction within the Nhill township. Advocacy included direct engagement with the Victorian Government, including submission of a speed reduction application for Dimboola and correspondence to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. These outcomes represent an important step towards improving pedestrian safety, supporting more walkable town centres and enhancing accessibility in high pedestrian activity areas across the municipality.	**Ongoing**
Increased funding for road maintenance and upgrades	Council continued to advocate for increased road infrastructure funding, successfully securing investment for upgrades to Dimboola–Minyip Road and a raised pedestrian crossing in Hindmarsh Street, Dimboola. Further funding applications were submitted for the Leahy Street footpath upgrade and improvements to the Broughton–Kaniva Road/Block 40 Road intersection, supporting safer and more connected transport networks across the municipality – unfortunately these applications were unsuccessful.	**Ongoing**
Affordable and appropriate services for children and parents		
Early years centre at the Rainbow P-12 site	Council continued to advocate for new early years and childcare facilities in Rainbow and Jeparit through engagement with sector leaders, government representatives and service providers. This included supporting a Building Early Education Fund application led by Emerge Early Years and exploring innovative funding and service delivery models for rural communities. While Council was advised in early 2026/2027 that the BEEF application was unsuccessful, advocacy efforts continue. Council remains committed to working with government, service providers and community partners to identify future funding opportunities and sustainable models that will improve access to early years services for local families.	**Ongoing**

Advocacy Priorities 2025/2026		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Childcare in Rainbow and Jeparit	Council continues to advocate where possible for childcare opportunities in Rainbow and Jeparit.	**Ongoing**
Equitable access to education, paediatrics and other family services	Hindmarsh Shire Council Chief Executive Officer has continued to meet with By-Five and other industry stakeholders in regards to access to early years health services in Hindmarsh Shire and the broader region. Council has previously advocated for an extension of funding to the By-Five program.	**Ongoing**
Health and aged care services that are comprehensive and accessible		
Providing local access to specialists and treatments that don't disadvantage the community through distance	Council continued to advocate for improved access to specialist health, mental health and early intervention services for local residents. Engagement was undertaken with Grampians Community Health to inform its strategic planning for the future delivery of mental health and social support services across the region. Council also maintained a strong partnership with By Five, supporting initiatives that improve access to paediatric and developmental services for children and families within Hindmarsh Shire. These collaborative efforts help address service access challenges faced by rural communities and contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.	**Ongoing**
Greater access to aged care and at-home support services	Council will continue to advocate with funding bodies and support West Wimmera Health Service, Grampians Health and other providers to ensure services are available, appropriate and designed in a place-based manner.	**Ongoing**
Communities that feel heard where State and Federal decisions impact them		
Meaningful engagement with communities around State levies and charges that are collected through Councils	Council continued to engage with residents and the farming community through CEO Drop-In Sessions, targeted consultation activities, and regular industry engagement. Information on Council charges and the ESVF was provided through rates notices and community communications, while farmer consultation sessions were delivered across six locations. Ongoing discussions through the Heavy Transport and Freight Working Group and other engagement forums have helped inform Council advocacy and decision-making on matters important to rural communities.	**Ongoing**
Consultation with agricultural communities around the management of national parks that border farmland	Farmer consultations were held in 2025/2026 that considered management of pests and weeds, Council also worked with the State Government where required on policies and projects within the Shire that impacts farmland and National or State Parks.	**Ongoing**

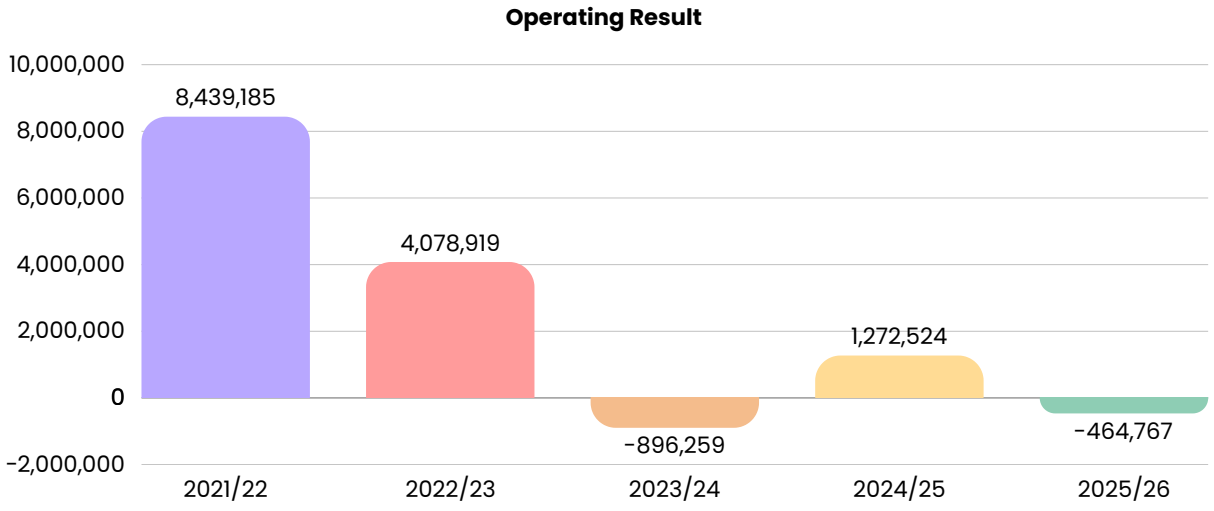
Advocacy Priorities 2025/2026		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
A workforce that meets the needs of a growing region		
Advocate with stakeholders about attracting and retaining skilled professionals in priority sectors	Continued involvement in regional roundtable discussions, interactions with larger businesses and services providers to advocate and promote local professional opportunities to retain youth and school leavers and unlock potential latent workforce across the Shire. Promotion of opportunities from new industries proposed for the region, food production, renewable energy and mining to support local workforce and businesses. Housing remains a significant issue to attract new potential employees to the Shire and wider region. Many of these new entrants to the local workforce are resorting to the local Holiday Parks and caravans, often with families when settling in the area. The Wimmera Southern Mallee region has a large off market rental market, with many properties not listed and rented by local knowledge.	**Ongoing**
Contribute to the mapping of future workforce needs across industries	As above.	**Ongoing**
Promote the region as a place to live and work	Council continued to promote Hindmarsh Shire as a desirable place to live and work through participation in events, careers expos, targeted social media campaigns and regional marketing initiatives. Promotion at the ChillOut Festival, Melbourne and Adelaide Caravan and Camping Shows, and through Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism campaigns highlighted the Shire's lifestyle and employment opportunities, supporting efforts to attract new residents and workers. Positive migration trends reflected in the Regional Movers Index indicate growing interest in the region as a tree-change destination.	**Ongoing**

Financial Summary

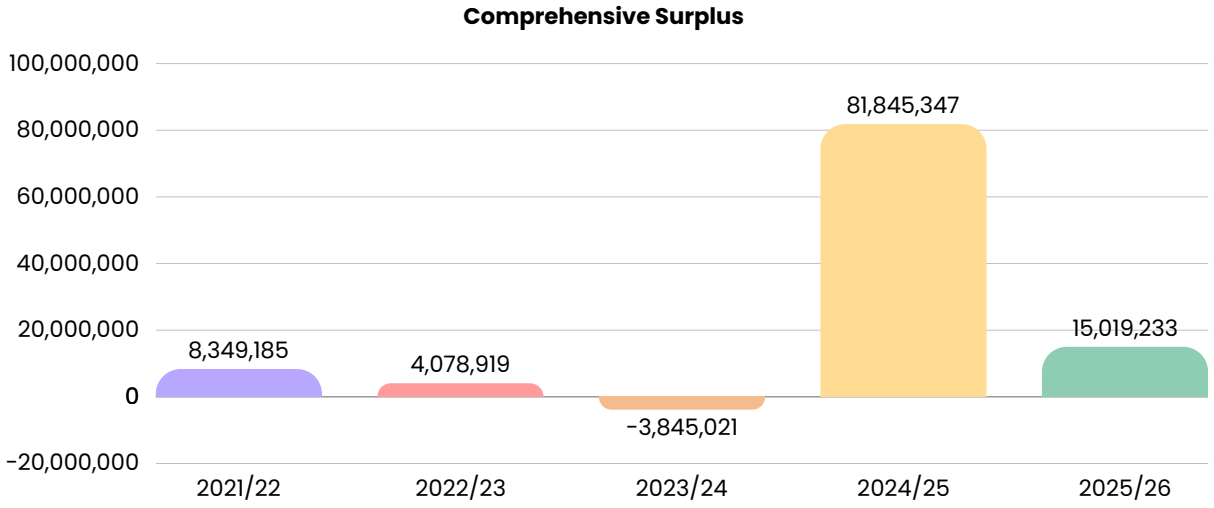
Council's financial position continues to remain sound despite reporting an operating deficit in 2025/2026. A summary of Council's financial performance is provided below with detailed information available in the Financial Statements and Performance Statement sections of this report.

Operating Position

Council reported an operating deficit of $0.465 million in 2025/2026. This was mainly due to higher depreciation expenses resulting from the revaluation of roads assets. However, Council's overall comprehensive result was a surplus of $15.019 million, reflecting increases in the value of roads following revaluation and the indexation of buildings and other infrastructure asset.

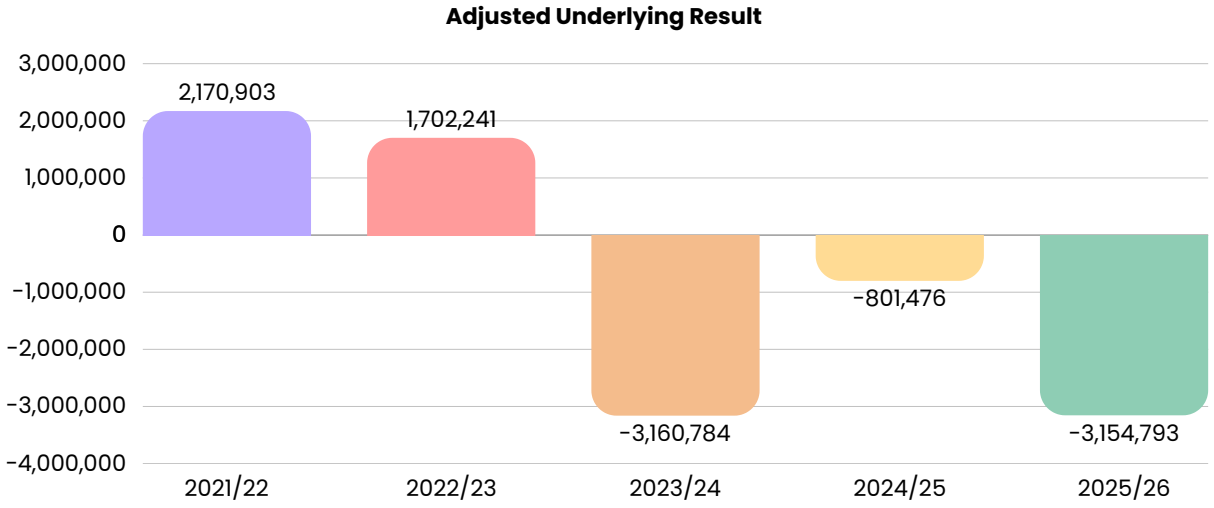


Operating Surplus / (deficit) for the year 2025/2026 – ($464,767)



Comprehensive Surplus / (deficit) for the year 2025/2026 - $15.01m

Council recorded an adjusted underlying deficit of $3.15 million after excluding one-off capital grants and contributions. This indicates that ongoing revenue was insufficient to cover operating costs, including depreciation, in 2025/2026.

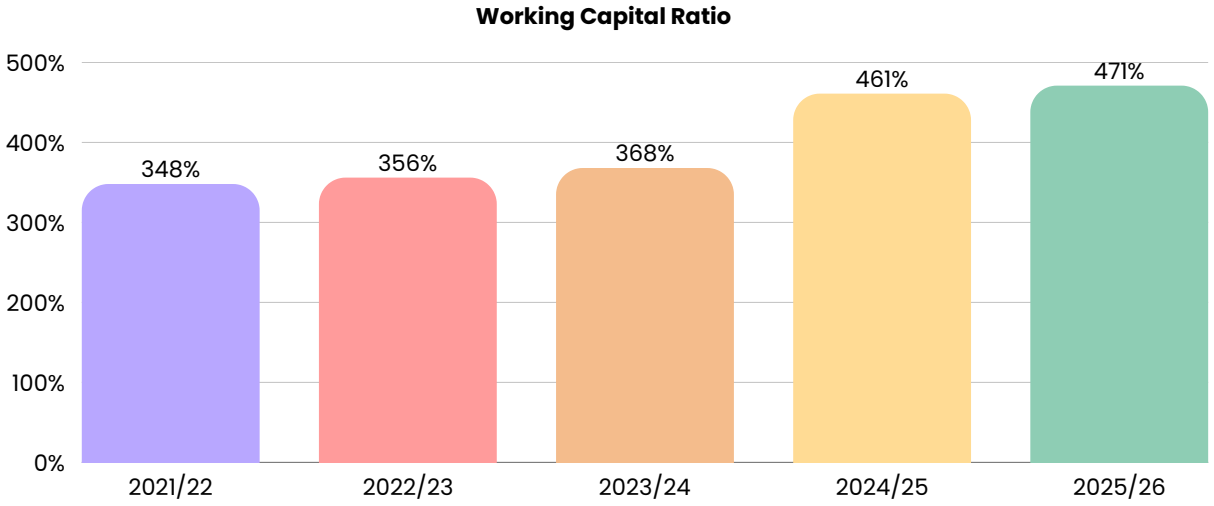


Adjusted Underlying Surplus / (deficit) for the year 2025/2026 – ($3.15m)

Liquidity

Cash increased by $4.514 million from the previous financial year as a result of unfinished grant funded capital projects carried forward to 2026/2027 as well as early receipt of 80% of the 2025/2026 Grants Commission funding.

The working capital ratio measures Council's ability to meet its short-term obligations by comparing current assets with current liabilities. Council's result of 471% reflects a strong cash position and is well above Council's budget of 128% and VAGO's low-risk threshold of 100% or greater.

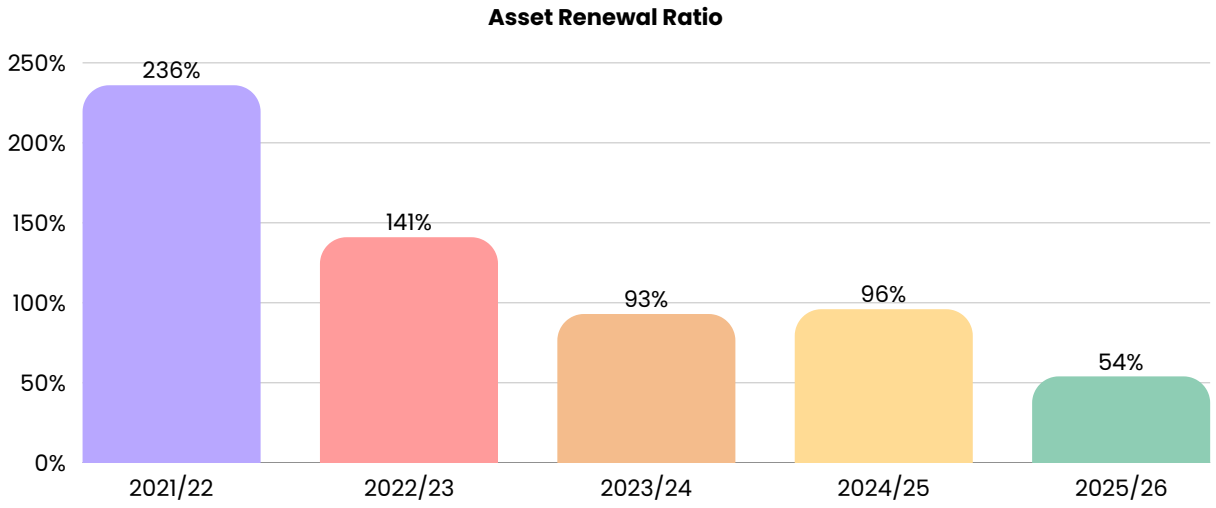


Working Capital ratio for the year 2025/2026 - 471%

Obligations

Council is committed to maintaining its infrastructure assets at appropriate service levels while continuing to deliver essential services to the community.

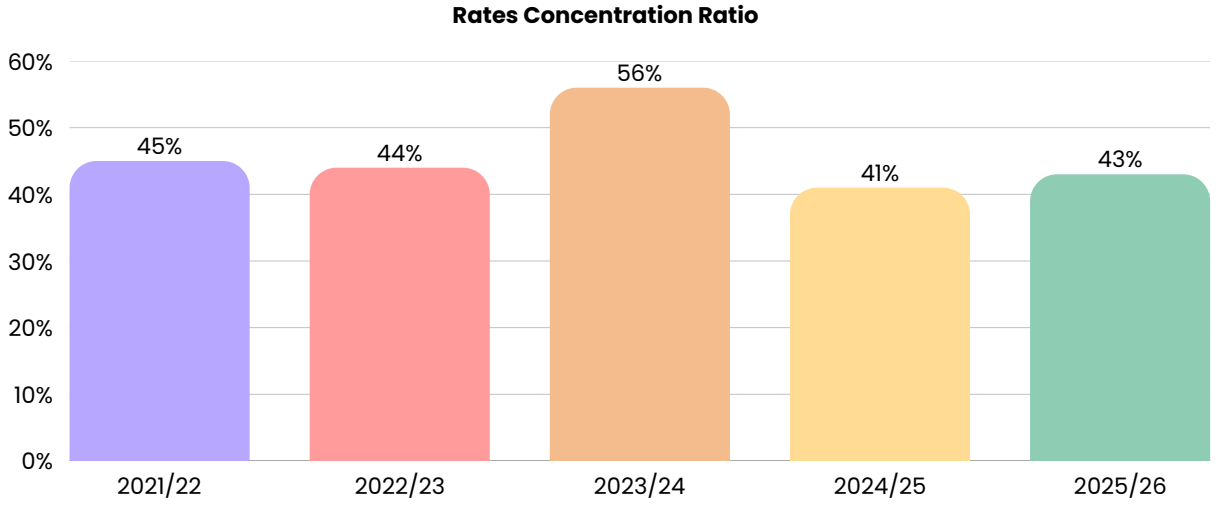
Council manages more than $294 million in land, buildings and infrastructure, with income of $24.822 million for the financial year. Maintaining and replacing these assets is challenging because they may wear out faster than Council can afford to renew them. In 2025/2026, Council spent $6.411 million renewing assets, resulting in an asset renewal ratio of 54%. This means Council's renewal spending was equal to 54% of the annual cost recognised for the use and ageing of its assets. Recent increases in asset values have also increased this annual cost, which has lowered the ratio. Council continues to prioritise asset renewal in its budget and seeks grant funding for new and upgraded assets.



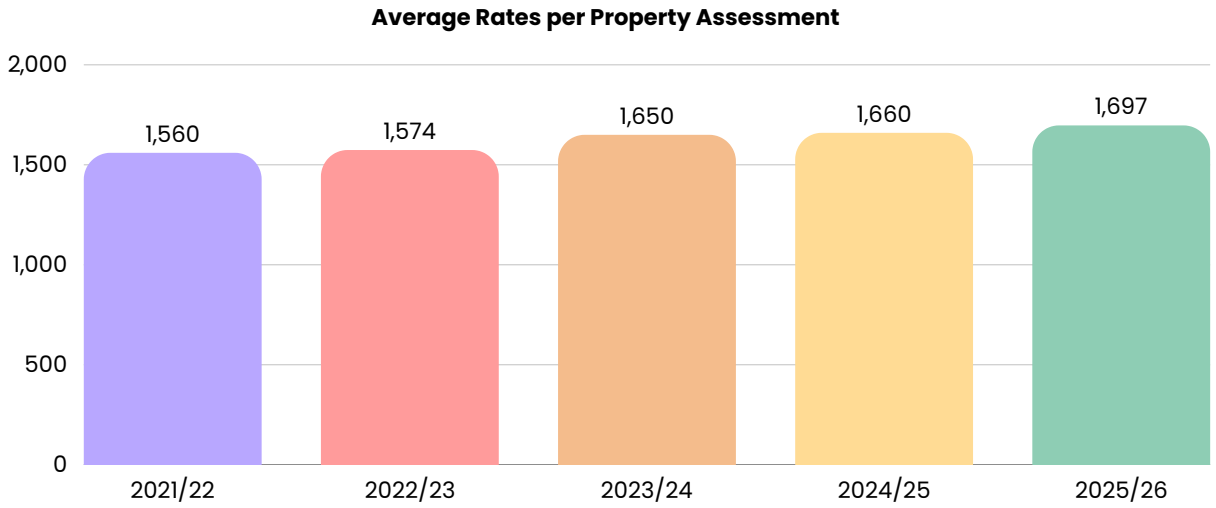
Asset renewal ratio for the year 2025/2026 - 54%

Stability and Efficiency

Council receives revenue from a range of sources, including rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions. Despite this, Council's rates concentration which compares rate revenue to total revenue was 43% for the 2025/2026 financial year which is at the lower end of the expected target band of 40% - 80%. Council continues to advocate for additional grants and appreciates the increase in the Victorian Grants Commission Grant payment, as well as the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grants. Average rates per property assessment for 2025/2026 was $1,697 which compares favourably to similar small rural councils.



Rates concentration ratio for the year 2025/2026 - 43%



Average Rates per property assessment for the year 2025/2026 - $1,697

Description of Operations

Hindmarsh Shire Council is responsible for more than 110 services, ranging from services for children to those for older adults, from open space to community buildings, waste management and infrastructure, to matters concerning business development, planning for appropriate housing and industrial development and ensuring accountability to Council's budget. This broad range of services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2025-2029 and the associated budget 2025/2026 and reported upon in this document. More information about Council services is contained in Part Five – Our performance.

Economic Factors

Economic conditions during 2025/2026 continued to place significant pressure on both Council operations and the broader community. Persistent inflationary impacts, supply chain disruptions, and increased demand for specialist trades and contractor services contributed to higher operating and capital costs across many areas of Council service delivery. In addition, ongoing geopolitical instability, including conflict in the Middle East, contributed to volatility in global energy markets, resulting in significant increases in fuel prices and flow-on cost impacts for construction materials, freight, and transport.

These rising costs have affected the affordability and delivery of infrastructure projects, and asset maintenance programs. As a rural Council responsible for maintaining an extensive road network and critical community infrastructure, Hindmarsh Shire Council is particularly exposed to increases in fuel, plant, freight and construction costs.

Council remains committed to prudent financial management and long-term sustainability. Throughout the year, Council continued to identify operational efficiencies, prioritise essential service delivery, actively pursue grant funding opportunities and advocate for equitable funding outcomes for rural communities. At the same time, Council recognises the ongoing cost-of-living pressures facing residents, businesses, and community organisations and remains focused on delivering programs, services, and infrastructure that support community wellbeing, economic resilience, and local prosperity.

This balanced approach seeks to ensure that Council can continue to meet the needs of the community while responsibly managing increasing financial and economic pressures.

Major changes

The 2025/2026 financial year was characterised by a range of significant internal and external factors impacting the local government sector, including Hindmarsh Shire Council. External economic conditions, particularly fuel price volatility, placed sustained upward pressure on operating and capital costs, affecting key service areas such as road maintenance, plant operations and service delivery across Council's extensive rural network. These pressures were further compounded by broader cost escalation and supply chain constraints, requiring disciplined financial management to maintain long-term sustainability and deliver on budgeted projects.

The year also represented the first full year of implementation of Council's adopted Council Plan 2025-2029, with a strong focus on embedding strategic objectives across all service areas. This included aligning operational delivery, resource allocation and performance monitoring with the Plan's themes, alongside strengthening governance, reporting and accountability frameworks.

Internally, organisational changes were implemented to improve efficiency and asset management outcomes, including the transition of outdoor pool management responsibilities from the Community Strategy and Engagement team to the Assets and Facilities team. This change supported a more integrated, asset-focused approach to operational management, maintenance and compliance.

The 2025/2026 year also marked the final year of Council's contractual arrangement with the Department of Transport and Planning to deliver maintenance on the state road network. This transition has required forward planning to manage operational and financial impacts, including workforce, plant utilisation and revenue considerations.

In addition, Council commenced planning for the future introduction of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service in response to evolving state policy and waste management reforms. This work has included consideration of service models, infrastructure requirements and long-term financial implications, reflecting Council's commitment to balancing environmental outcomes with affordability and service sustainability.

Major Capital Works

During 2025/2026 Council's Works and Operations team completed a large number of infrastructure projects, including roads, footpaths and drainage works. Some of these projects included sealed reconstruction on Lorquon Netherby Road, drainage works on Nhill Diapur Rd and resheeting of Boyeo Tarranginnie Road.

Council is responsible for approximately 3,025 kilometres of local road network. One of the main focuses of Council's capital works program is asset renewal. Council faces significant challenges in the future primarily due to the responsibility for a large local road network.

Council will continue to lobby the State and Federal governments for more appropriate funding in recognition of the size of this challenge and the importance of our road network to our economy.

Several of these projects are listed below:

Federal Street, Rainbow
This project included repairing and resealing the street, and line marking parking bays.

Boyeo Tarranginnie Road
This project included resheeting approximately 3km of poor condition unsealed road.

Lorquon Netherby Road
This project included repairing approximately 1km of failed sealed road, following extreme wet conditions leading to pavement failure.

Old Minyip Road
This road had a shoulder resheet renewing approximately 2km of poor condition gravel and formation.

Nhill Diapur Rd
This road had new culverts installed, replacing old sunken/separated culverts

The works are in addition to the significant amount of maintenance work Council undertakes on its road network and town amenity projects, such as work to maintain and improve playgrounds, parks and sporting facilities.

Type of Project	Project	YTD Actuals
Major Culverts	Peakes Three Chain Rd*	$12,884
	Antwerp Warracknabeal Rd	$19,566
	Coker Dam Rd	$18,766
	Nhill Diapur Rd	$60,700
	Propodollah Rd	$11,916
	River Rd	$11,900
	Warrick Rd	$8,950
Reseals and Final Seals	25 sites*	$912,738
Sealed Road Construction / Major patch	Broughton Rd	$58,389
	Gerang Glenlee Rd	$31,208
	Propodollah Rd	$22,316
	Tarranyurk East Rd*	$150,240
	Netherby Lorquon Rd*	$210,902
Shoulder Resheet	Old Minyip Rd	$69,949
	Diapur Yanac Rd	$33,777
	Antwerp Woorak Rd	$40,976
Unsealed Road Construction	Clark St	$25,070
	Peakes Three Chain Rd*	$81,258
	Katyil Wail Rd	$125,580
	Propodollah Extension Rd*	$23,229
	Propodollah Netherby Rd	$65,233
	Tarranyurk East Rd	$80,936
	Tarranyurk West Rd	$186,217
	Yanac South Rd*	$69,648
	Boyeo Tarranginnie Rd*	$142,408
	Five Chain Rd	$77,069
	Section spotting (various sites)	$50,000 (approx.)
Footpaths	Capital segments replaced	$42,000 (approx.)
	Macpherson St*	$118,584
	Lloyd St	$100,058

* major initiatives in budget

Major Achievements

During 2025/2026, our major Achievements included:

Official opening of Wimmera River Discovery Trail

The Wimmera River Discovery Trail (WRDT) was officially opened on 14 September 2025 with an event held at the Antwerp Campground, marking the culmination of more than a decade of planning, stakeholder collaboration, and State and Federal Government investment. The 56km walking and cycling trail connects Dimboola and Jeparit along the Wimmera River corridor and can be accessed in six sections, each ranging from 5km to 13km.

Development of the WRDT involved close collaboration with Parks Victoria, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Transport. A comprehensive Cultural Heritage Management Plan identified and protected more than 100 cultural heritage sites - including over 90 newly registered sites - along the river corridor.

Despite delays caused by COVID-19, groundworks were completed in 2024, including trail improvements and signage installation.

The opening drew around 70 people, reflecting strong community enthusiasm for the trail and the opportunities it creates.

The trail is now promoted through major tourism and recreation platforms, including Australian Tourism Data Warehouse, the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Visitor App, AllTrails, Bicycle Network and Walking Maps. Council continues to support the trail through ongoing marketing and visitor promotion initiatives, as well as improved signage as the trail gets used over time.

For more information about the WRDT, visit **www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/wimmera-river-discovery-trail**.

Official opening of Davis Park Grandstand and Changerooms

Council completed construction of the new Davis Park Grandstand and AFL-compliant Changeroom project in late 2025. The new undercover facility features independent seating for 150, an all-abilities accessible area for wheelchair viewing and enclosed timekeeping and media rooms. Underneath the grandstand are home and away team changerooms featuring modern individual bathroom facilities, trainer rooms, an administration office and a storeroom. Concrete all-abilities parking and a dedicated Ambulance space have also been constructed adjacent to the building. The new design meets the Nhill and District Sporting Club's long held desire for a new grandstand and changeroom facilities.

Opening of Rainbow Silo Art

Rainbow Silo Art opened to the public prior to Christmas 2025, realising the region's vision for a distinctive silo art experience. The ambitious project transformed a 100-year-old grain silo into a striking visitor attraction, featuring external artwork and a 27-metre-high tower leading to a viewing platform. Accessible by stairs or lift, the platform allows visitors of all abilities to take in panoramic views from the top. Two additional platforms inside the silo provide views into the bins at different heights, including one featuring an illuminated art installation.

Visitors have responded enthusiastically to the sweeping views across the Mallee plains, with the ever-changing landscape offering a different experience in every season and reinforcing Rainbow Silo Art as a must-see destination.

Secured funding and delivered 3 studio cabins at Nhill Holiday Park

Nhill Holiday Park now offers three new studio units, providing additional accommodation for visitors exploring the region or breaking their journey along the Western Highway. The new cabin building comprises three independent twin-berth units, each with a kitchenette and ensuite. A west-facing deck with outdoor seating provides an ideal place to enjoy a Wimmera sunset. Since becoming available for bookings, the units have proved popular with travellers and tourists.

Multicultural Business Hub at The Patch, Nhill

Council secured funding to transform the backyard at The Patch, a community-based hub in Nhill. Most works were completed during 2025/2026, with minor landscaping and electrical works remaining. Once finalised, the upgraded space will feature artificial turf for recreation, a new covered gazebo with a concrete floor, landscaping and improved lighting. Nhill Learning Centre, which hosts The Patch, has also supported the project, with completion expected early in 2026/2027.

Secured funding for the Dimboola Pool upgrades

Dimboola Pool revitalisation is a step closer with Council securing significant funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to support implementation of improvements and refurbishment of the only Olympic sized swimming pool in the Shire. The list of improvements will be led by the construction of an all-abilities accessible ramp into the pool to provide access opportunities for all, regardless of mobility. The pool will also have a wet deck constructed on each side of the pool (ends to retain abutments), upgraded pump and plumbing works, all-abilities change facilities and new landscaping.

At this stage the project is on hold whilst further funding is sought to complete the project. With the existing financial support of both Council and SRV, Council is hopeful remaining funding will be secured soon so that the project can get underway.

47

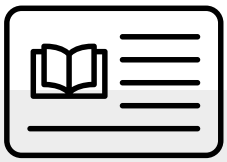
Other Council Services

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries are welcoming library spaces that have been enjoyed by many over the past year. Our collection has grown and our digital resources continue to be very popular. If you are an avid reader, aspire of becoming bilingual or enjoy a leisurely browse through a magazine – we have you covered!

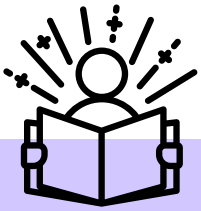
An exciting addition to our Dimboola branch over the past year has been the installation of two umbrella style shade sails in the courtyard, funded by the State Government's Living Libraries Grant Funding program. These shade structures allow year-round use of this space – we're sure our Story Time friends will love the opportunity for messy activities outside.

Story Time is only one of the many programs offered by our library services, from crafting with friends, writing sessions, jigsaws, enjoying a Cuppa Connections catch up or somewhere for the kids to get creative after school, we truly have something for everyone.



140

new library members

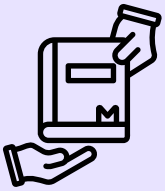


97

Story Time sessions held

14,683

physical items available to borrow from our shelves



7,345

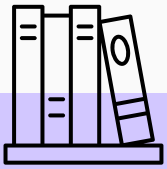
items borrowed from Hindmarsh Shire Libraries

2,110

items loaned to other partner libraries from our collection

438

hours spent on free public PCs



636

new items added to our shelves

COUNTRY ROAD
BUTTERFLY Girl
MEG MUG OG
MEET MIM
49

Youth Council

2026 Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors:

- Anora Corbett - 2nd Year
- Eh Chrit Htoo Shwe
- Elora Williams
- Georgie McKinnon - 2nd Year
- Grace Wundersitz
- Katie Muller
- Lawson Lynch
- Lisa Klee - 2nd Year
- Matilda McKinnon - 2nd Year
- Rebecca-May Williams
- Ryan Wallace - 2nd Year
- Trinity Rethus

Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council delivered a strong youth-led program in 2025/2026, providing safe, inclusive and engaging opportunities for young people across the Shire to connect, build confidence and celebrate their achievements.

Key activities included a Games, Trivia and Karaoke Night in August, the Golden Hour Formal in December, and a Youth Council break-up activity to reflect on the year. Youth Councillors played an active role in planning and delivering events, supporting participation, social connection and leadership development for young people aged 12 to 18.

In 2026, incoming Youth Councillors began their term with a certificate presentation and weekend retreat focused on leadership, teamwork and confidence-building. The program continued to provide valuable development opportunities, with Youth Councillors applying their skills through school leadership, student representative councils, community and sporting groups, and part-time employment.

Council thanks the Youth Councillors and their families for their commitment, energy and contribution to strengthening opportunities for young people across Hindmarsh Shire.

13
Youth Council events hosted in 2025/2026

8
Youth Council meetings held

279
attendees at Youth Council events

CONGRATULATIONS
HOGWARTS
NIKE

Business and Tourism

The 2025/2026 financial year saw continued growth in economic development, tourism, and community investment across Hindmarsh Shire. The Economic Development and Tourism team conducted more than 200 business visits, supported existing and prospective businesses, and facilitated the opening of several new businesses, with more currently progressing toward establishment. Council also continued to support local business and events through targeted grant programs and business engagement initiatives. Council officers participated in the Business-Friendly Council program that reviews and streamlines processes and systems to further assist business enquiries.

Tourism growth was driven by several major projects and improvements, including the opening of the Rainbow Silo attraction, development of the Wimmera River Discovery Trail, upgrades to visitor infrastructure, and collaborative regional marketing initiatives. The Rainbow Silo quickly established itself as a significant visitor attraction, attracting strong community and visitor interest.

A key focus throughout the year was strengthening partnerships, supporting local business resilience, promoting visitation, and enhancing the Shire's appeal as a destination to live, work, invest and visit. These initiatives continue to position Hindmarsh Shire for sustainable economic and tourism growth into the future.

Hindmarsh Holiday Parks
The Hindmarsh Holiday Parks network continued to deliver strong economic, tourism and community outcomes during 2025/2026, despite broader challenges associated with cost-of-living pressures and reduced discretionary travel across regional Victoria.

Across the four parks at Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow, the network welcomed 11,901 visitors who generated 25,121 guest nights and an estimated $3.92 million in visitor expenditure across the Hindmarsh Shire economy.

Overall park occupancy across the network reached 24.04%, with cabin occupancy averaging 64.24%. Dimboola Holiday Park remained the strongest performing location, accounting for approximately 61% of all visitors. Strong cabin occupancy was achieved across all parks, particularly at Dimboola (75.88%) and Rainbow (61.15%). The average length of stay remained consistent at 2.11 nights.

Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre
The Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre, located in Goldsworthy Park, Nhill, continues to play an important role in welcoming visitors to the Shire and promoting the region's tourism experiences. Throughout the year, approximately 1,000 visitors called into the centre seeking information on local attractions, events, accommodation, dining options and touring opportunities across Hindmarsh Shire and the broader Wimmera Mallee region.

The centre is supported by a dedicated team of 25 volunteers, whose passion, local knowledge and commitment ensure visitors receive a friendly welcome and quality information. Without their contribution, this valuable service would not be possible.

The centre remains an important gateway to the region, helping visitors discover and enjoy the diverse heritage, nature-based and recreational experiences that make Hindmarsh Shire a unique destination

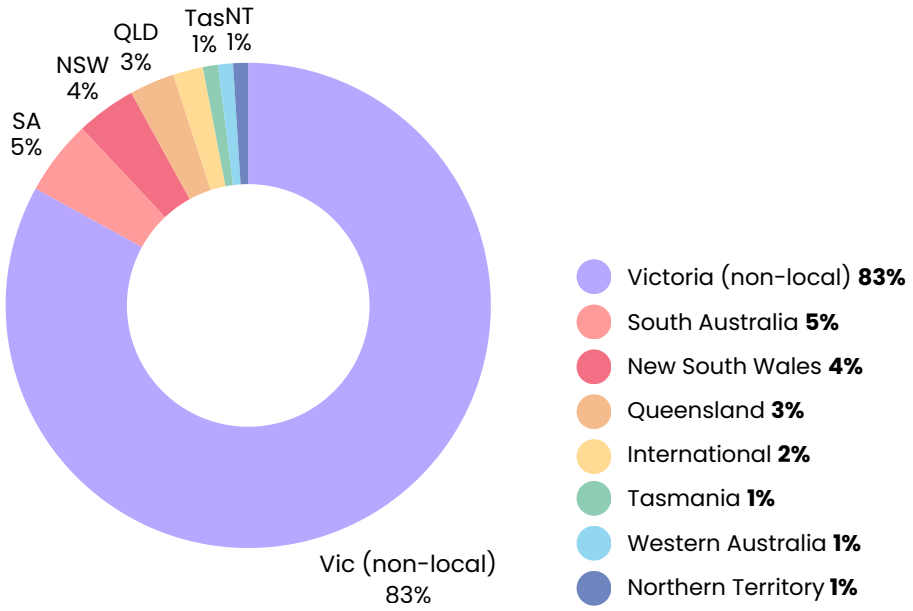
Rainbow Silo Art

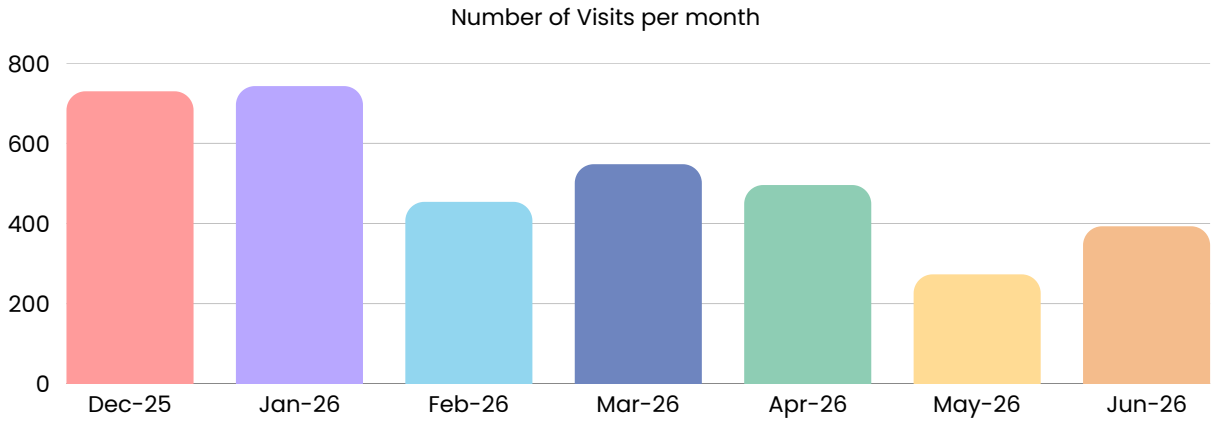
The Rainbow Silo Art experience opened on 22 December 2025, offering visitors access to public viewing platforms and external and internal artworks. In its first six months, the attraction welcomed 3,889 visitors, establishing itself as an emerging regional tourism asset.

Visitation was strongest during the summer holiday period, with 730 visitors in December and 743 in January, before averaging around 500 visitors per month from February to April. Numbers declined in May and July, likely reflecting higher fuel prices and technical issues at the site.

Visitor numbers rebounded to 450 in June, demonstrating continued interest when conditions were favourable.

Visitor survey feedback indicates that word of mouth is the leading source of awareness, followed by online discovery, highlighting the value of visitor advocacy and ongoing digital promotion.





Yurunga Homestead

Several important conservation projects were completed at Yurunga during the year. Restoration works in the underground room addressed water-damaged render and paint, with the area treated for salt and moisture before being re-rendered and repainted using breathable paint. A section of the southern veranda was also restored, including replacement stumps and new timber decking, to protect the underground room below.

The Yurunga Conservation Management Plan and Maintenance Priority List were completed by heritage consultants, providing a clear framework for future conservation works.

Yurunga continues to operate successfully as a major Shire tourist attraction thanks to the dedication of its volunteers. The site currently has 22 volunteer tour guides, who contribute not only to regular Sunday tours but also to group tours, catering and community activities. During the year, volunteers contributed 260 hours to tours and visitor services, while committee members contributed a further 420 hours.

Visitor numbers increased significantly, with 611 visitors recorded during the financial year compared to 440 visitors the previous year. This growth is believed to be driven by increased interest in the Rainbow Silo Project and ongoing tourism promotion throughout the region.

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum

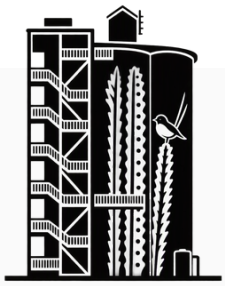
The past year has been one of significant growth and renewal for the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum. The Museum embraced the Shire's vision of being bold, creative and ambitious, strengthening partnerships, engaging professional curators for the first time, and delivering a range of successful events and exhibitions.

Key achievements included the reimagining of the Werrap Hall and Albacutya photographic room, the creation of new displays, expansion of merchandise offerings, and the development of stronger links with local historical and educational organisations.

Visitor and community engagement increased significantly throughout the year, supported by new events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day Devonshire Tea, book fair and group visits. Social media reach grew from approximately 2,400 views to more than 20,000 views, helping to raise the Museum's profile and attract new audiences.

The Museum also welcomed new volunteers and committee members, whose enthusiasm and fresh ideas contributed to successful fundraising initiatives, expanded community participation and improved visitor experiences. Despite ongoing infrastructure and maintenance challenges, the committee continued to make progress on key strategic priorities, collections management, safety improvements and implementation of the Museum Masterplan.

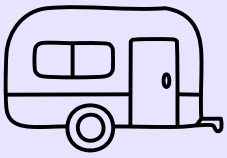
Overall, the year was marked by strong volunteer commitment, growing community support, enhanced visitor experiences and renewed confidence in the Museum's future as an important tourism and cultural asset for the region.



3,889
visits to Rainbow Silo Art since it opened on 22 December 2026

200+
business visits

$5.2
million in total economic output from Holiday Parks visitation



11,901
visitors at Hindmarsh Holiday Parks

7,250
Visitors at Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park

795
visitors at Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park

3,225
visitors at Nhill Holiday Park

631
visitors at Rainbow Holiday Park

Community Wellbeing

During 2025/2026, the Community team continued to support the health, wellbeing, participation and connection of residents across Hindmarsh Shire. Working in partnership with community groups, volunteers, young people, families and service providers, the team delivered and supported programs, events, facilities and initiatives that strengthened community life across the Shire's towns and districts.

A key focus throughout the year was creating inclusive opportunities for people to come together. The team supported a range of activities that promoted connection, inclusion and wellbeing, including Harmony Day, the International Women's Day Riverbank Fiesta, 16 Days of Activism and International Day of People with Disability events. These activities provided opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate, connect and celebrate the diversity of the Hindmarsh community.

National Volunteer Week provided an important opportunity for Council to acknowledge the passion, commitment and significant contribution of volunteers across Hindmarsh Shire. Council recognised the vital role volunteers play in keeping communities connected and resilient, particularly during challenging times. Celebrations included classic movie screenings, morning teas, volunteer recognition through social media, and promotion of local volunteering opportunities.

The October Seniors Festival remained a highlight of the community events calendar, offering opportunities for older residents to connect, participate and enjoy activities across the Shire. The Seniors Concert and men's bus tour continued to be key events within the month-long celebration and were well supported by the community.

Council's community facilities, libraries, pools, venues and local programs continued to provide valued spaces for learning, recreation, social connection and participation. These facilities and programs supported residents and visitors to engage in community life and access services, activities and public spaces close to home.

Throughout the year, the Community team worked closely with residents, volunteers, committees, agencies and Council departments to respond to local needs and deliver practical outcomes. This collaborative approach helped strengthen relationships, improve access to services and facilities, and create welcoming opportunities for people to participate in community life across Hindmarsh Shire.

219
attendees at Seniors Concerts

37
Seniors Events held during Seniors Festival

1,349
attendees at School Holiday Programs

23
movie screenings (11 at Nhill Cinema and 12 Classic Movies)

866
attendees at Cuppa Connection sessions

49
attendees on Seniors Month Men's Bus Tour

58
enrolled children at Supported Playgroup

132
Supported Playgroup Sessions held

Planning

In 2025/2026, 27 Planning Applications were received, and 30 determinations were made (4 of those applications were withdrawn or lapsed). In total **25 planning permits were issued** and 1 was refused.

The following table summarises the category of determination –

Subdivision (Rural)	8
Commercial Use	5
Industrial Shed	4
Vegetation removal	4
Rural Dwelling	3
Heritage Works	2
Urban Dwelling	1
Residential Shed	1
Rural Shed	1
Subdivision (Urban)	1

328
planning requests received

109
hours spent on planning queries

93.33%
of applications were processed within the statutory timeframe **of 60 days**

33
statutory days to complete an application *(on average)*

Transfer Stations and Waste Management

In the 2025/2026 financial year:

1,777
net tonnes of waste was delivered to Dooen Landfill

1,600
net tonnes of kerbside waste collected

1,335
net tonnes of this was from kerbside collection of waste bins

442
net tonnes of this was from transfer station skips

30
net tonnes of glass collected from purple glass bins

235
net tonnes of recycling collected from recycling bins

1,335
net tonnes of general waste collected from general waste bins

64,982 kms
travelled by bin trucks to collect kerbside waste

11,680 kg
of e-waste delivered to Axis Worx by waste contractors

43,732
km to collect general waste bins

18,070
km to collect recycling bins

3,180
to collect glass bins

1,284
loads of green waste deposited at Transfer Stations during Free Green Waste Month

Council offers a voucher system for deposits at transfer stations. In the 2025/2026 financial year, residents claimed a total of **$4,913 worth of vouchers** which consisted of the following:

- **$3,220** in Nhill
- **$764** in Jeparit
- **$558** in Dimboola
- **$371** in Rainbow

Landcare

Council's Landcare Facilitator is funded by the Victorian Government through its 2021-2025 Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP) and delivered by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) through the Victorian Landcare Program.

The Landcare Facilitator is responsible for enhancing and restoring our land and natural environment, improving sustainable agriculture practices, supporting the planning and development of on-ground works, and building group capacity and resilience.

During 2025/2026, Council's Landcare Facilitator supported and organised tree planting days, managed and facilitated Council's pests and weeds program, monitored birds as part of a Landcare bushfire recovery project and supported local Landcare community groups with community workshops and community health initiatives.

2,200
trees and shrubs planted at planting day in Rainbow (August 2025)

3,950
trees and shrubs planted at planting day near Dimboola (June 2026)

6
sites across three bushfire-affected properties monitored for birds

126
km of Council roadside weed management control completed

12
noxious weed species were controlled

800+
African Boxthorn bushes sprayed, removed, shredded and disposed of

Council Communications

In the 2025/2026 financial year:

27
fortnightly e-newsletters circulated to 558 subscribers

1,342
posts published on Council managed Facebook pages

143
media releases published on Council website and circulated to media contacts

334
new followers on Hindmarsh Shire Council Facebook page

1.9M
views on posts through Hindmarsh Shire Council Facebook page

18.9K
interactions on posts through Hindmarsh Shire Council Facebook page

28
public community consultations on Have Your Say Hindmarsh

565
submissions received through public community consultations

96K
visits to Hindmarsh Shire Council website

61
advertisements placed in newspapers

Council Grants Program

During 2025/2026, Hindmarsh Shire Council ran three grant programs:

- **Community Action Grants** supported communities to provide services and to assist with community development, social action, and connectedness.
- **Business Assistance Grants** supported local businesses to expand their operations and to encourage new businesses, large and small, to establish themselves in the Shire.
- **Regional Community Events Grants** supported community organisations / groups with funding for events that bring economic benefit to Hindmarsh Shire.

$44,572
spent on Council Grants Programs

$14,018
spent on Business Assistance Grants

$15,554
spent on Community Action Grants

$15,000
spent on Regional Community Events Grants

33
total grant applications received *(7 businesses and 23 community groups)*

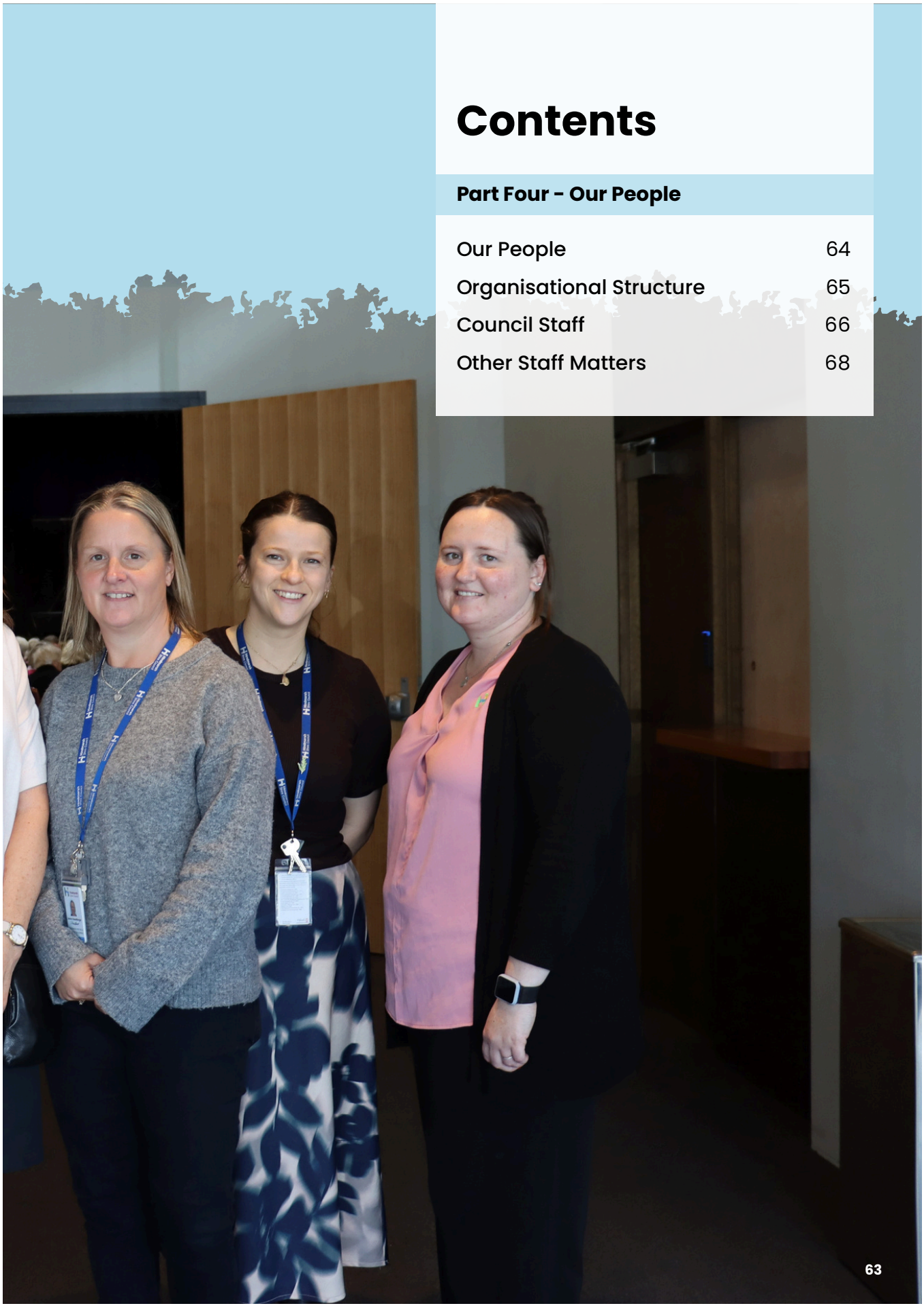
SMS RURAL
SERVICES
61

Part Four
Our people

Contents

Part Four - Our People

Our People 64
Organisational Structure 65
Council Staff 66
Other Staff Matters 68



Our People

Council is the governing body that appoints the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for Council's day-to-day operations in accordance with the strategic direction of the Council Plan. Two Directors and the CEO form the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and senior officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below.

Monica Revell Chief Executive Officer
Appointed April 2024

The Chief Executive Officer manages the day-to-day administration and operations of Council while executing the strategic policies and decisions set by elected councillors.

Ram Upadhyaya Director Infrastructure Services
Appointed January 2024

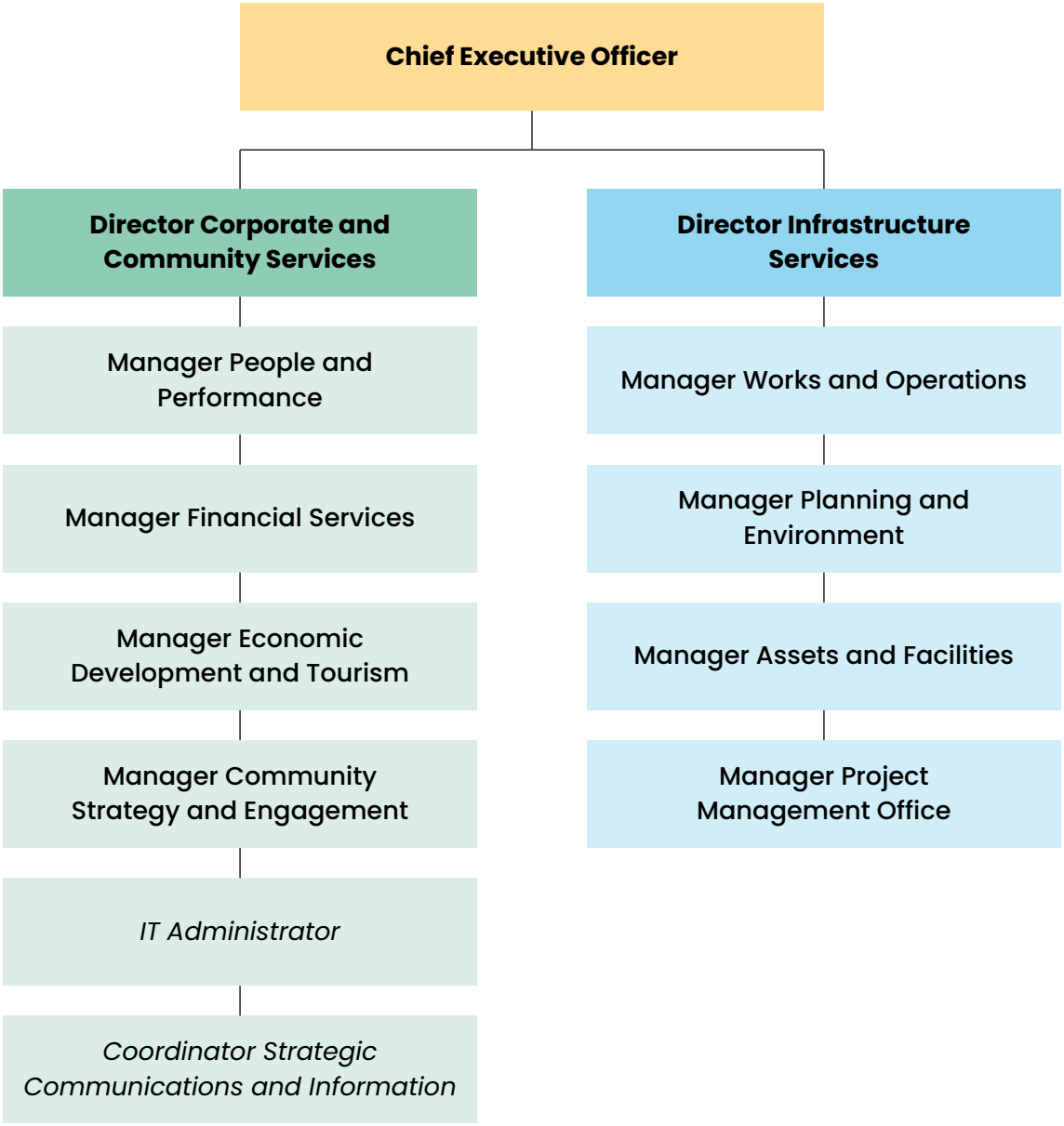
The Director Infrastructure Services is responsible for Asset Management, Engineering and Traffic Management, Environment and Sustainability, Infrastructure Maintenance and Development, Parks and Gardens, Environmental Health, Local Laws, Building Controls, Planning and Development.

