



28 August 2025

## MINUTES

### Ordinary Council Meeting

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**Date:** Wednesday 27 August 2025

**Time:** 3:00pm

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

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

**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 Chan Uoy – Deputy Mayor**  
*East Ward*



**Cr Roger Aitken**  
*North Ward*



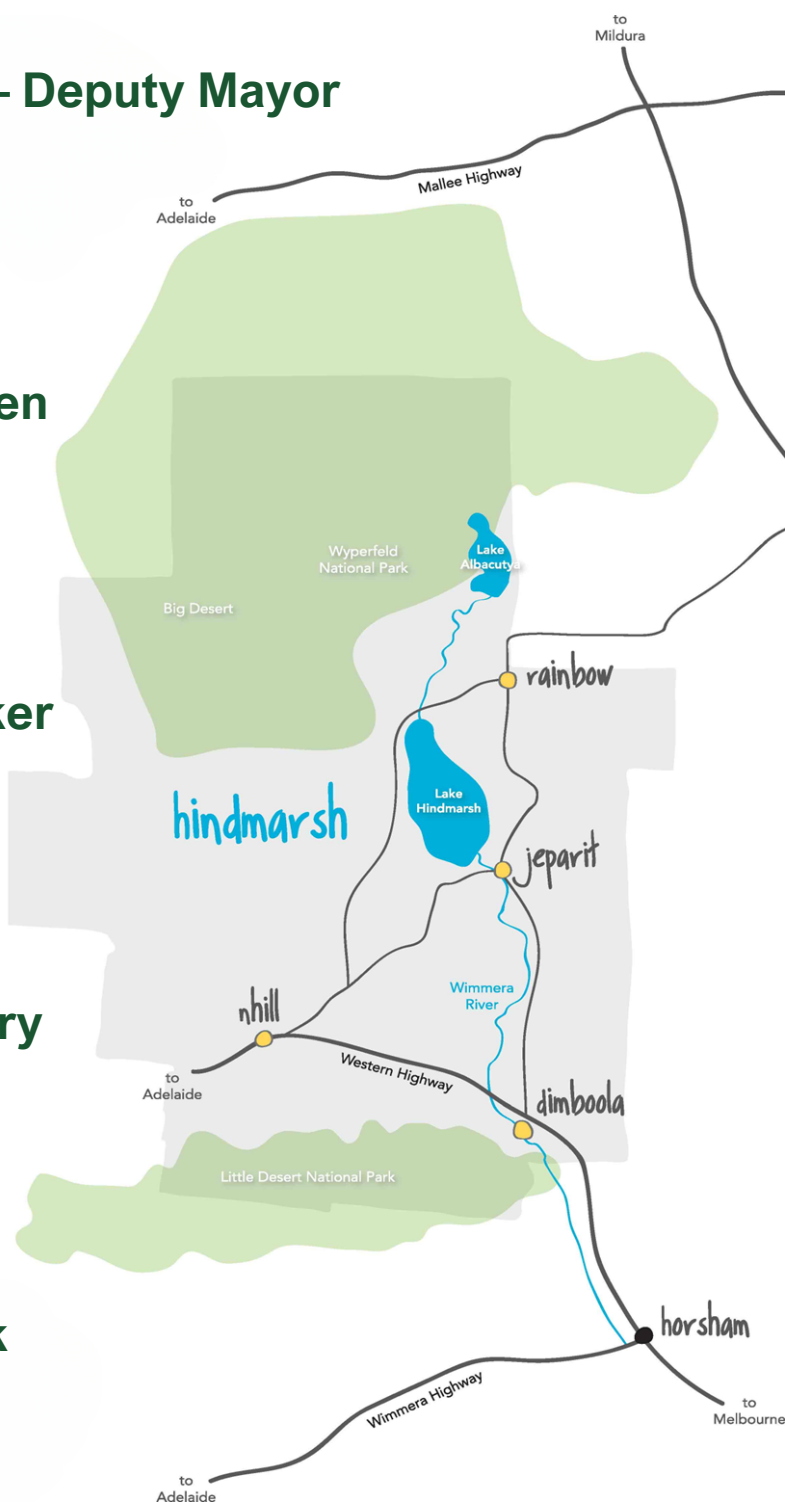
**Cr Rosie Barker**  
*West Ward*



**Cr James Barry**  
*East Ward*



**Cr Tony Clark**  
*North Ward*



## Councillor Statement of Values

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

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## Vision

Working together to be a connected, inclusive and prosperous community.