Petra Croot Director Corporate and Community Services
Appointed May 2024

The Director Corporate and Community Services is responsible for Finance, Governance, Information Technology, Business Development, Families, Youth, Sports and Recreation, Tourism, People and Culture, Libraries, Social Welfare, Community Strategy and Engagement, Communications, Positive Ageing and Economic Development.

Organisational Structure

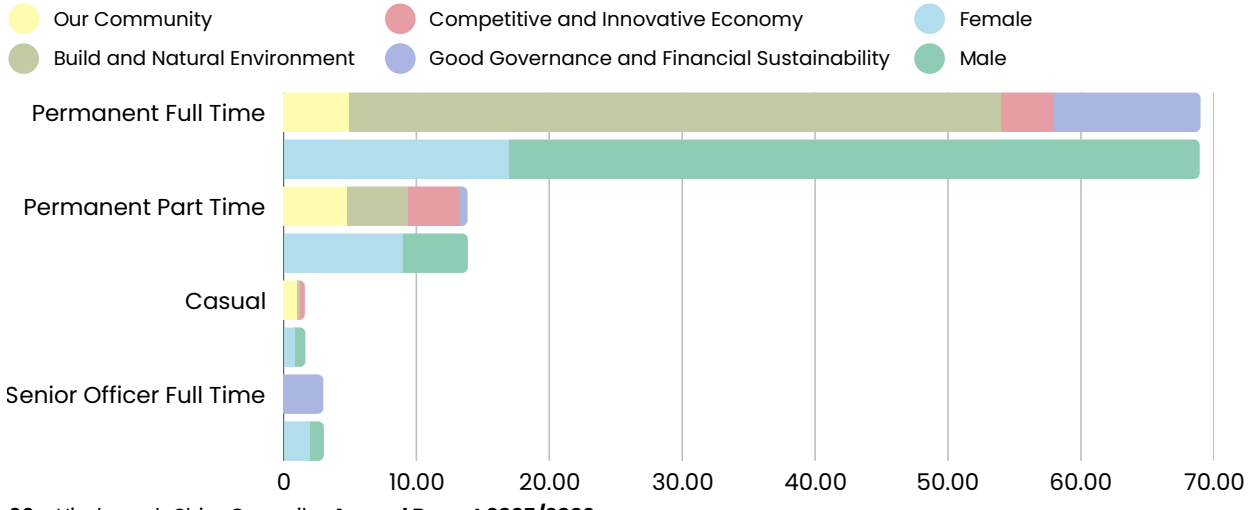
as of 30 June 2026



Council Staff

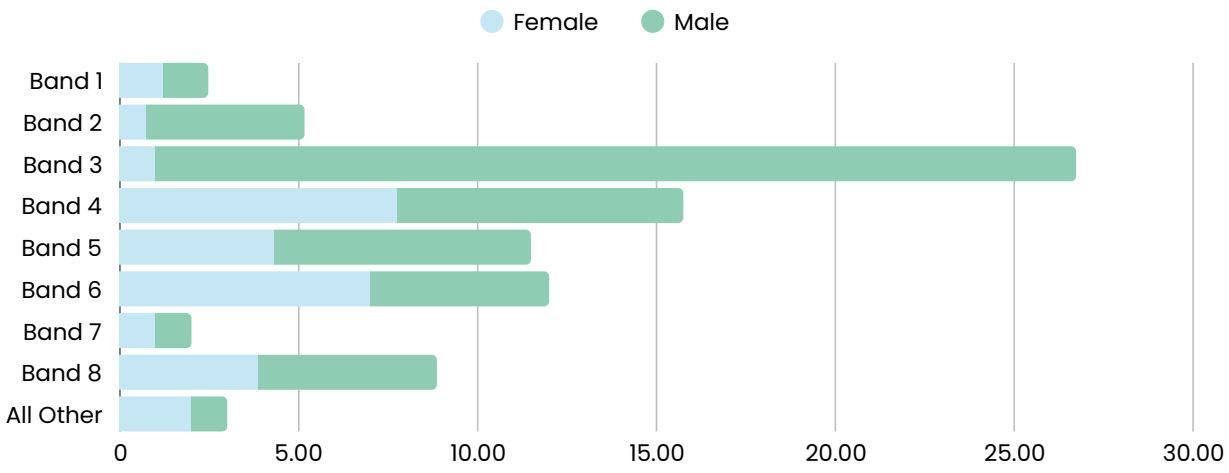
A summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) Council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender is set out below.

Employee type / gender	Our Community	Built and Natural Environment	Competitive and Innovative Economy	Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	Total FTE
Permanent Full Time					
Female	3.00	5.00	0.00	9.00	**17.00**
Male	2.00	44.00	4.00	2.00	**52.00**
Unspecified Gender	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Permanent Part Time					
Female	4.81	2.40	1.31	0.50	**9.02**
Male	0.00	2.23	2.60	0.00	**4.83**
Unspecified Gender	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Casual					
Female	0.42	0.12	0.32	0.00	**0.86**
Male	0.63	0.12	0.00	0.00	**0.75**
Unspecified Gender	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Senior Officer Full Time					
Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	**2.00**
Male	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	**1.00**
Total	**10.86**	**53.87**	**8.23**	**14.50**	**87.46**



A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender is set out below.

Structure	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	All Other	Total
Permanent Full Time										
Female	0.00	0.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	7.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	**19.00**
Male	0.00	3.00	24.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	1.00	5.00	1.00	**53.00**
Self Described	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Permanent Part Time										
Female	1.01	0.49	0.00	4.33	1.33	0.00	0.00	1.86	0.00	**9.02**
Male	1.26	1.31	1.73	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**4.83**
Self Described	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Permanent Casual										
Female	0.20	0.24	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.86**
Male	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.75**
Self Described	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Total	**2.47**	**5.16**	**26.73**	**15.75**	**11.49**	**12.00**	**2.00**	**8.86**	**3.00**	**87.46**



Other staff matters

Equal Opportunity

Council is committed to the principles of equal opportunity. In all policies and practices of Council, there is no discrimination relating to sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, parenthood, race, colour, national origin, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, gender identity, family or carer responsibilities, or religious or political affiliation. Selection of individuals for employment, promotion or advancement, training and staff development will be on the basis of personal merit in fair and open competition according to the skills, qualifications, knowledge and efficiency relevant to the position involved. Council's policy on equal opportunity reflects our desire to enjoy a workplace free of discrimination where each person can progress to the extent of their ability.

Council's People and Safety team continue to review recruitment and employment lifecycle policies and procedures to promote diversity, accessibility and inclusion in our workplace.

Gender Equality

Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Hindmarsh Shire Council must deliver a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) as well as implement Gender Impact Assessments in policy, service and community engagement processes. The GEAP is an organisational commitment to improving gender equality in the workplace. Workplace gender equality is achieved when people can access and enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities regardless of gender.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to addressing how gender inequality can interact with other inequalities and strives to improve gender equality for all. Activities in the GEAP include staff training, facilities audits and other actions that reduce gender segregation in the workforce.

We look forward to developing a renewed Gender Equality Action Plan when the current Plan expires.

Professional Development

Council is committed to providing all employees with a range of training opportunities relevant to their skills, position and career path at Council. This is developed in alignment with strategic priorities as well as in response to needs identified through performance and development plans. A variety of learning methodologies are used including e-learning, facilitated workshops and personal coaching and extends to study assistance for staff undertaking relevant undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

Health and Safety

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to prioritising the health, safety, and wellbeing of our people. We extend this commitment to our visitors and others who work for us and with us, placing our people's physical and psychological safety at the heart of everything we do - every day.

We acknowledge our shared responsibilities and roles in promoting a safety culture that is inclusive, supportive, and free from bullying, harassment and discrimination. We commit to taking all reasonably practicable measures to eliminate or otherwise minimise risks to the physical and mental health, safety and wellbeing of our people and others.

Our work is never so urgent or important that we cannot take the time to do it safely.

December 2025 saw the introduction of specific regulations relating to psychological health, strengthening Victoria's laws to protect the mental health of employees. Council has consulted with the Health and Safety Committee and introduced a "pulse check" employee survey to identify pain points in the organisation that could be a risk to psychological health. The "pulse check" will be repeated at six monthly intervals to track the impact of wellbeing initiatives over time. Council remains committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of our people.

Primary Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

Council continues to successfully deliver the Free from Violence Local Government Program, working to prevent gender-based violence before it occurs by promoting gender equity, encouraging respectful and safe relationships, and challenging harmful stereotypes. This work aligns with Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and has strengthened our approach across the organisation and in the community.

Community activities reached people of all ages, from young people to seniors. Events included Seniors Festival information sessions with Seniors Rights Victoria on advance care planning, powers of attorney and preventing elder abuse; 16 Days of Activism Colour Runs in Dimboola, Nhill and Rainbow; a Youth Panel with local secondary students and service providers focused on wellbeing, friendships and support services; and the International Women's Day Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta, featuring a guest presentation from Allied Justice on the 2026 theme, 'Balance the Scales'.

From May 2026, the Free From Violence program has been completed by the Community Team due to staff changes and will continue delivering activities that build understanding and capacity around gender-based violence for lasting impact in the community.

Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE)

Hindmarsh Shire Council has continued to participate in Women's Health Grampians' CoRE program. Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) is a partnership of organisations, businesses, clubs and groups who share a vision for safe, equal and respectful communities in the Grampians region.

Enterprise Agreement

Hindmarsh Shire Council's Enterprise Agreement No. 11 2025 came into effect on 7 August 2025.

Part Five
Our performance

Contents

Part Five - Our performance

Planning and accountability framework 72
Council Plan 73

Our Community 74

Built and Natural Environment 88

Competitive and Innovative Economy 100

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability 108

Planning and accountability framework

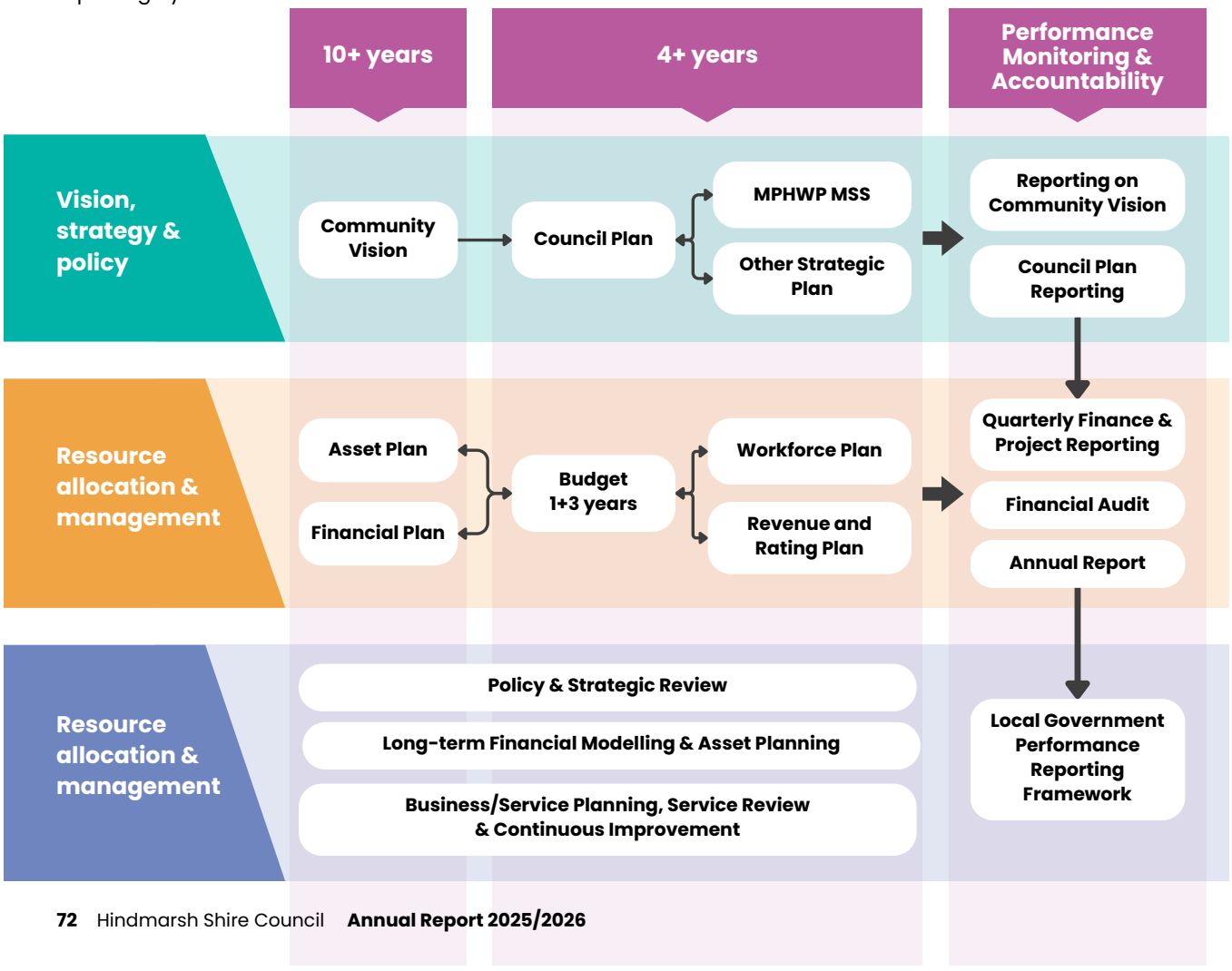
The Planning and Accountability Framework is found in part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Act requires councils to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

- A Council Vision with a scope of at least ten financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Council Plan on or by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Financial Plan with a scope of at least 10 financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- An Asset Plan with a scope of at least 10 financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.
- An Annual Budget for each financial year.
- A Quarterly Budget Report.
- An Annual Report in respect of each financial year.

The Act also requires councils to prepare:

- A Workforce Plan (including projected staffing requirements for at least 4 years);

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the planning and accountability framework for local government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback at each stage of the planning and reporting cycle.



Council Plan

This part of the Annual Report provides a summary of how we're performing in the key themes identified in the Council Plan 2025-2029. The Council Plan includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these for the four-year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a strategic resource plan. The following are the four strategic objectives as detailed in the Council Plan.

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

Performance

Council's performance for the 2025/2026 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how council is performing in achieving the Council Plan 2025-2029. Performance has been measured as follows:

- Results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the council plan
- Progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget
- Services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services
- Results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures.

Our Community

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Strategic Indicators

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2025/2026 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Priority	Comments	Result
1.1 Our Community is active, healthy and connected		
Create and maintain shared spaces		
Complete the Centenary Park projects as part of the Nhill Streetscape Masterplan	Path and fencing works have been completed, with remaining funding supporting a native garden, the community-led People of Nhill plaque project, and a power upgrade at adjacent Jaypex Park to support community markets and events.	**75%**
Assist the Rainbow Trailblazers with the establishment of a bike track	Works were delayed due to contractor availability and complex insurance arrangements for the Crown Land site, with Council continuing to work with the Rainbow Progress Association to progress the project in 2026/2027.	**25%**
Complete and officially open the Wimmera River Discovery Trail	The Wimmera River Discovery Trail was officially opened at Antwerp in September 2025, providing a 56km walking and cycling link between Dimboola and Jeparit, with trail information available online and through popular visitor and walking apps.	**100%**
Review the Youth Strategy, including a plan for sustainable regular out-of-school hours activities that promote use of public facilities and reserves	The Youth Strategy 2025-2029 was adopted by Council in December 2025. The strategy provides a framework for supporting young people aged 12-25 through improved opportunities, engagement and service planning.	**100%**
Provide accessible programs for all ages and abilities		
Continually diversify the resources, activities and services provided by libraries to be innovative, inclusive and meeting community need – focus year 1: Cultural Diversity	Hindmarsh Shire Libraries continued to promote diversity and inclusion through inclusive collections, cultural programming and expanded resources, including First Nations materials and bilingual English/Karen-Sgaw children's books.	**Ongoing**
Adopt a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy	A draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy was developed and presented to Councillors, with community consultation planned for 202620/27 following Council endorsement.	**75%**
Through the FFVLGP, work with local sporting clubs to improve participation rates for women and girls	Council will be delivering a session with Nhill and District Sporting Club in July 2026. This can be replicated to other groups with interest. Staff will continue to implement our Fair Access Policy and Fair Access Policy Action Plan that aim to improve access for women and girls at all levels in local sporting clubs.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Youth events and school holiday activities are inclusive and free for all to participate	A range of youth activities and events were delivered across the Shire, including school holiday programs, a Youth Formal, movie night and pool parties. The new Youth Council commenced in February 2026 and began planning initiatives for local young people.	**100%**
Support local events that bring people together		
Collaborate with Luv-a-Duck on a regional festival	Luv-a-Duck's 'Thank Duck It's Friday' event attracted strong community participation and positive feedback. Planning also progressed for the Seymour Heritage Rail Tour and potential future events aimed at strengthening tourism and community activation across the Shire.	**Ongoing**
Deliver bi-monthly movies at the Nhill Cinema that are targeted at adults	The Nhill Cinema program continued to provide diverse film and cultural experiences for the community, with screenings delivered throughout the year and additional movies planned for 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**
Audit commonly used Council-managed spaces and facilities to ensure that relevant amenities and services are maintained to provide accessibility for all	Council completed a comprehensive building condition audit and continued to address priority maintenance works, using the findings to guide future renewal and capital investment across its building portfolio.	**100%**
Ongoing Regional Community Events Grants Program, Fee Waiver Policy and reduced fees for Council Facilities Hire for community groups	Council improved community access and support through the adoption of a Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy and a comprehensive review of its grant programs, resulting in new funding opportunities for businesses, community groups and events.	**100%**
1.2 Our towns are inclusive, welcoming and growing		
Attract new residents and encourage multicultural inclusion		
Commence drafting New Residents Guides for the Shire and specific localities	This project has been deferred to 2026/2027 due to resourcing constraints within the Community Team and will be delivered in partnership with Town Committees and Progress Associations to avoid duplication and maximise community input.	**Delayed**
Participate in Careers Expos within the region that attract young workers to the Shire	Hindmarsh Shire Council joined dozens of exhibitors on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at the Western Victorian Careers Expo.	**100%**
Develop calendar of key events and activities that are important to our CALD community in collaboration with residents	Council's Community Strategy and Engagement team have drafted a calendar of key events and will work with local CALD communities in 2026/2027 to determine how to support/acknowledge these events into the future.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Deliver activities contained in the Cultural Inclusion Review	The majority of recommendations from the Cultural Inclusion Review have now been implemented. Council will continue to monitor outcomes and work with regional partners to identify opportunities to further strengthen cultural inclusion across the community.	**Ongoing**
Invest in liveability and town planning		
Review Hindmarsh Council's Local Laws and consider amendments that encourage innovative living options	Council progressed a comprehensive review of its Local Law, completing the redrafting phase and preparing the draft for Council consideration and community consultation in 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**
Complete the Safer Local Roads Project in MacPherson Street, Nhill	Council successfully completed the Safer Local Roads Project in MacPherson Street, Nhill, delivering upgraded pedestrian infrastructure that improved safety, accessibility and connectivity for the community.	**100%**
Strengthen ties between towns through events and shared goals		
Review Council Grant Guidelines and amend to encourage cross-community collaboration	Council undertook a comprehensive review of its grant programs, resulting in the development of refreshed funding opportunities to better support community, business and event development across the Shire.	**100%**
Host an annual Town Committee/Progress Association Summit that brings together volunteers from across the Shire to collaborate and plan for the year	This project has been deferred to 2026/27 due to Community Team resourcing constraints and will be informed by engagement with Town Committees and Progress Associations to ensure the Summit reflects community needs and priorities.	**Ongoing**
Offer transport options between towns for major Council-run events	Transport assistance was provided for a range of community programs and events, including youth activities, school holiday programs, the Seniors Concert and Men's Bus Tour. These services helped improve accessibility, participation and inclusion for residents across the Shire.	**100%**
Showcase new lifestyle and development possibilities		
Create a webpage on Council's website for developers to access information on Council's development opportunities and processes	Council continued to improve access to development and business information through the Business Friendly Councils program, including the development of simplified planning fact sheets, completion of an Industrial Land Business Case, and progression of an Investment Prospectus for delivery in 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Draft policy and procedure for showcasing completed / approved subdivisions on Council's channels to establish Council as pro-development	Council's Planning and Environment team completed the draft Policy, which is currently under Executive Leadership Team review ahead of CEO adoption and implementation in Q1 2026/2027.	**50%**
Increase Council publications around service providers, including West Wimmera Health Service, aged care, early years and long-daycare centres	Council continued to connect residents with important information, services and opportunities by promoting employment, health, education and wellbeing initiatives throughout the year. Key activities included Emerge Early Years employment opportunities, Western Wimmera Health Service cancer support services, Landcare workshops, Seniors Month activities, fire preparedness information, subsidised cat desexing clinics, ambulance training courses and Australian Government Mobile Service Centre visits.	**Ongoing**
1.3 Our community can access services when and where they need them		
Collaborate with regional partners and networks to achieve greater impact through collective effort		
Develop a draft Political Engagement Plan, identifying key contacts and priorities for advocacy	Council continued to advocate on behalf of the community and advance its investment priorities through engagement with all levels of government, working closely with the MAV, Rural Councils Victoria and the Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance on issues including funding, road management, pest impacts, the Jeparit Weir and the ESVF levy.	**Ongoing**
Develop a schedule of meetings between Councillors and regional partners and networks to ensure connection and collaboration	Council continued to strengthen relationships with key organisations and stakeholders through its Councillor briefing program, with presentations from organisations including WEMT, IBAC, WestWind, SCOA, Nhill College and the Nhill Learning Centre. A strong pipeline of future briefing presentations has also been established to support informed decision-making and strategic collaboration in 2026/2027.	**100%**
Engage and work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council on projects within our Shire	Council strengthened regional partnerships throughout 2025/26 by hosting key forums with BGLC, government agencies and local government representatives, while collaborating with Barengi Gadjin Land Council on opportunities to enhance cultural interpretation along the Wimmera River Discovery Trail.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Explore flexible and innovative services		
Undertake a scoping plan for unstaffed access to Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools	Initial planning has been undertaken alongside the Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools service review, with a successful budget submission completed for 2026/2027 which would support a pilot project of this at one location within the Shire.	**Ongoing**
Complete service reviews for Local Laws, Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools, Customer Service and Libraries, Planning and Building	Council substantially completed service reviews for Local Laws, Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools, and Planning and Building Services during the year. The Libraries Service Review remains underway, with community consultation informing final recommendations, and all reviews expected to be completed in 2026/27 alongside additional scheduled reviews.	**75%**
Adopt a Generative AI Policy	Council developed and adopted a Generative AI Policy during the year, supporting the safe and responsible use of AI technologies across the organisation. The policy provides a framework for innovation while ensuring associated risks are effectively managed.	**100%**
Ensure community needs shape future service planning		
Develop a project management framework that best positions Council to succeed in applications for grants for community identified projects	Council completed the rollout of its internal Project Management Framework, providing a policy, project pipeline and supporting tools to ensure projects are strategically planned, well-governed and ready to pursue funding opportunities as they arise.	**100%**
Leverage RCCC to begin implementing a CRM, incorporating complaints management	The RCCC project focused on implementing a new Standard Operating Environment to support Council's digital transformation objectives. A Customer Request Management system was also identified as a community priority through the Deliberative Panel process and will be explored further in 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**
Develop a Service Promotion Plan that sets out when key services will be promoted, explained and reviewed	Council commenced development of a Service Promotion Plan during the year, with completion scheduled for 2026/2027 following resourcing constraints, while continuing to promote services and programs through existing communication channels.	**60%**

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Strategic Indicators

Priority	Comments	Result
Review Advocacy Strategy in preparation for the 2026 State Election	Council strengthened its advocacy efforts during 2025/2026 by embedding key priorities within the Council Plan 2025-2029 and actively engaging with Ministers, government agencies and elected representatives on issues important to the Hindmarsh community. Advocacy focused on priorities including the future of the Jeparit Weir, the long-term financial sustainability of rural councils and other regional investment needs, while collaboration through the Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance helped advance a coordinated regional advocacy agenda for future government funding and election commitments.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Major Initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the **2025/2026 budget for the year**.

Major Initiative	Progress
No major initiatives.	

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Services

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2025/2026 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided with the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $
Community Development	Council's community Development Team works with community groups, organisations and individuals to assist communities reach their aspirations and be healthy, active and engaged.	184,924 180,468 4,455
Maternal 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.	509 1250 (741)
Kindergarten Services	Provision of Kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow under contract with Horsham District Kindergarten Association. Council does not directly deliver Kindergarten Services.	(13,575) 48,274 (61,849)

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Services		
Service	**Description**	**Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $**
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	92,555 71,756 20,979
Aged and Disability Services	Council ceased to provide in-home aged care services on 30 June 2023. Costs related to Aged Care include Regional Assessment Services as well as social support.	62,065 71,899 (99,834)
Health Promotion	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	86,832 192,127 (105,295)
Community Transport	Council does not directly deliver community transport; it provides a community bus for hire and supports access to services delivered by external providers such as the Centre for Participation.	0
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill and improving services to Jeparit and Rainbow.	85,041 149,452 (64,411)
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	83,181 121,335 (38,154)
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	90,919 100,698 (9,779)
Public Order and 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.	180,041 109,774 70,267
Early Years	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	8,747 8,289 458

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Service Performance Indicators

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed **service performance indicators and measures** including explanation of results in the comments:

Service Performance Indicator/Measure	Result 2026	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Material Variations
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Service Standard *Infant enrolments in the MCH service* [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Service Cost *Cost of the MCH service* [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Participation *Participation in the MCH service* Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Participation *Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children* [Number of aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Satisfaction *Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage Visit* [Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Food Safety					
Timeliness *Time taken to action food complaints* [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	Council's Administration Officer provides initial contact to acknowledge the receipt of the request and obtain initial information within 1- 2 business days. The 2025/2026 response time of 3 days reflects when Council's part-time EHO responds to the complaint.
Service Standard *Food Safety Assessments* [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the *Food Act 1984* / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the *Food Act 1984*] x100	80.46%	121.11%	100%	80%	The result is influenced by the total number of eligible Class 1 and Class 2 premises requiring assessment during the reporting period. While the percentage completed decreased, Council continued to prioritise higher-risk food premises and public health outcomes through its food safety compliance program. The reduction in % is due to lack of available staff.
Food Safety *Samples* [Number of foods samples obtained / Required number of food samples] x100	80.77%	111%	New	New	Council was required to collect 26 food samples and collected 21 food samples. The reduction can be attributed to staff departure at the second half of the financial year.
Service Cost *Food safety service* [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the *Food Act 1984*]	$847.63	$1,448.31	$1,282.38	$776.43	Council saw a reduction in resourcing in the Environmental Health Service team in 2025/26 which resulted in reduced expenditure on wages. Key services were still provided by a qualified Environmental Health Officer.

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Health and Safety *Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications* [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100	n/a	100%	n/a	n/a	Council does not have direct control over the number of critical non-compliance notifications received. This reduction simply reflects that there was no critical non-compliance notifications received.
Libraries					
Utilisation *Loans per Head of Population* [Number of library collection item loans / Population]	1.55	1.69	1.44	New	No material Variance
Resource Currency *Recently Purchased Library Collection* [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	28.31%	34.42%	33.21%	33.41%	Council has purchased library resources at consistent levels over the previous several reporting years. As this is a rolling total over the five years, a higher than usual volume of purchasing undertaken in April/May 2021/2022 has resulted in a drop-off in this financial year.
Service Cost *Cost of library service per population* [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	$40.32	$41.16	$62.70	$61.44	No material variance.
Participation *Library membership* [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	17.33%	36.40%	17.88%	New	The library membership input for the 2024/2025 financial year incorrectly combined the mid-year and EOFY reporting. The total membership at EOFY in 2024/2025 was 997 (18.25%) and the total membership at EOFY in 2025/2026 is 947.

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Participation *Library visits per head of population* [Number of library visits / Population]	1.51	2.23	2.37	New	The library visitation input for the 2024/2025 financial year incorrectly combined the mid-year and EOFY reporting. The total membership at EOFY in 2024/2025 was 8,121 and the total visitation at EOFY 2025/2026 is 8,262. This is considered an acceptable increase in visitation.
Animal Management					
Timeliness *Time taken to action animal management requests* [Number of days between receipt ad first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management request]	1.03	1.00	1.00	1.00	No material variance. Council aims to respond to animal management requests within one business day.
Service Standard *Animals reclaimed* [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100	36.76%	78.26%	48.00%	62.96%	Of the 68 animals collected, 25 were reclaimed and 31 were rehomed, demonstrating positive outcomes for most animals entering Council's care. The remaining animals may not have been suitable for rehoming or returning to an owner due to factors such as the inability to identify an owner, behavioural concerns, health issues or other welfare considerations. Council has also increased the advertisement of animals for reclaiming and adoption via Facebook to encourage community members to provide animals safe and healthy homes.

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Service Standard *Animals Rehomed* [Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100	72.09%	100%	92.31%	29.63%	Although the rehoming percentage decreased, the actual number of animals rehomed more than doubled during the reporting period. The lower percentage reflects the increased number of unclaimed animals in Council's care rather than a reduction in rehoming efforts. Not all animals are suitable for rehoming, with considerations including animal health, temperament, behavioural assessments and the availability of appropriate rehoming placements. Despite these challenges, Council achieved positive outcomes for most unclaimed animals received during the year.
Service Cost *Cost of animal management service per population* [Direct cost of the animal management service/Population]	$38.87	$25.42	$27.49	$41.97	Additional resources were required to ensure appropriate training and coverage of legislated services in Council's local laws service area due the retirement of a long-serving employee. This resulted in an increase in expenditure in this service area, however 2025/2026 also saw an increase in animal management activities including a subsidised cat-desexing program, development of a new Domestic Animal Management Plan and commencement of the Local Laws review.
Health and Safety *Animal management prosecutions* [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0.00%	100%	0.00%	100%	While Council undertook enforcement action relating to animal management in 2025/2026, no enforcement matters progressed to prosecution.

#resp
AFL
87

Built and Natural Environment

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Strategic Indicators

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2025/2026 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Priority	Comments	Result
2.1 We care for and connect with our natural environment		
Complete and promote walking and cycling trail networks		
Install signage for the Wimmera River Discovery Trail	The Wimmera River Discovery Trail was substantially completed during 2025/26 and has been well received by residents and visitors, with future improvements planned for signage, wayfinding and culturally significant interpretive experiences in partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, subject to funding.	**Ongoing**
Create a portfolio of media showcasing cycling and walking trails, to utilise on Council platforms	Council has utilised the Visit Hindmarsh Facebook page and Hindmarsh Shire Council's website to promote a variety of trails throughout 2025/2026, with a particular focus on the completed Wimmera River Discovery Trail.	**100%**
Investigate viability of Council supporting Park Run establishment in Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola	This project has been carried over to the 2026/2027 Council Plan Actions for completion. Initial conversations have commenced with interested communities. Council supported the Dimboola Dash event in Dimboola in 2025/2026, which had run options of multiple lengths, with organisers aiming to repeat the event in future years.	**Ongoing**
Maintain and enhance recreational spaces		
Complete Masterplans for the Dimboola Recreation Reservice, Davis Park Precinct and Jeparit Riverbank Tennis Court / Caravan Park Precinct	Council progressed the development of masterplans for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve, Davis Park Precinct and Jeparit Riverbank Tennis Court/Caravan Park Precinct, completing extensive community consultation and advancing the projects towards finalisation to guide future investment and development.	**75%**
Complete the Davis Park Changeroom and Tiered Seating upgrades	Construction works for the Davis Park Changeroom and Tiered Seating were completed in early 2026, with the official opening held on 11 April 2026.	**100%**
Commence Dimboola Swimming Pool accessibility upgrade and wet deck	Council continued planning for the Dimboola Swimming Pool Accessibility Upgrade and Wet Deck project, including completion of the tender process and assessment of project delivery options. A community meeting will be held in 2026/2027 to discuss project scope, funding considerations and the preferred pathway forward.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Support environmental tourism and stewardship		
Update Council's website to link to existing information around birdwatching opportunities within the Shire	Council's website has been updated to promote birdwatching opportunities and promoted via the Visit Hindmarsh Facebook page. www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/birdwatching	**100%**
Advocate for the re-opening of the Little Desert National Park and continued investment in its tourism opportunities	Horseshoe Bend and Ackle Bend reopened in time for the September/October 2025 school holidays, while Council continued to promote tourism opportunities through Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, including major caravan and camping shows, influencer campaigns and hosting Channel 9's Postcards in the region.	**Ongoing**
Advocate for appropriate management of trees on and in the Wimmera River	Council maintained a collaborative approach with the Wimmera CMA and DEECA to manage vegetation within the Wimmera River corridor. Funding has been allocated in 2026/2027 to remove two trees in Dimboola that may impact river flows and flood management outcomes.	**Ongoing**
Manage wild animals and invasive weeds on Council owned and managed land to maintain Ecological balance and protect local biodiversity		
Engage with West Wimmera Action Group, Landcare and other pertinent community groups to attend briefings and talk to Councillors and Council about what they see is required in this area	Council strengthened relationships with environmental and natural resource management organisations throughout the year, including WWAG, Landcare and Trust for Nature. Collaboration focused on pest management, environmental stewardship and sustainable land management, while engagement through Councillor briefings and stakeholder discussions helped inform Council policy development and future partnership opportunities.	**100%**
Design the Roadside Pests and Weed Management Plan in collaboration Landcare groups	The 2025/2026 Roadside Pest and Weed Management program is complete in line with Council's adopted budget. 2026/2027 planning is underway in consultation with local Landcare groups. Weeds treated in 2025/26 include Boxthorn, Horehound, Thistles, Stinkwort, Prickly Pear, Caltrop and Bathurst Burr across 92kms of roads. 154 rabbit warrens destroyed across 9kms of roads.	**100%**
Publish education material to support property owners to 'do their bit' to manage pests and weeds	Council continued to deliver education and awareness activities to support private landowners in managing pests and weeds, with a current focus on rabbit control and promoting collaborative action with Landcare groups to reduce pest impacts across the municipality.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
2.2 Our infrastructure supports liveability and resilience		
Focus on maintenance that prioritises function for our farming network		
Host sessions with stakeholders and farmers that identify and resolve issues and opportunities relating to local agricultural road networks	Farmer consultations completed in Q3 2025/2026 were held in Netherby, Broughton, Jeparit, Rainbow, Nhill and Dimboola. The sessions discussed the identification of priority roads and projects, logging rabbit issues, and general discussion.	**100%**
Ongoing inspections and maintenance of road and footpath networks to meet the requirement set in Road Management Plan	Ongoing inspections and maintenance of road and footpath networks have been completed in line with Council's Road Management Plan, supporting the continued safety and serviceability of transport infrastructure across the municipality.	**100%**
Adopt the Asset Management Plan	The Asset Management Plan was adopted by Council in October 2025 in line with the requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*.	**100%**
Invest in essential infrastructure that supports our townships and agricultural industries		
Leverage the Road Management Plan to identify key footpaths used by our ageing community, and develop and communicate a maintenance plan	Council increased footpath inspection frequency during the year, enabling maintenance issues to be identified and addressed more proactively. Key upgrades were completed in Lloyd Street and MacPherson Street, while community feedback informed further accessibility improvements and future footpath works planned for Nhill in 2026/2027.	**100%**
Maintain the condition of existing road infrastructure within the municipality by prioritising capital investment on renewal over new and upgrade projects (ongoing)	The 2025/2026 adopted Capital Works Program has been substantially completed with minimal projects to be carried into 2026/2027. The 2026/2027 Capital Works program has been developed with a focus on renewal of existing infrastructure.	**Ongoing**
Complete the Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study	Council completed a detailed feasibility study of the Jeparit Weir during the year, confirming the existing structure is in poor condition and requires full replacement. The study has strengthened Council's advocacy efforts to secure funding for the estimated $5.4 million project and improve community resilience to flood risks.	**100%**

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Plan for climate resilience and risk mitigation		
Work with key community, government and emergency management stakeholders to build community capacity and resilience to support response and recovery	Council worked closely with the MEMPC and WEMT throughout the year to strengthen emergency management capability and review key planning documents, including completion of the updated Municipal Emergency Management Plan in May 2026. Council also assisted Horsham Rural City Council's recovery efforts following the Grass Flats fire by providing resources to support the recovery centre.	**Ongoing**
Deliver a communications campaign in the leadup to summer to educate about emergency planning, vulnerable persons and keeping informed	Council supported community preparedness during the fire danger period through education and awareness campaigns focused on property maintenance, Free Green Waste Month, fire safety inspections and CFA Fire Ready resources. Residents were also provided with information on heatwave preparedness, hot weather travel safety and local CFA information sessions to help strengthen community resilience.	**100%**
Implement activities from the Climate Adaption Strategy	A complete update of actions completed from the Climate Adaption Strategy was provided in Q4 2026. This update can be found here: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Council/News-and-Media/Latest-News/Climate-Adaption-Strategy-Update	**Ongoing**
2.3 We support development that enhances needs-based growth		
Engage with developers, community stakeholders, and Traditional Owners to ensure inclusive, well-planned growth		
Meet with representatives from Traditional Owners Groups to improve understanding of Cultural Heritage Overlays and Cultural Heritage Management Planning	Council continued to strengthen relationships with Traditional Owners through ongoing collaboration with Barengi Gadjin Land Council during 2025/26. Engagement focused on cultural heritage management, opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal cultural values into Council planning and projects, and the development of cultural interpretation initiatives along the Wimmera River Discovery Trail, with discussions continuing on a range of matters including Land Use Activity Agreements.	**Ongoing**
Host information sessions regarding subdivision, shed construction and re-zoning	Council officers are prioritising website updates to ensure that this information is true and accurate. Once these are complete, presentations will be considered for community members and prospective developers.	**10%**

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable, and affordable		
Promote and enable subdivision opportunities in central areas of townships	Council continued to support residential growth and housing development through preliminary planning advice for two proposed multi-lot developments in Nhill. Together, the developments have the potential to deliver 17 new dwellings, with further promotion of subdivision opportunities planned through website enhancements and development information resources.	**Ongoing**
Seek funding to undertake Settlement Strategy within the municipality	Council continues to recognise the importance of a Municipal Settlement Strategy; however, progress is dependent on completion of key strategic planning initiatives. No suitable funding opportunities were identified during 2025/2026, with work expected to commence once prerequisite planning activities are completed.	**40%**
Refine anomalies amendment for implementation into Planning Scheme	Council continued to progress the refinement of planning scheme anomalies in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Work has focused on reviewing and categorising exhibited and non-exhibited amendment matters to support future implementation into the Planning Scheme. Refinement activities remain ongoing and are being undertaken as resources and priorities permit.	**10%**
Invest in essential infrastructure upgrades to support new housing developments and population growth		
Investigate cost-effective ways to upgrade Council infrastructure to support housing developments	Council continued drafting a Developer Contributions Policy to help support infrastructure required for future housing and population growth. The draft policy is currently under Executive Leadership Team review, with further work on a developer contribution levy subject to funding availability and specialist advice.	**70%**

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Major Initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the **2025/2026 budget for the year**.

Major Initiative	Progress
Undertake Unsealed Road Construction on Boyeo Tarranginnie Rd, Boyeo, Yanac South Rd, Yanac, Peakes Three Chain Rd, Woorak and Propodollah Extension Rd, Propodollah	Complete
Undertake sealed road construction including major stabilised patching, Nhill Rainbow/Lush Rd, Nhill Rainbow/Three Chaines Rd, Woorak-Ni-Ni-Lorquon and Glenlee Lorquon Rd, Broughton Kaniva Rd, Nhill Rainbow/Kruger Rd and Nhill Rainbow/Solly Rd	Netherby Lorquon and Lorquon Road, Dimboola Minyip Road, Federal Street, Rainbow, Tarranyurk East Road and Major Patch work on several roads completed
Drainage Maintenance on Lloyd St, Dimboola	Progressing – 70% complete
Footpath on Whitehead St, Nhill (including pedestrian crossing)	Not commenced (Multiyear project)
Footpath on Park St, Nhill	Not commenced (Multiyear project)
Footpath on MacPherson St, Nhill	Complete
Improvements to Dimboola Swimming Pool	Project on hold due to insufficient funding. Awaiting a suitable funding opportunity
Continue the construction of Davis Park facilities	Complete
Installation of studio cabins at Nhill Holiday Park	Complete

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Services

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2025/2026 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided with the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $
Local Roads and Bridges	The aim of Council's road and bridges program is to provide safe, all-weather access to residences and allow for efficient transport of goods to and from the Shire.	6,679,825 2,642,953 4,036,363
Drainage Management	The aim of this program is to have well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	570,109 505,451 64,658
Paths and Trails	The aim of Council's paths and trails program is to provide well maintained pedestrian, including disabled, access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	370,399 313,668 56,731
Tree Management	The aim of Council's Tree Management program is to conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens and recreation reserves.	411,289 378,148 33,141
Town Beautification	The aim of Council's Town Beautification program is to maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	823,381 974,419 (151,038)
Community Centres and Public Halls	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled buildings, and support of communities that undertake these activities on behalf of Council. To protect and enhance the health of the community.	2,753,444 860,839 1,892,605
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.	209,320 953,778 (444,458)
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	251,907 325,668 (73,731)
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	63,462 (58,702) 122,164
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	(7,653) 31,178 (38,831)

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Services		
Service	**Description**	**Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $**
Environment Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	21,025 92,084 (71,059)
Fire Protection	To identify potential fire hazards and to prevent loss to life and property caused by fire.	87,431 104,397 (16,966)

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Service Performance Indicators

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed **service performance indicators and measures** including explanation of results in the comments:

Service Performance Indicator/Measure	Result 2026	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Material Variations
Roads					
Satisfaction of Use *Sealed local road requests* [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	7.88	4.79	10.62	11.99	There were 28 sealed local road requests in 2024/2025 compared to 62 in 2023/2024. Council has undertaken targeted engagement with farmers to determine priority roads for maintenance and upgrades.
Condition *Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards* [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	98.29%	98.12%	98.29%	98.29%	No material variation.
Service cost *Cost of sealed local road reconstruction* [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	$43.37	$57.38	$53.71	$49.79	Reconstruction costs decreased due to favourable weather and larger road sections. Last year, dry conditions made pavement compaction difficult, increasing unit rates and causing budget overruns.

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Roads					
Service Cost *Cost of sealed local road resealing* [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	$6.33	$10.89	$6.98	$6.03	Road sealing costs depend on several factors including application rate and type, job size, bitumen market price at the time of sealing etc. This year works completed were larger in size which are generally cheaper and hence overall sealing rate was reduced.
Satisfaction *Satisfaction with sealed local roads* [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	49	47	48	48	Council's community satisfaction survey results asked for responders to identify roads requiring repair, most identified roads are managed by VicRoads suggesting there is confusion around management responsibility that can be addressed in Council communication.
Aquatic Facilities					
Service Standards *Health inspections of aquatic facilities* [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / number of Council aquatic facilities]	1.0	1.0	1.25	0.00	Council completed all four required inspections at the four Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools.
Utilisation *Utilisation of aquatic facilities* [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	2.29	2.14	0.83	0.53	There were 12,510 visits Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools during the 2025/2026 season, with free access supporting strong use.
Service Cost *Cost of aquatic facilities* [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	$37.30	$59.14	$105.58	$136.36	Council undertook a review of pool services, informed by community engagement, prior to the 2025/2026 season that resulted in reduced days and hours of operation based on service demand. Similarly, Council has now included a provision in the Enterprise Agreement relating to Pool Employees that brought pay rates and conditions in line with industry standards.

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Waste Management					
Service Standard *Kerbside collection bins missed* [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	2.59	0.14	0.35	0.00	58 bins were missed this financial year out of nearly 224,000 collections. Council's contractor aims to complete a follow up collection for all missed bins on the same day, or early the following day.
Service Cost *Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service* [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	$300.65	$294.89	$270.39	$227.59	No material variance. Council's contractor collects over 2,800 bins weekly and travels over 42,000km annually to collect waste across the Shire.
Service Cost *Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service* [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	$158.53	$163.75	$75.62	$125.94	No material variance. Cost of kerbside recycling, collection and transport to processing facilities are reflected in this figure.
Waste Diversion *Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill* [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	16.56%	22.92%	22.16%	34.54%	The reduction in diversion rate is likely due to the full implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) where less glass and cans are being placed in recycle bins, and cardboard is being taken directly to deposit centres for receiving.

99

Competitive and Innovative Economy

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Strategic Indicators

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2025/2026 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Priority	Comments	Result
3.1 Our local businesses are supported to grow		
Reduce red tape and simplify planning and business approval processes through engagement with current and future applicants		
Produce simple fact sheets on starting a hospitality business, the planning process, and other relevant topics	Council continued implementation of the Business Friendly Councils program, completing workshops and progressing implementation planning while developing planning fact sheets and identifying plain English resources for local adaptation. Work will continue to expand and promote practical information and guidance to support business establishment, investment and development across the municipality.	**100%**
Develop business workshop plan for year 2 that covers budgeting, forecasting, finance and procurement	A review of Council's business grants resulted in funding being allocated in the 2026/2027 budget to support these initiatives. Significant business engagement was undertaken during the year, and other projects, including the MyCities rollout, were progressed and will be implemented in 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**
Support local procurement and small business networks		
Review the Procurement Policy and amend to strengthen local supply provisions	The Procurement Policy was reviewed and adopted during 2025/2026 to strengthen local supply provisions. Minor amendments were subsequently made to further refine the policy and support Council's commitment to local procurement and economic development.	**100%**
Finalise the additional Goods and Services Panel of Suppliers, supporting applications from local businesses	Council re-advertised the Goods and Services panel and added 17 additional suppliers in 2025/2026.	**100%**
Publish 'shop local' campaigns in the lead up to Christmas, to encourage people to purchase gifts locally	Council delivered a 'Shop Local' campaign ahead of Christmas 2025 across local newspapers, radio and social media, encouraging residents and visitors to support local businesses. Reusable promotional materials and digital assets were also developed to support ongoing local purchasing initiatives and targeted campaigns linked to major events, including Gather Round.	**100%**

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation		
Encourage and support community co-op entrepreneurship	While a formal co-operative model has not been established, Council has continued to support community groups and individuals to activate vacant or underutilised assets for business and community purposes. This has included exploring opportunities such as food production from the Jeparit Hall kitchen, expanded community use of the Jeparit Bowling Club, and creative re-use proposals for the former Jeparit Infant Welfare Centre.	**Ongoing**
Develop a briefing document that considers use of the former mechanics Workshop in Jeparit as a community co-op	Council continued to investigate future use options for the former Mechanics Workshop in Jeparit, including potential community and public art uses proposed by the Menzies Symposium. Ongoing assessment of the facility's suitability, asset management requirements and leasing or disposal options will inform future decisions regarding the site.	**Ongoing**
3.2 We attract investment that aligns with community values		
Promote regional strengths and investment readiness		
Partner with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism (GWMT) to deliver the Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) for Hindmarsh	Major projects included upgrades at the Nhill Holiday Park, enhancements to displays at the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, participation in the Business Friendly Councils program, and streamlined volunteer onboarding processes. Strong promotion of the Rainbow Silo Art project contributed to high visitation following its opening, while planning progressed for new tourism initiatives, including a pilot heritage rail tour in partnership with Seymour Heritage Rail. Council also worked proactively with event organisers to support the growth of local events and visitor experiences. This approach contributed to the expansion of activities at Rainbow Rises Events and the successful delivery of the inaugural Dimboola Dash Running Festival, which attracted more than 200 participants. Together with ongoing support for projects such as the proposed Nhill Silo and the return of events including the Wimmera Steampunk Festival, these initiatives continue to enhance Hindmarsh Shire's profile as a destination to visit, invest and explore.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Explore joint ventures and development incentives		
Commence working on a briefing piece that considers Council's potential involvement in joint ventures	While this action was not completed, Council commenced preliminary investigations into future joint venture and public-private partnership opportunities through the Industrial Land Prospectus project, including consideration of the governance and risk management frameworks required to support investment attraction and economic growth. Initial discussions with regional organisations experienced in public-private partnerships are planned to help inform future opportunities.	**Ongoing**
Support development that reflects local character		
Welcome developers with an interest in creating retirement villages or diverse home developments that fit within town planning and community needs for new residents	Council continued to support residential development by providing proactive planning advice to developers and prospective investors. Through participation in the Business Friendly Councils program, stronger integration between planning, regulatory services and economic development has enhanced Council's ability to facilitate investment and support sustainable growth across the municipality.	**100%**
3.3 We advocate for and support diverse and innovative industries		
Be leaders in positive change that creates investment in the direction of our community		
Support activities and training with staff that encourages innovation and creative thinking for community benefit	While this action was not formally completed, Council focused on strengthening values-driven behaviours and psychosocial wellbeing across the organisation, recognising that a safe, inclusive and supportive workplace is essential for fostering innovation, continuous improvement and positive outcomes for the community.	**Ongoing**
Deliver actions within the Economic Development Strategy	Council officers presented a complete update on actions taken against the Economic Development Strategy at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026.	**Ongoing**
Explore community social enterprise opportunities and philanthropy		
Plan an information session for community members on what social enterprise opportunities could be possible within the Shire	While this action was not completed, Council identified that significant preliminary work was required to investigate potential social enterprise opportunities, with available resources prioritised towards the delivery of other Council Plan and Economic Development Strategy initiatives during 2025/2026.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Consider amending the Fees and Charges section of Council's budget or review fee-based policies to support access to Council spaces for this purpose	Fees and Charges were reviewed as part of Council's annual budget development process and Council Plan objectives, with the updated schedule adopted by Council in Quarter 4 2025/2026. The review included hire and facility use fees, noting that many community facilities operate under user agreements and leases that provide access at fees below market value to support community outcomes.	**100%**
Foster industry collaboration and innovation		
Identify networks of like businesses and industries, and explore options for collaboration, connection and innovation	Council continued to develop its internal business listing and progressed implementation of online business and community directories to improve visibility and connectivity across the municipality. While no formal collaboration model was established during 2025/2026, Council commenced discussions with WestVic Business regarding sector support opportunities and will continue to promote business development, networking and support initiatives for local businesses.	**Ongoing**
Expand farmer consultations to include industry collaboration opportunities relating to shared goals and issues	Farmer consultations organised and completed by Council's Infrastructure Services team with a focus on Landcare (pest and weed management and activities relating to agri-business) and key road routes. Council attended events that supported industry collaboration and advocacy, including the Victorian Farmers Federation president presentation to the Dimboola Football and Netball Club.	**Ongoing**
Showcase our history to create rich visitor experiences		
Develop action plan to implement the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Masterplan	While an action plan was not developed during 2025/2026, Council continued to progress curation and interpretation projects at the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, including new storyboards, registration of the Detpa School as a School Museum, and a collection stocktake to identify significant items. Council and the Museum Committee will continue to pursue funding opportunities and implement priorities from the Museum Master Plan to enhance the museum's profile as a regional heritage attraction.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Develop priority projects list for Yurunga and WMPM to be considered for project scoping	Priority project lists for Yurunga Homestead and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum have been developed to support future project planning and funding applications. Council is working with both committees to prioritise works and align projects with available funding. At WMPM, planning is underway for significant maintenance and restoration works at Briarley House and Albacutya Homestead, while priorities for Yurunga are being informed through the development of the Conservation Management Plan.	**100%**
Support community efforts to deliver Heritage events, such as the Nhill Heritage Weekend	Council supported the delivery of the Nhill Heritage Weekend through compliance and marketing assistance, while significant planning was undertaken for the Seymour Heritage Rail tour scheduled for October 2026. The Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum also hosted a number of well-attended events celebrating local heritage, including Easter activities, new resident events, historical film screenings and other community-focused initiatives.	**100%**

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Major Initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the **2025/2026 budget for the year**.

Major Initiative	Progress
No major initiatives.	

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Services

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2025/2026 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided with the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $
Economic Development	Facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for residents to access employment.	293,706 130,173 163,533
Tourism	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	(21,175) 287,497 (308,672)
Private Works	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 crossovers, and supply of labour, plant and materials. • Private works also include repair to Council's infrastructure caused by repair work to third party assets.	(516,035) (1,978,144) 1,462,109
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	(598,128) (541,521) (56,607)
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome.	79,560 79,394 166
Land Use Planning	To ensure that any development that occurs in Hindmarsh Shire is carried out in accordance with relevant planning policies, principles and controls. 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. Implement actions from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan.	193,536 239,979 (46,443)
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community. To 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.	194,593 189,796 4,797

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy - Service Performance Indicators

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed **service performance indicators and measures** including explanation of results in the comments:

Service Performance Indicator/Measure	Result 2026	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Material Variations
Statutory Planning					
Timeliness *Time taken to decide planning applications* [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	72.00	120.00	94.00	107.00	Most Planning Permits were decided within statutory timeframes. This figure does not account for 'pauses' in statutory processing times where Council is waiting on referrals or requesting additional information from the applicant. The complexity of planning applications can increase the overall timeframe as the required information is gathered.
Service Standard *Planning applications decided within required time frames* [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	93.33%	71.43%	53.33%	54.55%	Council streamlined statutory planning processes while maintaining assessment standards, resulting in more applications being decided within legislated timeframes despite complexity and varying nature of applications received.
Service Cost *Cost of statutory planning service* [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	$4,931.44	$4,894.24	$8,777.28	$4,413.35	Council has employed a full-time Planning Officer to ensure applications are cost efficient. During 2025/2026, 27 Planning applications were received.
Decision Making *Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT* [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	No planning decisions were subject to VCAT review.

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Strategic Indicators

The following statement reviews the **performance of Council against the Council Plan** including results achieved in relation to the 2025/2026 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Priority	Comments	Result
4.1 We are a transparent and responsive organisation		
Provide regular updates on Council decisions and actions		
Continue with the regular newsletters and social media posts that are communicated in plain language	During 2025/2026, Council circulated three quarterly newsletters which were delivered to all households within Hindmarsh Shire, published ten monthly newsletters which were printed for free collection at Customer Service Centres and Libraries and circulated 27 electronic newsletters. Council also published 1,342 posts across all Council Managed Facebook pages – these posts attracted a total of 1.96 million views and 18.9K interactions.	**100%**
Promote our services, projects and activities throughout their lifecycle	Council provided regular updates as projects progressed throughout the year. Some of these projects included the new Davis Park Grandstand and Changerooms, a raised pedestrian crossing on Macpherson Street in Nhill and construction of new cabins at the Nhill Holiday Park to name a few.	**100%**
Mayor to record a short summary following a Council meeting to be published online	Council summary videos have been recorded after each Council meeting; most being published on Council's Facebook page within a week of the meeting. A few were missed due to technical difficulties. These summary videos will continue to be recorded after each Council meeting.	**Ongoing**
Improve follow-up systems and response times		
Commence implementation of CRM	Implementation of a Customer Request Management system was scoped in 2025/2026 and is included as an action in the 2026/2027 Council Plan Actions.	**Ongoing**
Undertake Complaints Handling training with the Victorian Ombudsman	Internal training will be organised for 2026/2027. Council met with the Victorian Ombudsman about their free and paid training and valued the input from their team. Unfortunately, time was not mutually available to deliver in 2025/2026.	**Ongoing**
Review the Customer Service Charter	The Customer Service Charter has been internally reviewed, and Council will commence staff consultation on the draft document in early 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Increase use of autoreplies after contact is made across generic email addresses, linking to key information available for that service area	Autoreplies have been reviewed across the organisation for all generic mailboxes used by community members (i.e. those not tied to an individual Councillor or employee) to increase the provision of information around expected response times, where to go for more information and who to call if the item is urgent.	**100%**
Share decision-making processes in plain language		
Ensure communication is transparent, even when the news is bad	Council has consistently aimed to inform the community in a transparent and realistic manner, in 2025/2026 this has included budget limitations, grant application failure, rate cap miscalculation, the condition of the Jeparit Weir, irresponsible pet ownership, Silo Art closures and asset sales.	**100%**
Improve Have Your Say Hindmarsh processes to ensure project information is updated and published after a decision is made	When any consultation or engagement process has had an outcome, the detail of the outcome is added to the Have Your Say Hindmarsh website. Council officers have reminders set to consistently check projects to make sure outcomes are added to them.	**100%**
Update and adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Rules	Officers are in initial stages of reviewing the Governance Rules and are currently seeking an update on the planned release date for the Model Governance Rules to avoid duplication. Draft Model Governance Rules have been sighted, but these have not been formally progressed. With the new Local Government Act amendment Bill being passed, we expect that the Model Governance Rules will be released early in 2026/2027.	**Ongoing**
4.2 We engage our community with respect and openness		
Build capacity in staff and Councillors for engagement		
Undertake authentic engagement training as part of the annual Councillor Professional Development training	Authentic Engagement training was undertaken by Councillors on 22 October 2025 and will continue to form part of annual professional development activities.	**100%**
Support staff in undertaking de-escalation and managing difficult conversations training	Options for this training were explored, with other training prioritised in 2025/2026. It will continue to be considered in annual training budgets for customer-facing staff. Mentoring of Customer Service staff regarding de-escalation has been actively delivered by the Coordinator Libraries and Customer Service in line with Council's Complex Complainant Behaviour Policy.	**Ongoing**

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Review the Community Engagement Policy to ensure communication is clear around the outcomes that can and cannot be influenced by the engagement process	Council has reviewed its Manager Community Wellbeing position in 2025/2026 with a refreshed focus on Community Strategy and Engagement. This Policy has been delayed for review in line with the commencement of this position and their focus on reviewing Council's Community Engagement Framework, undertaking organisation-wide community engagement training and delivering innovative and effective community engagement activities. It is anticipated that this action will be carried into 2026/2027 and the Policy will be reviewed in the coming period.	**Ongoing**
Deliver Free From Violence / Primary Prevention Training with staff and Councillors	Council's Free from Violence Project Officer delivered four training modules across the organisation with staff and Councillors.	**100%**
Be present at community events and spaces		
Councillors to demonstrate availability and engagement in activity reports	Activity reports published as part of Council Agenda along with Councillor out and about posts included in Council's newsletters and on social media.	**100%**
Support Councillor and Executive staff attendance at community markets	Councillors and Council Staff have attended a variety of community events throughout the year, with Councillor attendance documented through Activity Reports and Councillor Out and About posts. Considerable staff representation at community events has not been formally captured for reporting purposes.	**Ongoing**
Create a calendar of community events and identify a Council representative who is best positioned to attend	Currently this is managed informally through the Senior and Executive Management Teams and ongoing engagement with community groups and Committees. As per the above item, Council ensured representatives were at concerts, markets, the Dimboola Dash, Pride Morning Tea, Lions Handover, Karen Church Official opening – to name a few!	**Ongoing**
Publish a Councillor Out and About post to complement Councillors activity reports	Councillor Out and About posts are published monthly and are shared on Council's Facebook page and in newsletters.	**100%**
Use varied channels to reach diverse groups		
Explore a partnership with local schools to enable Council content to be published in school newsletters	Council has regularly provided content to be published in local school newsletters. Content has included employment opportunities, youth events and Have Your Say items.	**100%**

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Contact key businesses, organisations and community groups to ensure that they can subscribe to Council communications	An email has been drafted and contact list collated ready to be sent off. Council held off on circulating to include details about MyCity events portal. The email will be circulated over the next several months once the MyCity portal is being fully utilised.	**90%**
4.3 We manage our resources responsibly and strategically		
Explore revenue streams beyond rates		
Complete the Industrial Land business case	The Industrial Land Business case was completed by consultant Street Ryan and noted by Council in Q4 2025/2026. Council has now invested in the development of an Investment Attraction Prospectus to action the findings of the Business Case and support private investment in development.	**100%**
Ensure processes enable effective use of developer contributions	Developer contributions are quarantined and once at a suitable level will be utilised in line with requirements under the Act.	**Ongoing**
Develop a Sponsorships and Donations Policy that enables private investment in community events and initiatives	Sponsorships and Donations Policy incorporated into the Contributions, Donations and Sponsorship Policy and adopted by Council on 24 September 2025.	**100%**
Report annually on Hindmarsh Holiday Parks revenue and investment to grow patronage	Council continues to report on Holiday Park occupation and review through quarterly finance reports (noting that some data not included in a quarterly report in 2025/2026 due to the transition to RMS – the new booking system - and time taking to confirm data accuracy).	**100%**
Prioritise spending aligned with community goals		
Improve internal systems for prioritising completion of existing projects within community expectations, and communicate transparently about delays	Council has reviewed and developed a comprehensive suite of project management documents – the Project Management Framework. This is effectively the internal management system that will ensure projects are in line with community expectations, completed effectively and that delays are able to identified clearly and communicated to the community. Council has already utilised Facebook to communicate project delays and manage expectations where possible when project scopes are altered by necessity.	**100%**
Develop the Workforce Plan to account for the implementation of the Council Plan	The Workforce Plan was completed and adopted by the Chief Executive Officer in October 2025.	**100%**

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Strategic Indicators		
Priority	**Comments**	**Result**
Review, amend and adopt the Hindmarsh Shire Council Procurement Policy	The Procurement Policy was updated and adopted in Q2.	**100%**
Report clearly on how money is spent and what value it delivers		
Review the Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act and present to Council for adoption by 30 June 2026	The Revenue and Rating Plan was adopted by Council on 24 June 2026 alongside the Annual Budget 2026/2027. Council has confirmed compliance with the rate cap and adjusted in line with the 2025/2026 miscalculation.	**100%**
Develop simple guides to financial reporting information that includes graphs and images to community budget and rating information to the community	Council commenced providing visual guides to quarterly financial reporting in 2025/2026 and produced a social video prior to the adoption of the budget that used simple, visual guides to explain how the budget is developed, what is in the budget and the constrained financial context that Council's budget is developed within.	**100%**
Publish information that explains how Council projects are funded, including own-source and grant-funded projects	Whenever Council provides project updates, we include a spiel about how the project was funded and who by. This includes media releases and social media posts.	**100%**

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Major Initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to **major initiatives** identified in the **2025/2026 budget for the year**.

Major Initiative	Progress
No major initiatives.	

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Services

The following statement provides information in relation to the **services funded in the 2025/2026 budget** and the persons or sections of the community who are provided with the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $
Council Elections	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council. Ongoing maintenance of the voters' rolls.	6,529 17,779 (11,250)
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	430,585 567,161 (136,576)
Civic Leadership and Governance	Provide effective civic leadership and ensure Council decisions are transparent, inclusive and informed by sound advice. Support the Mayor and Councillors, keep the community informed through regular media releases and newsletters, and advocate to politicians and government departments on key local government and community issues. Maintain memberships with the Municipal Association of Victoria, Rural Councils Victoria, Northwest Municipalities Association and Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (formerly WDA), and coordinate the Community Satisfaction Survey.	1,443,351 1,626,921 (183,570)
Customer Service Centres	Operate and maintain professional customer service centres in each township to support efficient service delivery to the community. Provide ratepayers and the public with information about Council and other government services and deliver licensing and registration services on behalf of VicRoads. Comply with Council's Customer Service Charter and seek to improve results in the annual community satisfaction survey.	383,705 427,126 (43,421)
Financial Management	Support Council's long-term financial viability through effective resource allocation, financial planning and management. Prepare Council's annual budget, capital works budget, Annual Report, and management reports for Council and senior managers. Invest surplus funds in accordance with Council's investment policy, legislative requirements and appropriate financial risk controls. Support internal and external audits, manage Council's taxation and superannuation obligations, and advocate to governments for additional funding and resources.	(9,946,535) (5,687,678) (4,258,857)
Rating and Valuations	Manage Council's rating system, including property valuations and the levying of rates and charges. Maintain property and valuation records, process supplementary valuations, and administer pensioner rate concessions on behalf of the State Government. Issue quarterly rates and valuation notices, collect outstanding rates and take legal action where required, and issue Land Information Certificates.	(8,692,793) (8,714,956) 22,163

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Services		
Service	**Description**	**Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $**
Records Management	Manage Council records efficiently throughout their lifecycle in accordance with Public Record Office Victoria standards and privacy, freedom of information and other statutory requirements.	50,072 59,562 (9,490)
Risk Management	Identify, monitor and manage Council's operational, employment and infrastructure risks. Maintain the Risk Register and coordinate regular reviews of risks and controls by senior management. Ensure Council's assets and interests are adequately insured, manage WorkCover insurance and workplace injury claims, and support quarterly meetings of the Risk Management and Audit Committees. Provide workplace health and safety advice to staff and contractors and support compliance with Council's statutory obligations.	586,600 826,424 (239,834)
Project and Contract Management	Prepare contract specifications, administer tender processes, and oversee Council's contracted services. Ensure tendering, contractor appointments and contract management comply with Council's procurement policies and statutory obligations, while achieving value for money and fit-for-purpose outcomes.	315,351 335,241 (19,890)
Payroll and Human Resources Services	Deliver accurate and timely payroll services to Council employees and provide human resources support and advice to management.	362,355 380,846 (18,491)
Emergency Management	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	26,114 60,697 (34,583)
Depots and Workshops	Operate and maintain Council's depots and workshops to securely store plant, equipment and materials, support outdoor staff, and undertake maintenance and repairs. Manage the purchase and upkeep of plant and equipment required for the efficient delivery of Council works.	763,456 257,438 506,018
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.	213,494 339,233 (125,739)

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Services		
Service	**Description**	**Net Cost Actual Budget Variance $**
Fleet Management	Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is managed, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and effective way possible. Timely maintenance of fleet vehicles. Purchase and replacement of fleet vehicles in accordance with Council policy.	1,422,145 1,222,920 199,225
Accounts	Manage Council's accounts payable and receivable functions efficiently and accurately. Process supplier invoices promptly ensuring that suppliers are paid within the applicable payment terms, maintain effective financial controls, issue debtor invoices, ensure rates are levied within the rate cap, and administer debt collection processes in accordance with Council's Debt Collection policy.	79,612 93,161 (13,459)

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Service Performance Indicators

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed **service performance indicators and measures** including explanation of results in the comments:

Service Performance Indicator/Measure	Result 2026	Result 2025	Result 2024	Result 2023	Material Variations
Governance					
Transparency *Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public* [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] x100	10.99%	14.29%	19.79%	24.39%	To increase transparency Council endeavoured to increase decision made in public Council meetings through publishing confidential information under the Act as attachments to public reports.

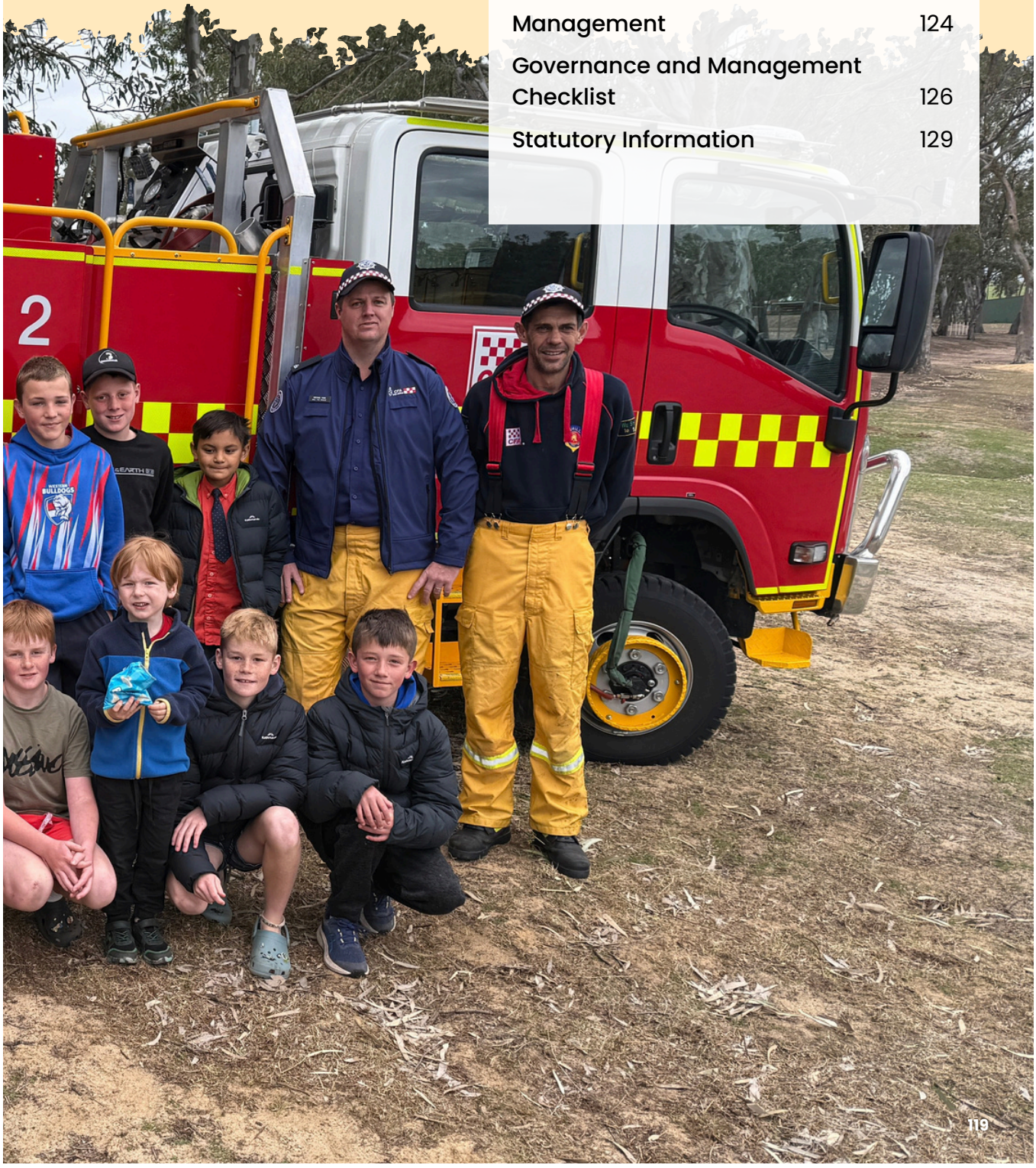
Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - Service Performance Indicators					
Service Performance Indicator/Measure	**Result 2026**	**Result 2025**	**Result 2024**	**Result 2023**	**Material Variations**
Consultation and Engagement *Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement* [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	61.00	59.00	52.00	53.00	Council continued to deliver a strong program of engagement activities in 2025/2026, including drop-ins, deliberative engagement sessions for the Council Plan and budget, CEO Drop-Ins, Farmer Consultations, project specific sessions and utilisation of the "Have Your Say" Hindmarsh platform.
Attendance *Councillor attendance at council meetings* [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	90.00%	94.87%	94.87%	97.44%	No material variation
Service Cost ($) *Cost of elected representation* [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	46,221.33	46,566.83	53,970.93	53,870.37	No material variance.
Satisfaction *Satisfaction with council decisions* [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	59.00	58.00	52.00	52.00	No material variance.

Part Six
Governance report

Contents

Part Six - Governance report

Governance 120
Management 124
Governance and Management Checklist 126
Statutory Information 129



Governance

Hindmarsh Shire Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community.

Council has several roles including:

- Taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements
- Ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life

The Act also specifies overarching governance principles for councils, including:

- Achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- Promoting the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks
- Engaging the municipal community in strategic planning and strategic decision-making
- Ensuring Council's ongoing financial viability
- Ensuring the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes, including community consultation, public forums such as ward meetings and the ability to make submissions to Special Committees of Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings and Delegated Committees of Council. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted Council policies.

Councillor allowances

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government through the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal sets the allowances paid to Councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each Council. In this instance, Hindmarsh Shire Council is recognised as a category 1 council.

The following table contains a summary of the allowances paid to each Councillor during the year.

Councillor	Allowance ($)	Superannuation ($)
Cr Ron Ismay	$80,980.88	$9,713.44
Cr Rosie Barker	$35,033.23	$4,204.01
Cr Roger Aitken	$25,098.24	$3,011.76
Cr James Barry	$25,098.24	$3,011.76
Cr Tony Clark	$25,098.24	$3,011.76
Cr Chan Uoy	$30,481.23	$3,657.72

Councillor expenses

In accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing their duties as a Councillor.

Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the reimbursement of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor and member of a Council Committee paid by the Council.

The details of the expenses including reimbursements of expenses for each Councillor paid by the council for the 2025/2026 year are set out in the following table.

Councillor	TR $	CM $	CC $	IC $	CT $
Cr Ron Ismay	-	-	-	-	-
Cr Rosie Barker	$175.77	-	-	-	-
Cr Roger Aitken	$86.57	-	-	-	-
Cr James Barry	-	-	-	-	-
Cr Tony Clark	-	-	-	-	-
Cr Chan Uoy	$1,606.88	-	-	-	$372.14

TR = Travel. **CM** = Car Mileage. **CC** = Child Care. **IC** = Information and Communication expenses. **CT** = Conferences and Training expenses.

Note: No expenses were paid by Council including reimbursements to members of Council committees during the year.

Meetings of Council

Hindmarsh Shire Council operates in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and holds Council meetings monthly, generally on the first or last Wednesday of each month except for January when no meeting is held.

Council encourages members of the public to attend Council meetings or to view our Council meetings live through Hindmarsh Shire Council's YouTube channel.

For the 2025/2026 financial year, Council held the following meetings:

- **12** ordinary Council meetings
- **3** special Council meetings

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings and Special Council meetings for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Councillor	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Total
Cr Ron Ismay	10	3	13
Cr Rosie Barker	10	3	13
Cr Roger Aitken	10	3	13
Cr James Barry	12	3	15
Cr Tony Clark	11	2	13
Cr Chan Uoy	12	2	14
Total Meetings Held	**12**	**3**	**15**

Delegated Committees

A delegated committee is a formally established group to which Council directly delegates its decision-making powers. Council established the following delegated committee in 2025/2026:

Delegated Committee	Councillors	Officers	Other	Purpose
Delegated Committee established by resolution on 4 February 2026	3	1	-	Established due to the inability to gain a quorum to determine the approval of costs associated for the Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay, and Councillor Roger Aitken to attend the Adelaide Caravan and Camping Show on Wednesday 25 February and Thursday 26 February 2026.

Internal resolution procedures

The *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 require a Council to adopt an Internal Resolution Procedure (Procedure) for addressing alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Council adopted an **Internal Resolution Procedure** in December 2024. The Procedure is designed to minimise cost and disruption of disputes to Council and individual Councillors and, where possible, avoid disputes escalating and becoming the subject of an internal arbitration.

Conflict of Interest

Councillors are elected by residents and ratepayers to act in the best interest of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest. When a Council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and Committee meetings.

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general, they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflicts of interest.

During 2025/2026, **27 conflicts of interest were declared** at Council meetings, including those declared during Council briefing sessions.

Management

The Act requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist and include this assessment in its report of operations. Council's Governance and Management Checklist results are set out in the section below. The following items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council established pursuant to Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Council is committed to good governance, public transparency and accountability. The Audit and Risk Committee is established to strengthen Council's governance, risk management, financial management and to drive continuous improvement. Pursuant to section 54(2) of the Act, the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (Charter) sets out the Committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities, reporting, administrative and governance arrangements. Pursuant to section 53(2) of the Act, the Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council and does not have delegated powers, including executive powers, management functions of delegated financial responsibility.

The Audit and Risk Committee membership comprises two Councillors and up to four independent members and their term of membership coincides with the term of Councillors. The members of the Audit and Risk Committee elect a Chair to fill that role, with an election held at the first meeting of each calendar year to elect a new Chair. In 2025/2026, the Audit and Risk Committee consists of four independent members, Mr Ashley Roberts (Chair), Mr Simon Coutts (resigned 25 March 2026), Ms Brooke Parish, Mr Rob Gersch and two Councillors, Cr Rosie Barker and Cr Chan Uoy. Prior to the Annual Statutory Meeting on 12 November 2025, Cr Rosie Barker and Cr James Barry were the delegated Councillor members.

The Audit and Risk Committee meets at least three times in each financial year. The internal auditor, Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Community Services, Manager Financial Services and Manager People and Performance attend all Audit and Risk Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports. The external auditors generally attend the June and September Audit and Risk Committee meetings to present the annual audit plan and Independent Audit Report.

Copies of the minutes of the meetings from each Audit and Risk Committee meeting are subsequently reported to and considered by Council.

Internal Audit

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council. A risk-based audit plan is prepared annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers Council's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment, prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input.

The Internal Auditor attends Audit Committee meetings to report on the status of the audit plan, comment on the implementation of audit recommendations and present findings of completed reviews.

During 2025/2026, internal audits were completed on Project Management and IT General Controls.

External Audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For 2025/2026, the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative, Ms Cassandra Gravenall of Crowe.

In the 2025/2026 Financial Year, Crowe representatives attended two Audit and Risk Committee meetings in September 2025 to present the independent audit report for the 2024/2025 financial year, and representative Cassandra Gravenall also attended the March 2026 meeting to present the 2025/2026 audit strategy. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Risk Management

Council's identified Strategic Risks as of 30 June 2026 are:

1	Environmental Sustainability
2	Financial Sustainability
3	Technology Security
4	Government Political and Policy Changes
5	Governance
6	Organisational Culture and Capability
7	Asset Management
8	Project Management and Strategic Execution
9	Community Needs

Council's Risk Management Policy, Risk Management Framework and Risk Appetite and Tolerance Statement were adopted on 28 August 2024. The Risk Management Policy clearly documents Hindmarsh Shire Council's approach to establishing and maintaining effective risk management culture across the organisation in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the principles and Guidelines set out in the International Risk Management Standards.

Council is committed to ensuring that effective risk management remains central to all its activities and is a core management competency. The aim of this policy is to ensure that risk management is embedded in the Council's processes and culture, where all employees are responsible for detecting, evaluating, and monitoring their risk environments.

Governance and Management Checklist

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Governance and Management Items	Assessment
1	**Community engagement policy** (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. Date of adoption: **6 March 2024**
2	**Community engagement guidelines** (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Guidelines adopted as part of Community Engagement Policy. Date of adoption: **6 March 2024**
3	**Financial Plan** (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act. Date of adoption: **18 June 2025**
4	**Asset Plan** (plan that sets out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act. Date of adoption: **29 October 2025**
5	**Revenue and Rating Plan** (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act. Date of adoption: **18 June 2025**
6	**Annual budget** (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act. Date of adoption: **18 June 2025**
7	**Risk policy** (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Adopted policy. Date of adoption: **28 August 2024**
8	**Fraud policy** (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Adopted policy. Date of adoption: **6 May 2026**
9	**Municipal emergency management planning** (Participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.)	MEMPC meetings attended on • **11 September 2025** • **11 December 2025** • **12 March 2026** • **11 June 2026**
10	**Procurement policy** (policy outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted policy. Date of adoption: **6 May 2026**

Governance and Management Items		Assessment
11	**Business continuity plan** (plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster	Plan in place. Date of adoption: **9 September 2024, reviewed 17 September 2025.**
12	**Disaster recovery plan** (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Current plan in place. Date of adoption: **25 May 2026** Municipal Emergency Management Plan, inclusive of Disaster Recovery planning adopted.
13	**Complaint policy** (Policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints.)	Adopted policy. Date of adoption: **29 July 2025**
14	**Workforce plan** (Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation.)	Plan in place. Date of adoption: **31 October 2025**
15	**Payment of rates and charges hardship policy** (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates.)	Adopted policy. Date of adoption: **24 June 2026**
16	**Risk management framework** (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Adopted framework. Date of adoption: **28 August 2024**
17	**Audit and Risk Committee** (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with s54 of the Act. Date of establishment: First charter after implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* adopted on 15 July 2020, reviewed and re-adopted on **2 April 2025**.
18	**Internal audit** (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged. Date commenced current contract: **1 July 2026**
19	**Performance reporting framework** (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Current framework in operation.
20	**Council Plan report** (report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Current report. Report presented to Council for the first six months of the financial year on **4 February 2026**. Further report presented on 6 May 2026 and final report scheduled to be presented in July 2026.

Governance and Management Items		Assessment
21	**Quarterly budget reports** (quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Quarterly reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Act. Date of reports: 29 October 2025, 4 March 2026 and 6 May 2026.
22	**Risk reporting** (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Strategic Risk Report presented to Audit and Risk Committee meetings and the following Council meeting in September 2025, March 2026 and June 2026.
23	**Performance reporting** (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Interim report presented on **4 March 2026**. Council reports on the LGPRF and Council Plan performance indicators annually in the Annual Report in accordance with section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
24	**Annual report** (annual report under sections 98 and 99 of the Act containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Annual report presented at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act. Annual Report presented on **4 February 2026** due to delays in auditing of the annual financial statements.
25	**Councillor Code of Conduct** (Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters.)	Changes to the Local Government Act introduced a 'Model Councillor Code of Conduct' which came into effect on **26 October 2024**. This Model Councillor Code of Conduct did not require adoption and was placed on Council's website as required by the Act.
26	**Delegations** (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)	Delegations reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act. and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act. Delegation to the CEO – **5 March 2025** Delegation to Members of Council Staff – **4 March 2026**
27	**Meeting procedures** (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act. Date adopted: **31 August 2022**

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of Council's governance and management arrangements.

[redacted]

Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 30 September 2026

Statutory Information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to Council.

Contracts

For Council contracts greater than a value of $250,000, Council conducts strategic reviews to determine:

- whether the service is still required
- the strategic approach for delivering and providing the service
- how the service aligns with Council's strategic objectives
- analysis of the supplier market
- the best procurement methodology and delivery.

Council issued **39 tenders and quotations in 2025/2026**, covering the following service categories:

- Design and/or construction of infrastructure
- Design and development of tourism initiatives
- Procurement of plant, vehicles and operational equipment
- Strategic planning, audit and business development services
- Retendering of ongoing services contracts

During the 2025/26 financial year Council **did not enter** into any other contracts valued at $250,000 or more for works without first engaging in a competitive process.

Disability Action Plan

In accordance with section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006*, Council is required to prepare a Disability Action Plan and report in its annual report. Council incorporated Disability Action Plan items into the Council Plan 2025-2029.

The following actions have been implemented from the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026:

- Variety of free youth events held across the Shire, with accessibility and inclusivity ensured as a key planning component.
- Draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy prepared for adoption in 2026/2027.
- Audit of commonly used Council-managed spaces and facilities to ensure that relevant amenities and services are maintained to provide accessibility for all.
- Completion of infrastructure reviews and projects that consider accessibility for pedestrians, including a town review in Rainbow and the completion of the wombat crossing in Macpherson Street, Nhill.
- Transport offered between towns for major community events like the Seniors Concert, youth activities, Harmony Day and the Men's Bus Tour.
- Celebration of International Day of People with a Disability.
- Increased Council publications around service providers, including WWHS, aged care, early years and long-daycare centres.
- Funding sought and received for accessibility upgrade to Dimboola Outdoor Pool.
- Completion of the Davis Park tiered seating project that includes an accessible ramp and seating.

Additionally, Council completed footpath works in Lloyd Street Dimboola that improves access to health services from the central business precinct.
We continue to explore funding opportunities and partnerships to enhance integrated and specific programs for people with disabilities.

Documents available for Public Inspection

Council has a Public Transparency Policy in place in accordance with sections 57 and 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The following public transparency principles are contained within the policy:

1. 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;
2. Council information must be publicly available unless –
   a. the information is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
   b. public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
3. Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community; and
4. Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

This policy was reviewed and adopted by Council in September 2023 and is currently being reviewed for re-adoption in early 2026/2027. A copy of the policy is available on Council's website at **www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/governance-and-transparency**.

The following documents are available on Council's website, the relevant Council service portal, or will be made available on request subject to relevant legislation:

- Plans and Reports adopted by Council
- policies
- project and service plans
- grant application, tenders and tender evaluation material
- service agreements, contracts, leases and licences
- Council leases, permits and notices of building and occupancy
- relevant technical reports and / or research that informs decision making
- Practice notes and operating procedures
- application processes for approvals, permits, grants, access to Council services
- decision making processes
- guidelines and manuals
- community engagement processes
- complaints handling processes
- Council and Delegated Committee meeting agendas and minutes;
- reporting from Committees required to in accordance with the Governance Rules
- details of 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 into by Council that are not subject to confidentiality clauses
- registers of donations and grants made by Council
- registers of leases entered into by Council, as lessor and lessee
- register of Delegations
- register of Authorised officers
- register of Election campaign donations
- summary of Personal Interests
- any other Registers or Records required by legislation or determined to be in the public interest.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

In accordance with section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years and report annually on its implementation.

Council adopted the **Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029** (DAMP) on 17 December 2025, following community consultation and Council consideration. The Plan provides a strategic framework for managing domestic animals across the municipality and supports responsible pet ownership, community safety, animal welfare and legislative compliance.

During 2025/2026, Council continued animal management initiatives while transitioning to the new Plan. Key activities included education campaigns promoting responsible pet ownership, cat containment and wildlife protection; annual doorknocking and pet registration promotion programs; updated fact sheets, website information and educational resources; a low-cost desexing program that resulted in an additional 25 animals being desexed; improved rehoming arrangements through new Section 84Y agreements; successful direct rehoming outcomes; and the ongoing review of dog attack procedures, response protocols and community awareness initiatives.

These initiatives contributed to a reduction in cat impoundments and euthanasia rates, improved animal welfare outcomes, increased registration and identification of pets, stronger compliance with legislative requirements, and greater community awareness of responsible pet ownership. The reduction in impoundment and euthanasia numbers reflects the positive impact of Council's education, desexing and rehoming programs.

Council remains committed to promoting responsible pet ownership, protecting animal welfare and maintaining community safety. During 2025/2026, a range of education, compliance and community engagement initiatives contributed to positive outcomes in animal welfare, community awareness and regulatory compliance. The new DAMP will guide Council's work over the next four years to further reduce nuisance and safety issues, improve animal welfare outcomes and support responsible pet ownership across Hindmarsh Shire.

Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its annual report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Freedom of Information

In accordance with section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Council is required to publish certain statements in its annual report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately, however, provides the following summary of the application and operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and in summary as follows:

- Requests should be in writing.
- Requests should identify as clearly as possible what documents are being requested.
- Requests should be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

Requests for documents in the possession of Council should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer. Requests can also be lodged by email.

Access charges may apply once documents have been processed and a decision on access is made (e.g. photocopying and search and retrieval charges).

Further information regarding Freedom of Information can be found at **www.foi.vic.gov.au** and on our website **www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au**.

Council's FOI Part II Statement has been made available for public access online and via its offices on request.

Public Interest Disclosure Procedures

In accordance with section 69 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*, a Council must include in its annual report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosure complaints investigated during the financial year.

Council's Public Interest Disclosure processes can be accessed online at **www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Public-Interest-Disclosures**.

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and providing protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are publicly available on Council's website.

During the 2025/2026 year, no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures.

Road Management Act Ministerial Direction

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, a Council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial direction in its annual report.

No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year

Infrastructure and development plan

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the P*lanning and Environment Act 1987*, a council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions including levies and works in kind. The report must be published in a council's annual report.

For the 2025/26 year, there are no infrastructure and development contributions to be disclosed.

Part Seven
Financial report

Contents

Part Seven - Financial report

Annual Financial Report 136
Performance Statement 190

Annual Financial Report
2025/2026
136 Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Report 2025/2026

Financial Report
Table of Contents

Certification of the Financial Statements 139
Victorian Auditor General's Office Audit Report 140

Financial Statements
Comprehensive Income Statement 142
Balance Sheet 143
Statement of Changes in Equity 144
Statement of Cash Flows 145
Statement of Capital Works 146

Notes to the Financial Report
Note 1 OVERVIEW 147
Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS 148
2.1 Performance against budget
2.2 Analysis of council results by program
Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES 153
3.1 Rates and charges
3.2 Statutory fees and fines
3.3 User fees
3.4 Funding from other levels of government
3.5 Contributions
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment
3.7 Other income
Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES 158
4.1 Employee costs
4.2 Materials and services
4.3 Depreciation
4.4 Allowance for impairment losses
4.5 Other expenses
Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS 161
5.1 Financial assets
5.2 Non-financial assets
5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities
5.4 Provisions
5.5 Financing arrangements
5.6 Commitments
5.7 Leases

Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE 168
6.1 Property, infrastructure plant and equipment
6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries
Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS 177
7.1 Council and key management remuneration
7.2 Related party disclosure
Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES 179
8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities
8.2 Australian Accounting Standards Issued but not yet effective
8.3 Financial instruments
8.4 Fair value measurement
8.5 Events occurring after balance date
Note 9 OTHER MATTERS 183
9.1 Reserves
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)
9.3 Superannuation
Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY 188

Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

[redacted]
Marivic Vix CPA, BA
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated : *30/09/2026*
Nhill

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

[redacted]
Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor
Dated : *30/09/2026*
Nhill, Victoria

[redacted]
Cr Rosie Barker
Deputy Mayor
Dated : *30/09/2026*
Nhill, Victoria

[redacted]
Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer

Dated : *30/09/2026*
Nhill, Victoria

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Councillors of Hindmarsh Shire Council

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of Hindmarsh Shire Council (the council) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • certification of the financial statements. In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2026 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[redacted]

MELBOURNE
2 October 2026

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	10,375	10,034
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	217	173
User fees	3.3	2,268	1,889
Grants - operating	3.4	8,420	9,011
Grants - capital	3.4	4,734	4,109
Contributions - monetary	3.5	39	138
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	(2,083)	(1,266)
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures	6.2	-	(46)
Other income	3.7	852	944
Total income / revenue		**24,822**	**24,985**
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	9,130	9,387
Materials and services	4.2	5,945	6,945
Depreciation	4.3	8,665	6,195
Allowance for impairment losses	4.4	(1)	(21)
Other expenses	4.5	1,548	1,208
Total expenses		**25,287**	**23,713**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		**(465)**	**1,272**
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	15,484	80,573
Total other comprehensive income		**15,484**	**80,573**
Total comprehensive result		**15,019**	**81,845**

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	17,696	13,181
Trade and other receivables	5.1	1,810	1,411
Other financial assets	5.1	-	(0)
Inventories	5.2	182	117
Prepayments	5.2	146	149
Other assets	5.2	58	41
Total current assets		**19,892**	**14,898**
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	2	2
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.2	-	174
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	294,192	283,174
Total non-current assets		**294,194**	**283,350**
Total assets		**314,086**	**298,247**
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	1,496	670
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	307	152
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	475	215
Provisions	5.4	1,942	2,196
Total current liabilities		**4,220**	**3,233**
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	325	493
Total non-current liabilities		**325**	**493**
Total liabilities		**4,545**	**3,725**
Net assets		**309,541**	**294,522**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		83,900	84,337
Reserves	9.1	225,641	210,185
Total Equity		**309,541**	**294,522**

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

2026	Note	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		294,522	84,337	210,185
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(465)	(465)	
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	15,484	-	15,484
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	28	
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	-	(28)
		309,541	83,900	225,641
Balance at end of the financial year		**309,541**	**83,900**	**225,641**

2025	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year	212,677	83,065	129,612
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,272	1,272	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	80,573	-	80,573
	294,522	84,337	210,185
Balance at end of the financial year	**294,522**	**84,337**	**210,185**

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 Inflows/(Outflows) $'000	2025 Inflows/(Outflows) $'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		10,250	10,040
Statutory fees and fines		14	10
User fees		2,322	2,399
Grants - operating		9,980	9,022
Grants - capital		3,436	3,086
Contributions - monetary		39	138
Interest received		565	625
Trust funds and deposits taken		122	-
Other receipts		271	280
Net GST refund/payment		(90)	41
Employee costs		(9,552)	(9,062)
Materials and services		(4,870)	(6,654)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		-	(21)
Other payments		(1,858)	(726)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		**10,629**	**9,178**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of investments		-	-
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	(6,411)	(8,184)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		297	574
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**(6,114)**	**(7,610)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		**-**	**-**
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		4,515	1,568
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		13,181	11,613
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		**17,696**	**13,181**
Financing arrangements	5.5	2,007	2,007
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1	307	152

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Property			
Buildings		807	2,499
Heritage buildings		-	-
Building improvements		-	-
Total buildings		807	2,499
Total property		**807**	**2,499**
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		1,121	682
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		13	279
Computers and telecommunications		36	70
Library books		38	31
Total plant and equipment		**1,208**	**1,061**
Infrastructure			
Roads		2,879	2,590
Bridges		-	51
Footpaths and cycleways		314	90
Drainage		176	-
Other infrastructure		1,028	1,890
Total infrastructure		**4,396**	**4,621**
Total capital works expenditure		**6,411**	**8,181**
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		1,422	2,207
Asset renewal expenditure		4,647	5,512
Asset expansion expenditure		311	-
Asset upgrade expenditure		31	462
Total capital works expenditure		**6,411**	**8,181**

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

Hindmarsh Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20 January 1995 and is a body corporate. Council's main office is located at 92 Nelson St, Nhill, Victoria.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting policy information

1.1 Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components are due to rounding.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:
- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (refer to Note 3.4)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.7)
- whether or not AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

1.2 Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

1.3 Impacts of other external events

Council has considered ongoing external events that have contributed to volatility in international markets, disrupted global supply chains and increased inflationary pressure, including the risk that they may cause significant changes in the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next financial year, and has concluded that there is no material impact on the 2025-26 financial report that requires additional disclosure.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or $100,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2026 $'000	Actual 2026 $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	10,336	10,375	39	0.38%	
Statutory fees and fines	171	217	46	26.92%	1
User fees	2,151	2,268	117	5.43%	2
Grants - operating	6,035	8,420	2,385	39.52%	3
Grants - capital	4,202	4,734	532	12.66%	4
Contributions - monetary	-	39	39		5
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	125	(2,083)	(2,208)	-1766.66%	6
Other income	611	852	241	39.47%	7
Total income / revenue	**23,631**	**24,822**	**1,191**	**5.04%**	
Expenses					
Employee costs	9,630	9,130	500	5.19%	8
Materials and services	5,058	5,945	(887)	-17.53%	9
Depreciation	5,078	8,665	(3,587)	-70.65%	10
Allowance for impairment losses	-	(1)	1		
Other expenses	2,263	1,548	715	31.61%	11
Total expenses	**22,029**	**25,287**	**(3,258)**	**-14.79%**	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**1,602**	**(465)**	**(2,067)**	**-129.01%**	

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(i) Explanation of material variations

1	Statutory fees and fines	Statutory Fees and Fines is higher than budget primarily due to infringements payments for Fire Prevention activities over the summer period which cannot be accurately anticipated, as well as receipt of voter's fines from VEC for the 2024 Local Government Elections.
2	User fees	User Fees was higher than budget due to recoupments from emergency works undertaken on fire-damaged properties, private works completed at the Nhill Truck Exchange, and higher revenue from Council's Caravan Parks and Transfer Stations in the year. This has been partially offset by recovery of costs for works undertaken for Rural Roads Victoria.
3	Grants - operating	Grants - operating (recurrent) was higher than budgeted due to the timing of grants payments received. Largely this is due to early receipt of 80% of the 2026/2027 Victorian Local Government Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grants in June 2026. Council also received a grant for the Jeparit Weir Feasibility Study that was not budgeted in 2025/2026.
4	Grants - capital	Capital grants was higher than budget due to receipt of the final payment under Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) following completion of the required audit. Council also received grant funding for the Dimboola Library Cover to Cover project, Dimboola Swimming Pool and Nhill Multicultural Business Precinct project that were not inlcuded in the original budget.
5	Contributions - monetary	Contributions was above budget due to unbudgeted contributions from both the Nhill Bowling Club and Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre towards facilities upgrade applications auspiced by Council.
6	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment was significantly lower than budget. This result includes unbudgeted losses on disposal of infrastructure assets that were previously presented within materials and services expenditure. Council has adopted this revised presentation to improve compliance with accounting standards and provide greater transparency in the presentation of financial statement results.
7	Other income	Other Income is higher than budget due to the unbudgeted recoupments from Insurance, Fire Services Levy administration support payment, the Little Desert Fire and other income received from sale of scrap materials.
8	Employee costs	Employee costs are lower than budget due to delays in filling vacant positions throughout the financial year.
9	Materials and services	Materials and services expenditure was higher than budget primarily due to the completion of planned works and service delivery activities during the year, including the delivery of projects carried forward from the previous financial year.
10	Depreciation	Depreciation expense was higher than budget due to the impact of asset revaluations and indexation undertaken in June 2025, including the full revaluation of buildings, together with the capitalisation of completed project works.
11	Other expenses	Other expenses were lower than budget primarily due to Council's ongoing efficiency initiatives, resulting in reduced expenditure on subscriptions, advertising, legal costs and other administrative processes that were able to be undertaken in-house using existing staff resources.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2026 $'000	Actual 2026 $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Buildings	663	807	144	21.72%	1
Total buildings	663	807	144	21.72%	
Total property	**663**	**807**	**144**	**21.72%**	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	701	1,121	420	59.91%	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	5	13	8	160.00%	3
Computers and telecommunications	85	36	(49)	-57.65%	
Library books	40	38	(2)	-5.00%	
Total plant and equipment	**831**	**1,208**	**377**	**45.37%**	
Infrastructure					
Roads	4,156	2,878	(1,278)	-30.74%	4
Bridges	100	-	(100)	-100.00%	
Footpaths and cycleways	595	314	(281)	-47.23%	5
Drainage	20	176	156	780.00%	6
Other infrastructure	668	1,028	360	53.89%	7
Total infrastructure	**5,539**	**4,396**	**(1,143)**	**-20.63%**	
Total capital works expenditure	**7,033**	**6,411**	**(622)**	**-8.84%**	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	700	1,422	722	103.14%	
Asset renewal expenditure	3,868	4,647	779	20.14%	
Asset expansion expenditure	-	311	311		
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,465	31	(2,434)	-98.74%	
Total capital works expenditure	**7,033**	**6,411**	**(622)**	**-8.84%**	

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	The variation was due to work undertaken on the Davis Park project using carried forward funding from 2024/2025.
2	Plant and equipment	The variance was primarily attributable to the delivery and payment of plant and fleet assets ordered in the previous year. In addition, Council completed the replacement of several operational vehicles and CAT grader during the financial year.
3	Fixtures & Fittings / Computers & Telecommunications	Budget for Workstations and desktops will be carried forward to the next financial year.
4	Roads	Actual expenditure was lower than budget due to the timing of grant funded budgeted projects, with approved works expected to be carried forward into 2026/2027.
5	Footpaths and cycleways	Actual expenditure was lower than budget due to the timing of grant funded budgeted projects, with approved works expected to be carried forward into 2026/2027.
6	Drainage	New drainage was installed and upgraded in various locations, including Peakes Three Chain Road, Nhill Diapur Road, Antwerp Warracknabeal Road, River Road, Warrick Road and Coker Dam Road using funds in the 2025/2026 budget and funds carried forward from 2024/2025.
7	Other infrastructure	Other infrastructure was higher than budget due to the completion of the Rainbow Silo Art Project using carried forward funding.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1 Our Community

Our community's mission is to increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.

Built and Natural environment

Build and Natural Environment's mission is to provide infrastructure essential to support the community and to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Competitive and Innovative Economy

Competitive and Innovative Economy's mission is to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability's 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.

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses,capital expenses and physical assets by program

2026	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total Physical Assets
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Our Community	672	(1,533)	(861)	537	17,208
Built and Natural Environment	3,939	(15,466)	(11,527)	2,702	235,196
Competitive and Innovative Economy	2,753	(2,379)	374	475	18,702
Good Governance and Financial Sustainabi	17,458	(5,909)	11,549	9,440	23,086
Unattributed	-	-	-		
	24,822	(25,287)	(465)	13,154	294,192

2025	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total Physical Assets
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Our Community	1,130	(1,445)	(314)	952	17,445
Built and Natural Environment	3,944	(15,175)	(11,232)	2,315	238,439
Competitive and Innovative Economy	3,047	(2,480)	567	1,481	18,960
Good Governance and Financial Sustainabi	18,405	(6,153)	12,252	8,372	23,404
Unattributed	-	-	-	-	-
	26,526	(25,253)	1,273	13,120	298,248

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

3.1 Rates and charges	**2026 $'000**	**2025 $'000**

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is the value of land and all of its improvements.
The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2025/2026 was $ 4,446.9 million (2024/2025 was $4,449.5

General rates	8,131	7,877
Municipal charge	769	747
Waste management charge	1,297	1,254
Revenue in lieu of rates	178	156
Total rates and charges	**10,375**	**10,034**

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2025 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2025.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as income when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Animal registration fees	63	65
Building fees	20	19
Infringements and costs	59	14
Town planning fees	54	65
Land information certificates	3	5
Permits	12	5
Other Statutory Fees & Fines	5	-
Total statutory fees and fines	**217**	**173**

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

3.3 User fees	**2026**	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Aged and health services	33	4
Caravan parks & camping fees	1,395	1,245
Certificates	7	38
Commercial garbage collection fees	68	72
Emergency Response	52	63
Film screenings and hall hire	7	9
Lease fees	46	28
Other fees and charges	24	43
Private works	409	80
Recreation Facility Fees	12	11
Regional Roads Victoria works	-	142
Transfer station fees	214	154
Total user fees	**2,268**	**1,889**
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised at a point in time	2,268	1,889
Total user fees	**2,268**	**1,889**

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

3.4 Funding from other levels of government	**2026**	**2025**
Grants were received in respect of the following:	**$'000**	**$'000**
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	11,047	10,345
State funded grants	2,107	2,775
Total grants received	**13,154**	**13,120**
(a) Operating Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Financial Assistance Grants	7,644	8,286
Other Operating grants	24	24
Recurrent - State Government		
Engage!	59	54
Facilitated playgroup (Supported Playgroup)	69	44
Free from violence	72	140
Freeza youth participation program	36	36
Kindergarten central enrolment	60	65
Landcare facilitator	147	31
Libraries	124	124
Multicultural Storytime	36	33
Roadside weeds and pest management	85	85
School crossing supervisors	8	8
Immunisation Services	7	9
Total recurrent operating grants	**8,372**	**8,928**
Non-recurrent - State Government		
16 Days of Activisim	3	-
Children's Week	1	-
Education sustainability	-	13
Jeparit Weir Design	29	-
Premiers reading challenge	6	6
Seniors Active Living	-	10
VicHealth	10	45
Total non-recurrent operating grants	**49**	**74**
Total operating grants	**8,420**	**9,002**

Funding for the Immunisation Services program has been reclassified from non-recurrent to recurrent in the comparative figures. This reclassification affects presentation only and has no impact on the total revenue previously reported.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(b) Capital Grants

Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	1,631	1,900
Local roads & community infrastructure	1,771	86
Nhill aerodrome	-	49
Total recurrent capital grants	**3,403**	**2,036**
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Country Football Program	-	162
Cover to Cover DGS	47	-
Davis Park Upgrade	25	
Dimboola Early Learning Facility Upgrade	-	165
Dimboola Swimming Pool	113	-
Multicultural Business Precinct Revitalisation Pro	25	-
Nhill Caravan Park Upgrades	119	24
Nhill Early Learning Facility Upgrade	-	165
Park cabins WDA	-	158
Rainbow Rec Reserve change rooms	-	10
Redevelop Rainbow Rises	-	50
Silo Art	281	1,249
TAC Community Roads Safety	671	29
Tiny Towns - Jeparit Streetscape	-	11
Tiny Towns - Nhill dog park	-	50
Tiny Towns - Rainbow Park Entry	50	-
Total non-recurrent capital grants	**1,331**	**2,074**
Total capital grants	**4,734**	**4,109**

(c) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* . When both these conditions are satisfied, the Council:
- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the point in time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* .

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Income recognised under AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*		
General purpose	7,669	8,310
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	4,738	4,109
Other specific purpose grants	662	616
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*		
Specific purpose grants	85	85
	13,154	**13,120**

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

Capital		
Balance at start of year	215	1,227
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	477	35
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(215)	- 1,047
Balance at year end	**477**	**215**

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

3.5 Contributions	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Monetary	39	138
Non-monetary	-	-
Total contributions	**39**	**138**

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	297	757
Written down value of assets disposed	(2,380)	(2,023)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	**(2,083)**	**(1,266)**

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.7 Other income

Fire services levy administration	99	48
Interest	565	665
Recoupments	73	190
Scrap metal and transfer station fees	23	29
Other	92	12
Total other income	**852**	**944**

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	7,380	6,803
WorkCover	414	374
Annual leave, sick leave & long service leave	-	939
Superannuation	1,014	938
Fringe benefits tax	-	88
Training	169	207
Other Employee cost	154	38
Total employee costs	**9,130**	**9,387**
(b) Superannuation		
Council made contributions to the following funds:		
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	4	11
Employer contributions - other funds	-	-
	4	**11**
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	365	358
Employer contributions - other funds	680	569
	1,045	**927**
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-

Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

4.2 Materials and services	**2026**	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Building maintenance	346	689
Community development, tourism & youth activities	264	518
Consultants and labour hire	2	99
Contract payments	306	181
Depots and workshops	99	981
Emergency assistance & fire prevention	66	45
Enviromental	193	164
Garbage & recycling collection & waste disposal	1,447	1,326
Health promotion	1	9
Information technology	330	373
Office administration	324	480
Other Materials and Services	51	11
Parks, reserves & aerodromes	410	86
Plant & fleet operations	(307)	562
Printing, stationery & advertising	32	34
Quarry operations	170	(15)
Rating & valuations	12	6
Roads, footpaths, bridges & drainage management	1,562	745
Senior citizens activities	12	3
Swimming pool maintenance & management	113	116
Telecommunication	38	7
Town beautification	146	134
Utilities	328	391
Total materials and services	**5,945**	**6,945**

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

Comparative amounts within "Roads, foothpaths, bridges and drainage management" have been reclassified to exclude the loss on disposal of infrastructure assets. This amount has now been separately presented in Note 3.6. The reclassification has no impact on the previously reported operating surplus(deficit).

4.3 Depreciation

Property	2,208	454
Plant and equipment	1,342	1,675
Infrastructure	5,115	4,066
Total depreciation	**8,665**	**6,195**

Refer to note 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges.