We will achieve our vision through four key themes woven into our Council Plan and Vision:

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

## Values

Council addresses key values through:

- Transparent and accountable actions and decisions
- Inclusion and collaboration with residents
- Showing respect and integrity to all
- Being proactive and responsible by encouraging innovation

## Mission

- Increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.
- Provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.
- Foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.
- Promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability.
- Advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

## Purpose of Council Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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**In Attendance:****Councillors:**

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

**Officers:**

Ms Monica Revell (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Petra Croot (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr Ram Upadhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services) Online via Zoom 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.

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### **1.2 LIVE STREAMING STATEMENT**

Cr Ron Ismay read the Live Streaming Statement.

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### **1.3 STATEMENT OF VALUES**

Cr Tony Clark read the Councillor Statement of Values.

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## **2 APOLOGIES**

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### 3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

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

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

**Cr Tony Clark declared a material conflict of interest in item 10.5 as it relates to his role as a Councillor.**

**Officer Ms Monica Revell declared a general conflict in confidential item 15.1 as one of the tenderers has recently completed work for her.**

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### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

#### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23 July 2025 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 Barker**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23 July 2025 at the Nhill Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.***

**CARRIED**

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2025 07 23 Council Meeting Minutes [4.1.1]
2. 2025 07 23 Council Meeting Minutes - MEDIA [4.1.2]

## 4.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Council Meeting	Recommendation Action	Action Taken	Complete / In Progress / Delayed
7 May 2025 Item 10.1	Council Officers to prepare a media release for the third quarter update of the Council Plan Action Plan.	Media release and communications published detailing the 2021-2025 Council Plan achievements.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 7	Prepare letters to Macedon Ranges and Borough of Queenscliffe.	Letters prepared and sent off on 28 July 2025.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.1	Council Officers to prepare TAC application.	TAC application submitted.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.2	Council officers to prepare draft Council Plan 2025-2029 for community consultation.	Council officers published the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 on Council's Have Your Say page for community consultation.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.3	Council officers to notify respondents of changes to Hindmarsh Pools and prepare content for publication on Council's website and social media.	Respondents notified of changes via email. Media release published on Council's website.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.6	Council officers to prepare media release detailing the capital works progress update for 2024/2025.	Media release published on Council's website.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.7	Council officers to prepare a letter to Department of Health advising that Council cannot undertake the management of cemeteries.	Letter sent to Department of Health advising that Council cannot undertake the management of cemeteries.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.8	Council officers to prepare a media release detailing the achievements of the 2021-2025 plan and publish the review of the 2024/2025 actions on Council's website.	Media release published on Council's website.	Complete
23 July 2025 Item 10.9	Council officers to notify Victorian Government Gazette of the adoption of the Road Management Plan 2025-2029.	Notice given in local newspapers and Government Gazette.	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](mailto:info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) or delivered in person to a council customer centre but are limited to two questions and 100 words including any pre-amble. Offensive, trivial and repetitive questions, questions which have been recently answered, or questions that may contain defamatory comments, may be excluded at the discretion of the Mayor.

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

### **Tony Schneider – Dimboola**

In response to the January 2025 fire that threatened Dimboola, what funding is Council seeking to improve the access track between Normanby and Anderson Streets, to improve this critical town boundary, make it safe for firefighters, and to protect Dimboola from further danger?