4.4 Allowance for impairment losses

Rates debtors	2	6
Other debtors	(3)	(28)
Total allowance for impairment losses	**(1)**	**(21)**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors	**2026**	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Balance at the beginning of the year	41	60
New allowances recognised during the year	2	6
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(13)	(28)
Amounts allowed for but recovered during the year	3	2
Balance at end of year	**33**	**41**

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.5 Other expenses

Advertising	39	67
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	18	23
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	69	82
Bank charges	33	31
Business assistance grants	12	17
Community action grants	28	17
Council contributions - other	2	36
Councillors' allowances	248	230
Fire services levy	34	29
Insurance	459	430
Legal costs	29	37
Postage	24	18
Reimbursement of overpayments	387	-
Subscriptions	125	169
Telecommunications	-	-
Town committees	38	23
Total other expenses	**1,548**	**1,208**

Telecommunications expenses have been reclassified to Materials and Services under Note 4.2 to better reflect the nature of the expenditure and improve presentation.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS	2026	2025
5.1 Financial assets	**$'000**	**$'000**
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	2	5
Cash at bank	2,693	4,176
Term deposits	15,000	9,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	**17,696**	**13,181**

Councils cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

- Trust funds and deposits (note 5.3)	307	152
Total restricted funds	307	152
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	**17,389**	**13,029**

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted, the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:

Grants received in advance - capital works	477	215
Total funds subject to intended allocations	**477**	**215**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

	2026	2025
(b) Trade and other receivables	**$'000**	**$'000**
Current		
Statutory receivables		
Rates debtors	766	642
Allowance for expected credit loss - rates	(23)	(21)
Building permit debtors	7	11
Infringement debtors	267	214
Net GST receivable	265	175
Non statutory receivables		
Other debtors	189	151
Sundry debtors	350	252
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(10)	(13)
Total current trade and other receivables	**1,810**	**1,411**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Non-current	**2026**	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Statutory receivables		
Street scheme debtors	2	2
Non statutory receivables		
Loans and advances to community organisations	-	-
Total non-current trade and other receivables	2	2
Total trade and other receivables	**1,812**	**1,413**

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of Receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

Current (not yet due)	205	71
Past due by up to 30 days	64	172
Past due between 31 and 180 days	4	2
Past due between 181 and 365 days	265	159
Past due by more than 1 year	-	-
Total trade and other receivables	**538**	**404**

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of $10,220 (2025: $13,186) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was $10,220 (2025: $13,186). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Past due by more than 1 year	10	13
Total trade & other receivables	**10**	**13**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

5.2 Non-financial assets	**2026**	**2025**
(a) Inventories	**$'000**	**$'000**
Inventories held for distribution	182	117
Total inventories	**182**	**117**

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets

Prepayments	146	149
Other	58	41
Total other assets	**204**	**189**

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits, and contract and other liabilities

(a) Trade and other payables

Current		
Non-statutory payables		
Trade payables	1,171	415
Accrued expenses	325	255
Total current trade and other payables	**1,496**	**670**

(b) Trust funds and deposits

Current		
Refundable deposits	8	4
Emergency Services and Volunteers	300	148
Total current trust funds and deposits	**307**	**152**

(c) Contract and other liabilities

Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	-	-
Grants received in advance - capital	475	215
Total contract liabilities	**475**	**215**
Other liabilities		
Current		
Deferred capital grants	-	-
Total other liabilities	**-**	**-**
Total contract and other liabilities	475	**215**

Trust funds and deposits
Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Contract liabilities
Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of the completion of obligations contained within the funding agreements. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Purpose and nature of items

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - Council is the collection agent for the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the State Government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

5.4 Provisions

	Employee	Landfill restoration	Quarry Restoration	Total
2026	**$ '000**	**$ '000**	**$ '000**	**$ '000**
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,463	87	139	2,689
Additional provisions	673	1	5	679
Amounts used	(1,707)	-		(1,707)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	606	-	-	606
Balance at the end of the financial year	**2,035**	**88**	**144**	**2,267**
Provisions - current	1,834	88	20	1,942
Provisions - non-current	201	-	124	325
2025				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,138	87	161	2,386
Additional provisions	857	-	-	857
Amounts used	(532)	-	(22)	(554)
Balance at the end of the financial year	**2,463**	**87**	**139**	**2,689**
Provisions - current	2,085	87	25	2,196
Provisions - non-current	379	-	114	493

(a) Employee provisions	**2026**	**2025**
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months	**$'000**	**$'000**
Annual leave	622	624
Long service leave	212	138
	834	**763**
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
	2026	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Annual leave	152	161
Long service leave	848	1,161
	1,000	1,322
Total current employee provisions	**1,834**	**2,085**
Non-current		
Long service leave	201	379
Total non-current employee provisions	**201**	**379**
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	1,834	2,085
Non-current	201	379

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Total aggregate carrying amount of employee	**2,035**	**2,463**

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:
- nominal value if the Council expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.844%	4.203%
- index rate	4.150%	4.250%

(b) Landfill restoration		
Current	88	87
Non-current	-	-
Total	**88**	**87**

Council is obligated to restore Landfill site to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs. Council reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.844%	4.203%
- index rate	4.150%	4.250%

(c) Quarry Restoration	**2026**	**2025**
	$'000	**$'000**
Current	20	25
Non-current	124	114
Total	**144**	**139**

Key assumptions:		
- discount rate	4.844%	4.203%
- index rate	4.150%	4.250%

(d) Summary of provisions		
Current		
Annual Leave	774	786
Long Service Leave	1,060	1,299
Landfill	88	87
Quarry	20	25
Total current provisions	**1,942**	**2,196**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Non-Current		
Long Service Leave	201	379
Quarry	124	114
Total non-current provisions	**325**	**493**

5.5 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2026

Bank overdraft	2,000	2,000
Credit card facilities	8	8
Total facilities	2,008	**2,008**
Used facilities	1	1
Unused facilities	**2,007**	**2,007**

5.6 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure

2026	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Operating					
Printers/photocopiers	3	-	-	-	3
Garbage collection	937	937	-	-	1,873
Internal audit services	22	22	45	22	112
Kindergarten services	68	68	136	-	273
Information communication & technology	274	274	548	-	1,096
Quarry material	66	66	131	66	328
Annual Pest Control Program	20	20	41	-	82
Total	**1,390**	**1,387**	**901**	**88**	**3,766**

2025	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Operating					
Printers/photocopiers	5	3	-	-	8
Garbage collection	834	852	1,758	-	3,444
Internal audit services	15	-	-	-	15
Kindergarten services	67	-	-	-	67
Information communication & technology	77	78	161	326	642
Quarry material	22	22	60	-	104
Total	**1,020**	**956**	**1,979**	**326**	**4,280**

(b) Operating lease receivables

Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2026	2025
	$'000	$'000
Not later than one year	47	47
Later than one year and not later than five years	94	140
Later than five years	-	-
Total	**141**	**187**

5.7 Leases

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of $10,000 including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2026	2025
Expenses relating to:	$'000	$'000
Short-term leases	-	-
Leases of low value assets	5	5
Total	**5**	**5**

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

	2026	2025
Payable:	$'000	$'000
Within one year	5	5
Later than one year but not later than five years	-	-
Total lease commitments	**5**	**5**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2025 $'000	Additions $'000	Revaluation $'000	Depreciation $'000	Disposal $'000	Write-off $'000	Transfers $'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2026 $'000
Property	83,729	834	3,369	(2,210)	-	-	1,365	87,088
Plant and equipment	7,002	1,171	-	(1,342)	(92)	-	212	6,951
Infrastructure	188,930	4,026	12,115	(5,113)	(2,113)	-	1,907	199,753
Work in progress	3,513	379	-	-	-	-	(3,492)	400
Total	**283,174**	**6,411**	**15,484**	**(8,665)**	**(2,205)**	**-**	**(7)**	**294,192**

Summary of Work in Progress	Opening WIP $'000	Additions $'000	Write-off $'000	Transfers $'000	Closing WIP $'000
Property	1,606	-	-	(1,584)	21
Infrastructure	1,907	379	-	(1,907)	379
Total	**3,513**	**379**	**-**	**(3,492)**	**400**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(a) Property

	Land	Total Land	Heritage buildings	Buildings	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
At fair value 1 July 2025	2,575	**2,575**	9,460	96,754	**106,214**	1,606	**110,395**
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2025	-	**-**	(4,118)	(20,942)	**(25,060)**	-	**(25,060)**
	2,575	**2,575**	5,342	75,812	**81,154**	1,606	**85,335**
Movements in fair value							
Additions - Current year	-	**-**	17	817	**834**	-	**834**
Revaluation	-	**-**	407	4,152	**4,559**	-	**4,559**
Disposal	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	**-**
Write-off	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	**-**
Transfers	-	**-**	831	1,434	**2,265**	(1,584)	**681**
	-	**-**	1,255	6,404	**7,659**	(1,584)	**6,074**
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation	-	**-**	(186)	(2,024)	**(2,210)**	-	**(2,210)**
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-	**-**
Depreciation and amortisation on revaluatic	-	**-**	(161)	(1,029)	**(1,190)**	-	**(1,190)**
Transfers	-	**-**	(159)	(741)	**(900)**	-	**(900)**
	-	-	(506)	(3,793)	(4,300)	-	(4,300)
At fair value 30 June 2026	2,575	**2,575**	10,715	103,158	**113,873**	21	**116,469**
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	-	**-**	(4,624)	(24,735)	**(29,360)**	-	**(29,360)**
Carrying amount	**2,575**	**2,575**	**6,091**	**78,423**	**84,512**	**21**	**87,109**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant machinery and equipment $'000	Fixtures fittings and furniture $'000	Library books $'000	Total plant and equipment $'000
At fair value 1 July 2025	14,035	1,805	352	**16,192**
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2025	(7,942)	(1,107)	(140)	**(9,190)**
	6,092	698	212	**7,002**
Movements in fair value				
Additions	1,089	44	37	**1,171**
Revaluation	-	-	-	**-**
Disposal	(707)	-	-	**(707)**
Write-off	-	-	-	**-**
Transfers	-	(681)	-	**(681)**
	382	**(636)**	**37**	**(217)**
Movements in accumulated depreciation				
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,274)	(33)	(35)	**(1,342)**
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	615	-	-	**615**
Depreciation and amortisation on revaluatic	-	-	-	**-**
Transfers	-	893	-	**893**
	(659)	**860**	**(35)**	**166**
At fair value 30 June 2026	**14,417**	**1,169**	**389**	**15,975**
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	**(8,601)**	**(247)**	**(175)**	**(9,024)**
Carrying amount	**5,816**	**922**	**214**	**6,952**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Kerb & channel	Other Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
At fair value 1 July 2025	136,213	10,154	12,962	7,178	33,198	29,351	1,907	**230,962**
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2025	(10,796)	(1,882)	(4,662)	(2,654)	(13,691)	(6,442)	-	**(40,127)**
	125,417	**8,272**	**8,300**	**4,524**	**19,506**	**22,909**	**1,907**	**190,836**
Movements in fair value								
Additions	2,798	-	119	175	229	705	379	**4,405**
Revaluation	66,598	396	501	280	1,285	1,144	-	**70,204**
Disposal	(2,117)	-	-	-	-	-	-	**(2,117)**
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	1,907	(1,907)	**(0)**
	67,279	396	620	455	1,514	3,756	(1,528)	**72,492**
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	(3,240)	(150)	(287)	(75)	(334)	(1,026)	-	**(5,113)**
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	**4**
Depreciation and amortisation on revaluatic	(56,879)	(79)	(190)	(106)	(543)	(292)	-	**(58,089)**
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
	(60,115)	(229)	(477)	(181)	(877)	(1,318)	-	**(63,198)**
At fair value 30 June 2026	203,492	10,550	13,582	7,633	34,712	33,107	379	**303,454**
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2026	(70,911)	(2,111)	(5,139)	(2,836)	(14,569)	(7,760)	-	**(103,325)**
Carrying amount	**132,581**	**8,439**	**8,443**	**4,797**	**20,143**	**25,347**	**379**	**200,130**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Acquisition

Initial measurement
Council initially measures its property, infrastructure, plant and equipment assets at cost. The cost of an acquired asset is the fair value of the consideration that Council has provided at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition.
Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer to Note 8.4 for more information on how Council measures fair value.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		$'000
Land & land improvements		
land	-	1
Buildings		
buildings	10-150 years	1
Plant and Equipment		
plant, machinery and equipment	2-20 years	1
fixtures, fittings and furniture	2-100 years	1
books	10 years	1
Infrastructure		
roads - pavements and substructure	15-120 years	1
roads - kerb, channel and minor culverts and other	50-100 years	1
bridges - deck and substructure	50-120 years	1
footpaths and cycleways	15-80 years	1
drainage	50-120 years	1
others	5-100 years	1

Council undertook a review of the useful lives of selected property, infrastructure, plant and equipment assets as part of its ongoing asset management processes. The review was informed by updated asset condition, historical performance data and current asset management assumptions.

As a result of the review, the estimated useful lives of certain infrastructure assets, including components of the road network, drainage, kerb and channel and fixtures and fittings were revised to better reflect the pattern in which future service potential is expected to be consumed.

The reassessment of useful lives represents a change in accounting estimates in accordance with *AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. Accordingly, the revised useful lives have been applied prospectively from the date of reassessment and comparative information has not been restated.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Ashay Prabhu, MEI(Aust) CPEng, NPER: Membership 1102199 of Modelve. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement. Where land use is not restricted, highest and best use is assumed to be current use, except where the land is held for sale, or highly likely to be used for an alternative purpose within 12 months of the reporting date.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An indexed based revaluation of Building was conducted in the current year, this valuation was based on a well regarded source commonly accepted within the Local Government sector and in alignment with infrastructure-related construction trends including the Rawlinson's Australian Construction Handbook (2025-26), the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV - Commercial Building Indices and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Construction Index. A full revaluation of Land and Building will be conducted in 2027/28. The most recent previous full revaluation of building assets were undertaken by a qualified indendent valuer Ashay Prabhu, MEI(Aust) CPEng, NPER: Membership 1102199 of Modelve in 2024/25. Buildings are subject to index-based valuation to ensure carrying values remain materially accrurate between full and comprehensive revaluations.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2026 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Land	-	-	2,575	Jun-21	Full
Buildings	-	-	78,422	Jun-26	Indexation
Heritage Buildings	-	-	6,091	Jun-26	Indexation
Total	-	-	87,088		

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of Roads Infrastructure was conducted by a qualified independent valuer Ashay Prabhu, MEI(Aust) CPEng, NPER: Membership 1102199 of Modelve. The valuation was undertaken in accordance with AASB116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement. Fair value was determined using the current replacement cost methodology, which reflects the cost of replacing the remaining service potential of the assets. The valuation incorporated relevant assumptions regarding asset condition, remaining useful lfe and current construction cost.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An indexed based revaluation of Infrastructure Assets other than Roads was conducted in the current year, this valuation was based on a well regarded source commonly accepted within the Local Government sector and in alignment with infrastructure-related construction trends including the Rawlinson's Australian Construction Handbook (2025-26), the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV - Commercial Building Indices and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Construction Index. Index-based valuation is undertaken annually between full revaluations to ensure values remain materially accrurate until the next schedule full revaluation. A full revaluation of Infrastructure assets are conducted every three to five years. The most recent full revaluation of the Road Infrastructure was completed during 2025/26 by a qualified indendent valuer Ashay Prabhu, MEI(Aust) CPEng, NPER: Membership 1102199 of Modelve.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2026 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	-	-	132,581	Jun-26	Full
Bridges	-	-	8,439	Jun-26	Indexation
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	8,443	Jun-26	Indexation
Drainage	-	-	4,797	Jun-26	Indexation
Kerb & channel	-	-	20,143	Jun-26	Indexation
Other infrastructure	-	-	25,347	Jun-26	Indexation
Total	-	-	199,751		

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from $310 to $2700 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 5 years to 75 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 10 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
(a) Investments in associates		
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited	-	174

Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited

Background

Hindmarsh Shire Council, in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, Buloke Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council, had an interest in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited. Hindmarsh Shire Council has withdrawn from this investment and has zero interest in equity in 2025/2026 (11.18% in 2024/25).

Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Limited	**-**	**174**
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	-	219
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	-	(46)
Transfers (to) from reserves	-	-
Distributions for the year	-	-
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year	**-**	**174**
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	-	34
Transfers (to) from reserves	-	-
Council's share of reserves at end of year	**-**	**34**
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	-	219
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	-	(46)
Share of asset revaluation	-	-
Distributions received	-	-
Carrying value of investment at end of year	-	**174**
Council's share of expenditure commitments		
Operating commitments	-	60
Capital commitments	-	-
Council's share of expenditure commitments	-	**60**
Council's share of contingent liabilities and contingent assets		
Current provisions	-	6
Non-current provisions	-	3

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

Hindmarsh Shire Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.2.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Hindmarsh Shire Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Directors are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:		2026 No.	2025 No.
Councillors	Councillor B Ireland (Mayor) 1/7/2024-25/10/2024		1
	Councillor W Bywaters 1/7/2024-25/10/2024		1
	Councillor M Albrecht 1/7/2024-25/10/2024		1
	Councillor R Gersch 1/7/2024-25/10/2024		1
	Councillor D Nelson 1/7/2024-25/10/2024		1
	Councillor R Ismay (Mayor) 1/7/2025 - 30/6/2026	1	1
	Councillor R Barker (Deputy Mayor from 13/11/2025) 01/7/2025 - 30/6/	1	1
	Councillor C Uoy (Deputy Mayor until 12/11/2025) 1/7/2025 - 30/6/202	1	1
	Councillor R Aitken 1/7/2025 - 30/6/2026	1	1
	Councillor J Barry 1/7/2025 - 30/6/2026	1	1
	Councillor T Clark 1/7/2025 - 30/6/ 2026	1	1
Officers	Chief Executive Officer Monica Revell	1	1
	Director - Corporate & Community Services Petra Croot	1	1
	Director - Infrastructure Ram Upadhyaya	1	1
Total Number of Councillors		6	11
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel		3	3
Total Number of Key Management Personnel		**9**	**14**

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:	2026 No.	2025 No.
Short-term employee benefits	907	884
Other long-term employee benefits	15	1
Post-employment benefits	91	94
Total	**1,013**	**979**

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

$0 - $9,999		3
$10,000 - $19,999	-	5
$20,000 - $29,999	3	2
$30,000 - $39,999	2	-
$60,000 - $69,999	-	1
$80,000 - $89,999	1	-
$160,000 - $169,999	-	-
$190,000 - $199,999	-	-
$220,000 - $229,999	-	-
$240,000 - $249,999	1	1
$260,000 - $269,999	1	1
$270,000 - $279,999	-	-
$280,000 - $289,999	1	1
Total	**9**	**14**

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff
There are no other senior staff or officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds $170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

7.2 Related party disclosure	**2026 $'000**	**2025 $'000**
(a) Transactions with related parties		
During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.		
T ismay & Co (a related party to Cr R Ismay)		
Purchases of hardware 30 day terms	21	115
Nhill IGA (a related party to previous councillor W Bywaters)		
Groceries and newspapers 30 day terms	-	4
Rural Councils Victoria (a related party to previous councillor R Gersch)		
Membership and conferences 30 day terms	-	6
Hot Spark Fabrication (a related party to previous councillor Cr W Bywaters)		
Plant repairs 30 day terms	-	3
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (formerly Wimmera Development Association) (a related party to previous councillor M Albrecht)		
Membership and conferences 30 day terms	-	56
Rainbow Lions Club (a related party to Cr T Clark)	1	2
Emmetts Horsham (a related party to Cr J Barry)	6	-
(b) Outstanding balances with related parties		
The following balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties	Nil	Nil
(c) Loans to/from related parties		
The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:	Nil	Nil
(d) Commitments to/from related parties		
The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:	Nil	Nil

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Council is not aware of any Contingent assets that require disclosure as at 30 June 2026.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:
- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
- it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
- the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

A claim has been made against Council alleging that a third party sustained an injury while descending a slide at Jaypex Park on 17 August 2023. The matter is being managed by Council's liability Insurer, MAV Insurance, through its appointed legal representative, Gilchrist Connell. As the outcome remains uncertain and any potential liability cannot be reliably measured, no provision has been recognised in these financial statements.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Future superannuation contributions.

Other than the disclosed contributions, Hindmarsh Shire Council has not paid any unfunded liability payments to Vision Super. There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2026. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefits category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2026 are $3,686.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

MAV WorkCare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013 , there is a six-year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). During the liability period, adjustment payments may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payment is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria. Any adjustments, which are expected to occur at the 3-year and 6-year periods during the liability period will affect participating members.

8.2 Australian Accounting Standards issued but not yet effective

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2026 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards.
The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has issued AASB 18 *Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements*. When applicable AASB 18 supersedes AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*. AASB 18 aims to improve how entities communicate in their financial statements, with a focus on information about financial performance in the statement of profit or loss. It is expected to result in presentation and disclosure changes, primarily to Council's Comprehensive Income Statement. AASB 18 is expected to first apply to Council for the 2028-29 financial year.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables) and payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates.Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020* . Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.
Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:
- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of provisions, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for provisions are disclosed at Note 5.4.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of +2% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.1%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy , Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement* aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards. For assets where Council adopts a current replacement cost approach to determine fair value, Council considers the inclusion of site preparation costs, disruption costs and costs to restore another entity's assets in the underlying valuation.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	3 to 5 years
Buildings	3 to 5 years
Roads	3 to 5 years
Bridges	3 to 5 years
Footpaths and cycleways	3 to 5 years
Drainage	3 to 5 years
Other infrastructure	3 to 5 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increase reverses a prior year decrease for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increase is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decreases are recognised as an expense except where prior increases are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrease is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increases. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increases and decreases within the year are offset.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset. The impairment policy above does not apply to Council's property, infrastructure, specialised buildings and other non-current physical assets subsequently measured at fair value. These are primarily non-cash generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity. Their recoverable amount is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that *AASB 136 Impairment of Assets* does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Reserves (a) Asset revaluation reserves	Balance at beginning of reporting period $'000	Increase (decrease) $'000	Balance at end of reporting period $'000
2026			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,672	-	1,672
Buildings	61,257	3,367	64,624
	62,929	3,367	66,296
Infrastructure			
Roads	107,147	9,721	116,868
Bridges	218	316	534
Footpaths and cycleways	5,143	311	5,454
Kerb & Channel	17,809	743	18,552
Drainage	2,416	173	2,589
Other infrastructure	14,495	854	15,349
Share in asset revaluation in associates	28	(28)	-
	147,256	12,090	159,346
Total asset revaluation reserves	**210,185**	**15,456**	**225,641**
2025			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,832	(160)	1,672
Buildings	8,176	53,081	61,257
	10,008	52,921	62,929
Infrastructure			
Roads	97,639	9,508	107,147
Bridges	218	-	218
Footpaths and cycleways	3,051	2,092	5,143
Kerb & Channel	15,650	2,159	17,809
Drainage	2,416	-	2,416
Other infrastructure	602	13,893	14,495
Share in asset revaluation in associates	28	-	28
	119,604	27,652	147,256
Total asset revaluation reserves	**129,612**	**80,573**	**210,185**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

Comparative information has been restated to correct the allocation of Asset Revaluation Reserve balances between asset classes. The adjustment relates solely to the presentation of reserve balances and has no impact on the total Asset Revaluation Reserve previously reported. The revised classification has been reflected in the current year balances.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	**2026 $'000**	**2025 $'000**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(465)	1,272
Non-cash adjustments:		
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,083	1,266
Depreciation	8,665	6,195
Other	(3)	(228)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(412)	142
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(26)	(44)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	751	(33)
Decrease/(increase) in contract and other liabilities	261	(412)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	2	-
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(36)	795
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	-	304
(Decrease)/Increase in accrued expenses	71	(83)
(Decrease)/Increase in trust funds	(263)	4
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**10,629**	**9,178**

Comparative information has been restated to reflect the reclassification of the "Loss on Disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment" which was previously reported within "Materials and Services".

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2026, this was 12% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2025: 11.5%)).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. As at 30 June 2025, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2025 (of which Council is a contributing employer) was 110.5%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.6% pa

As at 30 June 2026, a triennial actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is expected to be completed by 31 October 2026. The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2025 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2025 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2026, this rate was 12% of members' salaries (11.5% in 2024/25). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

The 2025 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2025 and 30 June 2024 while a full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2025 (Interim) $m	2024 (Interim) $m	2023 (Triennial) $m
- A VBI Surplus	200.1	108.4	84.7
- A total service liability surplus	229.4	141.4	123.6
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	242.8	156.7	141.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2025.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2025.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2025.

The 2026 triennial actuarial investigation

A triennial actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2026 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2026. The last interim actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2026 was at 31 March 2026. The VBI of the Defined Benefit category at that date was 108.7%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2025 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.6% pa

Council was notified of the 30 June 2025 VBI during August 2025.
Because the VBI was above 100%, the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position at 30 June 2025 and it is expected that the actuarial investigation will recommend that no change will be necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

The 2023 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2023 Triennial investigation	2020 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.7% pa	5.6% pa
Salary inflation	3.50% pa	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter
Price inflation	2.8% pa	2.0% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 are detailed below:

Scheme	**Type of Scheme**	**Rate**	**2026 $'000**	**2025 $'000**
Vision super	Defined benefits	12% (2025:11.5%)	4	11
Vision super	Accumulation	12% (2025:11.5%)	365	358
Other Funds	Accumulation	12% (2025:11.5%)	680	569

In addition to the above contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling $0 (2024/25 $0).

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2026.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2027 is $4 thousand.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2025-26 year.

Hindmarsh
Shire Council
Community Civic Hub.
what should we have for young people in our region?
Free mental health services
Better doctors
Roads - pot holes
Having friends to talk to.
NYPD
POLICE
"BE YOU"
189

Performance Statement
2025/2026
190 Hindmarsh Shire Council Annual Report 2025/2026

Performance Statement Table of Contents

Certification of the Financial Statements 192

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Audit Report 193

Section 1: Description of municipality 195

Section 2: Service performance indicators 196

Section 3: Financial performance indicators 199

Section 4: Sustainable capacity indicators 204

Section 5: Notes to the accounts 206
5.1. Basis of preparation 206
5.2. Definitions 207

Certification of the performance statement

In my opinion, the accompanying Performance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

[redacted]

Marivic Vix CPA, BA
Manager Financial Services
Dated: 30 September 2026

In our opinion, the accompanying Performance Statement of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 presents fairly the results of Council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Performance Statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the Performance Statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify this Performance Statement in its final form.

[redacted]

Cr Ron Ismay
Mayor
Dated: 30 September 2026

[redacted]

Cr Rosie Barker
Councillor
Dated: 30 September 2026

[redacted]

Mrs Monica Revell
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 30 September 2026

VAGO
Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Hindmarsh Shire Council

Opinion	I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Hindmarsh Shire Council (the council) which comprises the: • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2026 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026 • notes to the accounts • certification of the performance statement. In my opinion, the performance statement of Hindmarsh Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2026 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement	As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also: • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation. I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[redacted]

MELBOURNE
2 October 2026

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Section 1 – Description of municipality

Hindmarsh Shire is in the Wimmera region of western Victoria and covers 7,527 square kilometres. It is located on the Western Highway, about 375 kilometres west of Melbourne and 350 kilometres east of Adelaide. This location places the Shire on an important freight route and supports local business, transport and economic activity.

The Shire includes a number of important natural areas, including Little Desert National Park to the south and Wyperfeld National Park to the north. Other key features include the Big Desert Wilderness Area, the Wimmera River, Lake Hindmarsh and Lake Albacutya. The central part of the Shire is mainly used for broadacre cropping and grazing, which reflects the area's strong agricultural base.

The Shire's four main towns are Nhill, Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow. Each town has its own character and strong community identity. Together, they offer rural living, welcoming communities and access to natural attractions.

The Wotjobaluk people are the Traditional Owners of the Hindmarsh area. Traditionally, communities lived around Nhill Swamp, the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Lake Hindmarsh near Jeparit and Lake Albacutya near Rainbow. Many also lived along the red gum-lined banks of the Wimmera River and around the Nine Creeks area near Dimboola.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population for Hindmarsh Shire was 5,464 people at 30 June 2026. The most recent Census data from 2021 showed a median age of 50 years, with 82.6% of people born in Australia and English is the only language spoken in 86.0% of homes. The Shire's largest migrant community is the Karen community from Burma (Myanmar), with about 213 people speaking Karen at home.

Based on the latest available Census data, the median weekly household income in Hindmarsh Shire was $1,159. Median monthly mortgage repayments were $750 and median weekly rent was $180. Most homes are separate houses, and many residents own their homes outright. The local economy is mainly supported by agriculture, health care, manufacturing, retail, education and transport. The Shire also has a strong volunteering culture.

Section 2 – Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Results

	2023	2024	2025	2026		Comment
Service / ***Indicator*** / *Measure* [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Aquatic Facilities ***Utilisation*** *Utilisation of aquatic facilities* [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	0.53	0.83	2.14	N/A	2.29	There were 12,510 visits of Hindmarsh outdoor pools during 2025/2026 season, with free access supporting strong use.
Animal Management ***Health and safety*** *Animal management prosecutions* [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100%	0%	100%	N/A	0%	While Council undertook enforcement action relating to animal management in 2025/2026, no enforcement matters progressed to prosecution.
Food Safety ***Health and safety*** *Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications* [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	0.00%	.00%	100%	N/A	0%	Council does not have control over the number of critical non-compliance notifications received. This reduction simply reflects that there was no critical non-compliance notifications received.

	2023	2024	2025	2026		Comment
Governance ***Consultation and engagement***						
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	53	52	59	59	61	Council continued to deliver a strong program of engagement activities in 2025/2026, including drop-ins, deliberate engagement sessions for the Council Plan and budget, CEO drop-ins, Farmer Consultations, project specific sessions and utilisation of the Have Your Say Hindmarsh platform.
Libraries ***Participation***						
Library membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	N/A	17.88%	36.40%	N/A	17.33%	The library membership input for the 2024/2025 financial year incorrectly combined the mid-year and EOFY reporting. The total membership at EOFY in 2024/2025 was 997 (18.25%) and the total membership at EOFY 2025/2026 is 947.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) ***Participation***						
Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	Council does not deliver Maternal and Child Health Services

	2023	2024	2025	2026		Comment
Roads ***Condition***						
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	98.29%	98.29%	98.12%	99.80%	98.29%	No material variance.
Statutory Planning ***Service standard***						
Planning applications decided within required time frames [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	54.55%	53.33%	71.43%	90.00%	93.33%	Council's improved performance reflects ongoing efforts to streamline statutory planning processes while maintaining appropriate assessment standards. Despite the complexity and varying nature of planning applications received, a higher proportion of applications were determined within legislated timeframes, improving service outcomes for applicants and the broader community.
Waste Management ***Waste diversion***						
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	34.54%	22.16%	22.92%	20.00%	16.56%	The reduction in diversion rate is likely due to the full implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) where less glass and cans are being placed in recycle bins, and cardboard is being taken directly to deposit centres for recycling.

Section 3 – Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Results					Forecasts				
	2023	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**		**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**Material Variations and Comments**
Dimension / ***Indicator*** / *Measure* [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Efficiency ***Expenditure level*** *Expenses per property assessment* [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	$3,784.80	$4,083.17	$5,282.77	$4,262.74	$5,258.43	$4,506.74	$4,616.70	$4,795.39	$4,928.30	No material variances.
Revenue level *Average rate per property assessment* [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	$1,574.44	$1,650.11	$1,660.06	N/A	$1,697.20	$1,742.21	$1,789.90	$1,833.99	$1,879.06	No material variance.

	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations and Comments
Liquidity ***Working capital*** *Current assets compared to current liabilities* [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	356.63%	368.48%	460.91%	129.80%	470.25%	245.94%	231.00%	193.53%	152.09%	No material variance.
Unrestricted cash *Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities* [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	179.45%	260.99%	407.77%	N/A	418.34%	190.85%	174.43%	136.69%	94.76%	No material variance.
Obligations ***Loans and borrowings*** *Loans and borrowings compared to rates* [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council remains debt free with no loans or borrowings.

	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations and Comments
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council remains debt free with no loans or borrowings.
Indebtedness *Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue* [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	1.68%	3.82%	3.72%	N/A	2.26%	3.95%	3.94%	3.85%	3.78%	Council remains debt free, with non-current liabilities mainly relating to employee leave provisions. The ratio decreased during the year due to the retirement of several long-serving employee and the utilisation of their long service leave entitlements.

	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations and Comments
Asset renewal and upgrade										
Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	140.78%	93.27%	71.25%	74.20%	53.99%	98.38%	68.14%	70.49%	69.49%	The ratio was lower this year because the value of Council's assets was updated/revalued, which increased the depreciation costs. As a result, asset renewal spending was lower when compared to depreciation even though Council continues to invest in renewing its assets.
Operating position ***Adjusted underlying result***										
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	7.99%	-18.28%	-12.23%	N/A	-14.86%	-8.75%	-11.48%	-13.45%	-14.28%	The adjusted underlying deficit increased mainly because the updated value of Council's assets resulted in higher depreciation costs. Depreciation is an

	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027	2028	2029	2030	Material Variations and Comments
[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100										accounting expense that reflects the consumption of Council's assets over time and form's part of Council's operating cost for financial reporting purposes.
Stability ***Rates concentration*** *Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue* [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	44.41%	55.96%	41.03%	49.66%	43.22%	48.91%	50.29%	50.48%	50.70%	No material variance.
Rates effort *Rates compared to property values* [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.35%	0.25%	0.23%	N/A	0.23%	0.24%	0.25%	0.25%	0.26%	No material variance.

Section 4 – Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Results

	2023	2024	2025	2026	Comment
Indicator / *Measure* [Formula]	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Population *Expenses per head of municipal population* [Total expenses / Municipal population]	$3,494.29	$3,746.03	$5,022.69	$5,046.70	No material variance.
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	$35,917.71	$35,951.88	$50,953.06	$53,841.87	No material variance.
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	1.85	1.84	1.81	1.81	No material variance.
Own-source revenue *Own-source revenue per head of municipal population* [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	$2,204.21	$2,395.81	$2,428.26	$2,547.00	No material variance.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	Comment
Recurrent grants *Recurrent grants per head of municipal population* [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	$1,538.56	$701.84	$2,000.73	$1,826.47	No material variance.
Disadvantage *Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage* [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	No material variance.
Workforce turnover *Percentage of staff turnover* [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	28.6%	26.2%	12.1%	25.3%	Council saw 23 staff leave the organisation within the financial year. Exit data suggests that there were a significant number of retirements within this pool, as well as people seeking employment closer to home, with many Council staff travelling from neighbouring towns and regions. Council continues to undertake work to improve retention and organisation culture and continues to endeavour to be an employer of choice. Council will continue to see a significant number of retirements over the coming years due to the workplace demographics.

Section 5 - Notes to the accounts

5.1 Basis of Preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a Performance Statement within its annual report. The Performance Statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable the results in the Performance Statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from Council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The Performance Statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the Performance Statement includes the target budget for the current year, and the results forecast for the period 2026-27 to 2029-30 by the Council's Financial Plan.

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the Performance Statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

5.2 Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
Adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
Annual Report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
Asset Renewal Expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
Asset Upgrade Expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
Critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984* , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
Current Assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
Current Liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
Food Premises	has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*
Intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
Local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*
Major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
Non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities

Own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
Population	means the resident population estimated by council
Rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
Relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
Restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
Unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

XV 06XB
209

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Main Office:
92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418

Postal Address:
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Phone: 03 5391 4444

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

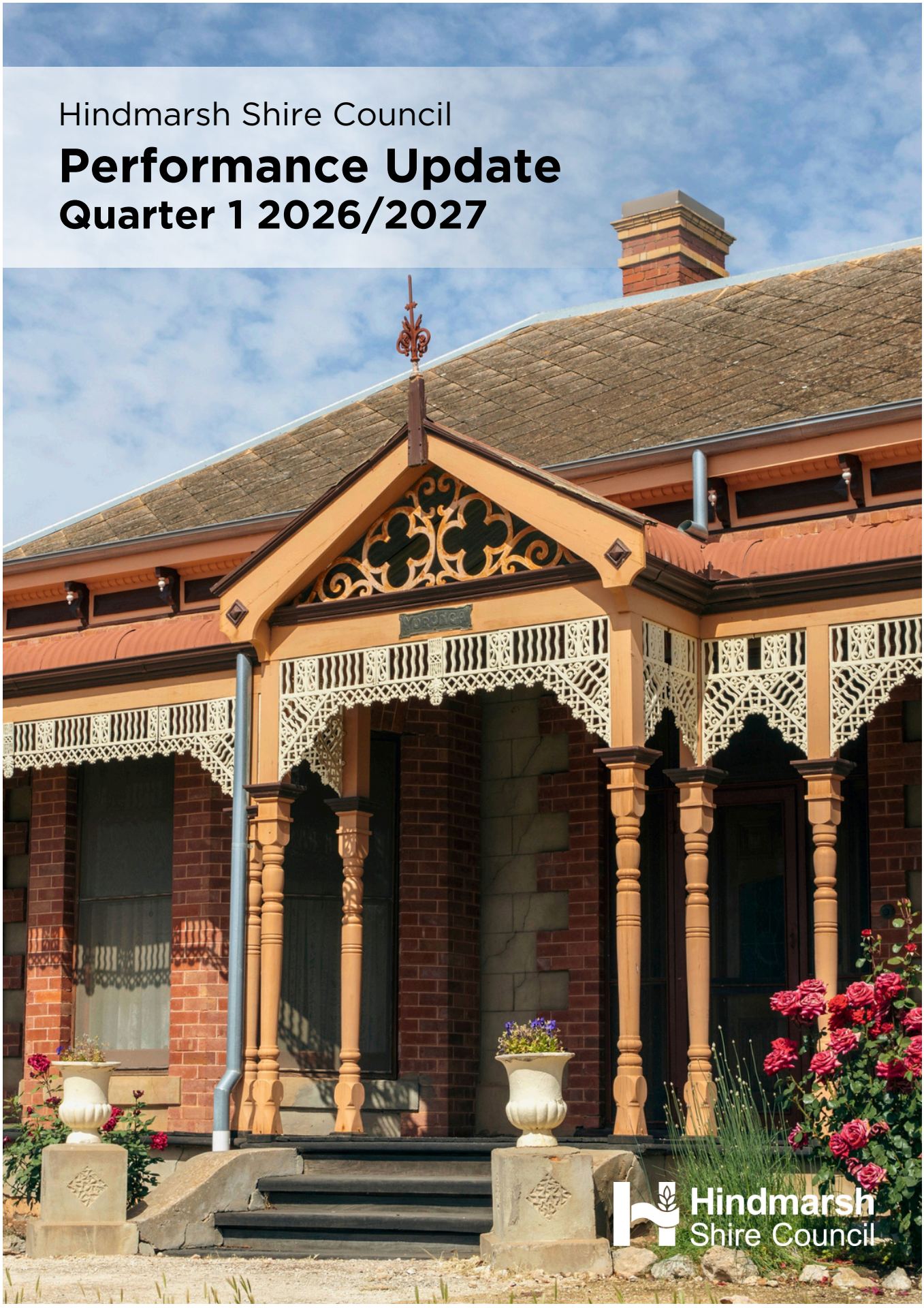
Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

© Prepared by Hindmarsh Shire Council.

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Performance Update
Quarter 1 2026/2027



Contents

Finance Report
Pages 3 - 30

Council Plan Actions
Pages 31 - 36

Capital Works
Pages 37 - 42

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Finance Report
Q1 2026/2027

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Management Financial Report
For the period ending 30 September 2026

COMMENTARY

General

This report presents the first quarter's results of operation and financial positions of Hindmarsh Shire Council.

Dashboard

The Dashboard provides Council with a set of graphs detailing both financial and non-financial items highlighting Council Service Performancce across key areas.

Executive Summary & Ratios

The Executive Summary and Financial Ratios provide Council with a summary of key financial results, comparing year-to-date actuals against the year-to-date budget.

Financials

Attached to this report are a set of financial statements consisting of an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, Capital Works Schedule, Detailed Program Expenditure and Carry Forwards Expenditures from the previous financial years. These statements are prepared in line with Australian Accounting Standards and the relevant regulations under the Local Government Act 2020, and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. The statements provide the quarterly actual data with a comparison against quarterly budget figures. A brief summary of the major budget variances is outlined on the following pages.

Comprehensive Income Statement

The Comprehensive Income Statement shows an operating surplus for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026 of $7.19 million compared to a budgeted surplus of $7.51 million

There are a number of items that make up the overall variances between actual and budget. Explanation of material variances have been detailed against the Comprehensive Income Statement report.

Balance Sheet and Cash Flow

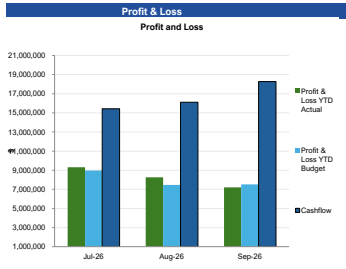
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 September 2026 shows a balance of $18.25 million.

Capital Expenditure

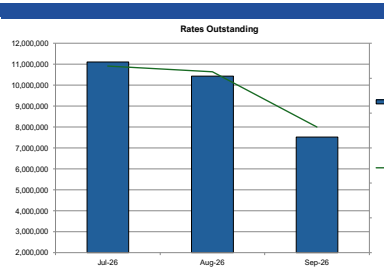
This report shows Capital works expenditure of $1.05 million for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026.

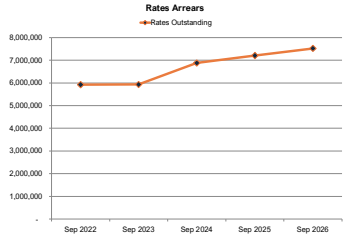
Hindmarsh Shire Council Service Performance Dashboard
For the period ending 30 September 2026

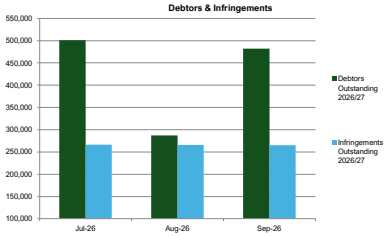
Profit & Loss



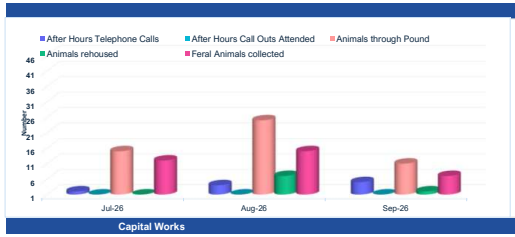
Outstanding Debtors, Rates & Infringements

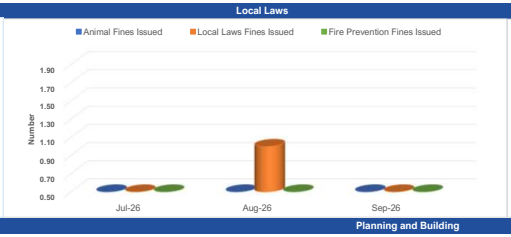


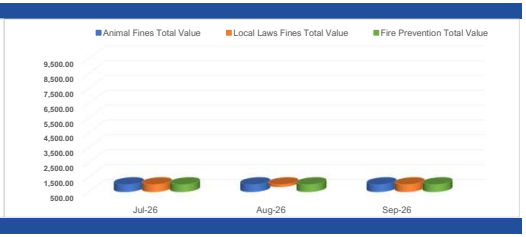




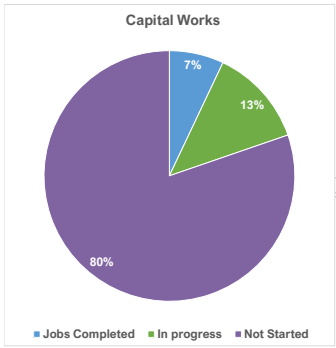
Local Laws



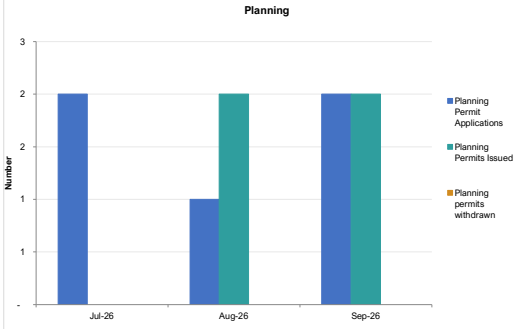


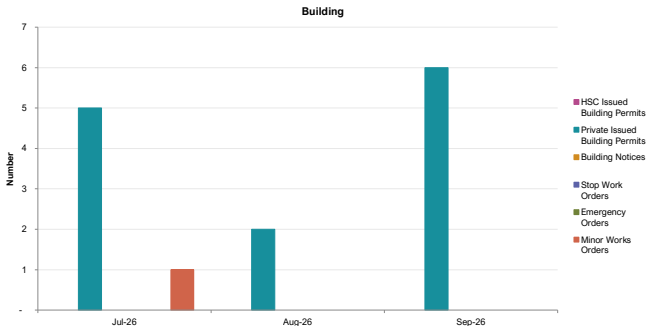


Capital Works



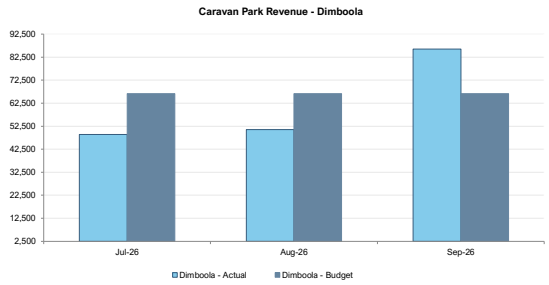
Planning and Building

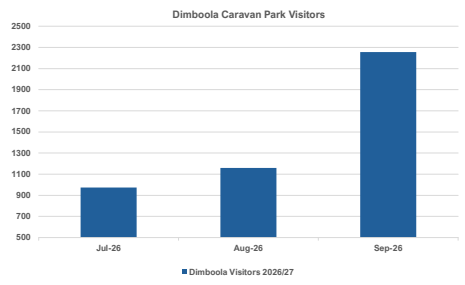


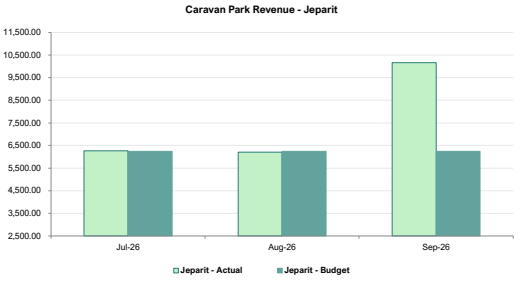


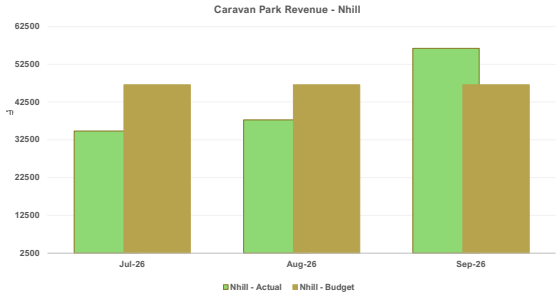
Hindmarsh Shire Council Service Performance Dashboard
For the period ending 30 September 2026

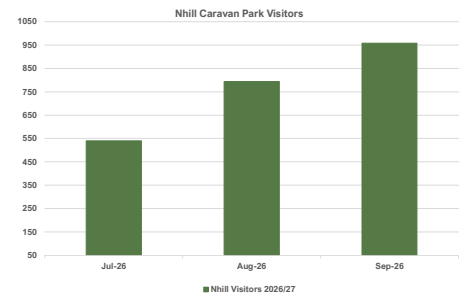
Caravan parks

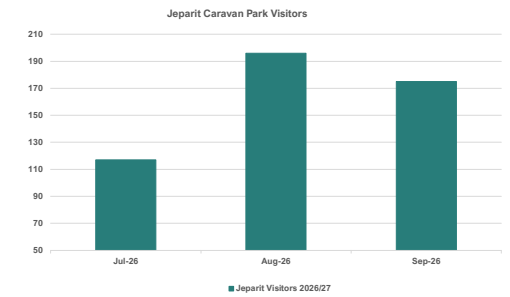


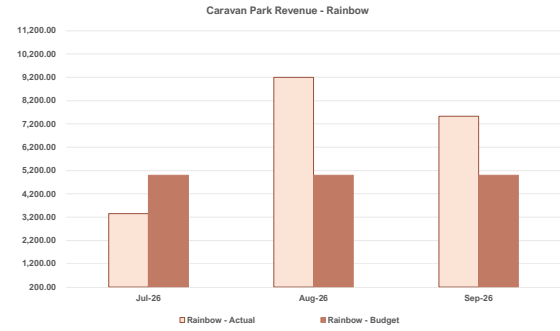


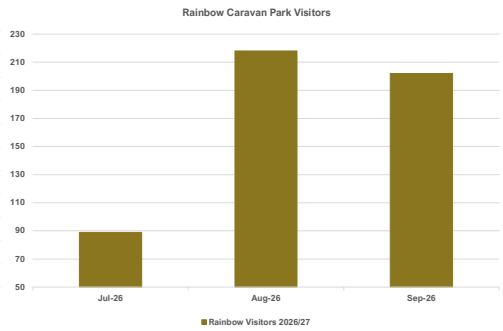


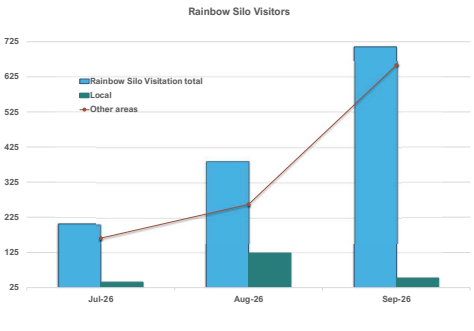






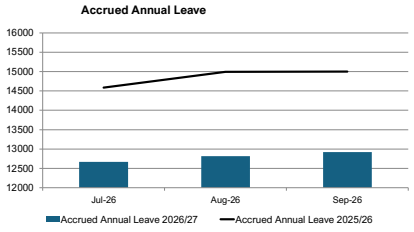


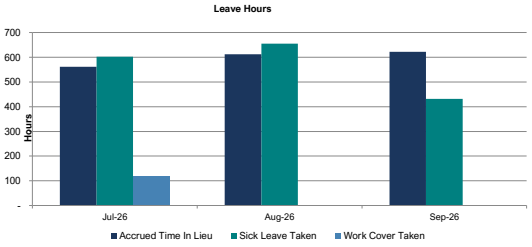




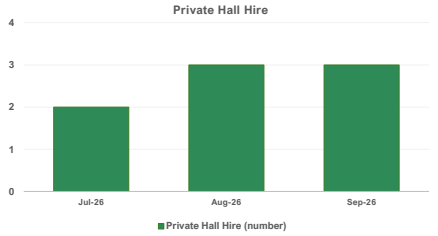
Hindmarsh Shire Council Service Performance Dashboard
For the period ending 30 September 2026

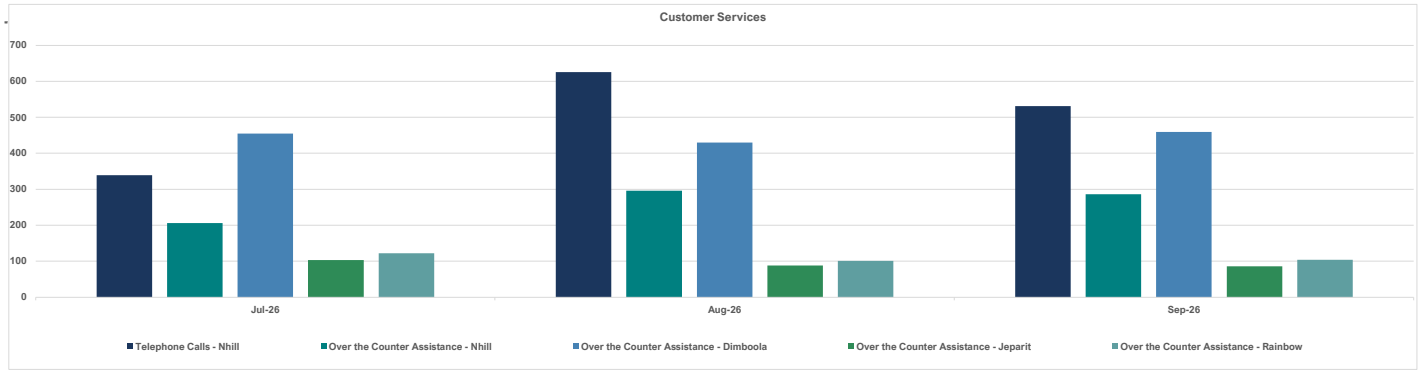
Human Resources

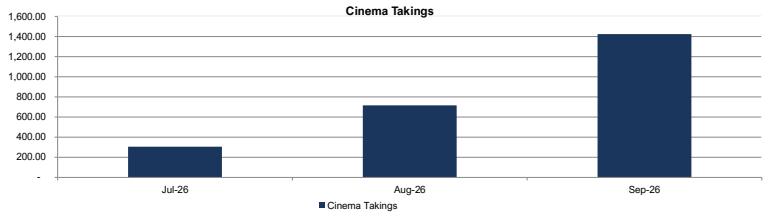


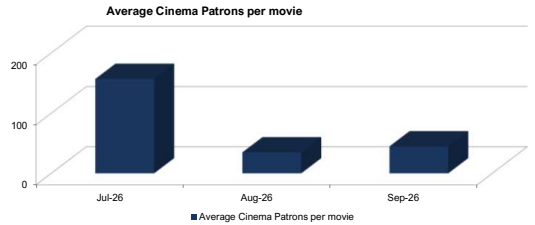


NMCC Hall Hire









Hindmarsh Shire Council
Executive Summary
As at 30 September 2026

	Actual YTD September 2026	Budget YTD September 2026	Indicator
Rates & Charges Collected	3,662,541	2,654,892	
Income Statement Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	7,191,864	7,515,352	
Adjusted Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)	5,746,397	7,314,880	
Cash & Investments	18,254,690		
Rates Debtors	7,525,420		
Sundry Debtors	481,960		
Infringement Debtors	265,456		
Balance Sheet Working Capital	24,050,247		
Total Operating Revenue	12,577,628	13,427,521	
Total Operating Expenditure	6,760,181	5,912,169	
Capital Grants Received	1,127,579	594,063	
Capital Works Expenditure	1,056,710	1,608,180	

Indicator Legend

	No action required
	Requires active monitoring
	Immediate action required

Hindmarsh Shire Council Ratio Summary As at September 2026			
Financial Sustainability Ratios	**Actual YTD**	**Budget**	**Indicator**
Working Capital / Liquidity Under LGPRF, this measure is formally referred to as Liquidity ratio. This ratio is used to assess Council's ability to pay its short term financial obligation as they fall due over the next 12 months. Current acceptable benchmark is 1.5 - 2.0	6.65	2.46	
Unrestricted Cash This ratio is a liquidity indicator which shows how much of Council's total cash is immediately available to fund its operation. While current benchmark of 100%-200% shows a strong liquidity buffer, up to 50% is still manageable.	429%	191%	
Cash Expense Ratio (months) This ratio indicates how long Council can continue to undertake operations without any additional cash revenue being received on top of current cash holdings. 3-6 months is considered healthy, above this is very strong.	12	4	
Asset Renewal This ratio identifies councils expenditure in renewing assets compared to the depreciation of the asset. Sustainable benchmark is >=100%. While 90-99% is acceptable for the short term, less than 90% is a risk if sustained for 2 years but still acceptable if there is a supported long term financial plans. 3 years below benchmark is a tipping point and a high sustainability concern, immediate action will be required.	47%	104%	
Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio This ratio is the measurement of a Council's ability to cover its costs through its own revenue efforts. It indicates council's resilience to funding changes. Current acceptable benchmark to be considered resilient is >=60%.	83%	59%	
Operating Surplus Ratio This ratio is a measure of a Council's ability to generate enough ongoing revenue to cover its ongoing costs. It also indicates that Council is living within its means and can sustain current services without relying on one-off funding. Current acceptable benchmark to be considered sustainable is 0-10%.	46%	-11%	
Indebtedness This ratio is the measurement of a Council's non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue. Current benchmark is less than 40%.	3%	4%	
Rates Concentration This ratio describes how much of Council's operating revenue comes from rates. Common benchmark to small rural shire is =>70% which shows very high reliance.	83%	50%	

Indicator Legend

No action required
Requires active monitoring
Immediate action required

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Interim Comprehensive Income Statement
For the period ending 30 September 2026

	YTD Actual $	YTD Budget $	YTD Variance $	Ref
Income				
Rates and charges	10,444,993	10,509,552	(64,559)	1
Statutory fees and fines	250	7,749	(7,499)	2
User fees & Reimbursements	841,246	485,100	356,146	3
Contributions - cash	3,112	1,803	1,309	4
Grants - operating (recurrent)	689,967	1,640,080	(950,113)	5
Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	344,471	-	344,471	6
Grants - capital (recurrent)	273,422	475,362	(201,940)	7
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	854,157	118,701	735,456	8
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	243,727	79,968	163,759	9
Interest	163,298	82,467	80,831	
Other income	93,403	26,739	66,664	10
Total Income	**13,952,045**	**13,427,521**	**524,524**	
Expenses				
Employee costs	2,651,032	2,541,195	109,837	11
Materials and services	1,174,765	1,436,334	(261,569)	12
Depreciation	2,246,771	1,548,216	698,555	13
Other expenses	687,614	386,424	301,190	14
Total Expenses	**6,760,181**	**5,912,169**	**848,012**	
Allowance for impairment losses	-	-	-	
Surplus (deficit) for the year to date	7,191,864	7,515,352	(323,488)	
Net asset Revaluation increment / (decrement)	-	-	-	
Comprehensive result	**7,191,864**	**7,515,352**	**(323,488)**	

Comprehensive Income Statement
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Rates and charges	Rates and Charges are below budget due to timing of payment in lieu of rates from solar/wind farm within the Shire for the quarter.
2	Statutory fees and fines	Statutory Fees and Fines are lower than budget as there have been less activities during the quarter resulting to fines or relevant stautory fees.
3	User fees & Reimbursements	User Fees and Reimbursements are higher than budget due to recovery of costs for works undertaken for Rural Roads Victoria in the last financial year.
4	Contributions - cash	Contributions are above budget due to an unbudgeted contribution received from Nhill Town Committee towards the improvement of Lowan entry signs.
5	Grants - operating (recurrent)	Grants - operating (recurrent) is lower than budget due to the timing of grants payments received. Largely this is due to early receipt of 80% of the 2026/2027 Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grants in June 2026.
6	Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	Grants - operating (non-recurrent) is higher than budget due to the receipt of unbudgeted funding from the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority to support the Lower Wimmera Flood Study.
7	Grants - capital (recurrent)	Grants - capital (recurrent) is lower than budget as Council has not yet received its Roads to Recovery Funding allocation for the current financial year. This funding is typically received later in the year following the completion and acquittal of project expenditure.