### ***Response:***

*This issue has been notified to council by various other residents. The area mentioned above falls under DEECA responsibility. Officers have had several discussions with DEECA earlier this year to undertake proactive slashing for fire prevention. DEECA has informed us that the area has been included on their annual slashing program. The areas in this program are usually slashed each year.*

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## 6 ACTIVITY REPORTS

### COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: 15 July 2025 – 18 August 2025

#### 6.1 CR RON ISMAY, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
17-07-2025	MAV Regional Meeting	Ararat	Discussed ESVF, Roads, Funding Issues and more.
23-07-2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
25-07-2025	WHAG Meeting	Online via Teams	Discussion around Western Highway and the poor conditions of roads.
29-07-2025	GWM Tourism Regional Engagement Forum	Halls Gap	Great chance to catch up with stakeholders from the area.
29-07-2025	Citizenship Ceremonies	Council Chambers, Nhill	Two new citizens for our Shire. Always a pleasure to host these ceremonies.
29-07-2025	Consult with Kiata resident regarding fire concerns	Kiata	
31-07-2025	Rural Councils Victoria Summit	Yarrawonga	
01-08-2025	Rural Councils Victoria Summit Day Two	Yarrawonga	Great event well presented.
06-08-2025	Official Launch of Wimmera Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect Centre	Nhill	Located in the former kindergarten known as "The Patch". Providing much needed help locally.
08-08-2025	Event discussions with Moyne Mayor and Folk Festival CEO	Port Fairy	Well worth the trip to hear how other events are run and how council supports the event. An absolute eye opener to the organising and funding both in and out.
13-08-2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
13-08-2025	Webinar for Council Plan 2025-2029	Online via Zoom	

14-08-2025	Wimmera Regional CEO and Mayors Meeting	Horsham	Discussed a range of current topics and issues including plans for further collaboration.
18-08-2025	Community Drop In Session	Jeparit	Very positive.
18-08-2025	Community Drop In Session	Rainbow	Very positive.

## 6.2 CR CHAN UOY, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
22-07-2025	West Vic Business	Online	Traders struggling.
23-07-2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Online via Zoom	
25-07-2025	Kendall Hill via Visit Victoria		Tourism Interview Escape.com.au and Qantas Magazines.
31-07-2025	Rural Councils Victoria Summit	Yarrawonga	
06-08-2025	Meeting with Bev McArthur MP	Online via Teams	
06-08-2025	Official Opening of Wimmera Mental Health and Well Being Connect Centre	The Patch, Nhill	
06-08-2025	Wimmera Southern Mallee Development	Online via Teams	
08-08-2025	Port Fairy Folk Festival and Moyne Council	Port Fairy Folk Festival Office	Elevate Wimmera Steampunk Festival to a professional board.
11-08-2025	Not In Our Name	Online via Teams	Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy.
12-08-2025	West Vic Business	Online	Not merging with WSMD.
13-08-2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
13-08-2025	Council Plan 2025-2029 Webinar	Online via Zoom	
18-08-2025	CEO Drop In Session	Jeparit Library	
18-08-2025	CEO Drop In Session	Rainbow Library	

## 6.3 CR ROGER AITKEN

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
15-07-2025	Pioneer Museum Meeting	Jeparit	
16-07-2025	Landcare AGM	Rainbow	

18-07-2025	Meeting in Rainbow with Ram Upadhyaya	Rainbow	Discussed road conditions and silo project.
23-07-2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
24-07-2025	Yurunga Homestead AGM	Rainbow	
29-07-2025	Victoria Tourism Five Year Strategy	Grampians	
29-07-2025	Rainbow Town Committee AGM	Rainbow	
30-07-2025	Social Media Workshop	Warracknabeal	
31-07-2025 - 01-08-2025	Rural Councils Victoria Conference	Yarrawonga	
11-08-2025	Drop In Session	Jeparit	
11-08-2025	Jeparit Town Committee AGM	Jeparit	
13-08-2025	Council Briefing and Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
13-08-2025	Webinar – Council Plan 2025-2029	Online via Zoom	
16-08-2025	Landcare Tree Planting Rainbow Rises	Rainbow	Weather was pleasant, not too cold. Soil conditions were perfect. A total of 2,200 trees were planted by approximately 20 volunteers and staff. Thank you to all who participated.

#### 6.4 CR ROSIE BARKER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
22-07-2025	Global Executive Panel	Online	This session was about “Growing the Local Economy”, and demonstrated how important analysing investment outcomes can be.
23-07-2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
24-07-2025	WSMLLEN Committee of Management	Online	Meeting to review progress for WSMLLEN

31-07-2025	Rural Council Victoria Conference	Yarrawonga	Discussion regarding ESVF and collaboration regarding impact on rural economies. Housing and infrastructure ideas.
01-08-2025	Rural Council Victoria Conference	Yarrawonga	Relinquishing Maternal Health and Aged Care into the WWHS. Hepburn Shire increased rates to community.
02-08-2025	Westvic Spares 30 Years Celebration	Nhill Memorial Community Centre	30 years of business in Nhill and a massive 350 people attended to celebrate. Over \$10,000 in gifts from suppliers were made into prizes for attendees. Certificate commemorating the business milestone was presented.
05-08-2025	Nhill Town Committee	Council Chambers, Nhill	New committee members met and a Chairperson was nominated. Council to send out invitations to all Community Groups to attend and create a stronger collaboration.
06-08-2025	Bev McArthur, MP	Online	Bev McArthur met with Councillors to discuss the levy, other rural based concerns and funding available to Council.
06-08-2025	Wimmera Mental Health and Connect	Nhill	New mental health connecting service for those that care for family or friends with mental health concerns was officially opened in Nhill. Staff are available on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment only.
08-08-2025	Mentoring with Cr Karen Foster	Port Fairy	Met with Karen for mentoring regarding Council dynamics.



08-08-2025	Port Fairy Folk Festival Meeting and Moyne Shire Council	Port Fairy	Met with Council Staff and leaders from the festival to hear how they operate the festival which has been running for 40 years. Also learnt how they give back to the community and how the festival is supported by Council and their outcomes.
11-08-2025	West Wimmera Action Group Meeting	Winiam Hall	Met with WWAG members and discussed the ESVF levy, dingoes and fire impacts. Executive Committee met with fire authorities where they drove around properties to show impacts and concerns. Provided an update on interactions with services regarding Dingo concerns and impacts. WWAG met with politicians from Liberal and Greens to discuss WWAG concerns.
13-08-2025	Council Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	RDA discussed advocating strategies for State and Federal initiatives. WWAG attended to discuss advocating against the ESVF; Dingo Protection and devastation to farm animals and fire breaks on properties. Asset Plan review by consultant.
13-08-2025	Nhill Grain Solo Group Meeting	Hindmarsh Office, Nhill	Discussion with group of Grain Truck Drivers regarding changes to Whitehead Ave, specifically the crossing near Queen Street, Nhill.
13-08-2025	Wimmera Mental Health and Connect Meeting	Hindmarsh Office, Nhill	Met with Del, Mental Health Practitioner who is working at the new facility in Nhill.

13-08-2025	Council Plan 2025-2029 Online Session	Online via Zoom	Councillors presented the draft Council Plan for 2025-2029 online, engaging the public with a Q&A section. Session was recorded for public to engage with on Council's Have Your Say page.
14-08-2025	ALGWA Seminar "Communicating in the Chamber"	Online via Zoom	Presenters discussed effective listening skills that assist collaboration in the Council Chamber. Presenters were Darriea Turley AM from Broken Hill City Council and President of Local Government NSW; Mora Weir from City of Onkaparinga and Jo McNally from Southern Downs Regional Council.

## 6.5 CR JAMES BARRY

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
23-07-2025	Council Briefing and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Nhill	
06-08-2025	Meeting with Bev McArthur MP	Online via Teams	
13-08-2025	Council Briefing, item eight on agenda	Council Chambers, Nhill	
13-08-2025	Council Plan 2025-2029 Webinar	Online via Zoom	

## 6.6 CR TONY CLARK

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments
14-07-2025	Jeparit Town Committee AGM	Jeparit	
14-07-2025	Jeparit Town Committee General Meeting	Jeparit	
29-07-2025	Rainbow Town Committee AGM	Rainbow	

29-07-2025	Rainbow Committee Meeting	Town General	Rainbow	
30-07-2025	CEO Meeting	Catchup	Jeparit	
01-08-2025	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting		Docklands, Melbourne	
11-08-2025	CEO Drop In Session and Council Action Plan Discussion			
11-08-2025	Jeparit Committee Meeting	Town	Jeparit	
13-08-2025	Council Session	Briefing	Council Chambers, Nhill	
13-08-2025	Council Webinar Council Plan 2025-2029	Online	Online via Zoom	
18-08-2025	CEO Drop In Session Council Action Plan Community Meeting		Rainbow	

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## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Introduction:**

The following correspondence is attached for noting by Council.