Comprehensive Income Statement
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
8	Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	Grants - capital (non-recurrent) is higher than budget due to project grants carried-forward from previous year, including the Dimboola Swimming Pool project. The year-to-date amount also includes the Safe Local Roads and Streets project milestone payments relating to works completed in prior year and the flood recovery grant received for eligible cost associated with the 2022 flood event.
9	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Net gain/loss on disposal of plant and assets for the current financial year will be confirmed at year-end. Income currently reflects the amount received on sale of items of plant and equipment including vehicles.
10	Other Income	Other Income is higher than budget due to receipt of proceeds from the sale of property under section 181 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the recovery of long-outstanding rates and charges.
11	Employee costs	Employee costs are above budget due to the annual Workcover premium being paid in full upon receipt of the invoice to ensure the 5% discount was received, while the budget phased the expense evenly across the financial year. This represent a timing difference rather than an underlying increase in employee costs.
12	Materials and Services	Materials and services expenditure is below budget due to timing of project works and the associated invoice processing and payments. While several projects are underway, a portion of the related costs has not been invoiced or recognised at the reporting date. The variance is therefore a timing difference and is expected to decrease as project milestones are completed and invoices are paid throughout the year.

Comprehensive Income Statement
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
13	Depreciation	Depreciation is higher than budget due to impact of asset revaluations and indexation undertaken in 2024/2025, which were not fully incorporated into the budget estimates during budget preparation, while asset system corrections were being completed. These corrections have now been finalised in 2025/26, and the current depreciation charge now reflects the anticipated depreciation levels for 2026/27. Any further adjustments required will be assessed and reflected as part of the year-end process.
14	Other Expenses	Other expenses are above budget due to the annual Insurance being paid in full upon receipt of the invoice, while the budget phased the expense evenly across the financial year. This represent a timing difference rather than an underlying increase in other expenses.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Material Variance Report
As at September 2026

Variances to Budget	Income Amount ($)	Expense Amount ($)	Annual Budgeted Amount ($)	Variance ($)	Commentary
Early payment of the Victorian Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grant (General Purpose)	(198,923)	0	(3,718,328)	3,519,405	The Victorian Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grants (General Purpose and Local Roads) were paid in advance, resulting in the recognition of income in the 2025/2026 financial year that relates to the 2026/2027. Council received $4,818,282.90 (80%) in June 2026 as an early payment of these grants.
Early payment of the Victorian Grants Commission Financial Assistance Grant (Local Roads)	(109,595)	0	(1,990,424)	1,880,829	
Roads to recovery grants	(273,422)	0	(1,902,210)	1,628,788	Timing of payment. R2R Grants are claimed and received closer to year-end. The amount received relates to the 2025/26 financial year. Expense amount to be identified and validated at year-end.
Wimmera Catchment Authority (Lower Wimmera Flood Study)	(300,000)	0	0	(300,000)	Council received the initial grant payment during the first quarter, with works commencing shortly thereafter.
Safer Local Roads & Streets (State)	(326,840)	0	0	(326,840)	Receipt of projects milestone payment upon acquittal of completed works which were undertaken in the previous financial year.
Department of Transport & Planning	(356,841)	0	0	(356,841)	Recovery of cost relating to works undertaken on behalf of Regional Roads Victoria in the previous financial year.
Kerbside Waste & Recycling Collection	0	1,400,300	1,273,000	(127,300)	Increase to contract anticipated due to significant increase in diesel per litre required to be paid under the RTCCO.

This section detalis major actual or proposed variances to budget lines in financial reporting, where components of expenditure have significantly changed even if there is no material change in the broader budget area. Usually, they relate to unexpected increases in external costs, emergency works, or the timing of income and expenditure in relation to both calendar and financial year.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Balance Sheet
As at September 2026

	YTD Actual Sep-26	Actual Jun-26	Ref
Current assets	**$**	**$**	
Cash and cash equivalents	18,254,690	17,695,714	1
Rates and other receivables	9,822,984	1,810,072	2
Other assets & Inventories	226,693	385,156	3
Total current assets	**28,304,368**	**19,890,942**	
Non-current assets			
Infrastructure, Property and Plant and Equipment	291,950,415	294,197,186	4
Capital Expenditure - Current F/Y	1,056,710	0	5
Trade and other receivables	2,207	2,207	
Total non-current assets	**293,009,332**	**294,199,393**	
Total assets	**321,313,699**	**314,090,335**	
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	227,223	1,971,181	6
Trust Funds and Deposits	2,156,316	309,022	7
Provisions - Short Term	1,870,582	1,942,418	8
Total current liabilities	**4,254,120**	**4,222,620**	
Provisions - Long Term	324,741	324,741	8
Total non-current liabilities	324,741	324,741	
Total liabilities	**4,578,862**	**4,547,362**	
Net assets	**316,734,837**	**309,542,974**	
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	84,366,223	84,366,223	
Surplus/(Deficit) for period	7,191,864	(464,767)	
Asset revaluation reserve	225,176,750	225,641,517	
Total equity	**316,734,837**	**309,542,974**	

Balance Sheet
Explanation of material variations
As at September 2026

Variance Ref	Item	
1	Cash and Cash Equivalents	Cash and cash equivalents were higher due to project milestone payments received during the quarter that relates to works completed in the last financial year. This also includes 80% of the 2026/27 Financial Assistance Grant, which was received in June 2026.
2	Rates and Other Receivables	Rates and other receivables represent the total rates raised for the 2026/27 financial year, less payments received by 30 September 2026. Balance will decline as payment installments are received each quarters.
3	Other Assets & Inventories	Other assets and inventories represent the amount of stock on hand to undertake operations and capital projects.
4	Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	This balance represents the written-down value of Council's assets (cost less accumulated depreciation). The decrease in net asset values is primarily due to higher depreciation expense in 2026/27 following asset revaluation and indexation in the prior year. Net asset values are expected to continue declining throughout the year until capitalisation, revaluation and indexation adjustment are completed at year-end.
5	Capital Works	Capital Expenditure represents the works completed as of the reporting period.

Balance Sheet
Explanation of material variations
As at September 2026

Ref	Item	
6	Trade and Other Payables	Trade and Other Payables represents the amount outstanding to creditors as at 30 September 2026.
7	Trust Funds and Deposits	Trust Fund and Deposits include the Fire Services levied for the year. Once collected, the funds are held temporarily by Council and remitted to the State Revenue Office on a quarterly basis.
8	Provisions	Provisions represents the amount held for Long Service (adjusted to present value), Annual Leave, Quarry and Landfill restoration.

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Statement of Cash Flows
For the period ending 30 September 2026

	Inflows/(Outflows)
Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Receipts	
Rates & Charges	3,662,541
Statutory Fees and Fines	1,311
User Fees	718,170
Interest	163,298
Contributions - Cash	3,112
Grants - Recurrent	963,389
Net GST refund/(payment)	82,666
Grants - Non Recurrent	721,925
Trust	656,183
Other Revenue	150,974
Payments	
Employee Costs	(2,653,642)
Other Expenses	(803,736)
Suppliers	(2,294,232)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	**1,371,959**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Payments for Property Plant and Equipment and	(1,056,710)
Proceeds from sale of Property Plant and Equipment	243,727
Net cash inflow (outflow) from investing activities	**(812,983)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	558,976
Cash at beginning of the period	17,695,714
Cash at end of the period	**18,254,690**

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Statement of Capital Works
For the period ending 30 September 2026

	YTD Actual $	YTD Budget $	YTD Variance $	Ref
Property				
Land	-	-	-	
Total Land	-	-	-	
Buildings	68,014	62,475	(5,539)	1
Total Buildings	68,014	62,475	5,539	
Total Property	**68,014**	**62,475**	**5,539**	
Plant and Equipment				
Plant, machinery and equipment	415,498	275,391	(140,107)	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	31,489	12,747	(18,742)	
Total Plant and Equipment	**446,986**	**288,138**	**(158,848)**	
Infrastructure				
Roads	485,151	1,044,015	558,864	3
Bridges	-	-	-	
Footpaths and cycleways	29,352	24,954	(4,398)	4
Drainage	12,230	33,411	21,181	5
Other infrastructure	14,977	145,191	130,214	6
Total Infrastructure	**541,710**	**1,247,571**	**(705,861)**	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**1,056,710**	**1,598,184**	**541,474**	
Represented by:				
New asset expenditure	99,262	168,933	69,671	
Asset renewal expenditure	909,575	1,379,307	469,732	
Asset expansion expenditure	28,445	24,954	(3,491)	
Asset upgrade expenditure	19,427	34,986	15,559	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**1,056,710**	**1,608,180**	**551,470**	
	-			

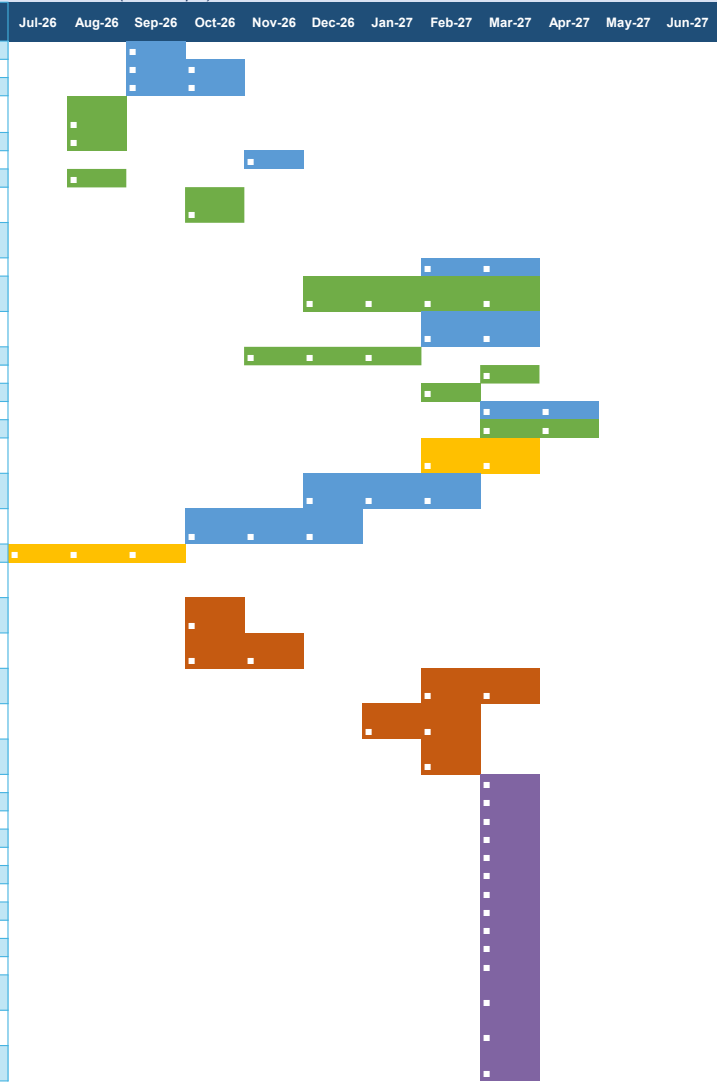
Capital Works
Explanation of material variations
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	The variation is due to carried forward works for essential building renewal from 2025/26.
2	Plant, machinery and equipment	The variance is attributable to the timing of capital purchases, with plant and fleet assets ordered in the previous financial year being delivered and subsequently paid for in 2026/2027.
3	Roads	Actual expenditure was lower than budget due to project works being in early stages of delivery, with some materials yet to be received and related invoices not yet processed. In addition, the majority of road works are scheduled between October and March when weather condition are generally more suitable for undertaking these type of works.
4	Footpaths and cycleways	No material variance.
5	Drainage	Actual expenditure was lower than budget due to project works being in early stages of delivery, with some materials yet to be received and related invoices not yet processed.
6	Other infrastructure	Other infrastructure expenditure is higher than budget due to project works being in early stages of delivery, with some works commencing later in the year inlcuding the Dimboola Swimming pool project.

2026-27 CAPITAL WORKS DELIVERY PROGRAM | JULY 2026 TO JUNE 2027

Sequence: resheets → reconstructions → shoulder resheets / civil works → reseals (March-April)

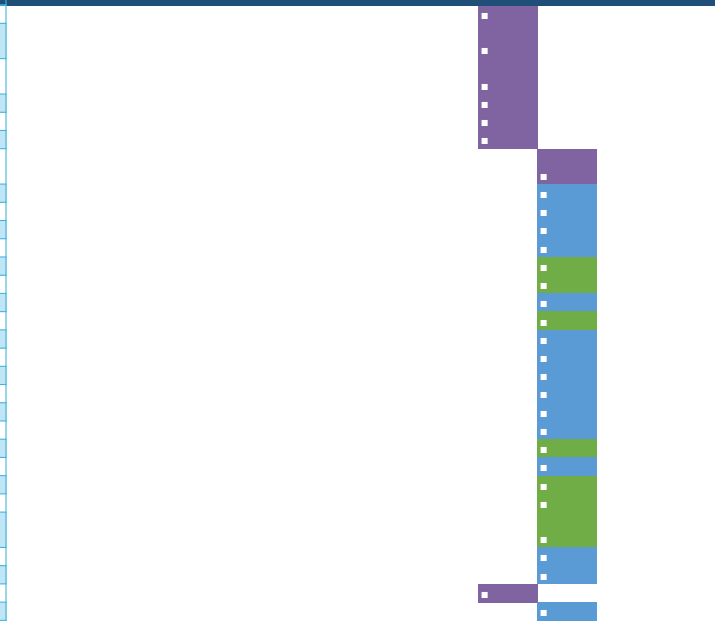
Ledger	Work Type	Project	Team / Resource	Working days	Scope	Status
20160-896	Gravel Resheet	Perenna Road, Netherby	Road construction - team West	10	2,200 m x 4.0 m x 0.125 m	Complete
20160-928	Gravel Resheet	Greig Rd - McKenzie Rd	Road construction - team West	10	1,400 m x 4.0 m x 0.125 m	In Progress
20160-733	Gravel Resheet	Greig Rd	Road construction - team West	12	1,700 m x 4.0 m x 0.125 m	In Progress
20160-114	Gravel Resheet	Patterson Rd, Dimboola	Road construction - team East	10	1,400 m x 4.0 m x 0.1 m	Complete
20160-636	Gravel Resheet	Gierke Rd, Dimboola	Road construction - team East	5	220 m x 4.0 m x 0.175 m	Complete
20160-960	Gravel Resheet	Allan Rd, Kenmare	Road construction - team West	14	2,000 m x 4.0 m x 0.125 m	Not Started
20160-250	Gravel Resheet	Oak Rd, Dimboola	Road construction - team East	5	264 m x 4.0 m x 0.125 m	Complete
20160-414	Gravel Resheet	Teakles Rd, Nhill	Road construction - team East	5	350 m x 4.0 m x 0.125 m	In Progress
20160-650	Gravel Resheet	Section/spotting program	Road construction - team East & West	Ongoing	Several locations	In Progress
20156-771	Sealed Reconstruction	Nhill Diapur Rd, Nhill	Road construction - team West	35	1,500 m x 8.0 m x 0.225 m	Not Started
20156-854	Sealed Reconstruction	Dimboola Minyip Rd, Dimboola - Grant	Road construction - team East	35	1,400 m x 10.0 m x 0.225 m	In Progress
20156-1061	Sealed Reconstruction	Netherby Lorquon Rd, Netherby	Road construction - team West	20	510 m x 10.0 m x 0.225 m	In Progress
20156-919	Sealed Reconstruction	Woorak Ni Ni - Lorquon Rd	Road construction - team East	45	1,900 m x 10.0 m x 0.225 m	Not Started
20158-943	Shoulder Resheet	Old Minyip Rd, Dimboola	Road construction - team East	15	2,800 m x 3.0 m x 0.125 m	Not Started
20158-752	Shoulder Resheet	Kiata South Rd, Kiata	Road construction - team East	7	900 m x 3.0 m x 0.125 m	Not Started
20158-859	Shoulder Resheet	Pigick Bus Route	Road construction - team West	25	5,000 m x 3.0 m x 0.125 m	Not Started
20158-966	Shoulder Resheet	Salisbury Woorak Rd	Road construction - team East	12	1,900 m x 3.0 m x 0.125 m	Not Started
20152-946	Concreting	Hindmarsh St, Dimboola - Raised Pedestrian Crossing	Concreting team	20	Raised pedestrian crossing	Not Started
20156-851	Intersection Upgrade	Rainbow-Nhill Road / Solly Road Intersection	Road construction - team West	15	Intersection widening, pavement, shoulders, signs and delineation	Not Started
20156-851	Intersection Upgrade	Nhill-Rainbow Road / Kruger Road Intersection	Road construction - team West	20	Intersection upgrade, pavement, shoulders, signs and delineation	Not Started
20152-863	Kerb & Channel	Lloyd St, Dimboola	Concreting team	30	New K&C, drainage	Complete
20152-650	Kerb & Channel & Pathways	Section replacement program	Concreting team	20	Various repairs across multiple sites	Not Started
20353-874	Contract Civil Works	Park Street Drainage and Culverts, Nhill	Civil Works Contractor	15	Underground drainage, pits, BlackMAX and RJ culverts	In Progress
20353-574	Contract Civil Works	Park Street Footpath Construction, Nhill	Civil Works Contractor	15	1.5 m concrete footpath, ramps and associated civil works	In Progress
20353-874	Contract Civil Works	Park Street Shared Path Construction, Nhill	Civil Works Contractor	15	2.5 m spray-sealed shared path commencing at Ch 200	Not Started
20353-162	Contract Civil Works	Whitehead Avenue Raised Pedestrian Crossing, Nhill	Civil Works Contractor	20	Raised crossing, kerb, drainage and associated civil works	In Progress
20353-162	Contract Civil Works	Whitehead Avenue Footpath Connections, Nhill	Civil Works Contractor	10	New footpaths, kerb ramps and connection works	Not Started
20154-851	Reseal	Rainbow-Nhill - Rainbow	Reseal contractor	2	1,595 m x 5.9 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Ramsay - Nhill (section 1)	Reseal contractor	2	432 m x 6.0 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Ramsay - Nhill (section 2)	Reseal contractor	2	269 m x 6.5 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Dart - Nhill	Reseal contractor	2	149 m x 6.4 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Lorquon Township - Lorquon	Reseal contractor	2	170 m x 4.2 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Affleck Street	Reseal contractor	2	465 m x 4.0 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Old Minyip - Dimboola	Reseal contractor	2	1,355 m x 3.7 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Hindmarsh - Nhill	Reseal contractor	2	135 m x 6.0 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Fritsch - Nhill	Reseal contractor	2	178 m x 6.8 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	L Stephens - Netherby	Reseal contractor	2	220 m x 3.7 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	School - Netherby	Reseal contractor	2	170 m x 5.6 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Church - Netherby (contractor)	Reseal contractor	2	130 m x 5.5 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Wimmera East - Dimboola (section 1)	Reseal contractor	2	436 m x 7.1 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Wimmera East - Dimboola (section 2)	Reseal contractor	2	103 m x 7.1 m	Not Started



2026-27 CAPITAL WORKS DELIVERY PROGRAM | JULY 2026 TO JUNE 2027

Sequence: resheets → reconstructions → shoulder resheets / civil works → reseals (March-April)

Ledger	Work Type	Project	Team / Resource	Working days	Scope	Status
20154-650	Reseal	Yanac-Netherby - Yanac	Reseal contractor	2	150 m x 5.8 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	River Entrance - Dimboola (section 1)	Reseal contractor	2	515 m x 5.8 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	River Entrance - Dimboola (section 2)	Reseal contractor	2	695 m x 5.7 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	James - Nhill	Reseal contractor	2	141 m x 7.5 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Hindmarsh - Jeparit	Reseal contractor	2	232 m x 11.7 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Leyonhjelms - Yanac	Reseal contractor	2	145 m x 6.3 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Antwerp Warracknabeal - Antwerp	Reseal contractor	2	1,510 m x 3.8 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Rethus - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	60 m x 6.9 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Halls - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	35 m x 5.6 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Yanac South - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	25 m x 5.0 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Campbell - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	60 m x 11.4 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Kornheim - Dimboola	Road construction - team East	2	110 m x 8.9 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Railway - Gerang Gerung	Road construction - team East	2	25 m x 6.1 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Propodollah Extension - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	30 m x 6.2 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Sands Ext - Jeparit	Road construction - team East	2	63 m x 10.1 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Aerodrome - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	790 m x 3.7 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	I Kennedys - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	30 m x 6.5 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Netherby South - Netherby	Road construction - team West	2	435 m x 5.8 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Arnold - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	21 m x 6.0 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	George - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	261 m x 7.6 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Green - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	200 m x 3.9 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	George - Dimboola	Road construction - team East	2	155 m x 6.2 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Church - Netherby (in-house)	Road construction - team West	2	130 m x 5.5 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Menzies Square Carpark	Road construction - team East	2	110 m x 2.5 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	School - Dimboola	Road construction - team East	2	223 m x 6.3 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Gerang South - Gerang Gerung	Road construction - team East	2	1,610 m x 3.9 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Bow - Rainbow	Road construction - team West	2	155 m x 16.3 m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	Krauses - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	50 m x 4.2 m	Not Started
20154-592	Reseal	Lorquon East Rd	Reseal contractor	2	2000m	Not Started
20154-650	Reseal	G Dahlenburg - Nhill	Road construction - team West	2	50 m x 3.9 m	Not Started



Hindmarsh Shire Council

Carry Forward Expenditures to 2026/2027

Carry Forward Item	Ledger Number	Capital / Recurrent	Grant Funded Y/N	Amount
Town Committees - Council Contribution	10108.119	Recurrent	N	$22,750.00
Jeparit Town Committee Funds	10133.119	Recurrent	N	$49,910.00
Nhill Town Committee Funds	10134.119	Recurrent	N	$12,356.04
Rainbow Town Committee Funds	10135.119	Recurrent	N	$61,567.23
Free From Violence	10149.119	Recurrent	Y	$63,846.60
Kindergarten Central Enrolment	10342.119	Recurrent	Y	$22,470.00
Facilitated Playgroup	10352.119	Recurrent	Y	$27,896.57
Kindergarten Infrastructure & Services Grant	10360.119	Recurrent	Y	$42,000.00
Early Years Scholarships	Ledger to be created (income ledger 10382)	Recurrent	Y	$10,000.00
Kindergarten Fit Outs (Dimboola and Nhill)	10362.650 = $20,452 10636.650 = $17,598	Capital	Y	$38,050.00
VicHealth Bright Futures	10404.119 (income ledger 10474)	Recurrent	Y	$33,602.00
Amplify (previously FReeZA)	10405.119	Recurrent	Y	$2,820.00
ABC Heywire	10406.119	Recurrent	Y	$7,169.00
Engage!	10412.119	Recurrent	Y	$74,725.00
VicFisheries SHP	10414.119	Recurrent	Y	$1,040.55
Seniors Week	10514.119	Recurrent	Y	$7,528.00
Seniors Festival Active Living	10551.119	Recurrent	Y	$22,689.00
Immunisation Grant	10607.119	Recurrent	Y	$6,364.74
Regional Events Sponsorship Program	10910.119	Recurrent	N	$12,751.37
Animal Welfare Fund	11149.119	Recurrent	Y	$562.00
TAC Community Road Safety	20190.119	Recurrent	Y	$89,462.00
K&C Capital Budget	20152 (Carry forward against 20152.863)	Capital	N	$51,594.63
K&C Lloyd Street	20152.863	Capital	N	$20,672.91
Unsealed Road Construction - Albacutya Road	20160.878	Capital	N	$27,446.21
Safer Local Roads & Streets Program	30318.65	Capital	Y	$487,254.91
Bridge Repairs	20164.65	Capital	N	$31,500.00
Major Culverts	20251.65	Capital	N	$46,902.29
Footpath - Lloyd Street	20795.650 (income ledgers 40451 & 40452; footpath expenditure ledger 20353.863)	Capital	N	$128,589.04
Footpath - Section replacement	20353.65	Capital	N	$25,800.04
Tiny Towns - Dimboola	20552.65	Capital	N	$48,230.00
Nhill Streetscape Plan Implementation	20580.65	Capital	N	$69,016.00
Tiny Towns - Jeparit Streetscape	20564.119	Capital	Y	$7,579.00
Essential Building Renewal	20652.65	Capital	N	$127,068.28
Dimboola Sports Stadium	20769.65	Recurrent	N	$23,331.00
Dimboola Swimming Pool Upgrades	20795.65	Capital	Y	$487,020.00
Concrete Crushing	20822.119	Recurrent	N	$20,000.00
Quarry Restoration	20909.119	Recurrent	N	$29,618.00
Landcare Facilitator	21175.119 (income ledger 21174)	Recurrent	Y	$23,739.07
Council Contribution to Grant Funded Projects	30152.650 = $5,000; 30104.650 = $45,000	Capital	N	$50,000.00

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Carry Forward Expenditures to 2026/2027

Carry Forward Item	Ledger Number	Capital / Recurrent	Grant Funded Y/N	Amount
Economic Development Strategy Implementation	30110.119	Recurrent	N	$3,000.00
Business Assistance Grants	30120.119	Recurrent	N	$2,140.00
Advertising and Marketing	30203.119	Recurrent	N	$8,693.54
Tourism Signage	30251.65	Capital	N	$8,668.94
Caravan Parks Materials	30402.102 (carry forward against 30461.650)	Recurrent	N	$15,000.00
Caravan Parks Maintenance	30405.102	Recurrent	N	$15,000.00
Nhill Cabin Upgrades	30415.102	Capital	Y	$122,298.91
Rainbow Park Entry Tiny Towns	30451.65	Capital	Y	$66,889.92
Planning Contractors	30502.119	Recurrent	N	$55,000.00
Public Open Space Contributions	30510.119	Recurrent	N	$19,945.45
Memberships & Subscriptions	30102.119 (ledger 40113.119 25/26)	Recurrent	N	$40,000.00
Building Maintenance - Nhill Office	30125.119 (ledger 40208.650 25/26)	Capital	N	$33,598.00
Financial Software & RCCC Initiatives	40409.119	Recurrent	N	$94,258.66
Social Club	40411.119	Recurrent	N	$4,701.23
Workstations & Ipads	40752.65	Capital	N	$4,195.36
IT Capital Projects	40753.65	Capital	N	$45,000.00
OHS Compliance	40812.119	Capital	N	$38,850.00
Project Scoping	30125.119	Recurrent	N	$11,434.00
Depots & Workshops	41250.650 = $110,000 41250.119 = $32,500 (new ledger)	Capital	N	$146,929.00
Plant Replacement	41251.65	Capital	N	$400,225.00
Road & Infrastructure Audit	41309.0119	Recurrent	N	$18,502.00
Total Carry Forward Expenditure to 2026/2027				**$3,469,251.49**

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Service area	Description of services provided		2025/2026 YTD Actual $	2025/2026 YTD Budget $	2025/2026 Annual Budget $
Theme 1: Our Community					
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	68,788	50,130	204,099
		Operating Revenue	11,486	1,998	8,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	57,302	48,132	196,099
		Capital Expenditure	1,500	-	-
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	-	312	1,250
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	-	312	1,250
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Kindergarten Services	Provision of Kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow under contract with Horsham District Kindergarten Association. Council does not directly deliver Kindergarten Services.	Operating Expenditure	15,299	20,949	83,828
		Operating Revenue	54,209	17,325	69,331
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(38,910)	3,624	14,497
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing of and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	39,630	45,924	183,768
		Operating Revenue	92,999	23,241	93,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(53,369)	22,683	90,768
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Aged & Disability Services	Council ceased to provide in-home aged care services on 30 June 2023. Costs related to Aged Care include Regional Assessement Services as well as social support.	Operating Expenditure	14,943	17,601	70,412
		Operating Revenue	1,180	501	2,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	13,763	17,100	68,412
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Health Promotion	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	Operating Expenditure	32,537	50,487	202,019
		Operating Revenue	16,021	10,281	41,130
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	16,516	40,206	160,889
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Community Transport	Council does not directly deliver community transport, it provides a community bus for hire and supports access to services delivered by external providers such as the Centre for Participation.	Operating Expenditure	-	-	-
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	-	-	-
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill, and improving services to Jeparit and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	78,852	69,795	279,286
		Operating Revenue	123,618	125,013	129,206
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(44,766)	(55,218)	150,080
		Capital Expenditure	31,489	11,496	46,000

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Service area	Description of services provided		2025/2026 YTD Actual $	2025/2026 YTD Budget $	2025/2026 Annual Budget $
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	14,802	29,496	121,014
		Operating Revenue	2,808	1,248	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	11,994	28,248	116,014
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	Operating Expenditure	15,648	16,455	65,843
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	15,648	16,455	65,843
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
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	64,442	55,839	191,905
		Operating Revenue	12,695	5,892	92,272
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	51,746	49,947	99,633
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
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	1,956	1,752	7,015
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,956	1,752	7,015
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Theme 2: Built & Natural Environment					
Local Roads & Bridges	Provide safe, all weather access to residences and allow for efficient transport of goods to and from the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	1,495,118	1,315,746	5,265,038
	• 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.	Operating Revenue	320,401	493,104	2,118,810
	• 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.	NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,174,717	822,642	3,146,228
	• VicRoads is responsible for main 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.	Capital Expenditure	482,931	1,044,015	4,177,721

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Service area	Description of services provided		2025/2026 YTD Actual $	2025/2026 YTD Budget $	2025/2026 Annual Budget $
Drainage Management	Well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	Operating Expenditure	135,470	138,975	556,129
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	135,470	138,975	556,129
		Capital Expenditure	12,230	33,411	133,694
Paths & Trails	Well maintained pedestrian access, including disabled access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	Operating Expenditure	104,700	70,101	280,527
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	104,700	70,101	280,527
		Capital Expenditure	28,445	24,954	99,859
Tree Management	Conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens, and recreation reserves.	Operating Expenditure	54,787	81,270	325,178
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	54,787	81,270	325,178
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Town Beautification	Maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	Operating Expenditure	247,694	229,527	918,412
		Operating Revenue	2,760	2,499	10,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	244,934	227,028	908,412
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Council Buildings	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled buildings, and support of communities that undertake these activities on behalf of Council.To protect and enhance the health of the community.	Operating Expenditure	920,926	255,741	1,023,862
		Operating Revenue	559	438	1,750
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	920,367	255,303	1,022,112
		Capital Expenditure	49,493	37,485	150,000
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	120,104	197,124	788,759
		Operating Revenue	463,665	105,078	420,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(343,561)	92,046	368,259
		Capital Expenditure	-	107,457	430,000
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	Operating Expenditure	311,450	465,507	1,862,718
		Operating Revenue	1,367,507	1,392,159	1,568,440
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(1,056,057)	(926,652)	294,278
		Capital Expenditure	-	74,970	300,000
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	Operating Expenditure	7,147	69,570	278,353
		Operating Revenue	-	32,487	130,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	7,147	37,083	148,353
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	Operating Expenditure	5,975	13,032	52,151
		Operating Revenue	16,881	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(10,906)	13,032	52,151
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Service area	Description of services provided		2025/2026 YTD Actual $	2025/2026 YTD Budget $	2025/2026 Annual Budget $
Environmental Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	Operating Expenditure	41,288	63,474	254,464
		Operating Revenue	85,000	38,313	153,320
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(43,712)	25,161	101,144
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Fire Prevention	Identification of potential fire hazards and prevention of loss of life and property caused by fire.	Operating Expenditure	19,187	33,435	133,753
		Operating Revenue	-	5,874	23,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	19,187	27,561	110,253
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Theme 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy					
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	33,309	47,691	190,816
		Operating Revenue	22,349	750	3,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	10,960	46,941	187,816
		Capital Expenditure	1,949	35,235	141,000
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	73,100	55,698	222,845
		Operating Revenue	14,940	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	58,160	55,698	222,845
		Capital Expenditure	2,080	2,499	10,000
Private Works	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	6,671	12,804	51,221
		Operating Revenue	682,615	7,497	30,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(675,944)	5,307	21,221
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	Operating Expenditure	240,920	299,160	1,197,051
		Operating Revenue	358,132	377,346	1,510,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(117,211)	(78,186)	(312,949)
		Capital Expenditure	13,617	-	-
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	48,096	35,277	141,171
		Operating Revenue	306,595	8,373	33,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(258,499)	26,904	107,671
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community	Operating Expenditure	60,631	66,819	267,381
		Operating Revenue	4,415	7,875	31,500
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	56,216	58,944	235,881
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 September 2026

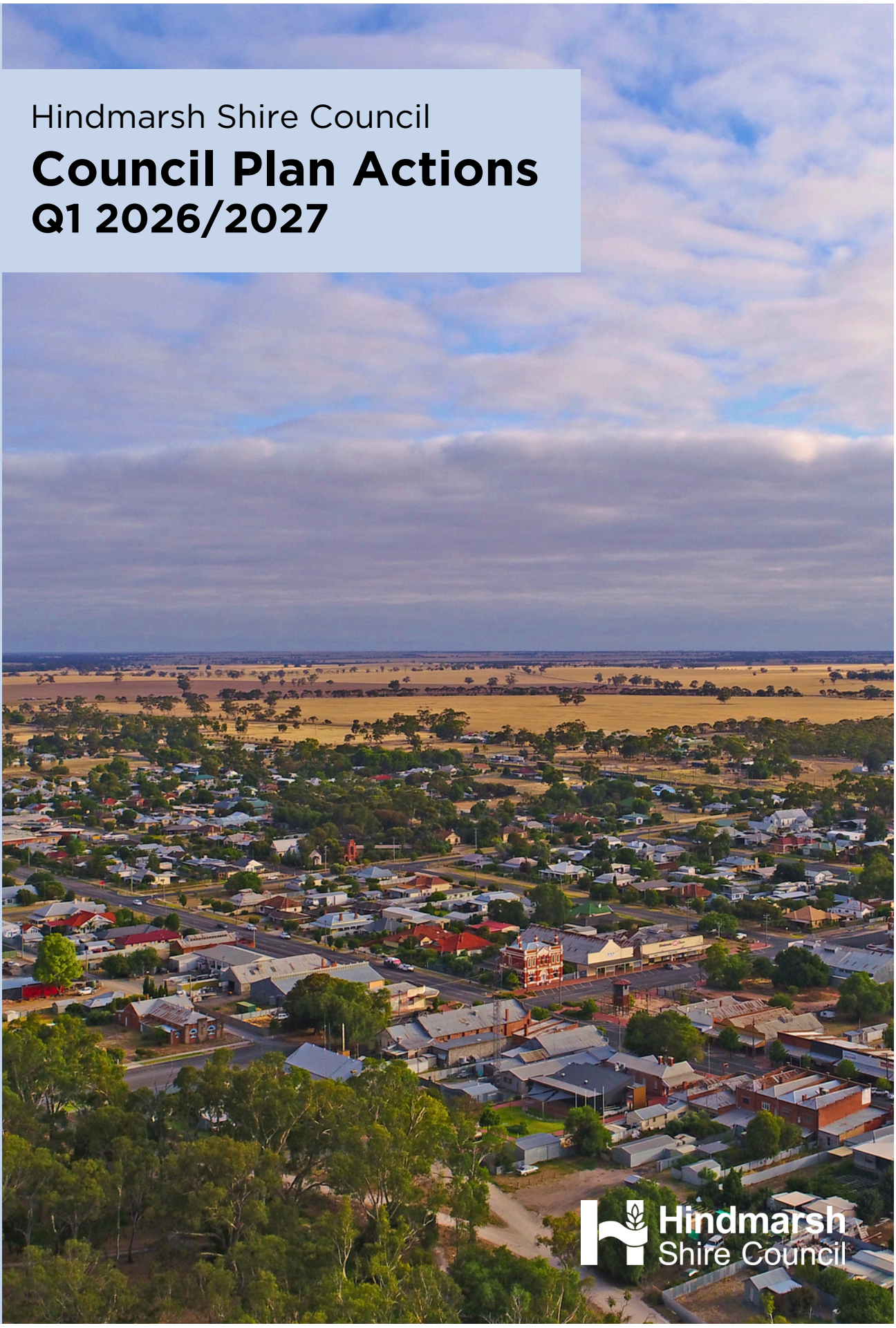
Service area	Description of services provided		2025/2026 YTD Actual $	2025/2026 YTD Budget $	2025/2026 Annual Budget $
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome	Operating Expenditure	17,359	18,204	72,826
		Operating Revenue	8,199	1,248	5,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	9,160	16,956	67,826
		Capital Expenditure	-	9,996	40,000
Theme 4: Good Governance & Financial Sustainability					
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	369,892	445,638	1,783,219
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	369,892	445,638	1,783,219
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Customer Service Centres	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	87,317	114,126	456,711
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	87,317	114,126	456,711
		Capital Expenditure	-	1,251	5,000
Council Elections	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council.	Operating Expenditure	1,883	3,420	13,675
		Operating Revenue	250	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	1,633	3,420	13,675
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
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	115,904	133,953	535,999
		Operating Revenue	746,378	1,634,605	6,538,752
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(630,474)	(1,500,652)	(6,002,753)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Rating and Valuations	Management of Council's rating system, including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges.	Operating Expenditure	93,474	85,023	340,210
		Operating Revenue	9,198,441	9,143,625	9,222,496
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	(9,104,967)	(9,058,602)	(8,882,286)
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
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	12,483	17,073	68,314
		Operating Revenue	350	24	100
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	12,133	17,049	68,214
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	Operating Expenditure	272,570	140,889	563,781
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	272,570	140,889	563,781
		Capital Expenditure	902	21,243	85,000

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Key Result Area Summary
For the period ending 30 September 2026

Service area	Description of services provided		2025/2026 YTD Actual $	2025/2026 YTD Budget $	2025/2026 Annual Budget $
Risk Management	Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure.	Operating Expenditure	569,297	224,976	900,250
		Operating Revenue	3,533	2,499	10,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	565,764	222,477	890,250
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Project Mgmt & Contract Management	Management of Council's major projects and ensuring procurement is undertaken in accordance with the procurement policy.	Operating Expenditure	82,787	90,054	360,336
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	82,787	90,054	360,336
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Payroll and Human Resources Services	Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of Human Resources services to management.	Operating Expenditure	100,079	94,908	379,760
		Operating Revenue	1,500	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	98,579	94,908	379,760
Emergency Management	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	Operating Expenditure	18,421	18,015	72,100
		Operating Revenue	-	-	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	18,421	18,015	72,100
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Depots & Workshops	Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment.	Operating Expenditure	399,737	305,928	1,224,191
		Operating Revenue	-	- 3	-
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	399,737	305,931	1,224,191
		Capital Expenditure	432,074	140,943	564,000
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	86,767	46,008	184,104
		Operating Revenue	1,046	750	3,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	85,722	45,258	181,104
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-
Fleet Management	Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is manage, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and efficient way possible.	Operating Expenditure	27,177	31,287	125,191
		Operating Revenue	18,417	14,994	60,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	8,760	16,293	65,191
		Capital Expenditure	-	63,225	253,000
Accounts	Payment of invoices in an efficient and timely manner. Receival of payments from debtors in an efficient and timely manner.	Operating Expenditure	926,410	825,309	3,302,544
		Operating Revenue	388,439	464,814	1,860,000
		NET Expenses (Revenue)	537,972	360,495	1,442,544
		Capital Expenditure	-	-	-

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Council Plan Actions
Q1 2026/2027



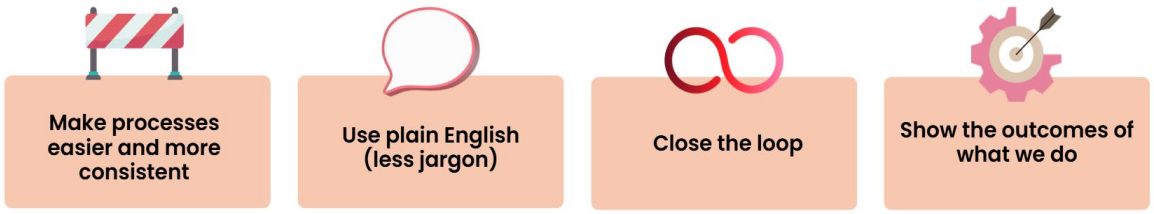
ACTION	QUARTER 1 UPDATE	% Complete
Update **grant seeking and application** processes through an official service platform	Successful applicants of Round 1 of the Connected Communities, Business Boost and Regional Event Sponsorship grants have been decided by Council on 30 September 2026. Initial research into third party grant management platforms commenced.	10%
Improve engagement with **18-25 years olds**	Youth engagement research has commenced to support genuine engagement and connection with the 18-25 year old community members. The First Aid & CPR Training session was delivered on 22/09/2026. Nineteen young people completed the course.	25%
Promote Hindmarsh Shire as **retirement friendly**	Not yet commenced	0%
Promote the achievements of **Hindmarsh Pride Committee**	Hindmarsh Pride Committee's involvement in Harmony Day and the planned So Last Century event have been publicised via Hindmarsh Shire Council's newsletters, Facebook page and media releases. Further marketing of this event will be undertaken in the lead up to January 2027.	Ongoing
Increase **tree planting** on public land	Our Parks & Gardens Team have replaced some trees as an ongoing process. There has also been and expression of interest for nature strip trees received from residents. Assessments are underway for suitability of species and location. Once completed orders will be put in.	25%
Continue to use the **Deliberative Panel** at key decision points, maintaining continuity in participants while allowing opportunities for new members to be introduced.	The Deliberative/Community Panel has been re-advertised, with additional members scheduled to be considered for appointment at the October 2026 Council meeting. The Panel will be used for the development of the 2027/2028 Council Plan Actions and annual budget.	25%
Simplify **forms and community-facing processes**	We've done an audit of our online forms and have created a list of what needs to be reviewed, updated and transitioned across to OpenForms. We've also started a list of new forms that may need to be created.	25%

Review **Advisory Committee and Working Group policies** and procedures to emphasise collaboration between towns	Council briefing report delivered to update on the evolution of the town committees and obtain feedback from Council on the future direction of these committees and how they can best serve Council.	
Service Review - **Tourism**	Not yet commenced.	0%
Service Review - **Economic and Business Development**	Not yet commenced.	0%
Service Review - **Youth**	Not yet commenced.	0%
Service Review - **Early Years**	Research into Council's Early Years Services including service provision and funding arrangements has commenced.	10%
Develop a list of Council Assets identified for **disposal or reduced maintenance** and present to Council	Council has developed a draft Building Management Plan which includes a hierarchy for use which flows onto maintenance schedules and response times. The draft Building Management Plan will be considered by Council in Q2 2026/2027. Council report will be presented to October 2026 meeting with a recommendation for disposal of surplus assets.	50%
Undertake training with staff on the **Community Engagement Policy**, including engagement tools, facilitation and consultation methods	A community engagement training presentation has been developed for internal review. Engagement tools and consultation methods have been reviewed and incorporated into the engagement method selection tool for internal use.	25%
Provide updates on the implementation of the **Youth Strategy**	The new Youth Yap program was launched in August with varying success across the four towns. This program will continue in Q2 and will be reassessed for Q3 & Q4.	25%
Trial **community pop-ups** to promote Council consultations and projects	A Community pop-up session was hosted at the Rainbow Community Shed on Thursday 3 September with positive feedback from attendees. Further improvements made to the pop-up sessions will be implemented for the two sessions during October at the Rainbow and Nhill A&P Society Shows.	15%
Publish an annual '**Council at a Glance**' summary that showcases how rates and grants were spent for the calendar year	Completed in Council's quarterly finance reporting and included in the Annual Report.	100%

Incorporate a **Human Powered Vehicle track** into Council's Project Pipeline and commence preparing shovel-ready plans for future grant funding	Scope discussion with Director Infrastructure Services. Awaiting final version of Dimboola Recreation Reserve Strategy before plan development can progress.	10%
Support interested community groups or individuals to establish **Park Runs**	Initial research has been completed in the requirements and public support for Park Run to be established in Dimboola. A community meeting was held on Monday 31st August with positive support to proceed with establishing a Park Run in Dimboola.	25%
Collaborate with community groups to support **events for farmers**	Council supported the 'Just A Farmer' Movie Screening, hosted by Dimboola Football Netball Club. The event was aimed at farmers and club members, and included a Q&A panel of social workers, rural outreach works to discuss mental health for farmers. A council-coordinated event will be discussed with farmers at the Farmer Forums in October.	20%
Continue to advocate for **spur lines** at key rail collection sites	Ongoing advocacy through various channels including Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group and Western Highway Action Committee.	Ongoing
Implement endorsed **Planning Scheme Review** recommendations	Work has commenced on the Rural Land Use Strategy (RLUS), with a detailed project scope prepared and significantly refined to ensure the project is strategically focused, evidence-based and aligned with Council's resources and priorities. A draft scope has been reviewed and updated, incorporating the findings of the Planning Scheme Review and identifying the proposed Gaps Analysis as the first stage of the project. A presentation has also been prepared for the Executive Leadership Team to seek input on key issues, opportunities and priorities before finalising the project scope and progressing the Gaps Analysis.	25%

Adopt a **Developer Contributions - Downstream Infrastructure Policy**	Further research has been undertaken into developer contribution mechanisms and the legislative options available to Council. As a result, the original policy has been substantially reviewed and a revised draft Development Infrastructure Impact and Contribution Policy has been prepared. The revised policy provides a practical framework for identifying and managing infrastructure impacts arising from new development, with the aim of ensuring the costs of growth are not unfairly borne by existing ratepayers. The draft is currently under review, with consideration being given to implementation, governance and financial management arrangements prior to progressing further.	25%
Promote **infill land supply**	A detailed review of the DTP Housing Capacity Assessment Platform (HCAP) has been completed, improving Council's understanding of how the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme is assessed against Plan for Victoria housing targets and theoretical housing capacity. The review indicates that the platform is primarily focused on residential capacity modelling and housing target assessments, with limited application to broader rural land use planning matters. Information regarding infrastructure servicing capacity and constraints has been received from GWM Water and Powercor and is being incorporated into the research undertaken to create a defensible infill development promotion.	
Commence a **Business Landscape Review**	Hindmarsh Shire Council's first **Business Connect Newsletter** was recently distributed to more than 230 business contacts across the Shire. The newsletter included a link to the **Business Insights Survey**, which will remain open until the end of October. The survey seeks feedback on the types of support local businesses need, preferred topics for future workshops and information sessions, interest in establishing a local business network, and suitable times for events and gatherings. Businesses are also invited to indicate whether they would like to meet with the Economic Development team to discuss their specific needs and the support opportunities available.	

Collaborate with Landcare groups, Traditional Owners, environmental stakeholders and relevant government agencies to **identify and promote biodiversity conservation priorities**, including remnant vegetation protection, roadside habitat management, ecological restoration opportunities and community environmental education initiatives.	Council has collaborated with all landcare groups with relation to the Roadside Pests and Weeds program which is a biodiversity issue. Landcare facilitator is currently collaborating with Wimmera CMA and BGLC on a program to put nesting boxes in the Dimboola Common. Recent revegetation works include at the Rainbow lake in collaboration with Zoo's Victoria and Rainbow School, Rainbow rises planting with the Rainbow Landcare group and recent plantings in Dimboola.	
Community Development to engage with sporting clubs in delivering the **Sport and Recreation Strategy**	Connection with the new Executive Officer of Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly has seen further opportunities present in the School Holiday Program. Masterplans have continued to develop for Davis Park Nhill, Dimboola Recreation Reserve and Jeparit Tennis Club and waterfront precinct with strong engagement from user groups.	25%



Quarter 1 Achievements

Make processes easier and more consistent

Teams have progressed practical improvements across Council, including streamlined Business Friendly Council processes, the Greenlight electronic application platform, updated grant programs, the Assetic work order system, a new Project Management Framework, clearer debt collection and bankruptcy procedures, and more consistent customer service and regulatory workflows.

Use plain English and less jargon

Correspondence, policies, guidance materials, masterplans and customer responses are being reviewed to make information clearer, more practical and easier to understand. Teams are reducing acronyms and technical language, expanding definitions where helpful and using peer review and AI tools to improve readability.

Close the loop

Greater emphasis has been placed on timely follow-up, progress updates and complete responses for businesses, ratepayers, community members, applicants, advisory committees and project stakeholders. Improved internal reporting and coordination are helping ensure enquiries and actions are tracked through to resolution.

Show the outcome of what we can do

Visible results include 27 businesses registered through the business listing program, 600-plus registrations for the June/July School Holiday Program, 100% of planning applications determined within 60 statutory days, delivery of the community cat desexing program, progress on fire prevention works, promoted infrastructure projects and stronger awareness of Council's library programs, digital resources and completed projects.

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Capital Works
Q1 2026/2027

Project/Road Name (2026/2027)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Plant and Equipment					
Articulated Loader	$180,000	0%		Scoping in progress	
Fuel Trailer	$12,000	0%		Not commenced	
Fuel Trailer	$12,000	0%		Not commenced	
Roller	$200,000	0%		Purchase abandoned	
Miscellaneous Trailers	$25,000	0%		Not commenced	
Footpath Sweeper	$35,000	0%		Not commenced	
Staff Vehicle	$60,000	100%		Complete	Within Budget
Staff Vehicle	$68,000	100%		Complete	Within Budget
Staff Vehicle	$75,000	40%		Procurement underway.	Within Budget
Team Leader East Vehicle	$50,000	100%		Complete	Within Budget
Sealed Road Construction					
Nhill Diapur Road	$400,000	0%	1.50 KM Pavement renewal over three segments and widening to 6.2 meters wide seal 1- meter shoulder each side.	Not commenced	
Dimboola Minyip Road	$455,000	10%	1.4 KM Pavement renewal and widening to 6.8 meters wide seal 2-meter shoulder each side.	Gravel carting started	
Lorquon Netherby Road	$182,000	15%	0.50 KM Pavement renewal over three segments and widening to 6.2 meters wide seal 2- meter shoulder each side.	Gravel Cartage complete	
Pigic Bus Route Road	$108,000	0%	0.50 KM Pavement renewal over three segments and widening to 4 meters wide seal 2- meter shoulder each side.	Not commenced	

Project/Road Name (2026/2027)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Woorak Ni Ni Lorquon Road	$638,000	20%	1.90 KM Pavement renewal over three segments and widening to 6.2 meters wide seal 2- meter shoulder each side.	Construction commenced	
Nhill Rainbow/ Kruger Road SLRSP	$370,294	20%	Safety improvement at the intersection.	Commenced	
Nhill Rainbow/ Solly Road SLRSP	$241,244	10%	Safety improvement at the intersection.	To be commenced after Kruger Road	
Major Patch	$327,000	0%	Patch work at various locations.	Not commenced	
Shoulder Resheet					
Old Minyip Road	$100,000	20%	2.8KM Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Commenced	
Kiata South Road	$30,000	0%	0.9KM Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Not commenced	
Pigic Bus Route Road	$170,000	0%	5.0 KM Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Not commenced	
Salisbury Woorak Road	$32,000	0%	1.9 KM Construction of 2-meter-wide unsealed shoulders on both sides.	Not commenced	
Gravel Road Construction					
Perenna Rd	$110,000	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Spotting Program	$110,000	60%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Underway	
Greigs Rd McKenzie Rd	$70,000	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Greigs Rd	$86,000	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Within budget

Project/Road Name (2026/2027)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Patterson Road	$70,000	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Gierke Rd	$30,000	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement..	Complete	Within budget
Allans Road	$49,000	0%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Not commenced	
Oaks Road	$80,000	100%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Complete	Within budget
Teakles Road	$39,000	20%	Gravel resheet with 5-meter-wide pavement.	Commenced	
Kerb and Channel					
Lloyd Street CF	$213,297	100%	Renewal of K&C and service relocation.	Complete	Over Budget
Hindmarsh Street Raised Pedestrian Crossing	$150,000	10%	Raised Pedestrian crossing and K&C	Design works progressed	
Kerb & Channel Section Replacement	$75,000	0%	Replacement of failed sections of kerb and channel	Not Commenced	
Major Culvert					
Culvert Renewals	$85,000	0%	Renewal of various minor culverts within the road network.	Not commenced	
Reseals (Completed by Contractors)					
Rainbow Nhill Road	79,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Lorquon East Road	$93,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Ramsay St and Dart Aveue, Nhill	$23,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	

Project/Road Name (2026/2027)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Lorquon Township Road and Affleck Street - Lorquon	$7,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Old Minyip Road - Dimboola	$44,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Hindmarsh Street - Nhill	$17,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Fritsch Court - Nhill	$14,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
L Stephens Road - Netherby	$8,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
School Street and Church Street - Netherby	$8,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Wimmera Street East - Dimboola	$27,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Yanac-Netherby - Yanac	$9,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
River Road Entrance - Dimboola	$26,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
James Street- Nhill	$12,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Hindmarsh Street - Jeparit	$32,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Leyonhjelms Road - Yanac	$9,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Antwerp-Warracknabeal Road - Antwerp	$50,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	

Project/Road Name (2026/2027)	Budget Allocated	% Complete	Description of Works	Status	Budget (Under / Within Slightly Over Over Budget)
Additional road network to be scoped	$114,000	0%	Resurfacing to prevent water ingress into the pavement.	Scoping in progress	
Footpaths					
Whitehead - Nhill SLRSP - CF	$250,000	15%	Footpath on the north side and raised pedestrian crossing across Davis Avenue.	Procurement completed and contractor appointed	
Park - Nhill SLRSP - CF	$100,000	40%	Concrete and Sealed path.	Concrete works completed. Shared Path construction to follow.	
Pathway Section Replacement	$73,000	0%	Replacement of sections of failed footpath.	Not commenced	
Buildings					
Dimboola Swimming Pool Upgrade - CF	$1,355,000	15%	Construction of Wet Deck, Balancing tank, disable ramp and pool hydraulics upgrade.	Project on hold. Awaiting additional funding opportunity.	
Rainbow Caravan Park Entry - CF	$89,819	70%	Tiny towns project to upgrade the entrance to Rainbow.	Works progressed	
Essential Building Renewal	$150,000	20%	Repairs of various components of various buildings identified by building condition assessment.	Projects progressed	
Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Expansion	$40,000	5%	Foyer Expansion at NAHC. $40K from Council and remaining fund from NAHC.	Design works progressed.	

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Main Office:
92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418

Postal Address:
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Phone: 03 5391 4444

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

POLICY

C028 Privacy and Data Protection Policy

1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support Hindmarsh Shire Council in meeting its obligations under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* in the collection, management, and disclosure of personal information, and to ensure that the Information Privacy Principles are embedded in our operational environment.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all Councillors, employees, contractors, and volunteers of Council.

This policy applies to all personal information held by Council, including information sourced by Council from third parties.

Third Party Contractors Bound by Act

Where a contractor of Council breaches the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs), Council will be held responsible unless the contractor has agreed to be bound by the IPPs in an enforceable contract with the Council.

For this reason, all new contracts should include a provision ensuring that third party contractor, including subcontractors to them, are bound by the IPP's in the same way and to the same extent as Council. Model Terms to be used in contracts, MOU's and/or agreements have been included in section 4.14 of this policy.

To assist with compliance the contractor must be provided with a copy of this policy.

3 Definitions

Council	means Hindmarsh Shire Council.
Data Breach	means an incident involving unauthorised access to, disclosure of, loss of, misuse of, alteration of, destruction of, or inability to access personal information held by Council, whether accidental or deliberate.
IPPs	means Information Privacy Principles.

DRAFT

PDPA	means the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.*
Personal information	means information or an opinion that is recorded in any form and about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable, whether the information or opinion is true or not and whether it is recorded in a material form or not. Personal information does not include health information to which the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) applies.
Policy	means this Privacy and Data Protection Policy.
Privacy Incident	means an event, act or omission that may result in unauthorised access, collection, use, disclosure, modification, loss or destruction of personal information, or otherwise result in a breach of Council's privacy obligations, regardless of whether a data breach is ultimately confirmed.
Primary Purpose	means the purpose/s for which an individual's personal information was collected.
Secondary Purpose	means a purpose related to the primary purpose; or where an individual would reasonably expect Council to use or disclose their personal information.
Visual Surveillance Devices	means any device, camera, system or technology used by Council to capture, record, store or transmit visual images for operational, regulatory, safety, security, compliance, asset management, environmental monitoring, community engagement or other lawful Council purposes.

4 Policy Statement

Council seeks to responsibly manage the personal information it handles and is committed to ensuring full compliance with the IPPs outlined in the PDPA. Council believes that the responsible handling of personal information is a key aspect of democratic governance and is strongly committed to protecting an individual's right to privacy.

4.1 Principle 1 - Collection

4.1.1 The Type of Information Collected

The type of personal information collected by Council will depend on the functions, services, events, and activities offered by Council. The personal information Council typically collects includes, but is not limited to an individual's:

- name
- date of birth
- address
- contact information (email & phone number)

DRAFT

- signature
- vehicle registration number
- payment or billing information

Council will only collect personal information that is necessary for carrying out its functions or activities. Before collection occurs, Council staff must have established the type of personal information they will be collecting and confirm that all personal information proposed to be collected is required for the program, service, or activity they provide. Collecting personal information with no identifiable purpose is not acceptable.

Council must collect personal information only by lawful and fair means and not in an unreasonably intrusive way. Council must have the appropriate power to collect the information it is requesting and that there are no other laws prohibiting such collection.

Information has been collected unfairly if it was obtained by trickery, misrepresentation, deception or under duress. For example, information would have been collected by unfair means if Council knowingly accepts personal information from someone who it knows is under the mistaken belief that they have no choice but to provide said information.

4.1.2 Informed Consent for Collection

Council must take reasonable steps to provide the individual with full information regarding the collection by including a collection notice at the point of collection stating:

- why Council is collecting personal information; ·
- how that information can be accessed;
- the purpose for which the information is collected; ·
- with whom the Council shares this information;
- any relevant laws; and
- the consequences for the individual if all or part of the information is not collected.

The following collection notice applies to all personal information collected by Council unless specifically stated otherwise:

Hindmarsh Shire Council collects personal information to enable us to perform our statutory functions and provide services, activities and events. Council stores personal information in secure information technology systems and shares information, only when necessary, amongst internal work areas (including contractors) to facilitate a more efficient customer experience across Council's business. If the personal information is not collected, Council may not be able to provide you with Council services, discharge our functions or keep you updated on the progress of your service request.

We will handle any personal information you have provided in this form in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Our privacy policy contains information about how you may access your personal information and seek correction of such information; as well as how to complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how we will deal with such a complaint. For more information, please see our Privacy Policy or contact our team on (03) 5391 4444. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other party unless Council is required to do so by law, has gained your consent to do so or an information privacy principle exemption applies.*

DRAFT

4.1.3 Direct Collection and Anonymity

Under normal circumstances Council must collect personal information about an individual only from that individual. This enables individuals to have some control over what is collected, by whom and for what purpose. Direct collection provides the individual with the opportunity to refuse to provide their information. It also makes it more likely that the information collected by Council is relevant, accurate and complete. Information may be collected from a third party where that party has legal authority to act on the primary person's behalf.

However, if Council collects personal information about an individual from someone else, Council must take all reasonable steps to ensure that individual is informed of their rights relating to the information collected.

Where lawful and practicable, Council will offer a person the option of remaining anonymous as part of a transaction with Council. However, as anonymity may limit Council's ability to process a complaint or other matter, Council reserves the right to take no action on any matter where a person chooses not to supply relevant personal information so that it can perform its functions.

4.1.4 Website Third Party Providers

Council uses various external applications to conduct online surveys, send newsletters, reserve tickets, book Council services and measure website use. These external providers may also collect your personal information. To ensure that you are fully informed on how any personal information is being collected it is recommended you read the privacy policy of the third-party provider prior to participating. Following is a list of current third-party providers used on Council's website and/or by Council's Committees:

- Mailchimp
- Jotform
- Engagement HQ
- TryBooking
- Eventbrite
- GreenLight
- OpenForms
- eProcure

This list is not exhaustive, and new platforms may be added from time to time.

4.1.5 Social Media

Council uses social media platforms and other online communication channels to share information, engage with the community, promote Council services and events, and receive feedback from the public.

When individuals interact with Council through social media, personal information may be collected, used and disclosed in accordance with this Policy and the privacy practices of the relevant social media platform. Council may collect and retain information that individuals voluntarily provide through social media interactions, including comments, messages, photographs, videos, reactions, usernames and other content submitted to Council-managed social media accounts.

DRAFT

Individuals should be aware that information published on social media may be publicly visible and accessible to other users. Council encourages users to avoid posting personal, sensitive, or confidential information on public social media channels.

Council may monitor, moderate, hide or remove content from its social media platforms where permitted by law and in accordance with Council's Social Media Policy and Community Guidelines.

Social media platforms are operated by third-party providers and may collect, store, use and disclose information outside Council's control, including outside Victoria or Australia. Individuals should review the privacy policies of the relevant social media platform before providing personal information. Council is not responsible for the privacy practices of third-party social media providers.

4.1.6 Visual Surveillance Devices

Visual Surveillance Devices and systems are managed and monitored by Council employees or contractors. This includes but is not limited to Council offices, pools, libraries, community halls, public toilets, sporting grounds, and waste management facilities.

These devices are used to:

- Support and implement broader crime prevention and reduction strategies;
- Enhance actual and perceived safety and security for staff and users of Council facilities;
- Discourage damage and vandalism of Council assets;
- Detect and manage any illegal activities on Council facilities and land (eg rubbish dumping or graffiti);
- Enhance site security and security for equipment at Council construction sites;
- Support legislated responsibilities and operational business (eg aerial mapping for fire prevention);
- Assist with traffic planning and road management such as traffic counts on local roads;
- Enhance biodiversity activities, such as wildlife monitoring and pest animal control in local bushland and parks;
- Monitor any unauthorised access to ‘staff only’ areas;
- Monitor staff access to Council facilities; and
- Record and promote Council events.

4.2 Principle 2 – Use and Disclosure of Information

Council will take all necessary measures to prevent unauthorised access to, or disclosure of, personal information. Council will only use personal information within Council or disclose it outside of Council for the purpose for which it was collected, unless one the following apply:

- where Council has a person’s consent
- for a related secondary purpose a person would reasonably expect
- or as required or permitted by the PDPA or any other legislation.

Council will only use personal information within Council, or disclose it outside Council:

a) for the primary purpose it was collected;

b) in accordance with legislative requirements;
c) for a secondary purpose with the consent of the individual concerned; or
d) for a secondary purpose related to the primary purpose where an individual would consider it reasonable to do so

The majority of personal information collected by Council is collected to enable Council to perform our statutory functions and provide services, activities and events. As the responsibilities for many of Council's functions and services often overlap between department's internal disclosure, and external disclosure to contracted service providers, of personal information is necessary to satisfactorily perform this primary purpose.

Secondary purposes for use and disclosure must be related (or, in the case of sensitive information, directly related) to the primary purpose of collection AND consistent with what an individual would reasonably expect. Reasonableness requires that the related secondary use or disclosure is also proper and fair, and generally not incompatible with the primary purpose of collection. When establishing 'reasonably expected' you must ask what an ordinary person, not an expert in local government would consider reasonable.

4.2.1 Other Departments within Council

Personal information will be disclosed internally to other work areas within Council to assist in the efficient actioning of enquiries. The personal information (contact details) contained in the single customer view may also be used to liaise with the customer in relation to the delivery of other Council services.

4.2.2 Contracted Service Providers

Council outsources some of its functions and services to third party contractors who perform them on Council's behalf. To enable this to occur efficiently, Council may disclose personal information we have collected about an individual to the contractor. Council will only disclose the personal information if it is necessary for the contractor to carry out its specific task.

All contracts with contracted service providers should require contractors be bound by the IPP's in the same way and to the same extent as Council. All contracted service providers should also be provided with a copy of this policy.

4.2.3 Legislative Requirements and Public Information

The disclosure of personal information by Council where authorised or required by law is not a breach of the Information Privacy Principles.

Council is subject to a range of legislative obligations that may require or authorise the collection, use or disclosure of personal information. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the Local Government Act 2020, Freedom of Information Act 1982, Public Records Act 1973, Planning and Environment Act 1987, Building Act 1993, Domestic Animals Act 1994 and other applicable legislation.

Council may maintain public registers, records, agendas, minutes and other documents that contain personal information where required or authorised by legislation. Where information forms part of a document that is publicly available by law, Council may disclose that information in accordance with its legislative obligations.

4.2.4 Law Enforcement and Regulatory Activities

Council may use or disclose personal information to law enforcement agencies, regulatory authorities, courts, tribunals and other government agencies where the use or disclosure is authorised or required by law, or where Council reasonably believes it is necessary for:

- the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences;
- the enforcement of laws, regulations or statutory requirements;
- the protection of public health and safety;
- the prevention or detection of fraud, corruption or unlawful conduct; or
- the exercise of Council's statutory powers and responsibilities.

4.2.5 Submissions to Council

Council believes in an ongoing dialogue between the community and Council. As such, Council regularly engages with individuals in the community through advisory committees as well as formal community consultation programs and activities. Personal information provided by an individual as part of an advisory committee application or community consultation will be made available to Councillors and may be included in Council reports and working documents.

Personal information provided by an individual as part of a written public submission to a Council or committee meeting may be included in the published agenda and minutes of the meeting. These documents are displayed online and available in hardcopy format for an indefinite period of time.

Any individual who addresses a public Council or committee meeting will be heard and may be seen on the live stream. Any audio and video capture on the night will be recorded. Further information on the live streaming of Council meetings can be found in Council's Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy.

4.3 Principle 3 – Data Quality

Council must take reasonable steps to ensure that the personal information it collects, uses, or discloses, is accurate, complete, and up to date.

'**Accurate**' means that the personal information is free from error or defect. If personal information used as the basis for Council decision is incorrect the resulting Council action may unintentionally cause harm to an individual or the community.

'**Complete**' means having all its parts or elements. It is important that all information is complete as partial information may be misleading to Council and result in an incorrect decision that may affect an individual or the community.

'**Up to date**' means extending to the present time; including the latest facts. This requirement is intended to deal with situations in which subsequent information would make the existing record inaccurate. It might not always be appropriate to delete the out-of-date information; the Public Records Act may require its retention. In these situations, it is best for Council staff to add a note detailing the information's lack of currency and add any new information.

Personal information must be accurate for the purpose it was collected. If the purpose has been completed and the records have been archived they no longer need to be monitored for data quality.

DRAFT

4.4 Principle 4 – Data Security

Council will take all necessary steps to ensure that personal information is stored safely and securely. This will ensure that all personal information held by Council is protected from misuse, loss and unauthorised modification and disclosure.

Personal information that a person provides to Council which is no longer necessary for Council purposes will be disposed of in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973*.

4.5 Principle 5 – Openness

This document and Council's website details Council's management of personal information.

On request, Council will inform an individual, in general terms, of what information it holds on the individual, for what purpose this information is held and how the information is collected, held, used and disclosed. If the individual then requests further details, the individual can access their personal information held by Council as outlined in 'Access and Correction'.

4.6 Principle 6 – Access and Correction

Individuals have a right to ask for access to their personal information and seek corrections. Access will be provided except in the circumstances outlined in the Act, for example, where the information relates to legal proceedings, if it would pose a serious and imminent threat to life or health or impact the privacy of others.

Where a person requests Council to correct their personal information, Council will take reasonable steps to notify the person of the decision of the request as soon as practicable.

Personal information cannot be removed from records, but a correcting statement may be added.

As Council is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) (FOIA), access to, or correction of personal information is managed under that legislation. Under the FOIA, a person is also entitled to seek correction or amendment of a document containing their personal affairs information, where they believe the information is inaccurate, incomplete, out of date, or would give a misleading impression.

4.7 Principle 7 - Unique Identifiers

IPP7 provides a safeguard against the creation of a single identifier that could be used to cross match data across various government departments. Council will not assign, adopt, use, disclose, or require unique identifiers from persons except for the course of conducting normal Council business, or if required by law.

Council will only use or disclose unique identifiers assigned to a person by other organisations, if the person consents to the use and disclosure, or the conditions for use and disclosure as set out within the Act are satisfied.

4.8 Principle 8 - Anonymity

Where lawful and practicable, Council will give a person the option of remaining anonymous as part of his or her transaction with Council.

DRAFT

Before a member of Council staff collects personal information they must first establish whether that particular information is required to complete their function or activity.

Anonymity may limit Council's ability to process a complaint or other matter. Therefore, if a person chooses not to supply personal information that is necessary for the Council to perform its functions, then Council reserves the right to take no further action on that matter.

4.9 Principle 9 – Transborder Data Flows

The development of new technologies, such as the internet and the 'cloud' has meant that transborder data flows between organisations have become more common.

The transfer of personal information outside of Victoria is not prohibited. It is however, highly restricted to when it can occur. The basic premise behind IPP 9 is that when personal information subject to the Victorian legislation travels outside Victoria, the privacy protection in the Act should travel with it.

Council will only transfer personal information to an individual or organisation outside Victoria in the following circumstances:

- the individual has provided consent
- disclosure is authorised by law
- the recipient of the information is subject to a law, binding scheme or contract with similar principles as the Act; or
- the transfer is for the benefit of the individual and it is impracticable to obtain their consent before transfer however, it is apparent that they would likely provide consent to consent if it was practicable to obtain.

4.10 Principle 10 – Sensitive Information

Sensitive information is a subset of personal information. It is defined in the PDPA as *information or an opinion about an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, membership of a political association, religious beliefs or affiliations, philosophical beliefs, membership of a professional or trade association, membership of a trade union, sexual orientation or practices, criminal record*.

Council will not collect sensitive information about a person except in circumstances prescribed in the PDPA or in circumstances whereby such information is both directly pertinent and necessary to the specific, proper and legitimate functions of one or more of its activities.

4.11 Chief Privacy Officer

The Chief Executive Officer will appoint a Chief Privacy Officer responsible for:

- overseeing the implementation of the policy;
- monitoring the performance of the policy;
- reviewing the policy and recommending any desirable amendments; and
- periodically reporting to the Audit Committee on Council's performance pursuant to the policy.

DRAFT

4.12 Data Breaches and Privacy Incidents

4.12.1 Commitment

Council is committed to preventing, identifying, assessing, and responding to data breaches and privacy incidents in a timely, effective, and transparent manner. Council recognises that data breaches may result in harm to individuals, damage to public trust, disruption to Council operations, and non-compliance with legislative obligations. All reasonable steps will be taken to contain, investigate, and remediate any actual or suspected data breach.

4.12.2 Reporting Obligations

All Councillors, employees, contractors, and volunteers who become aware of, or suspect, a data breach or privacy incident must report the matter immediately to their manager and the relevant responsible officer.

No person should attempt to conceal, delete, or otherwise interfere with evidence relating to a suspected data breach.

Council will encourage prompt reporting of actual and suspected breaches without fear of reprisal where reports are made honestly and in good faith.

4.12.3 Assessment and Containment

Upon becoming aware of a suspected data breach, Council will take reasonable steps to:

- Contain and minimise the impact of the breach.
- Secure affected information, records, systems or assets.
- Assess the nature and scope of the incident.
- Determine the type of information affected and the potential consequences for affected individuals.
- Identify any immediate actions required to prevent further unauthorised access, disclosure, loss or misuse.

4.12.4 Investigation and Response

Council will investigate all confirmed or suspected data breaches proportionate to the nature and severity of the incident.

- Investigations may include:
- Determining the cause and extent of the breach.
- Identifying affected individuals and information.
- Assessing legal, operational, financial and reputational impacts.
- Identifying corrective actions to prevent recurrence.
- Reviewing compliance with relevant legislation, policies and procedures.

4.12.5 Notification

Where appropriate, Council will notify affected individuals, regulatory authorities and other relevant parties of a data breach.

The decision to notify will be based on factors including:

- The sensitivity and volume of information affected.
- The likelihood of harm to individuals.
- Legislative or regulatory reporting obligations.

DRAFT

- Advice received from relevant regulatory or law enforcement authorities.

Notification will occur as soon as reasonably practicable following assessment of the incident.

4.12.6 Continuous Improvement

Council will review data breaches and privacy incidents to identify opportunities for improvement to systems, processes, training and controls.

Lessons learned from incidents will be used to strengthen Council's privacy, information management and cyber security practices and reduce the likelihood of future breaches.

4.13 How to Make a Complaint or Enquiry Concerning Privacy

Individuals who are concerned by Councils handling of their personal information are encouraged to contact the Chief Privacy Officer. The Chief Privacy Officer will then conduct a preliminary investigation and provide a written response within a reasonable timeframe. Complaints or enquiries to the Chief Privacy Officer should be sent to:

Chief Privacy Officer

PO Box 250

Nhill VIC 3418

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, complaints or enquiries may be made directly to the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner. It should be noted that the Commissioner may decline to hear the complaint if the individual has not yet contacted Council with their concerns. ‘

Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner PO Box 24274

Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: enquiries@ovic.vic.gov.au

Website: www.ovic.vic.gov.au

Complaints must be lodged within 6 months of the time the complainant first became aware of the conduct or misconduct. At all times the contents of the complaint will be kept confidential.

Employees who are in breach of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, performance management and review. Serious breaches may result in termination of employment, in accordance with Council’s Disciplinary Guidelines.

4.14 Contract, MOU and Agreement Requirements

The following text outlines the minimum terms for Privacy provisions in contracts between Council and third parties.

i) The Recipient agrees that it is bound by the Information Privacy Principles and any applicable Code of Practice with respect to any act done, or practice engaged in, by the Recipient for the purposes of this Agreement in the same way and to the same extent as Council would have

been bound by them in respect of that act or practice had it been directly done or engaged in by Council.

ii) Council may disclose to any person the fact that the Recipient is a party to this Agreement for the purpose of allowing such person to assess whether Transferred Personal Information is adequately protected in the hands of the Recipient. Council may also disclose a pro forma document containing terms substantially similar to the terms of this Agreement to any person for such purpose.

iii) The Recipient agrees that it will not at any time do an act, or engage in a practice, in respect of Transferred Personal Information, that would breach an Information Privacy Principle. Specifically the Recipient:

a) will not collect, use, disclose and otherwise handle the Transferred Personal Information for any purpose other than the primary purpose specified in this Agreement without the prior written permission of Council or the Data Subject or where required or authorised by or under Law;

b) will not disclose the Transferred Personal Information to a person (further recipient) who is not Council;

c) will take reasonable steps to ensure the security and quality of the Transferred Personal Information.

iv) The Recipient will immediately notify Council, in writing, of any breach or suspected breach of its obligations under this Agreement whether on the part of itself or its officers, employees, volunteers, agents or sub-contractors and of the steps taken to repair the breach.

v) The Recipient will allow and cooperate with any independent investigation of complaints by Council, OVIC or any person or body nominated by Council and provide appropriate redress to complaints for any harassing from it failure to effectively uphold the IPPs

vi) The Recipient at all times indemnifies and holds harmless Council from and against any loss, cost (including legal costs and expenses) or liability incurred or suffered by any of those indemnified arising from or in connection with any complaint, claim, suit, demand, action or proceeding by any person (including, but not limited to, any award, order or similar judgment or direction by the OVIC) where such loss or liability was caused or contributed to by the Recipient's act or omission in handling Transferred Personal Information, whether deliberate or not.

vii) Upon the termination of this Agreement, or upon the Council's written request prior to the termination of this Agreement, the Recipient will return or destroy Transferred Personal Information including all copies, in whatever form, of the Transferred Personal Information held or controlled by the Recipient.

5 References

Related documents	Legislation and Publications
Public Transparency Policy	*Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* *Freedom of Information Act 1982* *Health Records Act 2001* *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

	Local Government Act 2020 *Information Privacy Principles (IPPs)* *Victorian Protective Data Security Standards (VPDSS)*

6 Document Control

Privacy and Data Protection Policy		**Policy Category**	Council
Version Number	1.5	**Policy Status**	DRAFT
Approved/Adopted By	Council	**Approved/Adopted on:**	
Responsible Officer	CEO	**Review Date**	
Version History	**Date**	**Version**	**Description**
	July 2009	1.0	New Policy
	December 2017	1.1	Update of Policy
	November 2018	1.2	Update of Policy – Formatting
	November 2020	1.3	Review of Policy – minor formatting changes. Inclusion of definitions and policy statement (Part 4)
	May 2024	1.4	Update of Policy – website information, collection statements, third party requirements, expansion of use and disclosure provisions.
	September 2026	1.5	Reviewed to update key information and legislation and Data Breach provisions.

DRAFT

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Holiday Parks Financial Year Report 2025/2026

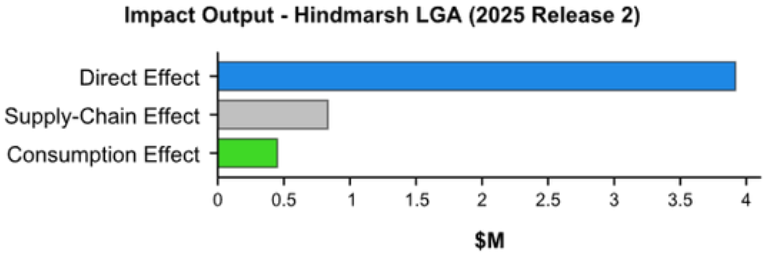
Role of the Hindmarsh Holiday Parks

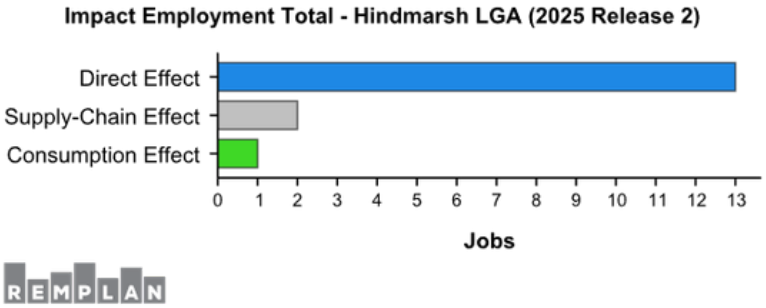
Hindmarsh Holiday Parks are operated to support the local Visitor Economy of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow as well as leverage local visitation to grow and sustain local businesses. By supporting visitor expenditure within local communities, the Holiday Parks contribute to business sustainability and help create opportunities for future investment and tourism development. Hindmarsh Holiday Parks also contribute to Council's overall financial sustainability through generating income outside of rates.

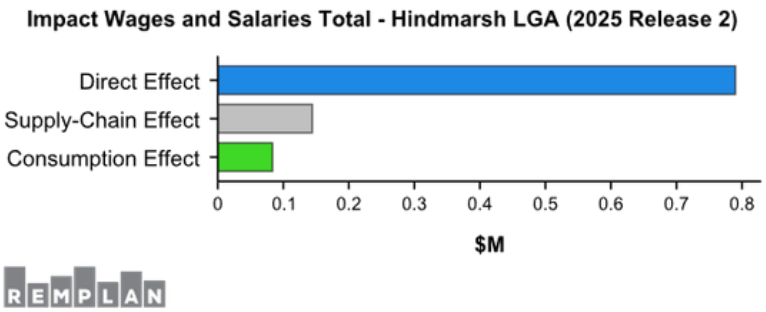
Tourism Contribution

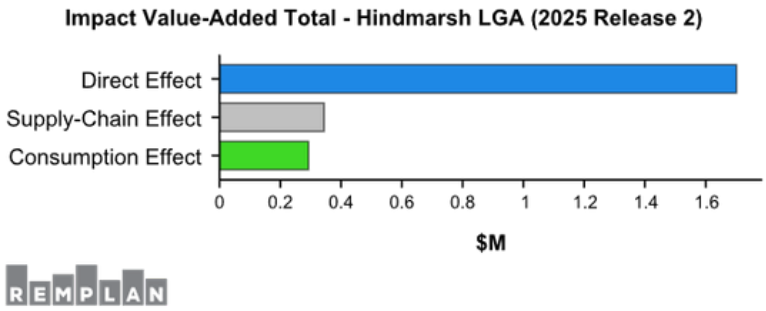
Direct Impact	Domestic Overnight
Number of Visitors	11,901
Number of Nights	2.11
Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day ($)	$156
Total Estimated Expenditure ($)	$3,917,333

Estimated Expenditure per Visitor per Day data sourced from: Tourism Research Australia (TRA) 2025 Domestic Tourism Statistics (DoTS) and TRA 2025 International Visitor Survey (IVS)









The estimated visitor expenditure of $3.92 million generated through Holiday Park visitation contributes significantly to the local economy. Economic modelling estimates this activity supports approximately 16 jobs and contributes $2.34 million to Gross Regional Product through direct, indirect and induced economic effects.

Tourism Impact Summary (Tourism Activity: 365 days)

Impact	Direct Effect	Supply-Chain Effect	Consumption Effect	Total Effect	Type 1 Multiplier	Type 2 Multiplier
Output ($M)	$3.92	$0.83	$0.45	$5.20	1.213	1.327
Long Term Employment (Jobs)	13	2	1	16	1.154	1.231
Wages and Salaries ($M)	$0.79	$0.14	$0.08	$1.02	1.182	1.288
Value-added ($M)	$1.70	$0.34	$0.29	$2.34	1.202	1.374

Event Related Visitation

Event activity across the Shire was lower than previous years, with the Rainbow 240, Tractor Pull and Dimboola Dash providing the primary event-related visitation drivers.

In 2026/2027 Hindmarsh will see the return of the Rainbow 240 and Tractor Pull, Wimmera Steampunk Festival and Dimboola Dash. Seymour Heritage Rail is also scheduled to visit Nhill and Rainbow during the year.

Regional Promotion Activities

Through Council's membership of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, Hindmarsh Holiday Parks were promoted through a range of regional marketing activities, including visitor guides, touring campaigns, Visit Victoria initiatives, social media influencer campaigns and Channel 9 Postcards broadcast.

Operational Performance

Data

	Dimboola	Jeparit	Nhill	Rainbow	TOTAL
Total visitors	7,250	795	3,225	631	**11,901**
Guest nights	16,174	1,671	5,635	1,642	**25,121**
Occupancy rate (whole Park)	32.20%	14.70%	27.93%	7.61%	**24.04%**
Cabins Occupancy	75.88%	44.41%	57.93%	61.15%	**64.24%**
Powered/Unpowered sites Occupancy	34.8% even	13.01% power	25.61% even	4.49% power	**22.92%**
Average length of stay	2.16	2.13	1.84	2.86	**2.11**

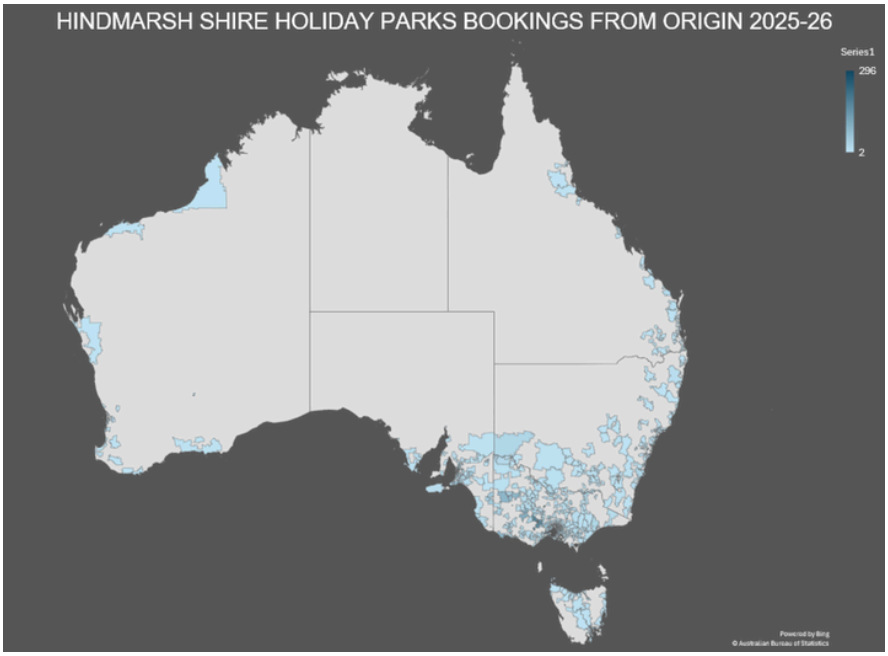
The table demonstrates that network performance is concentrated in Dimboola and Nhill, which together accounted for 10,475 visitors, or 88% of total visitation, and 21,809 guest nights, or 87% of the network total. Dimboola was the clear lead performer, attracting approximately 61% of all visitors and 64% of guest nights, supported by the highest whole-of-park occupancy (32.2%), cabin occupancy (75.88%) and powered/unpowered site occupancy (34.8%). Nhill was the second-largest contributor, generating 27% of visitors and 22% of guest nights, although its shorter average stay of 1.84 nights suggests a stronger reliance on overnight and passing-traveller demand.

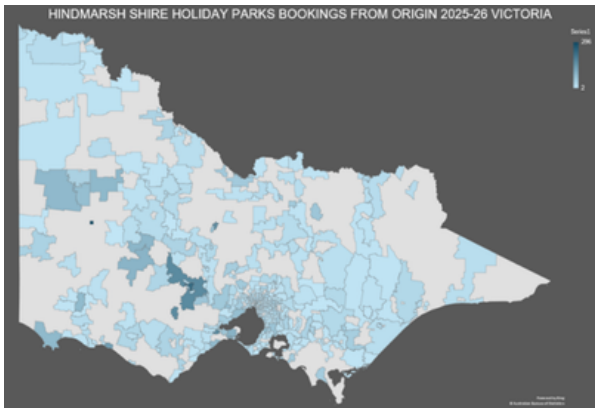
The large gap between network cabin occupancy (64.24%) and powered/unpowered site occupancy (22.92%) indicates that cabins are the strongest and most constrained accommodation product, while site capacity remains underutilised. Rainbow is the clearest example: cabin occupancy was a strong 61.15% and its average stay was the longest in the network at 2.86 nights, yet whole-of-park occupancy was only 7.61% because site occupancy was 4.49%. This suggests there is demand for quality built accommodation, but considerably less demand for caravan and camping sites outside major events or peak travel periods.

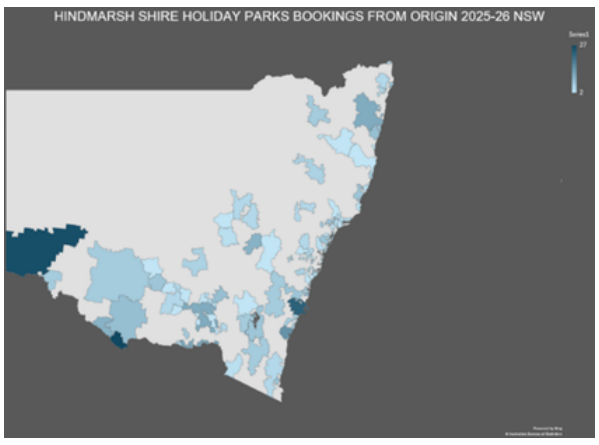
Jeparit and Rainbow together contributed only 12% of visitors and 13% of guest nights, highlighting the financial and operational dependence of the network on its two larger parks. Jeparit recorded the weakest cabin occupancy at 44.41%, while Rainbow recorded the lowest whole-of-park and site occupancy. The data supports differentiated management priorities: protect service quality and capacity at Dimboola, use planned facility improvements and marketing to convert Nhill's passing trade into longer stays, and pursue event-led demand, targeted promotion and product renewal at Jeparit and Rainbow rather than applying a uniform growth strategy across all four parks.

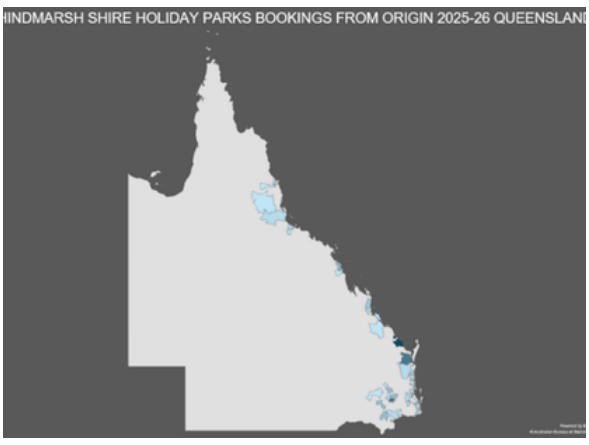
Victoria recorded the largest source of visitation, with 7,613 guests, followed by South Australia with 2,067 guests.

Visitor Origin









Financial Overview

Summary

Overall, Holiday Park operations generated $1.383 million in operating revenue against $950,896 in operating expenditure, resulting in an operating surplus of $432,867 before capital expenditure. Operating income was $16,237 (1.2%) below budget, while operating expenditure was $1,537 (0.2%) below budget, indicating that costs were effectively contained despite a softer demand environment. The network's result was supported primarily by Dimboola, which generated approximately 62% of operating income, while Nhill contributed a further 25%; Jeparit and Rainbow remain smaller-volume operations and are therefore more exposed to fluctuations in passing trade and event-related visitation.

	Dimboola	Jeparit	Nhill	Rainbow	TOTAL	Budget
Capital Income					$168,977	*287,954*
Operating Income	$852,627	$92,686	$341,417	$97,032	$1,383,763	*1,400,000*
TOTAL INCOME					**$1,552,740**	***$1,687,954***
Capital Expenses					$323,646	*457,092*
Operating Expenses					950,896	*952,433*
TOTAL EXPENSES					**1,274,542**	***1,409,525***
TOTAL					**277,997.00**	***278,429***

The difference between the budgeted capital income and expenditure is due to the Nhill Cabins Upgrade Project and the Rainbow Holiday Park Entrance Project not being completed prior to the end of financial year. The Nhill Cabins Upgrade also includes the new camp kitchen, which is expected to be completed in the second half of 2026. The final grant payment will be received once this work is completed. The Rainbow Holiday Park Entrance Project is also expected to be finished by the end of 2026.

Budget Comparison				
	2025/2026 Actuals	**2025/2026 Budget**	**2026/2027 Budget**	***2024/2025 Budget***
Income	$1,383,763	$1,400,000	$1,500,000	$735,000
Expenditure	$950,896	$1,158,433	$1,197,051	$713,778

Hindmarsh Shire Council resumed direct operations of the Nhill Holiday Park in 2024/2025

The financial result should be considered in the context of continuing cost-of-living pressures and increasing fuel costs, which reduced household capacity for discretionary travel and visitor spending, particularly during the latter part of the year. These conditions can affect both booking volumes and the amount guests spend in local businesses, while also increasing the parks' own operating costs through utilities, transport, supplies and contracted services. Against this backdrop, maintaining a strong operating surplus demonstrates the resilience of the network; however, future budgets should remain prudent and focus on value-for-money pricing, targeted marketing, event-led visitation and facility improvements that encourage longer stays and support occupancy across all four parks.

Asset Management

Assets at the Holiday Parks are regularly inspected by the Team Leader Holiday Parks as well as the cleaning team members. Routine inspections are undertaken across all parks, with maintenance works completed by park caretakers where possible, or coordinated through Council's Assets Team and external contractors where required.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the amenities blocks at Dimboola (ceiling) and Nhill (flooring) have had some maintenance to improve the guest experience.

Dimboola has two remaining older cabins which are being trialled as pet friendly options. Nhill has five older style cabins which have had a small amount of maintenance to keep them at a reasonable condition. Council will continue to pursue asset renewal opportunities, with replacement of ageing cabins identified as a future priority.

Opportunities for further improvements to infrastructure include;

- Dimboola ensuite upgrades
- Jeparit amenities block
- Nhill cabin and ensuite upgrades
- Rainbow camp kitchen upgrade

Customer Experience

Guest Satisfaction

	Dimboola	Jeparit	Nhill	Rainbow	TOTAL
Customer satisfaction rating (Net Promoter Score NPS)	**84.52**	**77.06**	**59.2**	**76.83**	**77.51**
Service	9.58	9.31	8.95	9.29	9.39
Standard of Facilities	9.29	9.12	8.87	9.55	9.19
Area	9.45	9.05	9.02	9.3	9.3
Value for Money	9.2	9.52	8.69	9.54	9.12

Themes

- Clean and well-maintained amenities.
- Spacious and attractive park settings.
- Quality communal facilities.
- Convenient access to local attractions and services.
- Highway and Road Noise - Nhill
- Outdated Infrastructure in Select Areas

To tackle the negative feedback regarding aging infrastructure and site layout, Hindmarsh Shire Council has adopted a Master Plan for Nhill Holiday Park to guide future investment and modernise infrastructure and site layout.

These upgrades include adding three studio cabins, building a brand-new camp kitchen, and reconfiguring layouts to include drive-through sites so overnight travellers do not have to unhook their caravans.

Otherwise, feedback highlights small issues which our team can address as soon as issues are reported.

Information is currently received via Google Reviews, online jot forms and the new RMS NPS Surveys with the Jot form being retired. The NPS system links to the guest booking and Council is able to contact the guest to discuss any complaints and next steps as required.

Challenges and Opportunities

Cost-of-living pressures, higher fuel costs and reduced discretionary spending began to soften visitation across the Grampians Wimmera Mallee tourism region from the second quarter of 2025/2026. These conditions particularly affect parks that rely on passing travellers and short stays, and may also reduce visitor spending in surrounding towns. At the same time, shortages in the regional labour market, staff movements and illness affected service capacity, with some cabins temporarily removed from sale so available staff could maintain cleaning and presentation standards. Ageing cabins and amenities at several locations also create an increasing maintenance burden and may constrain pricing, occupancy and guest satisfaction if renewal is deferred.

Council has several opportunities to strengthen demand and diversify the visitor base in 2026/2027. BIG4 Affiliate Membership will provide greater national exposure, broader distribution channels and access to an established online booking platform, particularly benefiting Dimboola and Nhill. The return of major regional events also provides an opportunity to increase off-peak occupancy and visitor expenditure. More targeted promotion can be used to encourage longer stays at Nhill and lift site utilisation at Jeparit and Rainbow, rather than relying solely on passing traffic.

Targeted asset renewal provides a further opportunity to improve both the guest experience and long-term financial performance. Completion of the Nhill camp kitchen and staff laundry, implementation of the Nhill master plan, action on CFA fire service recommendations and continued renewal planning for ageing accommodation will support service quality and operational resilience. The pet-friendly cabin trial at Dimboola also provides a practical opportunity to test new market segments. Because performance varies substantially between parks, future investment and marketing should be tailored to each location's demand profile and its capacity to generate additional stays and revenue.

S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(*Planning and Environment Act 1987* only)

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

In this instrument "**officer**" means -

Edwin Irvine
Mikayla Mackley
Helene Vanderwaal
Ram Upadhyaya
Cherylee Shandley

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Hindmarsh Shire Council -

1. under s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – authorises the officers to carry out the duties or functions and to exercise the powers of an authorised officer under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; and

2. under s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officers either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument -

- comes into force immediately upon its execution;

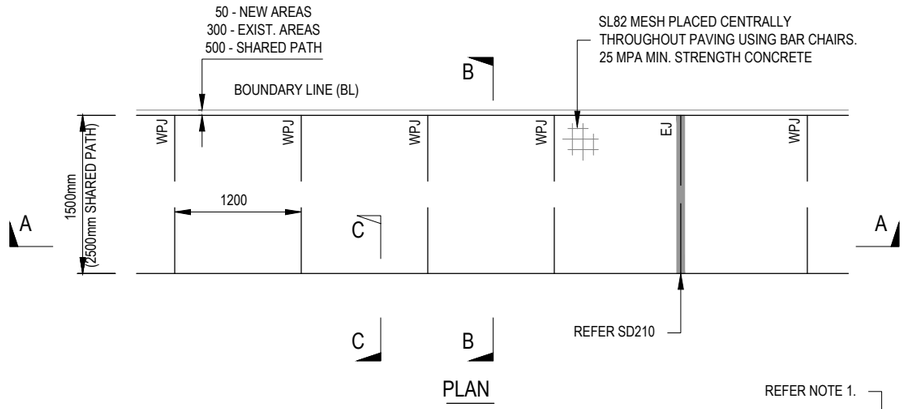
- remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Hindmarsh Shire Council on 28 October 2026.

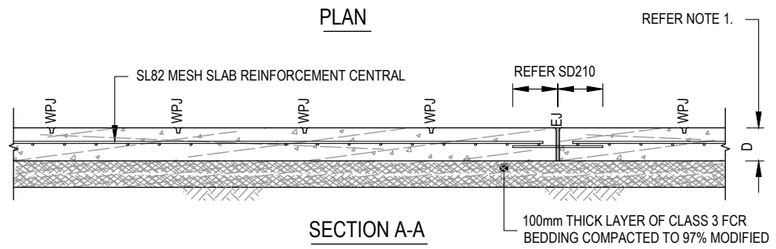
Council seal

Date: 28 October 2026

ELLERMAN STREET FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION

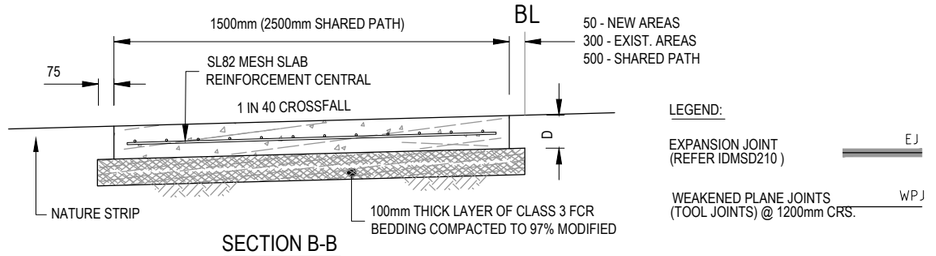


PLAN



SECTION A-A

TYPICAL 125mm & 150mm FOOTPATH SECTION



SECTION B-B

TYPICAL 125mm & 150mm FOOTPATH SECTION

NOTES

GENERAL

G 1 *These drawings are to be read in conjunction with the project specification.*

G 2 *All dimensions are in meters, unless otherwise noted.*

G 3 *All dimensions and reduced levels must be verified on site before commencement of any work. Any discrepancy shall be referred to the Engineer before proceeding with the work.*

G 4 *The exact location and depth of existing services is unknown. The works crew shall verify by excavation the actual location of services prior to the commencement of construction.*

EARTHWORKS

E 1 *All fill material shall be material approved by the Hindmarsh Shire Councils Engineer and compacted in 100mm maximum compacted thickness layers. Any soft or unsuitable material in the subbase shall be removed and replaced with approved granular fill material.*

E 2 *It is the responsibility of the works crew to adequately drain the site during all stages of construction.*

E 3 *Grade evenly between finished surface spot levels shown on drawings. Where finished levels are not shown the surface shall be graded smoothly so that it will drain, and to match existing surfaces or structures.*

E 4 *At no location shall water be directed toward a building from the footpath.*

PAVEMENTS

P 1 *Sub base materials shall be local granular material unless otherwise shown. The material shall be placed and compacted in layers not exceeding 150mm loose thickness to 96% modified AASHO to AS 1289.*

P 2 *Base material shall be local granular material unless otherwise shown. The material shall be placed and compacted in layers not exceeding 100mm loose thickness to 98% modified AASHO to AS 1289.*

NOTES:
1. 'D' = DEPTH OF CONCRETE FOOTPATH 1. TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL 'D'= 125mm THICK (25 MPa) TYPICAL INDUSTRIAL / COMMERCIAL 'D' = 150mm (32MPa)
2. WEAKENED PLANE JOINTS (W.P.J) TO BE MADE WITH T-IRON (OR CONCRETE SAW WITHIN 24 Hrs OF POUR). JOINTS ARE TO BE A MINIMUM OF 10mm DEEP
3. REFER TO IDM CLAUSE 13.3 FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

ALL MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES

NORTH

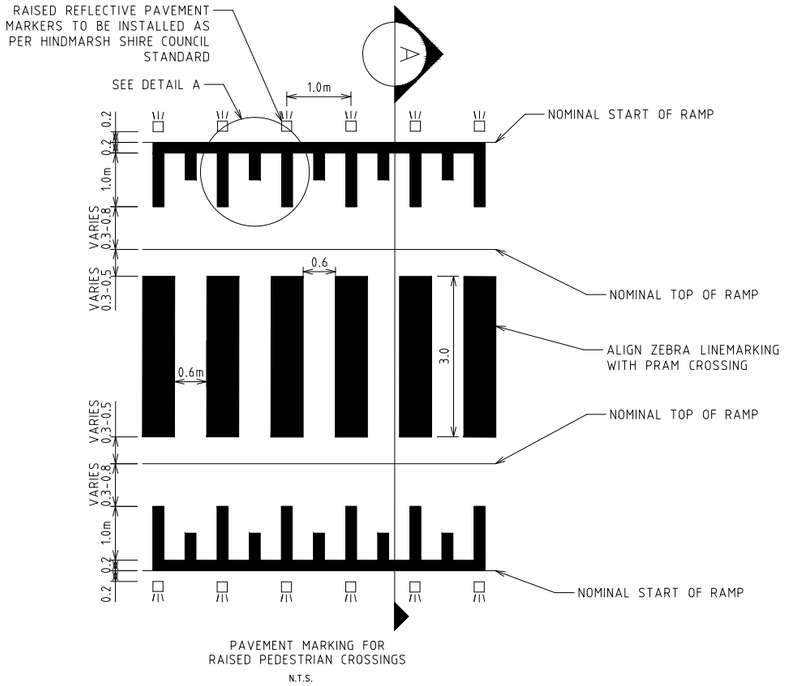
WARNING

BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

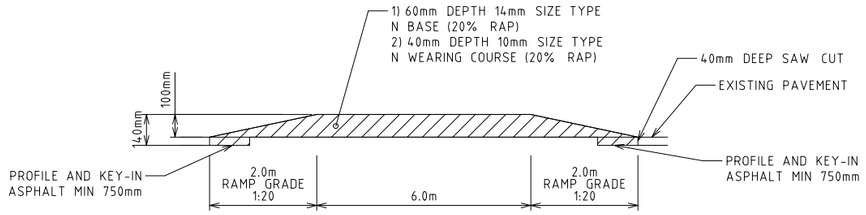
THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY, AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

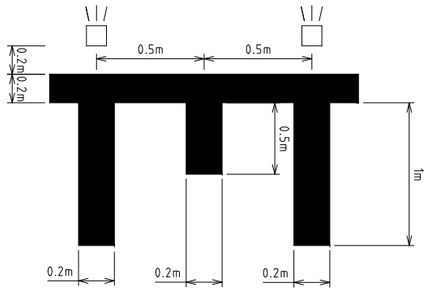
DESIGNED: L. CHAWLA	PROJECT: PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER UPGRADE CONCEPT DRAWING ELLERMAN STREET, DIMBOOLA
DATE: OCT 2026	
SCALE: A3 NOT TO SCALE	DRAWING TITLE: SLRSP
APPROVED BY: DANIEL GRIFFITHS	PROJECT No. 061026 / SHEET No. / REV: A



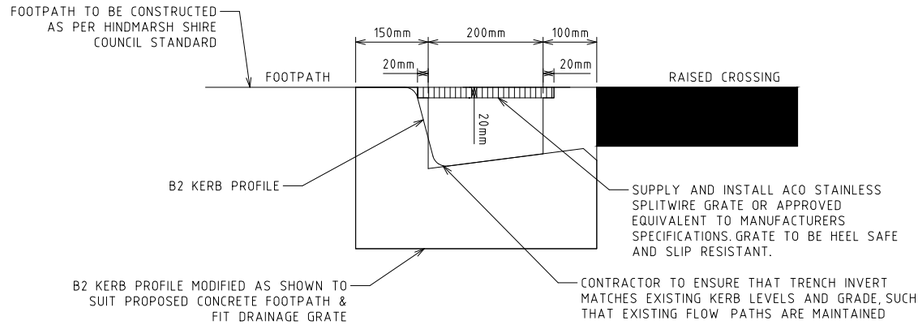
PAVEMENT MARKING FOR RAISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
N.T.S.



SECTION A
N.T.S.



DETAIL A
N.T.S.



TRENCH GRATE SECTION

NOTES 1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

NORTH

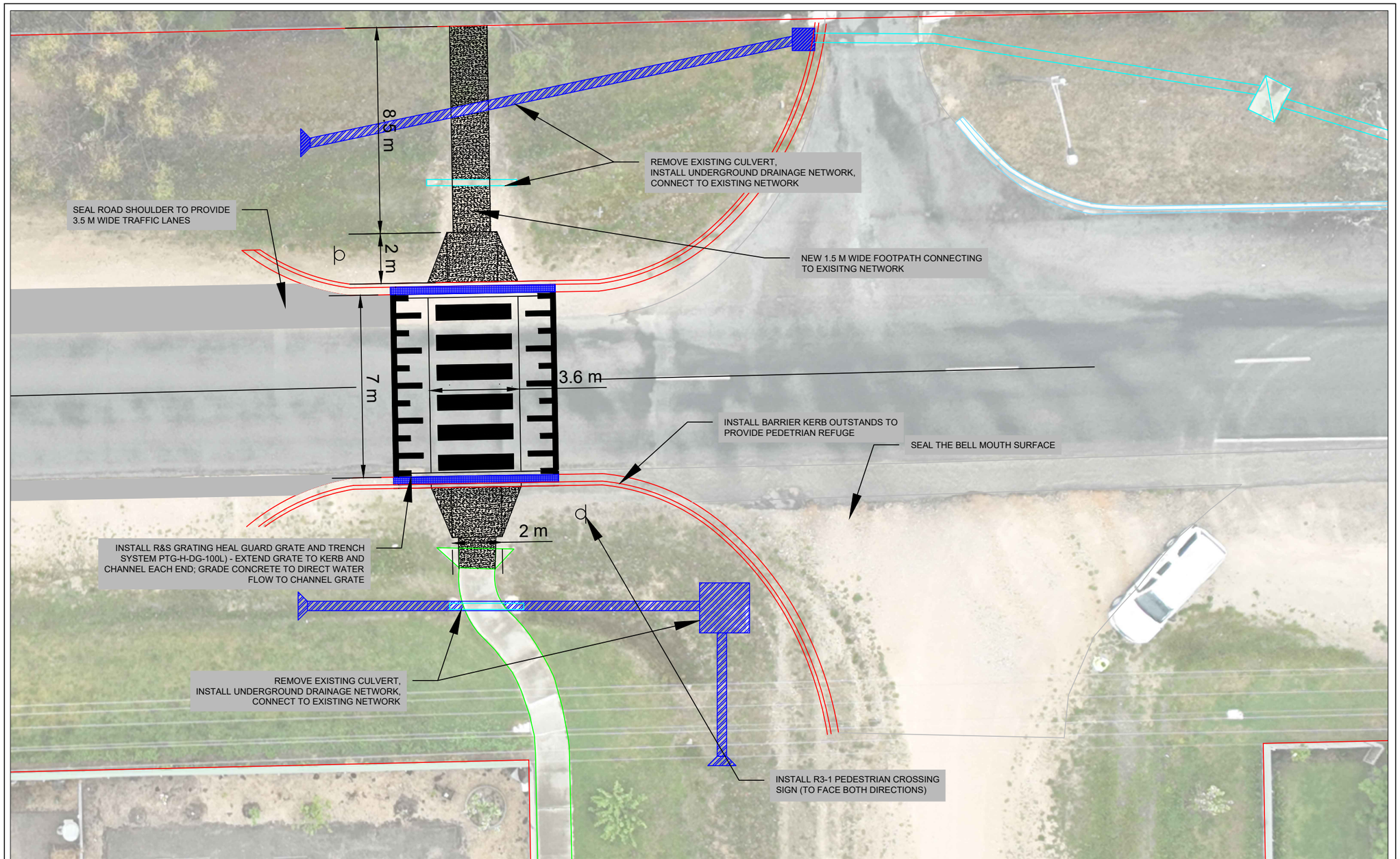
WARNING

BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY, AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

DESIGNED: L. CHAWLA	PROJECT: PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER UPGRADE CONCEPT DRAWING ELLERMAN STREET, DIMBOOLA
DATE: OCT 2026	
SCALE: A3 NOT TO SCALE	DRAWING TITLE: SLRSP
APPROVED BY: DANIEL GRIFFITHS	PROJECT No. 061026 / SHEET No. / REV: A



NORTH

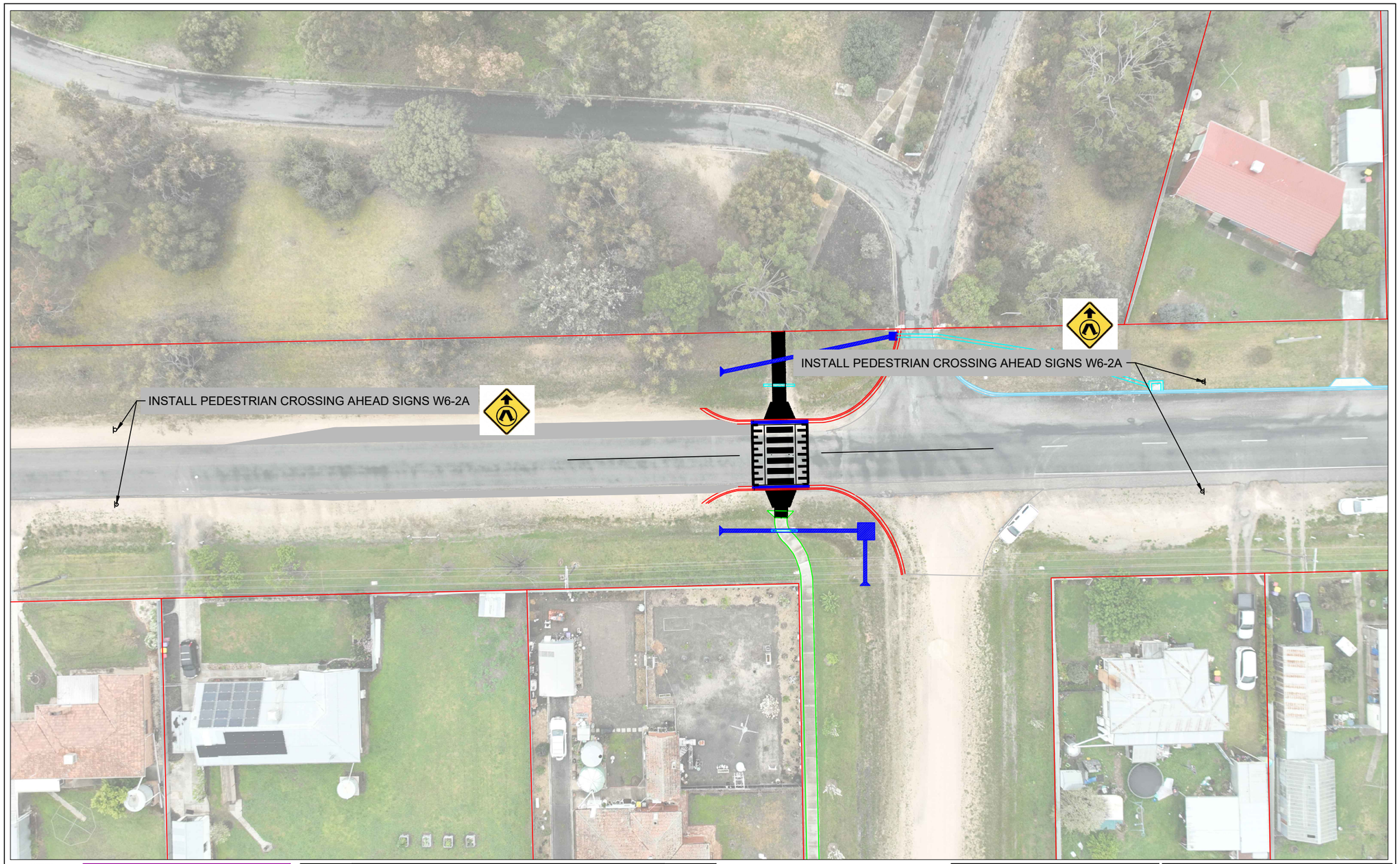
WARNING

BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY, AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

DESIGNED: L. CHAWLA	PROJECT: PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER UPGRADE CONCEPT DRAWING ELLERMAN STREET, DIMBOOLA
DATE: OCT 2026	
SCALE: A3 NOT TO SCALE	DRAWING TITLE: SLRSP
APPROVED BY: DANIEL GRIFFITHS	PROJECT No. 061026 / SHEET No. / REV: A



NORTH

WARNING

BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY, AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

DESIGNED: L. CHAWLA	PROJECT: PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER UPGRADE CONCEPT DRAWING ELLERMAN STREET, DIMBOOLA
DATE: OCT 2026	
SCALE: A3 NOT TO SCALE	DRAWING TITLE: SLRSP
APPROVED BY: DANIEL GRIFFITHS	PROJECT No. 061026 / SHEET No. / REV: A

POLICY

C011 ASSET MANAGEMENT

1 Purpose

Asset management ensures that the appropriate infrastructure and other physical assets are planned, acquired, operated, maintained, renewed, upgraded and disposed in a way that supports affordable and sustainable services for the community now and into the future whilst balancing levels of service, risk and whole-of-lifecycle asset costs.
The purpose of this policy is to set Council's asset management direction and decision-making expectation by :

- defining Council's guiding principles for sustainable life cycle asset management.
- supporting delivery of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan 2025-2029, Community Vision to 2040, Asset Plan 2025-2035 and Long-Term Financial Plan.
- guiding Councillors and staff in complying with Asset Plan and integrated strategic planning requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and
- strengthening transparent, evidence-based decisions about service levels, asset risk, renewal priorities, new and upgraded assets, and affordability.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all infrastructure and other physical assets owned, controlled, managed or maintained by Council, including transport infrastructure, land, buildings, open space, lighting, fleet/mobile plant and lighting assets, and any other asset classes recorded in Council's asset management system.