**Inwards:**

- 2025/07/31 - Minister for Finance to Mayor (Cr Ron Ismay) re Grant Funding Available – (Attachment Number: 7.1.1)
- 2025/08/11 - Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to Mayor re Hindmarsh Shire Council 2025 National General Assembly Resolutions – (Attachment Number: 7.1.2)

**Outwards:**

- 2025/07/25 - Council to Julie McDonald re Appointment to Nhill Township Advisory Committee – (Attachment Number: 7.1.3)
- 2025/07/25 - Council to Natalia Aguirre re Appointment to Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum – (Attachment Number: 7.1.4)
- 2025/07/28 - Council to Borough of Queenscliffe re Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (Attachment Number: 7.1.5)
- 2025/07/28 - Council to Macedon Ranges Shire Council re Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (Attachment Number: 7.1.6)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr T Clark**

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

**CARRIED**

## 8 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLOR RECORDS

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. 2025 07 23 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.1]
2. 2025 08 13 Assembly of Councillors Record [8.1.2]

**Introduction:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.*

**MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr T Clark**

*That Council notes the Assembly of Councillor Records as presented.*

**CARRIED**



## 9 PLANNING PERMITS

No planning permits.

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## 10 REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

### 10.1 WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE DEVELOPMENT

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

Nil

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council approval to resign as a municipal member of Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) and allocate the budgeted 2025/2026 WSMD Council membership towards economic development activities.

Following West Wimmera Shire Council (WWSC) and Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC), notifying WSMD of their intention to exit as members from 30 June 2026, a review of the current structure of WSMD was undertaken. The review has proposed that WSMD move in a direction that no longer requires Council membership, removing risks created for Councillors who are appointed as Directors on the WSMD board.

A special general meeting for WSMD will be held on Tuesday 26 August 2025 where municipal members will vote to amend the WSMD constitution, removing municipal members and ending Council appointed directors. The MOU between WSMD and member Councils will be cancelled, and the 2025/2026 WSMD membership fees will be waived.

**Discussion:**

Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD), previously Wimmera Development Association, is a not-for-profit organisation focused on promoting the sustainable development of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. They work with communities, governments and businesses to attract investment, develop existing businesses, and advocate for the region's needs.

WSMD has played a significant role in the development and advocacy for key regional projects and issues including the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project, Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal at Dooen, Wimmera Weather Radar at Rainbow to name a few.

Recently there has been growing disconnect between WSMD and member Councils, leading to a lack of engagement with project delivery. This has stemmed from WSMD and Councils

not being aligned with regional priorities, significantly impacting the organisations efficiency and in some cases, has seen duplication across some projects with member Councils.

At the Council meeting held on Monday 23 June 2025 Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) resolved to decrease their contribution to \$100,000 for 2025/2026 and give notice of their intention to withdraw their memberships on 30 June 2026. Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) withdrew from WSMD in July 2024, and West Wimmera Shire Council (WWSC) also resolved to withdraw no later than 30 June 2026.

Following the withdrawal of NGSC and notification of withdrawal by HRCC and WWSC, WSMD undertook a review and has proposed to move in a direction that no longer requires Council membership. A Special General Meeting has been called to consider a new Constitution and board membership, which will require each Council to resign from their membership and sign a Deed Pool terminating the MOU dated 1 December 2021.

**Link to Council Plan:****Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability**

Strong governance practices

**Financial Implications:**

An allocation is set aside for membership in Council's annual budget for membership of WSMD. For the 2025/2026 budget, the allocation is \$51,270 (excl GST).

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Wimmera Southern Mallee delivers activities across the region through grant funding and Council contributions, including migration settlement and drought resilience in Hindmarsh. They are also an advocacy body into Government on regional issues. It will be important for Council to work with neighbouring Councils on targeted advocacy relevant to our region.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

Not applicable.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

Author – Monica Revell, Chief Executive Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Not applicable.

**Next Steps:**

The CEO will write to WSMD notifying of resignation of membership and sign the Deed Poll terminating the MOU dated 1 December 2021.

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

- 1. authorises the CEO to write to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development notifying of Hindmarsh Shire Councils membership resignation effective immediately;***
- 2. authorises the CEO to sign the Deed Poll terminating the MOU dated 1 December 2021 between Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and each of the Member Councils;***
- 3. authorises the CEO to utilise the budget allocation for WSMD 2025/2026 membership of \$51,270 (excl GST) for economic development activities.***

**MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Barker*****That Council:***

- 1. authorises the CEO to write to Wimmera Southern Mallee Development notifying of Hindmarsh Shire Councils membership resignation effective immediately;***
- 2. authorises the CEO to sign the Deed Poll terminating the MOU dated 1 December 2021 between Wimmera Southern Mallee Development and each of the Member Councils; and***

***3. authorises the CEO to utilise the budget allocation for WSMD 2025/2026 membership of \$51,270 (excl GST) for economic development activities.***

**CARRIED**

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## 10.2 POSITION STATEMENT - RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

**Attachments:**

1. Hindmarsh Shire Council Position Statement on Renewable Energy [10.2.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report presents a draft Position Statement on Renewable Energy for Council's consideration and endorsement. The purpose of the Position Statement is to clearly articulate Council's stance on renewable energy investment and transition, outline its role in supporting sustainable development, and provide guidance for future planning, investment, and advocacy efforts.

As the transition to cleaner energy sources accelerates, it is essential that Council provides leadership through a clear, consistent, and evidence-based position. The Position Statement responds to growing community expectations, state and national policy shifts, and increasing interest from industry and developers in renewable energy projects within the region. It is designed to support informed decision-making, balance environmental and economic interests, and ensure that renewable energy initiatives align with Council's broader strategic objectives, including climate action, resilience, economic development, and social equity.

The positions statement

- asks that planning approvals be subject to mandatory impact assessments that involve genuine consultation with Council and the community;
- asks that road infrastructure that is damaged due to construction be remediated in full by the developer and/or State Government and caters for the needs and volume of the traffic generated by the development;
- seeks to ensure that we receive a fair share of investment in local road networks, enabling safe, efficient transport and delivers lasting benefits to our community.
- seeks to ensure renewable energy proponents establish legacy benefits to ensure projects include significant investment in key local services and infrastructure that are vital to our communities;
- supports individual community members being provided with meaningful opportunity to input into planning and statutory assessment processes prior to decisions being made; and
- asks that legislation and approval processes are reviewed and reformed to protect the intergenerational connection between our agricultural community and their land.

**Discussion:**

Victoria has a strong commitment to renewable energy, aiming for 65% renewable energy generation by 2030 and 95% by 2035, as well as net zero emissions by 2045. To achieve these goals, the state is actively developing Renewable Energy Zones (REZ), improving grid infrastructure, and encouraging investment in renewable energy projects. Renewable



energy zones are areas identified as the best places to host wind and solar projects and batteries for storage.

Council's purpose is to support, enable, and deliver the best long-term outcomes for our community. Our position balances our approach to working with stakeholders and the State and Federal Governments, with the social, economic, and environmental priorities of our residents and ratepayers that are at the heart of our decision-making, advocacy and work.

The purpose of this document is to provide a consolidated, transparent and consistent position on renewable energy investment and transition throughout Hindmarsh Shire. Hindmarsh Shire Council does not participate in the planning approval process for renewable energy projects, transmission lines, or mining activities, these projects are approved by State Government.

This statement requests a holistic approach from the State Government regarding the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of our communities in support of energy and emission targets. Given our community's significant contributions to the state and national economy - particularly in agriculture - it is both reasonable and necessary that we benefit from enhanced infrastructure, upgraded road networks, and sustained investment. Prioritising these improvements is essential to support our region's ongoing development and long-term sustainability.

Council recognises that individual renewable energy projects remain subject to required consultation and statutory assessment processes which are controlled by the State and/or Commonwealth Government.