This policy applies to the full lifecycle of assets: planning, acquisition, design, construction, operation, maintenance, renewal, upgrade, expansion, rationalisation and disposal.

3 Definitions

Council	means Hindmarsh Shire Council.

CEO	means Chief Executive Officer.
Asset	means an item, component, network or facility controlled by Council that has future service potential or economic value beyond 12 months.
Asset management	means the coordinated activity of Council to realise value from assets through decision-making that balances cost, risk and performance over the asset lifecycle.
Asset Management Plan / Asset Class Plan	means a plan that defines service levels, risks, lifecycle activities, renewal needs, funding requirements and improvement actions for an asset class or group of assets.
Level of service	means the defined service quality, quantity, reliability, responsiveness, accessibility, environmental performance and cost outcome that Council seeks to provide.
Lifecycle cost	means the total cost of an asset over its life, including planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal, upgrade, disposal and residual risk costs.
Renewal	means work that replaces or restores an existing asset to its intended service capacity without materially increasing service level or capacity.
Risk	means the effect of uncertainty on objectives, including asset failure, public safety, financial, service delivery, climate, compliance and reputational risks.

4 Responsibility

The following key roles, positions and groups have defined responsibilities for asset management governance, decision making and implementation.

4.1 Council

Council will make decisions that demonstrate sound stewardship of assets in relation to asset management including consideration of intergenerational equity. Council is responsible for adopting the Asset Management Policy and the Asset Plan and ensuring that asset management requirements are given appropriate consideration when considering financial allocations during the annual budget planning process and long-term financial plans.

4.2 CEO

The CEO will ensure that adequate resources are allocated to enable sound asset management practice across the organisation. They will ensure that asset management objectives align with the organisation's objectives, the Council Plan and the Community Vision. They will ensure that an integrated strategic planning framework is developed and implemented to meet the objectives of the Council.

4.3 Executive Leadership Team

The Executive Leadership Team will provide cross-organisational leadership, challenge and support for asset-related proposals; integrate service, risk and financial considerations; monitor asset management maturity and performance; and ensure asset management responsibilities are embedded across directorates.

4.4 Director Infrastructure Services

The Director Infrastructure Services is the policy owner and will lead the strategic asset management framework, ensure asset planning is integrated with capital works, operations, maintenance, renewal and service planning, and report significant asset management risks, resourcing needs and improvement priorities to the CEO and Council as required.

4.5 Manager Assets and Facilities

The Manager Assets and Facilities will coordinate the development, review and implementation of the Asset Plan, asset management plans, asset data standards, condition assessment programs, renewal modelling, asset management system improvements and performance reporting.

4.6 Manager Financial Services

The Manager Financial Services will ensure that the financial projections in asset management plans are a key input into the long-term financial plan and will implement a service planning framework to assist the Manager Asset and Facilities in predicting future demand associated with assets and services.

4.7 Managers and Staff with Asset Responsibilities:

Managers and staff will maintain accurate asset records, plan and deliver inspection, maintenance and renewal activities, apply adopted service levels and intervention standards, identify risks and improvement opportunities, and use Council systems and procedures **consistently.**

5 Policy / Procedure

5.1 Policy Principles

Hindmarsh Shire Council's asset management principles are as follows:

- **Principle 1 - Integrated framework**
  Council will implement and maintain an integrated asset management framework comprising this Policy, the Council Plan, Asset Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plans, Road Management Plan, relevant service plans and Asset Management System.

- **Principle 2 - Legislative and good-practice alignment**
  The asset management framework will align with the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Road Management Act 2004* where applicable, relevant Australian Accounting Standards, ISO 55000/55001 principles, the International Infrastructure Management Manual, financially sustainable asset management guidance and Council's internal governance requirements.

- **Principle 3 - Service-led asset planning**
  Asset decisions will be driven by the services assets enable, not assets in isolation. Service need, community benefit, accessibility, inclusion, demand, risk and affordability will be considered before committing to asset investment.

- **Principle 4 - Long-term planning horizon**
  Asset planning will use at least a ten-year planning horizon and a longer horizon where appropriate to reflect the Community Vision, climate adaptation, demographic change, demand, growth, technology and intergenerational equity.

- **Principle 5 - Whole-of-life value**
  Lifecycle activities, including acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal, upgrade, expansion, rationalisation and disposal, will be assessed using whole-of-life cost, risk, service impact and environmental impact.

- **Principle 6 - Levels of service**
  Levels of service will be reasonably defined, reviewed and reported for asset-based services, considering community expectations, statutory obligations, risk, financial sustainability, social outcomes, accessibility and environmental sustainability.

- **Principle 7 - Renewal before new and upgrade**
  Renewal and maintenance of existing assets required for ongoing service provision will be prioritised over new or upgraded assets unless a clear service need, risk

reduction, compliance requirement, grant obligation, strategic priority or whole-of-life benefit is demonstrated.

- **Principle 8 - Risk-based renewal**
  Renewal priorities will be based on service criticality, condition, utilisation, function, capacity, compliance, safety, climate exposure, financial risk and consequence of failure.

- **Principle 9 - New and upgrade discipline**
  New and upgraded assets will only be supported where they align with the Council Plan, Asset Plan, service plans and demand forecasts, and where whole-of-life operating, maintenance, renewal and depreciation impacts are identified and affordable.

- **Principle 10 - Financial integration**
  Asset management planning and long-term financial planning will be integrated. Any funding gap, service-level implication or risk arising from divergence between asset plans and financial plans will be identified, reported and considered as part of budget and planning processes.

- **Principle 11 - Data and evidence**
  Council will maintain timely, accurate and fit-for-purpose asset data, including asset inventory, condition, valuation, useful life, criticality, service performance and maintenance history, to support transparent and evidence-based decisions.

- **Principle 12 - Roles and capability**
  Asset management roles, responsibilities and accountabilities will be clearly defined, resourced appropriately, reflected in position descriptions where relevant, and supported by ongoing training for staff, management and Councillors.

- **Principle 13 - Systems and technology**
  Council will use a corporate asset management information system and related technology to support asset inspections, maintenance, work programming, renewal modelling, reporting and continuous improvement.

- **Principle 14 - Sustainability and climate adaptation**
  Asset planning and investment will consider environmental sustainability, efficient resource use, emissions reduction opportunities, circular economy principles and climate adaptation risks, including heat, flood, storm, drought and fire impacts where relevant.

- **Principle 15 - Community engagement and transparency**

Council will engage the community and key stakeholders when setting or materially changing levels of service, strategic asset priorities, asset rationalisation options and other decisions that materially affect community access, amenity or cost.

- **Principle 16 - Continuous improvement**
  Council will regularly measure, monitor and report asset management performance and maturity, and will pursue continuous improvement, innovation and collaboration with other councils, government agencies and sector partners where it improves value for the community.

5.2 Audit and Review

This policy will be monitored continuously to ensure its relevance in terms of community needs and expectations, Council goals and targets and statutory requirements. The Chief Executive / Executive Leadership Team shall review compliance with this policy on an ongoing basis and amend the policy if it is no longer deemed relevant. The policy will be formally reviewed at least every four years following a general Council election, or earlier where required by legislative change, audit findings, material changes to the Asset Plan, or significant changes to Council's asset management framework.

6 References

Related documents	Legislation
Hindmarsh Shire Council Plan 2025-2029 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Community Vision Hindmarsh Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035 Climate Adaptation Strategy 2024 - 2036 Hindmarsh Shire Council Long-term Financial Plan International Infrastructure Management Manual ISO 55000 / ISO 55001 Asset Management standards	*Local Government Act 2020* *Road Management Act 2004*

7 Document Control

Asset Management Policy		**Policy Category**	Council
Version Number	1.4	**Policy Status**	DRAFT
Approved/Adopted By	Council	**Date approved/adopted**	July 2023

Responsible Officer	DIS	**Review Date**	July 2026
Version history	**Date**	**Version**	**Description**
	April 2010	1.0	Last Approval Date
	March 2015	1.1	For Internal Review
	May 2015	1.2	Version adopted by Council
	July 2023	1.3	Policy Review
	September 2026	1.4	Policy Review

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Building Management Plan 2026-2030

DRAFT

Document title	Building Management Plan 2026–2030
Owner	Manager Assets/Facilities (or delegated officer)
Sponsor	Chief Executive Officer
Adoption	Council resolution **[insert date]**
Review cycle	Within a set period following a Council election; otherwise as required
Next review	**[insert date]**

CONTENTS

1.	**Introduction**	**4**
2.	**Policy and Legislative Context**	**6**
3.	**Asset Plan**	**7**
4.	**Scope**	**8**
5.	**Governance and Responsibilities**	**9**
6.	**Building Use Hierarchy (5 Levels)**	**10**
7.	**Inspection and Maintenance Management System**	**12**
8.	**Future Challenges and Opportunities**	**14**
9.	**Inspection Standards and Frequencies**	**15**
10.	**Defect Intervention Levels and Response Timeframes**	**16**
11.	**Planning, Prioritising and Funding**	**19**
12.	**Asset Rationalisation, Disposal and Alternative Management**	**20**
13.	**Records, Reporting and Continuous Improvement**	**21**
14.	**Exceptional Circumstances**	**22**
15.	**Review and Amendment**	**22**
	Appendix A – Building Use Hierarchy Definitions	23
	Appendix B – Inspection Frequencies Matrix	23
	Appendix C – Inspection Checklists	23
	Appendix D - Project Ranking Criteria Matrix	41

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Council is responsible for 250 buildings with a total cost of $106m that provide and support a portfolio enabling community services, governance, recreation, tourism and operational delivery throughout Hindmarsh Shire. This Plan documents how Council will manage building assets through planned inspections, maintenance and repair activities that are proportionate to risk, usage, and available resources, and in line with Councils current and long-term financial plans. Below is a list of council owned and maintained buildings.

Building asset category	Sub-category	No. of buildings	Replacement Value $
Community Facilities	Public Halls and Libraries	11	$22,373,913
	Senior Citizen Centres	1	$1,327,600
	Airport Infrastructure	11	$4,436,330
	Other Community Buildings	9	$2,325,427
Early Years	Kindergartens and Long Daycare	15	$4,973,302
Municipal facilities	Municipal Offices	1	$3,484,682
	Municipal Depots and Workshops	21	$4,252,374
Historical Buildings	Historical society Buildings	2	$3,162,021
	Museum/Tourism	31	$9,164,308
Public Amenities	Public Toilets	22	$5,287,417
Caravan Parks	Caravan Parks	50	$9,360,186
Sports and Recreation	Swimming Pool Buildings	16	$6,503,043
	Clubrooms	6	$10,268,455
	Changerooms	4	$3,055,859
	Other sports and rec buildings	37	$10,011,691
Other facilities	Miscellaneous buildings	13	$21,145,113
Total		**250**	**$106,484,118**

**Replacement value reflects 2025 building valuation.*

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Building Management Plan (the Plan) is to establish a management system for Council to inspect, maintain, and repair Council buildings and building-related assets based on policy and operational objectives, having regard to available resources. Council takes a lifecycle management approach to asset management planning, considering the resourcing requirements to operate, maintain, repair and renew assets to meet service level requirements and asset useful life expectancy.

1.3 Objectives

- Provide safe, accessible and fit-for-purpose buildings for the community, staff and visitors.
- Apply a transparent, risk-based inspection and maintenance regime using a 5-level building use hierarchy (High use to Low use).
- Define inspection standards (reactive and proactive), inspection frequencies, and maintenance response targets.
- Guide maintenance, renewal, upgrade and disposal decisions.
- Maintain evidence-based records to support accountability and continuous improvement.
- Improve long-term financial sustainability.

2. Policy and Legislative Context

This Plan aligns with Council's asset management framework and relevant legislation and guidance, including (as applicable):

- Council Plan
- Asset Plan
- Project Management Framework
- Contributions, Donations and Sponsorship Policy
- *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic)
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)
- *Building Act 1993* (Vic) and Building Regulations
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and accessibility standards
- Emergency Management arrangements and associated regulations
- Any applicable Essential Safety Measures (ESM) requirements and Australian Standards (e.g., fire services, electrical, HVAC).

3. Asset Plan

Council's Asset Plan provides the long-term strategic direction for the management of Council-owned infrastructure assets, including buildings. This Building Management Plan supports the Asset Plan by translating high-level asset management objectives into practical inspection, maintenance, renewal, upgrade, disposal and reporting actions for the building portfolio.

The Asset Plan informs how Council balances service levels, risk, asset condition, lifecycle costs, renewal demand and available funding over the medium and long term. It provides an evidence base for determining whether existing buildings should be maintained, renewed, upgraded, consolidated, transferred, repurposed or disposed of.

For the building portfolio, the Asset Plan should be used to guide decisions about:

- the level of service Council can sustainably provide through its building assets;
- the priority and timing of building renewal projects;
- the identification of unfunded renewal gaps and maintenance backlogs;
- the relationship between asset condition, risk and budget allocation;
- the long-term financial impact of retaining, upgrading or constructing buildings;
- opportunities to rationalise low-use or poor-condition assets;
- alignment between capital works programs, the Long Term Financial Plan and the Annual Budget; and
- the need for reliable asset data, condition assessments and lifecycle cost information.

Building-related decisions should demonstrate consistency with the Asset Plan before significant funding commitments are made. Where a proposed project increases the size, value or complexity of the building portfolio, Council should consider the full lifecycle cost implications, including future maintenance, renewal, operational, compliance and disposal costs.

The Asset Plan should also inform Council's annual budget development process by identifying priority renewal needs, risk-based maintenance requirements and longer-term funding gaps. This ensures that building investment decisions are transparent, financially responsible and aligned with Council's broader asset management obligations.

4. Scope

4.1 Included Assets

This Plan applies to Council-owned or Council-managed buildings and associated building components and services, including structural elements, internal fabric, building services (electrical, plumbing, HVAC), public amenities, fire/life safety systems, and external building elements such as gutters, downpipes, ramps and stairs.

4.2 Exclusions

This Plan does not apply to non-Council assets where Council has no operational responsibility, except where agreements specify otherwise. It also excludes specialist infrastructure managed by other authorities (e.g., utility assets) unless incorporated within Council's contractual responsibilities.

5. Governance and Responsibilities

5.1 Plan administration

Overall responsibility for administering and implementing this Plan rests with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who may delegate day-to-day administration to the responsible Manager (e.g., Manager Assets/Facilities).

5.2 Operational roles

Council	Sets service levels, budgets, and approves changes to the Plan; ensures asset register is maintained.
Manager Assets and Facilities	Maintains inspection schedules, ensures inspections occur, monitors performance and reporting.
Team Leader Facilities	Undertake or arrange routine inspections, raise work orders, manage access and closures.
Building Maintenance Officer	Prioritise building maintenance requests/defects and undertake timely maintenance.
User Groups / Committees	Report hazards promptly, comply with user agreements/leases, support access for inspections.

6. Building Use Hierarchy (5 Levels)

Council classifies buildings into five hierarchy levels based on use intensity, public exposure, occupancy profile, consequence of failure, and operational criticality. Higher hierarchy levels receive more frequent proactive inspections and shorter response targets.

Level 1 Critical / High Use	Daily or near-daily public or operational use; high occupancy and/or critical service delivery. New and upgrade works require grants.
Level 2 High Use	Regular programmed use with frequent occupancy; moderate to high public exposure. New and upgrade works require grants.
Level 3 Seasonal Peak Use	High use during defined operating seasons or events; inspections intensify pre- and in-season. New and upgrade works require grants.
Level 4 Low Use	Intermittent use or low occupancy; lower public exposure, renewal and upgrade works require grants.
Level 5 Minimal / Restricted / Disposal Focus	Minimal use, restricted access, not in use, or candidate for renewal/disposal; inspections focus on safety and security controls, renewal and upgrade works require grants.

11

7. Inspection and Maintenance Management System

7.1 Inspection Types

The Plan uses three complementary inspection streams:

- **Reactive inspections (as needed)** – triggered by staff reports, customer action requests, incidents, failures, or extreme weather.
- **Proactive inspections (scheduled)** – routine inspections scheduled by hierarchy level to identify defects early. This includes any Statutory and compliance inspections.
- **Specialist Inspections** - structural assessments, electrical audits, fire safety assessments.

7.2 Work identification and control

Defects identified through inspections are to be logged in Council's maintenance management system Assetic Cloud, risk-rated, and assigned response actions. Where immediate risks are identified, temporary controls (e.g., isolation, barriers, closures) are implemented until permanent rectification is completed.

7.3 Operations and Maintenance Plan

Operations include regular activities to provide services. Examples of typical operational activities include cleaning, asset inspections and utility costs.

Maintenance includes all actions necessary for retaining the asset as practicable to the appropriate service conditions including regular ongoing day to day maintenance to keep the asset operating. Requirements for maintenance work are informed by both proactive maintenance inspections as well as customer requests. Typical examples of maintenance works include gutter cleaning, servicing air conditioners, pest control and minor structural repairs.

General maintenance works are evaluated and prioritized with respect to annual budgets. This process is undertaken with consideration to the criticality of the defect and the risk associated.

While all proactive maintenance inspections and legislative maintenance works are fully accommodated within existing budgets, not all preventative and general maintenance works can be accommodated within existing budget allocations to meet user and community expectations. Currently, general maintenance activities are evaluated and prioritised with respect to available budgets. While make-safe treatments are always undertaken as soon practical.

7.4 Service and Risk

7.4.1 Service

If there is forecast work (operations, maintenance, renewal, acquisition or disposal) that cannot be undertaken due to available resources, then this will result in service consequences for users. These service consequences include:

- Reduced levels of service for the building portfolio (maintenance and renewal backlog)
- Deterioration in asset condition, resulting in more frequent failures and unplanned outages.
- educed customer satisfaction levels associated with the management of our existing assets.
- Intergenerational inequity (burdening future generations)
- Building closures or restricted access.

7.4.2 Risk

The operations and maintenance activities and capital projects that cannot be undertaken may sustain or create risk consequences. These risk consequences include:

- Increased public safety risks associated with assets deteriorating beyond recommended intervention levels. Premature asset failure.
- Increased reputational risks associated with service provisions not aligning with community expectations.
- Increased financial risks associated with surplus maintenance requirements that cannot be accommodated within existing budgets.
- Increased financial risks associated with higher renewal and/or rehabilitation treatments as asset renewals are not funded at the optimal point in time.
- Increased risk of breaching OH&S legislation.
- Increased risk of non-compliance with Essential Safety Measures.
- Increased risk of public complaints and negative attention.

8. Future Challenges and Opportunities

	Challenges	Opportunities
Ageing Infrastructure	Many buildings are reaching or past their useful life and need modernisation.	Prioritise renewals for safety, accessibility and energy efficiency improvements.
Low Utilisation	Some facilities, like small halls, are underused relative to their upkeep costs.	Undertake a strategic review and consider rationalisation or repurposing to match current demand or disposal.
Climate & Energy Pressure	Older buildings often lack insulation or cooling, increasing operating costs and user discomfort.	Upgrade to energy-efficient designs, insulation, and passive cooling systems.
Financial Constraints	Maintaining and renewing all assets is challenging with limited funding.	Leverage partnerships with community groups and seek grants to supplement council investment.
Data & Planning Gaps	imited or inconsistent condition data makes long-term planning more difficult.	Improve asset data and implement regular assessments to guide capital works priorities.

9. Inspection Standards and Frequencies

9.1 Minimum inspection frequencies

Minimum proactive inspection frequencies are set out below. More frequent inspections may be applied where risk is higher (e.g., poor condition, high exposure, repeated failures). Routine inspections will be conducted by the operational staff members who work within or hire that facility out. These inspections will be documented by those staff members for record keeping purposes.

Hierarchy Level	Routine walk-through	Formal condition inspection	Roof/gutter & stormwater
Level 1	Quarterly	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 2	Biannual	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 3	Annual	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 4	Annual	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 5	Annual (security/safety)	Every 4 years	Annually (if retained)

10. Defect Intervention Levels and Response Timeframes

Defects are categorised to support consistent prioritisation and response. Response targets are indicative and subject to resource/trades availability, access constraints, budget availability and the need to coordinate specialist works.

Category A Immediate Hazard	Make safe as soon as practical and complete permanent rectification as soon as practicable. Typical examples - Exposed live electrical wires, major storm damage, structural issues i.e ceiling collapsing, wall falling, roof failure.
Category B Urgent	Inspect and implement controls promptly; schedule permanent repair within a short timeframe. Typical examples - Damaged handrails, broken windows, sewer blockage.
Category C Routine	Schedule within planned maintenance cycles; bundle works where efficient. Typical examples - Faulty fixtures lights, taps etc, Non-critical lighting, painting.
Category D Monitor / Planned Renewal	Monitor condition; include in forward works / capital renewal planning. Typical examples - Minor cracking, non-compliant ramps, handrails.

Defect Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Category A Immediate Hazard	Attend the same day. Immediate make safe. Permanent fix ASAP (≤ 10 business days).	Attend within 3 business days. Immediate make safe. Permanent fix . (≤ 20 business days)	Attend within 5 business days. Immediate make safe.	Attend within 5 business days. Immediate make safe.	Attend within 10 business day. Restrict access / isolate asset.
Category B Urgent	Attend within 3 business day. Make safe if required. Fix ≤ 20 business days.	Attend within 5 business days. Fix ≤ 30 business days.	Attend within10 business days Fix ≤ 12 weeks.	Attend within 5 business days. Fix ≤ 45 business days.	Attend within 10 business days. Fix programmed if justified.
Category C Routine	Plan response within 10 business days. Fix ≤ 60 days or maintenance cycle.	Plan within 20 business days. Fix ≤ 90 days.	Plan 3 Months. Fix during next maintenance run.	Plan within 30 business days. Fix as resources allow.	Monitor and bundle with other works.
Category D Monitor / Planned Renewal	Monitor annually. Include in forward works / renewal program.	Monitor annually. Include in forward works / renewal program.	Monitor pre /post season. Renewal planning as required.	Monitor at scheduled inspections.	Monitor for safety / security only; consider disposal.

11. Planning, Prioritisation and Funding

Council applies a structured, risk-based approach to planning, prioritising and funding building maintenance and renewal works considering hierarchy level, defect category, compliance obligations, condition, customer impact, and lifecycle cost. Where works are significant, Council will prepare scopes, cost estimates, and delivery programs aligned to budget processes. Decisions are informed by inspection outcomes, defect categorisation, building hierarchy and lifecycle considerations.

11.1 Budget Framework

Maintenance and renewal of existing assets remain Councils primary investment focus, ensuring that current facilities continue to provide safe, reliable, and fit for purpose to service the community.

Council generally expects that:

- Renewal project to be funded through Councils capital renewal program.
- New facilities and major upgrades will be dependent on demonstrated need, strategic alignment and long-term affordability.
- Major projects will require grant funding and/or community contributions.
- New assets should not create unsustainable future maintenance liabilities.

11.2 Assessment of New and Upgraded Facilities

Requests for new facilities or major upgrades must undertake a formal assessment involving all relevant council departments.

Assessment considerations include:

- Strategic alignment
- Community needs assessment
- Demand analysis
- Whole of life costs
- Maintenance impacts
- Renewal funding requirements
- Staffing implications
- Operations costs
- Asset rationalisation opportunities

11.3 Evaluation Matrix for Facility Requests

Appendix D - Project Ranking Criteria Matrix

11.4 Community Contributions

Council adopted a Contributions, Donations and Sponsorship Policy (Policy C017) which encourages partnerships with community organisations, sporting clubs, user groups and other stakeholders to support the provision, improvement and sustainable management of community facilities.

Where an upgrade is a primary benefit to a specific user group, Council may seek:

- Cash contributions
- In kind contributions
- Co-funding arrangements

11.5 Project Management Framework

All capital projects will be planned, assessed and delivered in accordance with Councils Project Management Framework and depending on the scale, complexity and risk may require:

- Business case development to demonstrate need, benefit and alignment with council strategies and plans
- Concept design
- Risk assessment
- Cost estimations
- Funding strategy
- Full life costs, including operational, maintenance, renewal and disposal costs
- Ongoing maintenance requirements

12. Asset Rationalisation, Disposal and Alternative Management

Council recognises that some buildings may no longer be financially sustainable, fit for purpose, appropriately utilised, or aligned with current and future service requirements. Asset rationalisation is not intended to reduce community access without proper consideration; rather, it provides a structured process to determine whether a building should continue to be owned, maintained, renewed, repurposed, transferred, leased, demolished or disposed of.

Decisions should be evidence-based and consider utilisation, condition, risk, community value, operating costs, renewal demand and whether there is an alternative management arrangement that would deliver better long-term outcomes for Council and the community.

Buildings may be considered for:

- Disposal
- Sale
- Demolition
- Community Transfer
- Lease
- Alternative management
- Private Transfer where there is community benefit

Assessment criteria may include:

- Usage levels
- Community benefit
- Strategic importance
- Financial sustainability
- Condition
- Renewal requirements
- Risk exposure
- Future community benefit (eg: increased housing / industrial building)

13. Records, Reporting and Continuous Improvement

Council will maintain records of:

- Inspection schedules and completed inspection forms/checklists
- Defect registers, work requests, work orders, and completion evidence (including photos) to be stored within council's asset management systems.
- Compliance certificates and contractor reports (where relevant)
- Building closures/restrictions and temporary risk controls
- Annual performance summaries (inspection completion, response targets, key risks)

Maintaining these records informs Council on outstanding maintenance issues, emerging risks, compliance with Essential Safety Measures and service disruptions. Reporting will inform operational planning and resourcing, budget development and identify trends and issues within the building portfolio.

Council is committed to continuous improvement within the building management portfolio, improvement initiatives include:

- Leveraging technology to improve inspection, reporting and record keeping by using council's asset management systems
- Improving the consistency of condition data
- Improved staff training
- Periodically reviewing the inspection frequencies and building hierarchy
- Engaging with user groups and asset committees regularly to improve asset performance and community confidence.

14. Exceptional Circumstances

Council will make every effort to meet service levels under this Plan. However, exceptional circumstances (e.g., fire, flood, storm, resource shortage, pandemic impacts) may reduce Council's ability to deliver inspections and repairs within stated targets. In such cases, the CEO may authorise partial or full suspension of timeframes, with services prioritised on a risk basis.

14.1 Suspension and reinstatement

Where the Plan is suspended in whole or part, Council will:

- Document the trigger event, affected services, and the period of impact
- Prioritise safety-critical inspections and make-safe works based on risk and available resources
- Communicate changes to service levels to the community via appropriate channels
- Maintain records of decisions, communications, schedules and works during the period
- Reinstate service levels progressively as resources allow

15. Review and Amendment

This Plan will be reviewed within a set period following a Council election. Outside this cycle, updates may occur to reflect changes in risks, resources, asset portfolio or standards. Material changes to standards will be reported to Council; non-material administrative changes may be approved under delegated authority.

Appendix A
Building Use Hierarchy Definitions

Level 1 Critical / High Use	Daily or near-daily public or operational use; high occupancy and/or critical service delivery. New and upgrade works require grants.
Level 2 High Use	Regular programmed use with frequent occupancy; moderate to high public exposure. New and upgrade works require grants.
Level 3 Seasonal Peak Use	High use during defined operating seasons or events; inspections intensify pre- and in-season. New and upgrade works require grants.
Level 4 Low Use	Intermittent use or low occupancy; lower public exposure, renewal and upgrade works require grants.
Level 5 Minimal / Restricted / Disposal Focus	Minimal use, restricted access, not in use, or candidate for renewal/disposal; inspections focus on safety and security controls, renewal and upgrade works require grants.

Appendix B
Inspection Frequencies Matrix

Hierarchy Level	Routine walk-through	Formal condition inspection	Roof/gutter & stormwater
Level 1	Quarterly	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 2	Biannual	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 3	Annual	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 4	Annual	Every 4 years	Annually
Level 5	Annual (security/safety)	Every 4 years	Annually (if retained)

Appendix C
Inspection Checklists (minimum fields)

Each inspection record should include at minimum:

- Building ID, facility name, component, location, hierarchy level
- Inspector name, role, date/time, weather (if relevant)
- Observations by element (roof/gutters, external walls, internal fabric, services, amenities, accessibility, fire/life safety, external hazards)
- Defect category (A–D), risk notes, photos, and recommended actions
- Temporary controls implemented (if any)
- Work order reference and follow-up date

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107393	**Dimboola Library**	Library	101 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107391	**Dimboola Depot**	Shed	72 Upper Regions St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107398	**Dimboola Depot**	Depot	72 Upper Regions St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107401	**Dimboola Library**	New Amenities	101 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107414	**Jeparit Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Kindergarten	11 Hindmarsh St, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**1**
BLD107415	**Jeparit Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Kindergarten Storeroom	11 Hindmarsh St, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**1**
BLD107424	**Jeparit Menzies Square**	Public Toilets	34 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**1**
BLD107468	**Jeparit Depot**	Depot/Workshop	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**1**
BLD107473	**Jeparit Depot**	Cardboard Shed	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**1**
BLD107476	**Jeparit Depot**	Shire Depot	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**1**
BLD107487	**Nhill Library**	Library	5 Clarence St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107489	**Nhill Community Centre**	Community Centre	77-79 Nelson St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107494	**Nhill Jaypex Park**	Toilet Block	72 Victoria St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107500	**Hindmarsh Shire Council**	Shire Offices	92 Nelson St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107504	**Nhill Goldsworthy Park**	Public Toilets	Victoria St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107510	**Nhill Depot**	Depot Office	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107517	**Nhill Pound**	Animal Pound	240 McKenzie Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107525	**Nhill Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Kindergarten	1 Queen St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**1**
BLD107523	**Rainbow Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Kindergarten	46 Taverner St, Rainbow VIC 3424	User Agreement	**1**
BLD107529	**Rainbow Depot**	Depot	21 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**1**
BLD107555	**Rainbow Library & Customer Service Centre**	Library	47 Federal St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**1**
BLD107585	**Dimboola Depot**	Office	72 Upper Regions St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107584	**Dimboola Pickering Gardens & Playground**	Public Toilets	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107595	**Nhill Transfer Station And Landfill**	Office	Nhill-Netherby Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**1**
BLD107628	**Dimboola Transfer Station And Landfill**	Office	High St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107379	**Dimboola Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Kindergarten	27 Hindmarsh St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**1**
BLD107402	**Dimboola Transfer Station And Landfill**	Dimboola Tip	High St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**2**
BLD107420	**Jeparit Depot**	Amenities Block	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**2**
BLD107426	**Jeparit Memorial Town Hall**	Shire Office	12 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**2**
BLD107445	**Jeparit Transfer Station And Landfill**	Tip/Transfer Station	Jeparit E Rd, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**2**
BLD107467	**Jeparit Depot**	Plant Shed	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**2**
BLD107479	**Nhill Depot**	Vehicle Shelter & Premix Shed	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107484	**Nhill Depot**	Workshop	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**
BLD107481	**Nhill Depot**	Depot Shed 1	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**
BLD107503	**Nhill Tourist Information Centre**	Tourist Information Centre	Victoria St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**
BLD107509	**Nhill Transfer Station And Landfill**	Shed	Nhill-Netherby Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**
BLD107513	**Nhill Depot**	Depot Shed 2	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**
BLD107524	**Nhill Transfer Station And Landfill**	Tip/Transfer Station	Nhill-Netherby Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**2**
BLD107521	**Rainbow Civic Centre**	Civic Centre	2 Federal St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**2**
BLD107570	**Rainbow Transfer Station And Landfill**	Office	240 Kruger Rd, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**2**
BLD107382	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Sports Centre/Basketball Centre	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107380	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Amenities - Bball	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107384	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Football Pavillion	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107381	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Amenities - Show	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107383	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Show Sheds	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107385	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	A&P Pavilion	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107386	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Scoreboard	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107387	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Booth	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107388	**Dimboola Swimming Pool**	Changerooms	55 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107389	**Dimboola Swimming Pool**	Kiosk	55 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107390	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Amenities	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107396	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Recreation Room	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107395	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Dwelling	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107399	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Amenities	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107404	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	A&P Pavilion (Open Shed)	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107405	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Netball Shelter & Store Shed	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107406	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Camp Kitchen	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107407	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 2	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107409	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Nine Creeks Pavilion	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107412	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Old Camp Kitchen	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107411	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Service Laundry	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107410	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	2 Semi-ensuite Vinyl Clad Cabins	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107418	**Jeparit Depot**	Older Shedding	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107419	**Jeparit Depot**	Sign Shed	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107423	**Jeparit Depot**	Oil Shed	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107421	**Jeparit Tennis Club**	Clubhouse	4 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107422	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	Amenities	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107428	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Sports Ground	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107429	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Amenities	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107438	**Jeparit Swimming Pool**	Swimming Pool Changerooms	19 Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107439	**Jeparit Swimming Pool**	Plant Room	19 Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107441	**Jeparit Swimming Pool**	Kiosk	19 Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107472	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	Disabled Toilet	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107475	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	Studio Cabin 1	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107471	**Jeparit Swimming Pool**	Swimming Pools	19 Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107477	**Nhill Depot**	Parks & Gardens Shed	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107492	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Caravan Park Residence	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107493	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Amenities Block	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107491	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 2	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107495	**Davis Park**	Sports Ground Pavillion	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107490	**Davis Park**	Amenities Block	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107497	**Davis Park**	Timekeeper	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107498	**Davis Park**	Ticket Box	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107505	**Nhill Swimming Pool**	Plant Rooms	Whitehead Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107506	**Nhill Swimming Pool**	Changerooms	Whitehead Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107508	**Nhill Swimming Pool**	Kiosk	Whitehead Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107512	**Davis Park**	Clubrooms & Football Changerooms	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107511	**Davis Park**	Netball Clubrooms	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107515	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Ensuites	93 Victoria St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107514	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Patient Transfer Shed	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107518	**Davis Park**	Umpires Change Room	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107519	**Nhill Depot**	Depot Shed 3	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107522	**Rainbow Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Kindergarten Storeroom	46 Taverner St, Rainbow VIC 3424	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107527	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Amenities Block A	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107520	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Plant Room	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107528	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Office & Kiosk	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107530	**Rainbow Depot**	Amenities Block	21 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107531	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Poultry Pavilion	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107532	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Ticket Office	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107528	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Office & Kiosk	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107530	**Rainbow Depot**	Amenities Block	21 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107531	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Poultry Pavilion	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107532	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Ticket Office	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107533	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Football Pavillion	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107537	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Scout Hall	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107535	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Amenities Block	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107534	**Rainbow Holiday Park**	Amenities Block	2A Railway St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107536	**Rainbow Holiday Park**	Store Shed	2A Railway St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107538	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Horse Pavilion	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107539	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Sheep Pavilion	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107540	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Swimming Pool	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107542	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Dimboola Netball Change Rooms	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107549	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Amenities Block B	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107554	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 6	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107553	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 7	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107552	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 8	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107550	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 9	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107551	**Rainbow Holiday Park**	Cabin 2	2A Railway St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107557	**Rainbow Holiday Park**	Cabin 1	2A Railway St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107558	**Rainbow Holiday Park**	Cabin 3	2A Railway St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107556	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Toilet Block	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107559	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Sport Changeroom & Clubrooms	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107560	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Women's Toilets	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107564	**Rainbow Swimming Pool**	Shaded Seating Area	7 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107561	**Rainbow Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 1	46 Taverner St, Rainbow VIC 3424	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107562	**Rainbow Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 2	46 Taverner St, Rainbow VIC 3424	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107567	**Rainbow Holiday Park**	Amenities	2A Railway St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107566	**Rainbow Depot**	Mesh Lockup Storage	21 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107565	**Dimboola Depot**	Chemical Storage Shed	72 Upper Regions St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107569	**Rainbow Depot**	Small Open Storage Shelter	21 Park St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Council	**3**
BLD107573	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Mens Toilets	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107572	**Jeparit Memorial Town Hall**	Disabled Toilet	12 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107571	**Jeparit Depot**	Large Shed	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107578	**Jeparit Depot**	Chemical Storage Shed	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107577	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Mens Toilets	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107576	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	Amenities	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107579	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	2 Bedroom Cabin 4	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107588	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	2 bedroom Cabin 3	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107587	**Jeparit Riverview Holiday Park**	Studio Cabin 2	2 Peterson Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107582	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Scorers/Judges Box	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107581	**Dimboola Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 1	27 Hindmarsh St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107586	**Dimboola Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 2	27 Hindmarsh St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107580	**Dimboola Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 3	27 Hindmarsh St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107583	**Dimboola Depot**	Chemical Storage Shed	72 Upper Regions St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107589	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Ticket Box	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107596	**Davis Park**	Netball Club Storage Shed	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107593	**Nhill Tennis Club**	Turner Pavillion	1 Turner St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107592	**Nhill Tennis Club**	Storage Shed	1 Turner St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107598	**Nhill Depot**	Lockup Open Storage Shed	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107594	**Nhill Depot**	Chemical Storage Shed	1 Station St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107597	**Nhill Transfer Station And Landfill**	Recycling Storage Shed	Nhill-Netherby Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107590	**Davis Park**	Storage/Garage, Holds Scoreboard	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107599	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Office Shed & Laundry Room	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107600	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Small Garden Shed	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107601	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Site Office	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107602	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 5	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107603	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Ensuites 1 & 2	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107605	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 10	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107604	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 9	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107606	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 6	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107608	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 7	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107607	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 8	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107616	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 1	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107618	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Ensuite Sites 39-44	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107619	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Large Storage Shed	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107624	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Small Storage Shed	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107622	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 1	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107621	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 3	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107620	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Cabin 4	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107625	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabins 10 & 11 Combined	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107626	**Dimboola Recreation Reserve**	Poultry Pavilion	40 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107627	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Storage Shed	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107630	**Jeparit Swimming Pool**	Chemical Storage Shed	19 Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**3**
BLD107634	**Davis Park**	Bar/Kiosk	15 Davis Ave, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107629	**Nhill Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 3	1 Queen St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**3**
BLD107631	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Judges Box	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107632	**Dimboola Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 4	27 Hindmarsh St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107635	**Nhill Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 1	1 Queen St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107633	**Nhill Kindergarten & Early Learning Centre**	Storage Shed 2	1 Queen St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**3**
BLD107637	**Rainbow Showgrounds & Recreation Reserve**	Judges Box	Swinbourne Ave, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**3**
BLD107636	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 5	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107638	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 4	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107640	**Dimboola Riverside Holiday Park**	Cabin 3	2 Wimmera St, Dimboola VIC 3414	Council	**3**
BLD107639	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Amenities	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**3**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107400	**Antwerp Hall**	Antwerp Hall	Antwerp-Woorak Rd, Antwerp VIC 3414	Asset Committee	**4**
BLD107431	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Booth & Boiler Room	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107430	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	A&P Clubrooms	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107434	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Show Pavillions	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107436	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Ticket Box	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107433	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	A&P Poultry Pavilion	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107432	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	A&P Colourbond Pavilion	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107435	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	A&P Exhibit Shed	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107437	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	A&P Cattle & Pig Pavilion	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107440	**Four Mile Beach Reserve**	Amenities Block West	Four Mile Beach Rd, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**4**
BLD107442	**Four Mile Beach Reserve**	Amenities Block East	Four Mile Beach Rd, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**4**
BLD107444	**Lorquon Hall**	Lorquon Hall	7 Miller St, Lorquon VIC 3418	Asset Committee	**4**
BLD107474	**Four Mile Beach Reserve**	Camp Kitchen	Four Mile Beach Rd, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**4**
BLD107478	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Scoreboard	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107480	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Aerodrome Hanger	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107485	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Clubrooms	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107482	**Nhill Aeradio Station**	Hall	158 Propodollah Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107483	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Toilets	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107486	**Nhill Senior Citizens Centre**	Senior Citizens Centre	8 Campbell St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107496	**Diapur Hall**	Hall	Nhill-Diapur Rd Nhill VIC 3418	Asset Committee	**4**
BLD107507	**Yanac Hall**	Hall	4 Francis St, Yanac VIC 3418	Asset Committee	**4**
BLD107502	**Nhill Goldsworthy Park**	Band Rotunda	Victoria St, Nhill VIC 3418	Council	**4**
BLD107516	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Heritage Centre	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107575	**Four Mile Beach Reserve**	Barbecue Shelter	Four Mile Beach Rd, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**4**
BLD107611	**Nhill Aeradio Station**	Old Transmission Building	158 Propodollah Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107613	**Nhill Aeradio Station**	Green Storage Shed	158 Propodollah Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107614	**Nhill Aeradio Station**	Brick Transmission Building	158 Propodollah Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107612	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Small Storage Shed	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107615	**Nhill Aerodrome**	Aero Club	Aerodrome Rd, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107617	**Nhill Historical Centre**	Office & Museum	104-106 Macpherson St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**4**
BLD107392	**Dimboola Historical Society**	Clubrooms	67 Lloyd St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**4**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107394	**Dimboola SES**	SES Building	6 Lochiel St, Dimboola VIC 3414	User Agreement	**5**
BLD107416	**Jeparit & District Bowls Club**	Bowling Club	62 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**5**
BLD107417	**Jeparit Ex Saleyards**	Ex Saleyards	60 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**5**
BLD107425	**Jeparit Workshop**	Workshop	11 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**5**
BLD107427	**Jeparit Infant Welfare Centre**	Infant Welfare Centre	8 Lower Roy St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Council	**5**
BLD107446	**Sir Robert Menzies Park**	Amenities Block	Sands Ave, Jeparit VIC 3423	User Agreement	**5**
BLD107501	**Nhill SES**	SES Building	94 Nelson St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**5**
BLD107609	**Nhill Holiday Park**	Outdoor Kitchen	93 Victoria St, Nhill Vic 3418	Council	**5**
BLD107610	**Nhill SES**	SES Large Shed	94 Nelson St, Nhill VIC 3418	User Agreement	**5**
BLD107623	**Rainbow Primary School**	Original Stone And Joined Weatherboard	32 Bow St, Rainbow VIC 3424	User Agreement	**5**
BLD107413	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Albacutya Homestead	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107447	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Carriage Shed	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107443	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107448	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Toilets	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107449	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Werrap Hall	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107451	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Antwerp Blacksmithry	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107450	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 1	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107453	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 2	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107452	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Tarranyurk Hall	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107457	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Woorak West Methodist Church	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107454	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Chemist	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107455	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Depta State School	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107456	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Jails	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107458	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 3	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107459	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 4	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107461	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 5	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107460	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 6	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107462	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 7	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107463	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 8	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107464	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Shed 9	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107465	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Toilet Block	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107466	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Tractor Shed 1	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**

Appendix C *Continued*

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Item	Location	Building Control	Level 1-5
BLD107469	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Brierly House	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107548	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Pioneer Museum	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107546	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Green Log Cabins	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107641	**Wimmera Mallee Pioneers Museum**	Tractor Shed 2	72 Charles St, Jeparit VIC 3423	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107526	**Yurunga Homestead**	Yurunga Homestead	1 Gray St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107545	**Yurunga Homestead**	Toilet Block	1 Gray St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107544	**Yurunga Homestead**	Storage Shed	1 Gray St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107543	**Yurunga Homestead**	Coach House	1 Gray St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**5**
BLD107574	**Yurunga Homestead**	Brush Building	1 Gray St, Rainbow VIC 3424	Asset Committee	**5**

Appendix D Project Ranking Criteria Matrix

Ranking Score	Council Strategies	Community Impact	Fit with Capital Social Value	Operational / Finance Source	Maintenance Costs	Environmental Sustainability Aspects	Consequences / Likelihood of Risks	Capital Classification
4	Listed specifically in the Council Plan, a Council Strategy or Management Plan.	Has the potential to service a **LARGE** target group over an **EXTENDED** period of time.	**STRONGLY** aids community development and/or will **SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE** social isolation.	**TOTALLY EXTERNALLY FUNDED.**	**NO ADDED COSTS** to maintenance/ recurrent budget.	**MAJOR / SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT** to environmental factors.	**MAJOR / SIGNIFICANT** reduction of risk factors. **Score 20**	**RENEWAL WORKS**: restore, rehabilitate or replace an existing asset to its original level of service. **Score 20**
3	Part of a program listed specifically in the Council Plan, a Council Strategy or Management Plan and recommended in a report for funding.	Has the potential to service a **MEDIUM** target group over an extended period of time and resolved by Council as a priority.	**MODERATELY** aids community development and/or will **MODERATELY** reduce social isolation.	**EXTERNALLY FUNDED** on at least a $1:$1 basis.	**ANNUAL COSTS LESS THAN 10%** of capital / construction cost.	**MODERATE IMPROVEMENT** to environmental factors.	**MODERATE REDUCTION** of risk factors. **Score 15**	
2	Broadly within the scope of an action listed in the Council Plan, a Council Strategy or Management Plan **AS A PRIORITY**.	Has the potential to service a **LARGE** target group over a **SHORT** period of time.	**MINOR BENEFITS** in aiding community development and/or with a **SMALL REDUCTION** in social isolation.	**PARTIALLY EXTERNALLY FUNDED** on a $1:$1 basis or less.	**ANNUAL COSTS BETWEEN 11% AND 20%** of capital / construction cost.	**NO IMMEDIATE IMPACT** on the environment, but **POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT** in the future.	**SMALL REDUCTION** of risk factors. **Score 10**	**UPGRADE: ENHANCE EXISTING ASSET** to provide higher levels of service. **Score 5**
1	Broadly within the scope of an action listed in the Council Plan, a Council Strategy or Management Plan.	Has the potential to service a **MEDIUM** target group over a short period of time.	**NO IMPACT** in aiding community development and/or **NO REDUCTION** in social isolation.	**FUNDED IN PART FROM CONTRIBUTIONS**, including grants, special rates, one-off contributions or increased fees.	**ANNUAL COSTS BETWEEN 21% AND 30%** of capital / construction cost.	**MODERATE NEGATIVE IMPACT** on the environment.	**NO REDUCTION** of risk factors. **Score 5**	
-5	Not within the scope of an action listed in the Council Plan, a Council Strategy or Management Plan.	Has the potential to service a **SMALL** target group.	**NEGATIVE IMPACT** in aiding community development and/or **INCREASES** social isolation.	Funding entirely from revenue.	**ANNUAL COSTS OVER 31%** of capital / construction cost.	**SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT** on the environment.	**POTENTIAL TO INCREASE** risk factors. **Score -5**	**NEW**: construct a **NEW ASSET** to provide **ADDITIONAL LEVELS OF SERVICE**. **Score 0**

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Main Office:
92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418

Postal Address:
PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418

Phone: 03 5391 4444

Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

© Prepared by Hindmarsh Shire Council.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Speed restrictions Dimboola Hill
Date: Monday, 12 October 2026 9:37:52 PM

[You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important at [redacted]

The Nhill Silo Committee requests further speed restrictions be applied on the Western Highway opposite the GrainCorp Nhill South Site.This section of Highway is on of the most dangerous on the Western Highway, the distance required to cross this road is too great for a stationary truck to do so safely under present speed restrictions. Could a 50 km speed restriction be installed during harvest hours as is present at school crossing.
Regards, Andrew Colbert Nhill Silo Committee Secretary

GrainCorp Commodity Management Pty Ltd
[redacted]

20 October 2026

To whom it may concern,

Re: Support for seasonal speed reduction on the Western Highway at Nhill–Jeparit Road and Winiam East Road

GrainCorp supports Hindmarsh Shire Council's request for a seasonal speed reduction on the Western Highway at the Nhill-Jeparit Road and Winiam East Road intersection during the grain harvest period.

Harvest brings a significant increase in heavy vehicle movements as grain is transported from farms to receival sites. With a strong upcoming harvest expected in this region, increased truck movements between the highway, Nhill-Jeparit Road and the grain bunker south of the highway create additional traffic activity, with heavy vehicles entering, exiting and manoeuvring alongside other traffic.

GrainCorp is committed to maintaining high standards of safety across its operations year-round, with particular attention to the additional risks and demands that come with the harvest period.

A temporary seasonal speed reduction is a practical measure that could provide drivers with more time to respond to changing traffic conditions and help reduce the risk and potential severity of collisions.

GrainCorp supports practical, proportionate measures that improve safety for heavy vehicle operators, local residents, our employees and other road users, while enabling the safe and efficient movement of grain during this critical period for regional communities and the grains supply chain.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for any further information on [redacted]

Yours Sincerely,

Phil Duynhoven
Regional Operations Manager

GrainCorp

Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools Proposed Base Service Levels 2026/2027

<table>
<tr><th>2025/2026</th><th>2026/2027</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Extended Hours</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Council will endeavour to extend pool opening hours when the temperature is predicted to be over 30 degrees at the usual time of closing.

Council will review temperature predictions and publish anticipated extended opening hours on Facebook prior to 12pm and will also publish any changes or cancellation to extended hours on Facebook in real time.

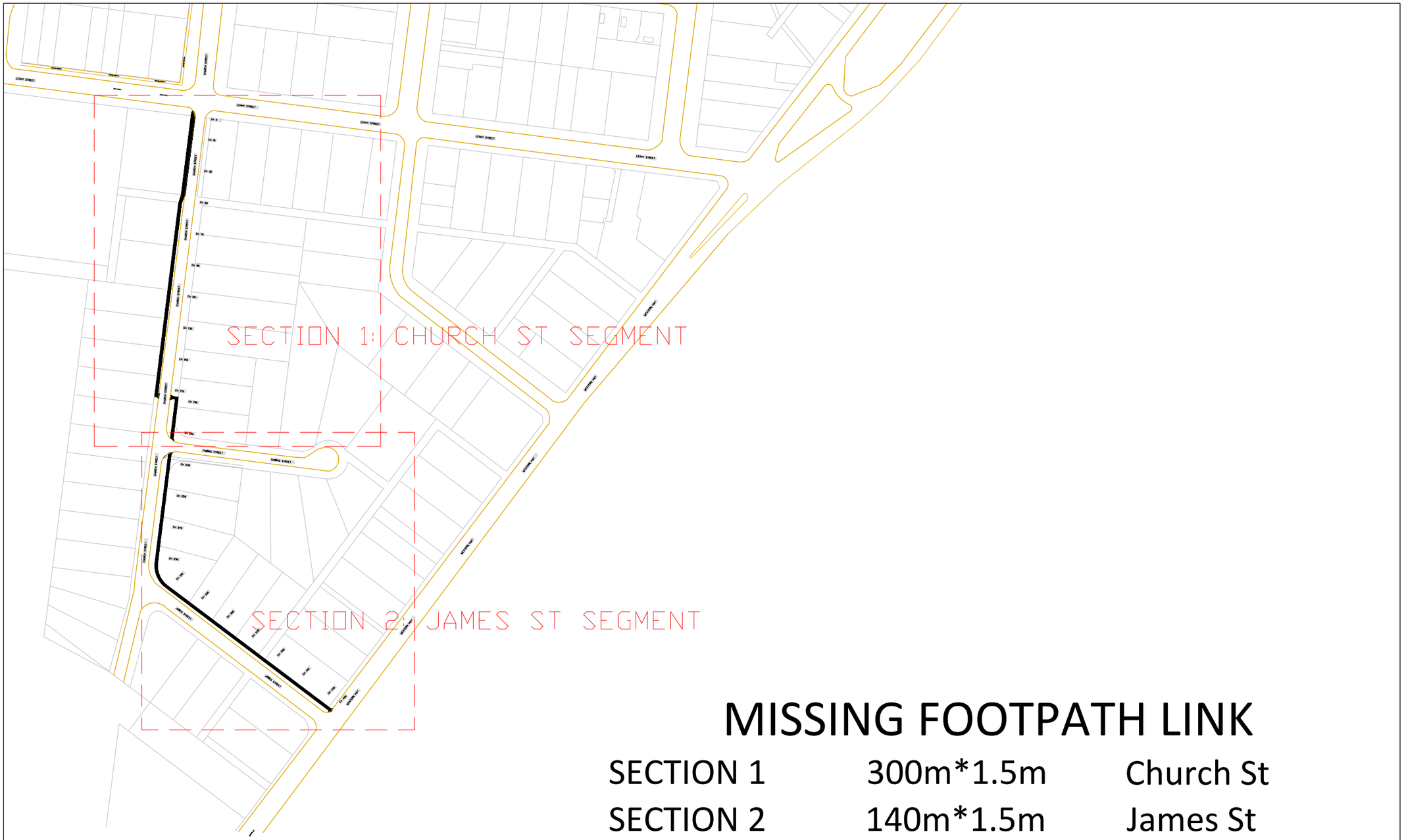
If there is inadequate demand or staffing unavailability on any given day, we will publish this information on our Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools Facebook page. For any anticipated use in extended hours periods, we advise users to call Council to confirm opening hours for that day - we'll publish a phone number on our website and Facebook page for this purpose prior to the start of the season.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Minimum Opening Temperature</td></tr>
<tr><td>If the maximum forecast temperature is predicted to be below 24ºc at the Rainbow Weather station as per the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, the facility may be closed at the manager’s discretion.</td><td>If the maximum forecast temperature is predicted to be below 25ºc during the opening period at the Rainbow Weather station as per the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, the facility may be closed at the manager’s discretion.

If individual towns have predicted temperatures below 25ºc during the opening period as per the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, the facility may still be closed at the Manager’s discretion, even if the predicted temperature in Rainbow is over 25ºc.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Sunday Hours – All Sites During School Term</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Pools to open on Sundays from 2pm – 6pm.