**Link to Council Plan:****Theme Three: Competitive and Innovative Economy**

Facilitating and supporting economic development

**Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial costs associated with the development of the Position Statement. Council does receive Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR) for constructed renewal energy projects within Hindmarsh.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Government Policy and Political Changes	Government Policy is rapidly changing in relation to renewable energy and Council does not approve renewable energy projects. It is important that Council advocates for long term benefits should renewable energy projects be constructed within Hindmarsh.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

The position statement is an overarching statement on Councils stance in relation to renewable energy projects. The position statement does not have a direct impact on the community.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Communications Strategy:**

A copy of the Position Statement will be placed on Councils website.

**Next Steps:**

Publish the Position Statement on Renewable Energy on Councils website.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council adopts the Position Statement on Renewable Energy as presented.***

***MOVED: Cr R Aitken/Cr J Barry***

***That Council adopts the Position Statement on Renewable Energy as presented.***

**CARRIED**

### 10.3 GOVERNANCE UPDATES

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

**Attachments:**

1. DRAFT Councillor Candidature at State and Federal Elections [10.3.1]
2. DRAFT Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy [10.3.2]
3. DRAFT Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy [10.3.3]

**Executive Summary:**

This report presents the draft **Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy** and draft **Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy** (currently adopted as the Community Contributions Policy), recommended for endorsement for a period of public consultation from Thursday 28 August 2025 to 5pm on Thursday 11 August 2025.

The **Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy** has been amended to include a clause that enables Hindmarsh Holiday Park fees to be waived or reduced at the discretion of the CEO:

- As incentives of internal and external promotional campaigns where there is an identified community benefit;
- As a 'donation' to a fundraiser, community auction, or charitable activity where there is an identified community benefit;
- Where the accommodation is for a consultant or service provider engaged by Council; or
- In emergency situations or where emergency accommodation is required, up to 7 nights, where no other stakeholder has initial responsibility.

The **Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy**, has been expanded from solely focusing on community contributions to Council funded or auspice projects, to include requests for Council to both give and receive sponsorships and donations. This addition ensures that there are consistent, transparent and clear governance arrangements around these types of requests that can resource and enhance community projects.

This report also presents a new policy, the **Councillor Candidature at State and Federal Elections Policy**, that is based on provisions contained in the previous Councillor Code of Conduct before the Model Councillor Code of Conduct applied from October 2024.

**Discussion:**

*The Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy*

The Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy was updated in March 2024 and has been reviewed due to an identified lack of formal process when requests relate to fees being waived for Hindmarsh Holiday Parks. While these fees form part of Council's standard Fees and Charges as adopted in the Annual Budget, they are distinct in that they provide a critical tourism and accommodation service and can generate income for Council that helps offset operational costs and fund other projects and services. Council has received requests in the

past for fees to be waived where nights of accommodation could be offered as an item in a community fundraising auction, as part of a Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism package to encourage visitation, where someone has been passing through Hindmarsh Shire participating in a charitable cross-country bike ride, or where emergency accommodation is required.

The principles contained within the amendments to the draft Policy ensure that any decision to waive fees is based on community benefit and is at the discretion of the CEO, unless other operational policy applies. This should be read in conjunction with the 'Donations' section of the draft Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy.

#### Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy

The current Community Contributions Policy was adopted by Council in June 2024, and provided for instances where individuals or community groups are required to make a financial contribution to a planned project within Hindmarsh where the project is on Council owned or managed land, where a user has a user agreement in place for Council owned or managed land, or projects that are not on Council owned or managed land.

As this Policy deals with co-funding arrangements between Council and the community, it was deemed appropriate to include clauses around requests relating to donations and sponsorships that are not otherwise dealt with in the Gifts and Hospitality Policy. A list of eligibility and assessment criteria is provided for both donations and sponsorships, and reporting is required to the Audit and Risk Committee.

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, these draft policies are recommended to be made available for community feedback prior to being presented to Council for formal adoption.