Hours may be extended to 7:30pm under the same conditions as standard hour extensions.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Jeparit Outdoor Pool Opening Days and Hours</td></tr>
<tr><td>Wednesdays: Closed
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 4pm – 6:30pm
Saturdays and School Holidays: 2pm – 7pm
Sundays: 2pm – 6pm

No closure day during school holidays</td><td>School Term
Tuesdays – Thursdays: Closed
Mondays & Fridays: 4pm – 6:30pm
Saturdays: 2pm – 7pm
Sundays: 2pm – 6pm
School Holidays
Thursdays – Mondays – 2pm – 7pm
Tuesdays & Wednesdays: Closed</td></tr>
</table>

Rainbow Outdoor Pool Opening Days and Hours	
Tuesdays: Closed Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 3:30pm – 6:30pm Saturdays and School Holidays: 2pm – 7pm Sundays: 2pm – 6pm *No closure day during school holidays.*	**School Term** Tuesdays & Wednesdays: Closed Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays: 3:30pm – 6:30pm Saturdays: 2pm – 7pm Sundays: 2pm – 6pm **School Holidays** Tuesdays: Closed Wednesdays – Mondays: 2pm – 7pm
Dimboola Outdoor Pool Opening Days and Hours	
Thursdays: Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 3:30pm – 6:30pm Saturdays and School Holidays: 2pm – 7pm Sundays: 2pm – 6pm *No closure day during school holidays*	**School Term** Wednesdays: Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 3:30pm – 6:30pm Saturdays: 2pm – 7pm Sundays: 2pm – 6pm **School Holidays** Mondays – Sundays: 2pm – 7pm
Nhill Outdoor Pool Opening Days and Hours	
Mondays: Closed Tuesdays – Fridays: 3:30pm – 6:30pm Saturdays and School Holidays: 2pm – 7pm Sundays: 2pm – 6pm *No closure day during school holidays*	
Extreme Heat	
Hours may alter on days of extreme heat. May open at 5pm due to staff and community safety. Earlier morning or later afternoon hours will be considered and communicated via Facebook.	
Public Holidays	
Pools revert to Saturday/school holidays times. Pools that are not scheduled to open on public holidays may be opened depending on temperature and staff availability.	



MISSING FOOTPATH LINK

SECTION 1	300m*1.5m	Church St
SECTION 2	140m*1.5m	James St

NORTH

WARNING

BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY, AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

DESIGNED: L. CHAWLA	PROJECT: CHURCH STREET NHILL CONCEPT DRAWING - FLTSP
DATE: JUNE 2026	
SCALE: A3 NOT TO SCALE	DRAWING TITLE: MISSING FOOTPATH LINK
APPROVED: D. GRIFFITHS	PROJECT No. 1 / SHEET No. / REV: A

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Nhill Township Advisory Committee Meeting

6 October 2026

MINUTES of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 October 2026 from 7pm at the Nhill Council Chambers.

MINUTES

In Attendance
Alison Dahlenburg – Chairperson
Natalie Farmers – Secretary
Mark Shandley – Committee Member
Lisa Olds - Committee Member
Julie McDonald – Committee Member
Cr Rosie Barker – Councillor Delegate
Cr Ron Ismay – Mayor
Ram Upadhyaya – HSC Director Infrastructure Services
Cherylee Shandley – HSC Manager Planning and Environment

In Attendance – Community Representatives
Kingsley Dalgleish – Nhill Rotary/St Patrick's Primary School

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

Margaret Millington – Nhill Train Station
Vicki Sherwell – Community Member
Don Keam – Nhill Historical Society
Petra Croot – HSC Director Corporate and Community Services

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Julie McDonald – Nhill Leos expenditure approval

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOTION

That the Minutes of the Nhill Township Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7 July 2026 at the Council Chambers circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved: Rosie Barker
Seconded: Lisa Olds

CARRIED

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Inward

Letter from HSC re Nhill Train Station – 28/9/26
Poster from Pauline McCracken – Town Garage Sale
Email – Jake Wiffen WWHS – Feedback Health and Wellbeing Grant 2/10/26
Email – Margaret Millington – Nhill Train Station 5/10/26

5.2 Outward

Email to Jake Wiffen WWHS requesting further feedback re grant – 29/9/26

MOTION

That the Committee notes the attached correspondence.

Moved: Rosie Barker
Seconded: Julie McDonald

CARRIED

6 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

6.1 Finance Report (Income and Expenditure)

MOTION

That the Finance Report as provided be noted.

Moved: Mark Shandley
Seconded: Lisa Olds

CARRIED

6.2 Expenditure Approval

Creditor	Value $	Description of Goods or Services	Quote Requirements Met (Y/N)
Nhill Leos Club	400.00	Supply of 200 lolly bags for Carols in the Park	Yes

$0-$1000 – verbal, $1,001 - $10,000 – one written quote, $10,001 - $30,000 – two written quotes

MOTION

The Committee approve the expenditure within delegation and seek approval from the Council for expenditure above delegation:

Moved: Mark Shandley
Seconded: Lisa Olds

CARRIED

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Community Group Updates

No new updates

7.2 Current Community and Project Updates

- Accessible toilet upgrades at Goldsworthy Park – No update
- Emergency Services training facilities – No update
- Railway Station Beautification – As per correspondence from Monica – HSC CEO and Margaret Millington. HSC have been in communication with ARTC and VicTrack. Alison will organise to meet with HSC and Margaret Millington to discuss how Nhill Town Committee can best support this matter.
- Yanac Hockey Club – No update.
- Op Shop – No update
- Sensory Garden next to the Patch – Have received feedback from WWHS re Health and Wellbeing Grant, as per correspondence. Was suggested that NTC could pay for surveying.
- New Residents Welcome – Will combine with Carols in the Park.
- Poles in Main Street – Des to advise HSC of design specifications.
- Frames for photo opportunities – Rosie and Ram have identified different areas around town for this.
- Flags for poles each end of town for publicity/tourism - No update

7.3 Event Planning – Nhill Christmas Carols

- Cr Ron has offered to reclad the Santa Hut with an aluminum composite sheeting. This will be white but can be decorated with decals. Need ideas for this.

- Alison has contacted everyone that performed last year and asked them to perform again. New performers are very welcome.
- Lions will cook BBQ and organise market stalls.
- Rotary will sell fruit salad and drinks.
- Sound Shell has been reclad.
- Waiting on Powercor for power upgrade in Jaypex Park.
- Rosie has ordered bubble machine.

7.4 Council Report

- As per attached
- Slide in Jaypex Park currently not in use and waiting for repairs. This is a project that NTC could support.
- Would be good to have more Nhill people advocating for Nhill on the Community Panel Expression of Interest - Hindmarsh Community Panel

MOTION

That Jaypex Park slide be added to NTC list of potential projects.

Moved: Lisa Olds
Seconded: Mark Shandley

CARRIED

7.7 Officer Report

- As per attached
- Free green waste for October at Nhill Transfer Station.

8 MEETING CLOSED

8.03pm

Action: Alison to organise meeting re Nhill Train Station.

Nhill Town Committee Financial Report 2026/2027

As at 30/9/2026

1/07/2026	Opening Balance 26/27	$ 12,356.04	
	2026-27 Council Contribution	$ 8,000.00	
			$ 20,356.04
	Less Expenditure to date		
	Lowan Entry Signs	$ 1,500.00	
			$ 1,500.00
	Amount Remaining (unspent)		**$ 18,856.04**
	Less Amounts committed for Expenditure (invoices not yet paid)		
			$ -
	Commitments to Projects		
			$ -
	Amount Available for use		**$ 18,856.04**

Councillor Report – Nhill Town Committee

By Deputy Mayor, Rosie Barker for October 2026

1. Key Community Themes This Month

The Nhill community has been in a celebratory and highly engaged spirit throughout the month.

- Strong community pride following outstanding Winter Season sporting achievements: – Yanac Open and Women's hockey teams – Nhill Under 14s and Nhill Seniors footballers We also congratulate teams who reached their grand finals: – Dimboola A-Grade netballers – Nhill Leopards Juniors hockey team
- Excellent organisation and participation in the Nhill Town Garage Sale, showcasing local initiative and community connection.
- A well-attended Nhill Railway Station Working Bee, perfectly timed ahead of the Seymour Train visit this weekend.

2. Issues Raised & Actions Underway

- Issue: Nhill Railway Station Maintenance Action taken: Submitted a Snap Send Solve report; response received was inadequate. Next step: Council will use the response to advocate more directly for a long-term maintenance and preservation outcome.

3. Advocacy & Representation

- Continued advocacy for early-intervention mental health supports in Hindmarsh Shire, including meetings with Bev McArthur and David Davis, Members of the Victorian Legislative Council.
- Attended the outdoor screening of *Just a Farmer*, highlighting the realities of rural mental health. The Q&A session reflected concerns echoed across our community and reinforced the need for sustained advocacy.
- Participated in the Rural Councils Victoria Conference, where Hindmarsh has been invited to collaborate in statewide advocacy on rural community and council needs.
- Joined the Australian Local Government Women's Association strategic planning day, contributing to long-term work aimed at supporting and encouraging women balancing employment, family responsibilities, and community leadership.

4. Community Engagement & Events

- Attended the Municipal Association of Victoria 2026 Mayor Oration with ABC journalist Patricia Karvelas, focusing on how local issues will shape outcomes in the upcoming State Election.

- Celebrated the 60th Anniversary Lighting of the Sir Robert Menzies Spire, a demonstration of proactive community-driven legacy building.
- Engaged with residents at the Nhill Lions Market, discussing both concerns and positive reflections about our community.
- Supported youth participation at the Youth Council Open Mic Night, which saw an enthusiastic turnout and strong performances.
- Continued engagement with the West Wimmera Action Group, who remain active in advocating for their 2025 concerns.

5. Upcoming Priorities for Nhill

- Follow-up on progress regarding the Jaypex Park Slide.
- Clarification on the status of the Nhill Lake Pontoon.
- Farmer Consultation Sessions in Winiam (today) and Netherby (5pm tomorrow).
- CEO Drop-in Session at the Nhill Library on Thursday, 15 October, at 11am with the Director of Infrastructure attending.
- Seymour Heritage Railways train will be in Hindmarsh Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th October. Saturday the train will arrive mid-morning in Nhill with passengers able to view the Nhill Silo before heading to a Duck and Jazz lunch at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre, following lunch a visit to Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre.
- On Sunday, the Seymour Heritage Railway will take the train to Rainbow, with passengers enjoying a stroll around Rainbow checking out the Silo, Yurunga, Pella etc.
- Monitoring changes to WSMLLEN, now transitioning to the Department of Education, with concerns about impacts on students pursuing vocational pathways.
- CWA Nhill Twilight Branch 60th Birthday Celebration – Monday, 19 October (midday).
- Planning Ahead – Seniors Rights session also on 19 October.

6. Insight or Reflection

As we move rapidly toward the end-of-year period, planning for Christmas events — particularly the Nhill Christmas Carols — becomes increasingly important. This may be an ideal time to consider inviting local businesses to participate in a Twilight Market alongside the Carols, strengthening community engagement and local commerce. It may also be timely for the Nhill Town Committee to schedule a 2027 planning day to set clear priorities and ensure proactive coordination for the year ahead.

Rosie Barker

[redacted]

Nhill Town Committee Officer's Report

October 2026

Thank you to everyone who attended the School Holidays program and made it such a success!

Project Updates

- **Jaypex Park Soundshell** re-cladding is complete!

- **Park St works -** Willmore Contractors have begun works on the Park St pathway works. There has been a bit of a delay due to the significant rainfall event over the past few days. We expect the concreting from Ramsay St to the paddock to be completed in the next few weeks. Following this, Council will be installing a shared pathway along the paddock section through to Queen St.
- **Whitehead Ave/Station St** - Council has commenced culvert and vegetation works in preparation for the contractor beginning. A successful contractor is anticipated to be announced soon. We will then follow up with confirmation of commencement date and consultation to affected residents/school. The works involve constructing a concrete path from Davis Ave to connect to the existing path near the kinder on the north side of the street. There will also be 3 raised crossings installed, one on Davis Ave, Station St and Whitehead Ave (near the early years centre).
- **Nhill Lake Pontoon** - staff are working on obtaining quotes for the repairs to the Pontoon. We are hoping the works will be completed within the next 4 weeks. Due to the required works, the contractor will have to take the Pontoon offsite to inspect for any structural damage underneath as this is not obvious when sitting on the water.
- **Jaypex Park Slide** is closed until further notice, but we will update the community via Facebook as soon as we have more information.

Events

Senior's Festival is in October! Big ticket events –

1. **Senior's Concert - 'Frankly Sinatra - A tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes'**

When: Thursday 8 October 2026
Time: Doors open at 10:30am, Concert starts at 11:00am
Where: Nhill Memorial Community Centre, 77-79 Nelson Street

2. **The Men's Day Tour** will travel through the Little Desert, Natimuk, Horsham and Murtoa on **Wednesday 21 October 2026.** Highlights of the tour will include the Little Desert National Park, Natimuk Climbing Museum, the Murtoa Stick Shed and more.

   See the bus departure and return times below:
   - Rainbow Library – departing at 7:30am, returning at 5:30pm
   - Jeparit Library – departing at 8:00am, returning at 5:00pm
   - Dimboola Old Shire Hall – departing at 8:30am, returning at 4:00pm

   TOUR STARTING POINT LOCATION & TIME:
   - Nhill Visitor Information Centre – Departing 9:00am, returning at 4:30pm

   Lunch will be provided. Bookings are required. To secure your place, contact Council on 03 5391 4444.

OTHER EVENTS –

Historical Society Open Days - Nhill
Nhill & District Historical Society & Museum
104-106 Macpherson Street, Nhill
Wednesday 7 October
10:00am – 1:00pm

Farmer Consultations
Winiam Hall – 6 October 2026 at 5:00pm
Netherby Hall – 7 October 2026 at 5:00pm

NHILL SHOW – 15 October 2026
Council's Engagement Van will be there, so pop in and say hello!

CEO Drop Ins – Nhill Library
15 October 2026 11am – 12noon

Planning Ahead Sessions with Seniors Rights Victoria - Nhill
Monday 19 October 2026
Nhill Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill
2:00pm-3:00pm

And so much more – visit https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Community/Events/Upcoming-Events

Community Panel

Hindmarsh Shire Council is calling for community members to apply for the Council Plan 2025-2029 Community Panel who will work together over the life of the plan to provide advice, generate ideas and prioritise planned projects. The Community Panel is deliberative, meaning that you'll learn about things that matter to you, ask questions of staff and Councillors and debate opportunities, projects and policies across Hindmarsh. You'll need to work together to share ideas and make recommendations to Council.

The panel includes people who reflect our diverse community. All Hindmarsh Shire residents 16 years and over are invited to apply. To ensure a diverse representation of people from all walks of life, we will select people to be on the panel who represent our community across age, gender, cultural background and location.

Expressions of are rolling and subject to vacancies on the panel. The next Community Panel meeting will be in early 2027.

Expressions of Interest - Hindmarsh Community Panel | Have Your Say Hindmarsh

---

Cherylee Shandley

From: Mark Fletcher
Sent: Tuesday, 6 October 2026 9:53 AM
To: Petra Croot; Cherylee Shandley; Katherine Colbert; Stephanie Lynch
Subject: RE: Nhill Town Committee

Hi all,

Apologies for the lateness of this update, only received a reply with these details from Barab from Seymour Heritage last night.

As part of Council's ongoing efforts to encourage visitation to the region, Hindmarsh Shire Council has been working closely with Barbara Moss and the team at the Seymour Railway Heritage Centre to coordinate a heritage rail tour to the Wimmera Mallee. The tour provides a valuable opportunity to showcase the region's unique attractions, history, culture, and hospitality to visitors from across Victoria, with the aim of establishing the event as an annual fixture on the Centre's touring calendar. This is the second year the Rainbow component of the tour has been delivered.

The Seymour Railway Heritage Centre will travel through the Wimmera Mallee region next weekend, departing from Melbourne's Southern Cross Station. Travellers will stop at Seppelt's Great Western for lunch before visiting the iconic Murtoa Stick Shed and continuing to Horsham for overnight accommodation.

On Saturday, approximately 70 visitors will travel to Nhill to experience the Nhill Heritage Silo Art Project and the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre. The day will include a duck-inspired jazz lunch, with thanks to Luv a Duck for their support, entertainment by local band The Doo Dads, and a presentation by John and Marg Millington highlighting the Karen Settlement Program and its significant contribution to the development and growth of the Nhill community.

The Nhill component of the itinerary is being delivered as a trial event and will provide an opportunity to assess visitor interest and future tourism potential, initial feedback indicates strong support for its inclusion as an annual event.

On Sunday, visitors will travel to Rainbow, where they will experience the Rainbow Silo Art, Yurunga Homestead, and the hospitality of local cafés and hotels. Several local businesses and traders will also open to welcome guests and showcase the region's products and services. The Rainbow event currently has approximately 150 registered participants.

Regards
Mark

Mark Fletcher (He/Him) | Manager Economic Development & Tourism
Hindmarsh Shire Council
PO Box 250 | 92 Nelson Street | Nhill Vic 3418
P: (03) 5391 4444 | **F:** (03) 5391 1376
E: [redacted] **W:** www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Hindmarsh Shire Council

1

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting

30 September 2026

To Committee Members,
"as addressed"

A General Meeting of **Hindmarsh Pride Committee** of Hindmarsh Shire Council was held via Teams on 30 September 2026 commencing at 7.00pm.

MINUTES

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair acknowledged the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

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

2 ATTENDEES:

Petra Croot (DCCS, HSC); Monica Revell (CEO, HSC); Rhys Webb (RW, Chair); Cr Chan Uoy (CU); Craige Proctor (CP).

3 APOLOGIES:

Gabby Williams (GW); Wiremu Larkins (LL)
Natalia Aguirre and Philip Jaboor were also not in attendance.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Hindmarsh Pride Committee Meeting held on 16 September 2026 via Teams circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.
Moved: RW
Seconded: CU
CARRIED

6 CORRESPONDENCE –

As tabled.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Topic	Discussion
Correspondence	**Inwards** MDA Twista Potato re food vending and possible sponsorship for So Last Century. Aaron Moar (DJ) has supplied bio and image. Bronwyn Hastings, ACE Radio, requesting interviews with several committee members. PC has communicated. Offer from Neil Davenport to provide ice creams. **Outwards** Letters from HPC Chair to Wimmera Pride and Victorian Pride Centre re support and resources for interview component of event. **Response** from Prof. Tim Jones, President, Australian Queer Archives **Business arising**: 1. MDA Twista Potato offer: we should acknowledge their offer and keep them posted but there may not be the requisite number of attendees to make it worthwhile and would this fare be deemed 'healthy'? 2. ACE radio promotion interviews: PC has been in touch. RW and CU would be appropriate interviewees. We need more good quality photos for promotion. PC: possibly organise this with interviews in Jeparit; need to coordinate times to minimise travelling distances for individuals e.g. Wanda from Goroke to Jeparit. PC: aim for the next month to coordinate this. **Action**: CU to liaise with Bronwyn and Wanda. 3. Response from Prof. Tim Jones: provided the guidelines from Australian Queer Archives and Oral History Victoria which had already been circulated to the committee. **Action**: CP to send letter to Wimmera Pride Project with correct email address. 4. Neil Davenport's offer to provide ice creams free of charge to children attending. PC: there are few children in Jeparit so we would rely on people from other centres to bring children. We may need to manage any negative energy around involving children in the event. RW: could we enlist the support of others including Town Committees or Youth Council to be supportive of this element to broaden 'ownership'? PC: changeover in Youth Council will be in January which makes its involvement challenging. **Action**: PC to liaise with Nan Da San. Offer of extra finger food at commencement of evening? PC to consider budgeting options for this in regard to ticketing sales.
Midsumma So Last Century planning	**Interviews**: offers from Wanda, Pam Cramer, Dennis Mills, Charlie Helyar, Rhys Webb. CP will approach Daryl Werner. Jake Wiffen at WWHS needs advance notification for using equipment e.g. two week period. **Action**: PC to reach out to Jake Wiffen. **Consent form**: CP: we have two; should we create one based on both or use HSC's existing guidelines? **Action**: PC can blend these with HSC's.

	RW: could we use the Council Chambers at Jeparit for the interviews? CP: very possible. Committee members can run the interviews and we can formulate some generic questions to help structure interviews. RW: aim to coordinate Wanda's interview with photo shoot and provide Wanda with space to change costumes. **Lighting**: offers to donate this. **Sunday breakfast**…keen interest from JTAC in organising this; confirm with JTAC at October meeting. **Infant Welfare Centre space:** can use this as an 'arts' space over the weekend. **Quiet/resting space**: RSL Room a possibility. Potentially use HSC's smaller screen which could be placed anywhere. **Order of events/running sheet** (CU) **Floral arrangements?** CU can source wholesale from Melbourne. **Number 96 trivia quiz**: CP has been considering creating this. **Spending funds**: PC: pop any ideas for spending in Chat for approval. **Budget for decorations** - $1,000; $500 for flowers wholesale. **Moved** RW, **seconded** CU that we allocate $500 for flowers. **Drinks**: We provide bottled water, soft drinks and healthy mocktails. **Action**: PC to advise on budget for drinks.
Committee membership	Two new members endorsed by Council 30 September and one as a volunteer supporting the event but not as a committee member.

8 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

N/A

9 NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 28 October 2026, 7.00 p.m. via Teams.

10 MEETING CLOSED 7.55 p.m.

COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

I, Petra Croot, accept the following recommendations made by the Hindmarsh Pride Committee at this meeting held on 30 September 2026:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
5	Minutes	Minutes taken as read and confirmed.

SIGNED: [redacted]

Hindmarsh Shire Council Hindmarsh Pride Committee

Dated: 1 October 2026

Hindmarsh
Shire Council

12th October, 2026

MINUTES OF THE JEPARIT TOWNSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER, 2026 at the Memorial Hall, Roy Street, Jeparit at 7.30pm.

Present: Cr. Tony Clark (HSC), Kath Colbert (HSC), Jason Hutson (Chair-Person), Teresa Smith (Vice C), Cheryl Quinn (Sec), Colin Moore (CM), Mel Wagener (CM), Wendy Werner (CM), Sharron Reilly (CM) including Community Member Tony Simpson.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

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. APOLOGIES

Cr. Roger Aitken (HSC), AnnMarie Werner (CM), Lauren Badua (CM) and Bec Schultz (CM).

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

- General conflict of interest; or
- Material conflict of interest

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

Members of the Menzies Symposium declared a conflict of interest in relation to a request for funding from the Committee. **(Leaflet made available)**

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the JTAC Committee Meeting held on 10th August, 2026 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Roy Street, Jeparit, circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed

(Attachment: 1)

Moved: T. Smith (CM)
Seconded: M. Wagener (CM) **Carried**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 W. Werner (CM) still in discussion regarding Visitor information Poster.
5.2 S. Reilly (CM) payment from (JTAC/HSC) in progress..
5.3 Jeparit Town Entrance signs will require cement pads for each sign installed (Approx cost $12,000.00 total), Inclusion of previous metal frame of name (*"Jeparit"* and river sign) to be included. Rear of signage may include Farewell. 4-6 weeks and Vic Road applications.
5.4 Community BBQ organised for Sunday 4th October 2026 at WMPM 12.00 noon. All Residents invited to welcome New Residents of Jeparit. Successful day of about 60 attendees, thank you to WMPM allowing free entrance showing Good Will.
5.5 Sir R. Menzies 60 year celebration 18th Sept 2026 - Approx 100 attendees with history information and speeches. Club rooms had light refreshments with thanks to Ram & Rekha Mathur (Jeparit Supermarket).

6. CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD:
6.1 G. Williams JTAC Logo 14/9/26
6.2 G. Williams JTAC Logo use for appreciation list 14/9/26
6.3 HSC - Sept Meeting Notes for Secretary Min 15/9/26
6.4 Petra Croot (HSC) Minutes draft for Sept. - 16/9/26
6.5 Petra Croot (HSC) Minutes for Sept. 2026 - 16/9/26
6.6 Grampian Wimmera Industry Forum - 1/10/26
6.7 MaryAnn Speakman (HSC) Execution of funds -entrance signage 1/10.26
6.8 Gabby Williams - Save the Weir Petition 18/8/26
6.9 J. Hutson (Chair) re town entrance signage - 1/10/26
6.10 Marivic Vix (HSC) Financial Statement JTAC - 5/10/26

OUTWARD:
6.11 G. Williams JTAC Logo use for appreciation list 14/9/26
6.12 Petra Croot (HSC) Minutes draft for Sept. - 16/9/26
6.13 Petra Croot (HSC) Minutes draft for Sept. - 16/9/26
6.14 (CM) - List of appropriate Tree planting for Jeparit - 16/9/26
6.15 (CM) - JTAC Sept. Minutes - 16/9/26
6.16 Grampian Wimmera Industry Forum - 1/10/26
6.17 (CM) Town signage allocation of funding - 1/10/26
6.18 MaryAnn Speakman (HSC) Allocation of funds by CEO 1/10/26
6.19 MaryAnn Speakman (HSC) re signage work already completed - 5/10/26
6.20 (CM) Agenda, Previous Minutes & Financial Report - 5/10/26
6.21 Cr. T. Clark & P. Croot (HSC) Agenda, Prev Min& Fin Report - 5/10/26

That the Outward Correspondence be approved and the Inward Correspondence noted.

Moved: W. Werner (CM)
Seconded: Mel Wagener (CM) **Carried**

7. EVENTS

Event:	*NYE*	**Location:**	*Riverview*	**Date**	*4/10/26*
	Responsibility	**Due date**	**Status**		
Risk assessment	***TBA***				
Food permit	***TBA***				
Local Law permit	***TBA***				

7.1 M. Wagener (CM) to investigate possibilities of event through her contact D. Foy.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

8.1 Community Bus - see Officers report on this subject. (**10.1**)
8.2 Jeparit show - extras like Muster dogs, Whip cracking and horse showing.

9. COUNCILLOR REPORT

9.1 SNAP - SEND & SOLVE - Recording of Road damage or road damage.
9.2 Crossing at Dimboola, Jeparit and Nhill VR Station.
9.3 Waiting for position of Jeparit vacancy at Police Station to be advertised.
9.4 H5 not detected in recent bird deaths.
9.5 Donald Mineral & Sand mines - Shortage of accommodation, consider how you can help.

10. OFFICER's REPORT

10.1 Community Bus (HSC) housed at Nhill, additional cost to Jeparit residents in travel cost to collect and return vehicle. Some compensation may be made available to Jeparit residence if delivery not available? **Community Bus Hire**
To waive fees from Nhill to any starting point would require a policy review and change as well as looking at how Council absorbs this cost
If you have planned days in advance, we will attempt to get the community bus to Jeparit by a staff member, reducing the need to come to Nhill (and pay additional kms).
If the bus becomes something that is regularly used as community transport, Council will consider options
10.2 CEO Drop-In session
Wed 14 October 9am – 10am at the Jeparit Library Farmer Consultation Session
Tuesday 20 October 5pm – 6:30pm at the Jeparit Library
10.3 First Rates Instalment Due 30 September (overdue)
10.4 Free Green Waste Disposal Month
Thursday 1 October – Saturday 31 October
10.5 Swimming Pools
Hindmarsh Pools are scheduled to open on Sat 21 November 2026.
10.6. Australia Day Awards -- Nominations are now being called for:
Nominations close on Sunday 6 December. .
10.7 Seniors Festival
10.8 Transfer Station Opening Hours – Summer
10.9 Camp kitchen 4 mile beach - power points need checking.
10.10 HSC Officer to supply template to JTAC secretary for future spending ideas.

11. URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 Summary of Balances in Finance Report.(No Changes for 3 months)

Moved: M. Wagener (CM)
Seconded: S. Reilly (CM)

12.2 Purchase Orders to be raised - $2,000 or less
Moved: : Seconded:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION

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

Moved:
Seconded: **Carried**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION

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	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, & 5,5.
6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	Nil
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	8.1 & 8.2.
9	Councillor's Report	9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 & 9.5.
10	Officer's Report	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4. 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9. & 10.10

11	Urgent Business	N/A
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report was approved at meeting.
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised ($2,000 or less)	Nil
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised (above $2,000)	N/A

14. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 8.45pm
Next JTAC Meeting scheduled for Monday 9th November, 2026

WEAR CHRISTMAS GEAR AND BBQ IS ON WITH MEETING

15. COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

*to be completed by Council Officer

I, Katherine Colbert accept the following recommendations made by the JTA Committee at this meeting held on 12th October, 2026

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Business Arising from Minutes	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, & 5.5.
N/6	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
7	Events	Nil
8	General Business as Notified to the Chair	.8.1 & 8.2.
9	Councillor's Report	9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 & 9.5..
10	Officer's Report	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4. 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9 & 10.10.
11	Urgent Business	N/A
12.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report was approved at meeting.
12.2	Purchase Orders to be Raised ($2,000 or less)	Nil
12.3	Purchase Orders to be Raised ($2,000 or more)	N/A

I, Katherine Colbert advise that the following items:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION

- 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: [redacted] Council Officer: Katherine Colbert

Dated: 21 October 2026

Jeparit Town Committee Financial Report
As at 30 September 2026

01/07/2026	Opening Balance 26/27		$49,410.07	
	2026-27 Council Contribution		$7,500.00	
	Total funds available			**$56,910.07**

Less Expenditure to date

			-	
	Total expenditure			**-**

Amount Remaining (unspent)	**$56,910.07**

Less: Amounts committed for Expenditure (invoices not yet paid)

	Purchase orders raised			
			-	
	Total purchase orders			**-**

Amounts committed from TC funds

			-	
			-	
	Total TC commitments			**-**

Funds Available for use	**$56,910.07**

Nhill Town Committee Financial Report

As at 30 September 2026

01/07/2026	Opening Balance 26/27		$12,356.04	
	2026-27 Council Contribution		$8,000.00	
	Total funds available			**$20,356.04**

Less Expenditure to date

	Lowan Entry Signs		$1,500.00	
	Total expenditure			**$1,500.00**

Amount Remaining (unspent)	**$18,856.04**

Less: Amounts committed for Expenditure (invoices not yet paid)

			-	
			-	
			-	
	Amounts committed from TC funds			**-**

Commitments to Projects

			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
	Total TC commitments			**-**

Funds Available for use	**$18,856.04**

Rainbow Town Committee Financial Report
As at 30 September 2026

01/07/2026	Opening Balance 25/26		$58,982.55	
	Rainbow Town Mural Restorations Carry forward		$2,585.00	
	2026-27 Council Contribution		$7,500.00	
	Total funds available			**$69,067.55**

Less Expenditure to date

			-	
	Total expenditure			**-**

Amount Available as per Council Information	**$69,067.55**

Rainbow TC data not available to Council

Commitments to projects				
	Rainbow Silo Art		$7,400.00	
	Town Entrance Project		$10,021.95	
	Rainbow A&P Society	Entertainment Hire	$5,000.00	
			-	
	Total TC commitments to projects			**$22,421.95**

Working Group data not available to Council

Commitments from working groups				
	Rainbow Town Traders		$5,079.58	
	Total TC commitments to projects			**$5,079.58**

Funds Available for use	**$41,566.02**

Survey Responses

01 July 2026 - 07 October 2026

Expression of Interest Form

Have Your Say Hindmarsh

Project: Expressions of Interest - Hindmarsh Community Panel

GRANICUS

VISITORS					
9					
CONTRIBUTORS			RESPONSES		
5			5		
0 Registered	0 Unverified	5 Anonymous	0 Registered	0 Unverified	5 Anonymous

Respondent No: 1
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Aug 21, 2026 19:56:35 pm
Last Seen: Aug 21, 2026 19:56:35 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1.	**Your name**	Graham Nuske
Q2.	**Which Ward do you live in?**	North Ward (Jeparit, Rainbow and surrounds)
Q3.	**Your age**	61
Q4.	**Your gender**	Man
Q5.	**Your email address**	[redacted]
Q6.	**Your phone number**	[redacted]
Q7.	**Community Involvement (you can select more than one)**	Sporting Club Community Volunteer Organisation Working Local

Q8. **What makes you a great candidate for the panel?**

Being involved in a number of community groups I believe gives me a broad range of understanding of how our town and district think. I work locally, firstly in a service that was contracted to council, and now in school buses. Again, I believe this gives me a broad understanding of our community's thinking. My work in the waste industry that was contracted to council I believe gives me a unique understanding of how council thinks compared to Mr and Mrs Average out in the real world. It could be that I would bridge the gap between both.

Q9. **How will you represent your community and ensure a fair, equal and positive outcome for all Hindmarsh residents?**

I am unashamedly loyal to Rainbow, and would look to see them get their fare share. But fairness isn't a one way street. The " love" needs to be spread around. If one town gets a lot more than another town then that's not fare. It would be my desire to see all parts of the shire benifit from a plan, from possible grants, and from being promoted.

Q10. **The deliberative session will be held in one of the Shire's towns. Please provide us information around any additional needs you will have if you are required to travel to/from a town other than the one you reside in to participate in the panel:**

The only thing I require is plenty of notice when a meeting is. This will allow me to make alternative arrangements for my bus run. Being told that there is a meeting in a couple of days could be a challenge,

Respondent No: 2
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Aug 22, 2026 12:12:07 pm
Last Seen: Aug 22, 2026 12:12:07 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1.	**Your name**	wendy werner
Q2.	**Which Ward do you live in?**	North Ward (Jeparit, Rainbow and surrounds)
Q3.	**Your age**	61
Q4.	**Your gender**	Woman
Q5.	**Your email address**	[redacted]
Q6.	**Your phone number**	[redacted]
Q7.	**Community Involvement (you can select more than one)**	Community Volunteer Organisation Seniors and Retirees

Q8. **What makes you a great candidate for the panel?**

I am passionate about creating a vibrant, sustainable and growing community. I have been involved with a number of community groups in Jeparit, including the town committee and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, and more recently the Menzies symposium. I have attended many panels and workshops which gives me the insight to speak with knowledge on a broad variety of goals and aspirations . It gives me the insight to understand the possibilities for community and Shire to work together toward a common goal.

Q9. **How will you represent your community and ensure a fair, equal and positive outcome for all Hindmarsh residents?**

I have always believed that EVERYONE should be treated with respect, that it is within my capability to be a cheerleader across a wide spectrum of the community. I grew up on farm, I have lived in Melbourne Vic, and a number of communities in the US. I have been involved in community projects in the tough inner cities and the deeply segregated South of the US. I believe in diversity and I believe everyone has something to contribute within a community. We must work to find solutions for the disenfranchised, and be welcoming and address any issues with compassion and respect. We must work hard to address the division between the generational residents and those that come from diverse backgrounds. When we come together as a community, we can build a successful future together.

Q10. **The deliberative session will be held in one of the Shire's towns. Please provide us information around any additional needs you will have if you are required to travel to/from a town other than the one you reside in to participate in the panel:**

none

Respondent No:	3	**Responded At:**	Aug 22, 2026 15:35:04 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	Aug 22, 2026 15:35:04 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1.	**Your name**	Simon Ashford
Q2.	**Which Ward do you live in?**	East Ward (Dimboola and surrounds)
Q3.	**Your age**	60
Q4.	**Your gender**	Man
Q5.	**Your email address**	[redacted]
Q6.	**Your phone number**	[redacted]
Q7.	**Community Involvement (you can select more than one)**	Working Local

Q8. **What makes you a great candidate for the panel?**

A great candidate is someone who is interested in building and connecting with community. And making selfless contributions to the betterment of community. Aside from any political agenda. A good candidate is someone who is extrinsically motivated to make a positive difference.

Q9. **How will you represent your community and ensure a fair, equal and positive outcome for all Hindmarsh residents?**

Listening to and learning about the issues that the community is concerned about.

Q10. **The deliberative session will be held in one of the Shire's towns. Please provide us information around any additional needs you will have if you are required to travel to/from a town other than the one you reside in to participate in the panel:**

NA.

Respondent No: 4	**Responded At:** Aug 22, 2026 21:45:36 pm
Login: Anonymous	**Last Seen:** Aug 22, 2026 21:45:36 pm
Email: n/a	**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Your name**	Natalia Aguirre
Q2. **Which Ward do you live in?**	North Ward (Jeparit, Rainbow and surrounds)
Q3. **Your age**	49
Q4. **Your gender**	Woman
Q5. **Your email address**	[redacted]
Q6. **Your phone number**	[redacted]
Q7. **Community Involvement (you can select more than one)**	Small/Large Business Owner Parents, Families and Early Years Working Local Seniors and Retirees

Q8. **What makes you a great candidate for the panel?**

I am an active, hands-on community member based in Jeparit, with a strong record of volunteering and building inclusive local projects. I help run museum experiences, school holiday children's programs, community markets, and small local events — all designed to bring people together. I speak both English and Spanish, which helps me connect with more residents. I listen carefully, ask clear questions, and care deeply about making sure every voice — including seniors, families, and new residents — is heard and fairly considered. I am reliable, organised, and committed to giving thoughtful, respectful input that serves our whole community.

Q9. **How will you represent your community and ensure a fair, equal and positive outcome for all Hindmarsh residents?**

I will represent our community by listening first — speaking with residents across Jeparit and the Shire to understand their real needs, concerns, and ideas, not just what is easy or popular. I will treat every person and every perspective with equal respect, ensuring that seniors, families, young people, and those from different backgrounds all feel valued and included. I will approach every discussion openly, consider facts fairly, and always ask: "Who might be left out?" I will contribute positively, focus on what unites us, and work to ensure outcomes are fair, transparent, and truly benefit all residents across the Hindmarsh Shire.

Q10. **The deliberative session will be held in one of the Shire's towns. Please provide us information around any additional needs you will have if you are required to travel to/from a town other than the one you reside in to participate in the panel:**

I live in Jeparit. I would appreciate reasonable advance notice of the session, and that the time of day is suitable for travel to and from the venue. With advance notice and a reasonable time, I will make my own arrangements to arrive punctually and require no other support.

Respondent No: 5	**Responded At:** Oct 05, 2026 19:53:07 pm
Login: Anonymous	**Last Seen:** Oct 05, 2026 19:53:07 pm
Email: n/a	**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Your name**	Angela Stewart
Q2. **Which Ward do you live in?**	West Ward (Nhill and surrounds)
Q3. **Your age**	45
Q4. **Your gender**	Woman
Q5. **Your email address**	[redacted]
Q6. **Your phone number**	[redacted]
Q7. **Community Involvement (you can select more than one)**	Healthcare Sporting Club Community Volunteer Organisation Parents, Families and Early Years Youth

Q8. **What makes you a great candidate for the panel?**

I have always believed that strong communities don't just happen, they are built by people who care, show up, listen, and take action. Growing up and relocating back to my community in Hindmarsh Shire Council has shaped me, supported me, and now offers a place for our son to grow and connect. I feel a deep responsibility to help shape our region's future in return. My involvement across the Shire has never been about titles or recognition; it's been about connection. From serving on the Nhill Sporting Club committee, the Nhill Learning Centre (Neighbourhood House) committee, former Wimmera Refional Library Corporation board, and Piggery Lane Players, to now continuing to volunteer for the Nhill Lutheran School and local sporting club, I've seen firsthand the heart of our community: people giving their time, energy, and love to make things better. As a healthcare engagement specialist, and creative community organiser, I've learned how to bring people together, how to make space for voices that are often overlooked, and how to turn ideas into experiences that uplift others. Since my return to Hindmarsh, I've contributed feedback to Council's strategic plan, giving me insight into how community aspirations can be translated into real, meaningful outcomes. I am passionate about the future of Hindmarsh, for my own child, and for every child, every family, every person who calls this place home. I want to help build a regional community where people feel proud, connected, and confident in the path ahead. That passion, combined with my experience and commitment, make me a strong and heartfelt candidate for the Hindmarsh Community Panel.

Q9. **How will you represent your community and ensure a fair, equal and positive outcome for all Hindmarsh residents?**

I will represent Hindmarsh Shire Council with the same values I bring to my everyday life: empathy, fairness, courage, and a belief that every voice matters. Our community is made up of many stories from farmers, families, volunteers, young people finding their place, to older residents who carry our history, and those who quietly contribute without ever asking for recognition. I want all of those stories to be heard. As a parent, I feel the weight and the privilege of helping shape a future that our children will inherit. Every decision we make today becomes part of the world they grow up in. That perspective keeps me grounded, compassionate, and focused on long-term wellbeing rather than short-term convenience. My involvement across committees and volunteer roles has shown me how diverse our needs are, and how powerful it is when we work together. I will actively seek out voices, especially those who may not feel confident stepping forward. I will listen deeply, ask thoughtful questions, and ensure that quieter perspectives are carried into the room with the same strength as louder ones. Fairness will guide every choice I make. I will advocate for outcomes that uplift all towns, all demographics, and all experiences. My goal is to help create recommendations that feel hopeful, inclusive, and genuinely reflective of the people who make Hindmarsh Shire the vibrant, resilient community it is. I want to help build a future where every resident feels proud to say, “This is my home, and my voice mattered.”

Q10. **The deliberative session will be held in one of the Shire's towns. Please provide us information around any additional needs you will have if you are required to travel to/from a town other than the one you reside in to participate in the panel:**

Nil.

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

General Meeting Thursday September 24th at 2 pm at Yurunga.

Minutes

Meeting opened at 2:15 pm

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), Mark Thomas,
Visitors: Cr Tony Clark, Mark Fletcher (Hindmarsh Shire)

Apologies: Mike Smythe, Col Drendel

Moved: Mark Thomas, Peter Solly – That the apologies be accepted. c/d

Additional items for General Business (to be accepted at Chairperson's discretion)

- Seymour Rail visit
- Verandahs

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: Mark Thomas, Peter Solly – That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on Thursday August 27th 2026 as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record. c/d

Correspondence In:

(Emails)

- August 27: From Monica Revell re Endorsed Office Bearers.
- September 1: From Mark Fletcher re follow up on issues identified – Decking warping, Locks Constructions have inspected and will cut some joins to try to relieve pressure. Also re Underground room paint flaking and Defibrillator flooding.

- September 3: From Mark Fletcher re Working With Children Checks please pass on to those without email addresses.
- September 10: From Mark Fletcher re AGaMA succession Planning Workshop on September 14th.
- September 18: From Mark Fletcher re unsuccessful grant application for significance assessment of our collection.
- September 22: from Mark Fletcher re Edition 1 of Hindmarsh Business Connect.

Late Correspondence In:
(Emails)

Correspondence Out:
(Emails)

- September 2: To Mark Fletcher re issues identified – drain holes have been drilled in defibrillator case, thanks for the update on the verandah and underground room and please keep us informed.
- September 8: To Volunteering and Mark Fletcher re August Meeting Draft Minutes.
- September 20: To Mark Fletcher re thanks for notification of the unsuccessful grant application for significance assessment of our collection.
- September 20: To all committee re September meeting notice and August draft minutes.

Late Correspondence Out
(Emails)

Moved: Peter Solly, Mark Thomas – That the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. c/d

Business arising:

- August 27: After the August meeting we examined the new south verandah and underground room below. We were disappointed to see extensive buckling of the deck. Areas of the treated wall, although not wet, have paint flaking off.
- August 28: Peter drilled small holes in the corners of the defibrillator box for drainage and disposed of the damaged first aid equipment.
- August 28: Peter sprayed the orchard for curly leaf etc.
- August 31: 18 Prep to Grade 2 students and 4 staff from Rainbow P-12 visited. They were very enthusiastic about the house. Then 2 more adult visitors arrived. We had 71 visitors in August.
- September 8: Piano tuner Phil Cockerill tuned the piano. It was quite out of tune following the move to Yurunga.
- September 12: Thanks to Mark Thomas on the Lions Club mower for mowing around the trees, the outer area and behind the orchard. Growth has been prolific this year.
- September 10 and 12: Jenny weeded and trimmed garden beds.
- September 12: Peter sprayed some weeds.

- September 13: We noticed that some grooves have been cut in the buckled south verandah.
- September 18: More mowing has been done – thanks to all involved.
- September 18: We were notified by Mark Fletcher that our grant application to have the significance of our collection assessed and catalogued was unsuccessful.
- September 20: Jenny trimmed the back of the female Carob tree to clear the path. The Sedum plants need to be removed.

Reports

Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Financial Report

August 1st 2026 to August 31st 2026

Opening Balance per statement at 1st August		$9,617.99
Plus Income:		
General entries	$370.00	
Entries Bordertown Group	$100.00	
Total Income		$470.00
Less Expenses:		
MD Keller Laundry	$140.00	
Total Expenses		$140.00
Closing Balance per statement August 31st		$9,947.99
Term Deposit reinvested with interest on 8th August 2026 at 3.30% pa for 3 months To be reinvested by November 8th 2026	$16,024.58	
Bequest Term Deposit reinvested with interest on12th August 2026 at 3.35% pa for 3 months To be reinvested by November 12th 2026	$51,168.28	
Total available funds at August 31st		$77,140.85

Peter Solly Secretary/Treasurer, Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee

Moved: Peter Solly, Mark Thomas – That the financial report for July be accepted. c/d

~Hindmarsh Shire –

Mark Fletcher.

- Mick and Aiden are working through assets including the Yurunga verandahs. The verandah issues need to be monitored.
- All maintenance issues are now to be directed to Mick and Aiden.
- Defibrillator issues were discussed. A lot that have been donated with no provision for ongoing maintenance. There are about 15 in Rainbow.
- Seymour railway visit – The bus will be doing loops. About 100 people are booked to come to Rainbow. The train will be here for 3 hours. This may become an annual trip. It is going to Nhill on Saturday 10th for lunch. For Steampunk next year it is going to Servicton.
- Rebranding our signage and brochures is being done.

Cr Tony Clark

- Nothing extra. Not a lot is happening that is relevant to Yurunga.

Moved: Mark Thomas, Peter Solly – That the Hindmarsh Shire reports be received. c/d

General Business:

- Removing the Sedum plants under the female Carob tree, weeding under the male Carob tree. Do we wait for the arbourists?
- Seymour Heritage Rail Visit – Make sure that we have plenty of volunteers on duty. Final itinerary and times are to come. Also there is a group of about 80 campers coming at the end of October. Date to be confirmed.
- Verandahs – Our August meeting minutes are to be tabled at the council meeting next Wednesday. We are keen to proceed but need to make sure that the expansion issues are controlled.

Bookings:

- Sunday October 11th: Seymour Heritage Rail visit. “Shiraz and Jazz”

- Tuesday October 27th:Trade Travel Lunch and Tour. 20 – 30 ppl plus crew, 12:00pm. Contact Melanie Angus, ph 1800 034 439

Meeting closed: 3:03 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday October 22nd 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.

Email: wmpmjeparit@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WMPMJeparit

Hindmarsh Shire Council
Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum
Community Asset Committee Meeting

15th September 2026

To Committee Members,
"as addressed"

NOTICE is hereby given that a General Meeting of **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee** of Hindmarsh Shire Council was held at 5371 Dimboola-Rainbow Road, Jeparit, VIC, 3423 on Tuesday 15th September 2026 commencing at 7:20pm.

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE
Don Pedder – Chairperson
Morgan Ninnes – Vice President/Secretary
Natalia Aguirre – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Mary-Anne Paech – Committee Member
Clem Paech – Committee Member (Late)
Peter Pumpa – Committee Member
Tige Mannington – Committee Member
Craige Proctor – Committee Member
Jeff Woodward – Hindmarsh Shire Council
Cr Roger Aitken – Councillor HSC

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

Clem Paech (Late) - Committee Member
Peter Robson & Christa Robnik – Committee Members
Mark Fletcher – Hindmarsh Shire Council
Motion: Apologies be accepted. Moved: Peter Pumpa Seconded: Tige Mannington

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

4 CONFIRMTION OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Minutes of the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th August at the Briarley House circulated to Committee Members be taken as read and confirmed.*

Moved: Natalia Aguirre
Seconded: Craige Proctor
CARRIED

5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Inward

12/09 - Forwarded Email from Don Pedder Re: Quote B Grade 40ft Shipping Container Delivered to WMPM from Frederick Saul Rainbow for WMPM Furniture Storage Shed Total $4,840 incl. GST (Subject to fuel costs)
12/09 - Forwarded Email from Don Pedder Re: Quote Modification of B Grade 40ft Shipping Container Tarranyurk Engineering, Addition of x2 Access doors and roof ventilation plus delivery and unload at WMPM. Total incl. GST $5677.79
15/09 - Forwarded Email from Don Pedder Re: Updated Firearms Display Quote/Submission Plan from Tarranyurk Engineering, Revised combined project Total: $9,870 incl. GST.
Donations – 1920's Adult + Child seat, Toilet (pending inspection), 1920's Farmhouse (Pending availability to move, Roger?), Firearm (22 Rifle, 410 Shotgun) Policy Requirements?? Committee to Revisit Collection Policy.

5.2 Outward

Execs to respond to incoming as required, follow up and forward on to committee and council as required.
RECOMMENDATION: *That the Committee notes the attached correspondence.*
Moved: MaryAnne Paech
Seconded: Natalia Aguirre
CARRIED

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 President's Report

Need to purchase linseed and decking oil, also weed spray- council to advise and provide?
Don Pedder moved a motion that the Committee accept the Quote for the proposed Gun Display. Seconded Tige Mannington CARRIED.
Don Pedder moved a motion that the Committee accept the two Quotes for both the purchase and required modifications/delivery of the 40ft B Grade Shipping Container, to be used for Museum Furniture and Extra Display Storage. Seconded Tige Mannington CARRIED.
Don Pedder moved a motion that we request Council to formally approve the release of funds to be used towards these projects and support this process. Seconded Morgan Ninnes.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

Natalia Provided quote for Square from Harvey Norman Horsham- Fully intergrated POS + computer $980.00 Total. To research and look for an extra quote.
Opening Bank Balance: $22,987.04
Income: $2861.35
Expenses: $194.15
Closing Balance: $25,654.24
Term Deposit: $16,414.24
Market Income Total: $1,446.18
Market Expenses: $329.60
MOTION: *That the Treasurer's Report as provided be noted and payment of outstanding invoices be made and take cash out of accounts as required.*

Moved: Natalia Aguirre
Seconded: Mary-Anne Paech
CARRIED

6.3 Volunteer Report

Volunteer Hours – August 2026 - 331 hrs
Working Bee Hrs: 30

	Adults	Pens./Conc.	Student	Family	Group	**Totals**
Regular attendance	**19**	**43**	2	**7**	4	
Group and Events					**Woodbine (10) WWHS Nhill (6) WWHS Jeparit (10) Rainbow (9)**	
Totals						

6.4 Hindmarsh Shire Council Report

Jeff Woodward – Invoices put in, reminders about quotes and getting recommendation from council, follow up on guttering, flood lights and Tarranyurk repairs. Thatching to be sprayed on straw/stick shed roof; abundance of weeds growing looks unsightly. Execs to send an email to council cc Mark + Jeff re: Getting Museum on councils work maintenance/mowing/spraying schedule.

6.5 Hindmarsh Shire Council Councillor Update

Cr Roger Aitken – Will attempt to put Museum Flag up this Friday 18th September for Menzies Spire relighting event, 17th October 130-170 Visitors coming from South Aus to Rainbow for 5

days- Hopefully planning to come to Museum. Opportunity for Museum to possibly take a machine to Rainbow Tractor Pull next year.

6.6 Display Updates

Depta School: action plan, research, centenary- The Detpa School displays continue to evolve and are nearing completion. We still haven't set a date for the Centenary as the guest of honour, Dr Rosalie Triolo, is currently frequently in Queensland but we will negotiate a date in due course.
Firearms: Committee Approved Quote for Display and use of FRRR Grant pending result. Address for current storage, Serial number and exemption certificate update, Display design and specifications/ Plans drawn up & Quote, Storyboards.
Digital Copies of Glass Negatives: by Dale Conway, Dimboola

6.7 Facility Maintenance Report

- Storm water drains flood capping system maintenance (MF)
- Detpa School Curtains: Purchase Curtain Rod/Purchase of suitable replacement curtains – Need longer Curtain Rods and some brackets, Roger has some brackets he could supply.
- Albacutya -Wallpaper replacement, Exterior Paint, Lighting for cabinets. Possum exclusion & cameras, Hessian replacement, cleaning bedspread.
- Log cabin: Walls and roofing repairs/replacement- Roof tiles/Shingles come off, water is leaking onto table etc
- Briarley: Accessing recycled decking
- Straw Shed: Identify straw for replacing roof, repair the Northwest Corner wall. (pine girts?) Weed spraying Thatching required asap.
- Tarranyurk Side door repair, bird hole repair, window repair.
- Stationary engine shed reorganization
- Machinery shed: Flat tyre on the Sift Tractor, reorganisation of tractors for transfer of stationary engines. Move gravel and sand for floor, removal and storage of webbing, Girt replacement and donation from Andrew Kube.
- Organising and rationalising documents in storage: much work being undertaken and achieved by Gordon Bennett.
- Gutters: Leaks & repairs
- Furniture: Need to go through everything and have a plan for future- decide what needs to be kept, repaired, or moved on. (Idea of a Men's Shed, Repair Cafe)
- Storage: Committee would like to get a 40ft shipping container for storage of furniture, items from Werrap, Tarrunyurk etc. Members to find and present some quotes for the 40ft Shipping Container delivered to next meeting, have funds available in term deposits etc

6.8 WMPM Promotion

Presentations to WVAHS Wimmera Mallee Zone Meeting Sunday 4th October 11am- Morgan, Natalia, Don and Roger to attend at this stage. $10ea for Lunch and light refreshments. Craige moved a motion that the museum covers the cost for volunteers attending. Seconded Don Pedder CARRIED.

6.9 Fundraising and Events

Museum Spring Market- Mid November Sat 7th or Sun 8th Nov tbc
Jeparit New Residents BBQ @WMPM Sun 4th Oct
Working Bee for School visit 14th October Need Volunteers
Morning Tea visitors coming 21st September
5th December Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser TBC volunteers needed
Landcare Rainbow Parks Victoria- Funding for rabbits

6.10 Ongoing Activities for 2026/2027

- Rabbit proofing perimeter – Albacutya Homestead
- Tarrunyurk Repairs
- Resolving OH&S issues Clean up shed's 'occasional' items
- Development of Educational Kit (CNP/NA)
- Cataloguing collection
- Ryko Byko Display to be scaled down for framing
- Internet account and Website design
- Marketing and promotion – FB posts/Stats
- Seeds of Change upgrade
- Werrap Hall enhancement
- Fundraising, Markets and Events
- Detpa School Museum enhancement including NA's immersive experience proposal and video production by JW and CNP.

7 FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

7.1 Finance Report (Income and Expenditure)

MOTION: Committee ask council to approve quotes, release funds and support the following financial projects:

- $12k (20% contingency) for the Purchase, Required Modification and Delivery to site of a B Grade 40ft Shipping Container for Museum Furniture and Display Storage.
- $10k of FRRR Grant money (pending) for the Purchase, Fabrication, Delivery and on-site works for Safe and Secure Museum Firearm Display Cabinets and Required Modification of Doors for Museum Firearm Display inside one of the Police Lock up Buildings.

MOTION: That the Finance Report as provided be approved.

Moved: Don Pedder
Seconded: Tige Mannington
CARRIED

7.2 Expenditure Approval – greater than financial delegation ($2,000)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee approve the following expenditure within delegation and seek approval from the Chief Executive Officer/Council for expenditure above delegation:

Creditor	Value $	Description of Goods or Services	Quote Requirements Met (Y/N)
TARRUNYURK ENGINEERING	$9,870 incl. GST (FRRR GRANT 10K)	Secure Firearms Display & Storage/ Modification to existing building (Lock-up)	Y
TARRUNYURK ENGINEERING	$5677.79 incl. GST	Modification B Grade 40ft Shipping Container	Y
FREDERICK SAUL	$4,840 incl. GST (Subject to fuel costs)	Purchase B Grade 40ft Shipping Container for Furniture Storage	Y

8 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th October 2026 7:00pm Start

9 MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 9:50pm

COUNCIL OFFICER AUTHORISATION

I Jeff Woodward accept the following recommendations made by the WMPM Committee at this meeting held on 15TH September 2026:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
4	Minutes	Confirmation of the Minutes
5	Correspondence	Approving the Outward Correspondence and Noting the Inward.
6	General Business	Treasurer's Report
7.1	Finance Report	That the Finance Report as provided be approved.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Community

7.2	Approval of Expenditure (above $2,000)	The committee seek approval from the Council or CEO for expenditure listed greater than $2,000.

SIGNED: [redacted] Council Officer: Jeff Woodward

Dated: 21 October 2026