#### Councillor Candidature at State and Federal Elections Policy

The Model Councillor Code of Conduct (effective 26 October 2024) has replaced previous statutory requirements for Councils to develop their own Codes of Conduct and previous standards of conduct. Councils must now follow the statewide Model Code, though they can still create separate local rules on specific matters if needed. Previously, Council's Councillor Code of Conduct included locally tailored procedures for Councillors seeking to nominate for State or Federal office. These procedures addressed key issues such as leave of absence, conflicts of interest, and the use of Council resources, aligning with MAV guidelines released in 2021.

This policy has been developed to reinstate the previous policy/procedure contained within the former Councillor Code of Conduct, to assist with the continuation of clear processes for managing Councillors' nominations as candidates for State or Federal elections.

**Link to Council Plan:****Theme Four: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability**

Strong governance practices

**Financial Implications:**

The Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy accounts for minor impacts to the budget based on anticipated fees being waived. The amendments to the Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy ensures effective governance of monetary and other goods and services that are either donated to or by Council for community projects. The intended impact on Council's adopted budget or expenditure commitments is immaterial.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Reviewing policies to ensure that they are compliant and applicable ensures good governance, effective decision-making and consistent processes and procedures. These changes update gaps identified in the existing policy framework.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

These policies will be made available for a period of community engagement via Have Your Say Hindmarsh from 28 August 2025 to 11 September 2025.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

Author – Petra Croot, Director Corporate and Community Services

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

**Communications Strategy:**

The draft policies will be made available for feedback on the Have Your Say Hindmarsh, with this engagement opportunity to be advertised in newsletters, via social media and via advertisement in local newspapers.

**Next Steps:**

Undertake communications strategy, review documents based on feedback and provide report to Council at the September meeting recommending the policies for adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorses the following policies for a period of community engagement in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy from 28 August 2025 to 11 September 2025:***

- 1. the Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy;***
- 2. the Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy; and***
- 3. the Councillor Candidature at State and Federal Elections Policy***

**MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken**

***That Council endorses the following policies for a period of community engagement in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy from 28 August 2025 to 11 September 2025:***

- 1. the Fee Waiver and Reduction Policy;***
- 2. the Contributions, Donations and Sponsorships Policy; and***
- 3. the Councillor Candidature at State and Federal Elections Policy.***

**CARRIED**

## 10.4 COUNCIL PLAN AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2025-2029

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

**Attachments:**

1. Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 Have Your Say Survey Responses Report until 20 August 2025 [10.4.1]
2. Draft Council Plan and PHWP 2025-2029 [10.4.2]
3. Incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan [10.4.3]

**Executive Summary:**

This report presents the 2025–2029 Council Plan, incorporating the revised Community Vision and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, as well as the Council Plan Actions for 2025/2026 for adoption.

The Council Plan was originally based on extensive two-stage community engagement, including a survey and a deliberative process, and then made available in late July until 22 August for feedback prior to adoption. Following the period of consultation, based on the community feedback, minor changes have been made to enhance Council's commitment to social inclusion, connection and accessibility for all.

The Council Plan is structured around four (4) key themes: Our Community, Built and Natural Environment, Competitive and Innovative Economy, and Good Governance and Financial Sustainability - each aligned with Council's budget and service areas.

Each theme includes three (3) **goals**, supported by three (3) to four (4) **priorities** that outline the broad action areas we will prioritise to achieve each goal. These goals and priorities will guide Council's work over the next four years, with a focus on communication, improved processes, innovation, and growth.

The 2025/2026 Council Plan Actions, outlines proposed actions for the year and a roadmap for future years. While indicative actions are mapped out beyond 2025/2026, Council will consult annually to refine them.

We will report quarterly on the progress of the Council Plan Actions, and annually on the Council Plan, including the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

**Discussion:**

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Section 90(1) to develop and adopt a Council Plan, for at least the next four (4) financial years, by 31 October after a general Council election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

A Council Plan must include the following:

1. the strategic direction of the Council;
2. strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction;



3. strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next 4 financial years;
4. strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
5. a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity;
6. any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Section 88(4) of the Act also requires that Council must develop or review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt by 31 October after a general Council election.

In alignment with the provisions set out in the Act, a deliberative engagement process informed the Vision Update and Council Plan. This involved a Community Panel being formally established with the purpose of reviewing the Vision and providing insights and feedback to help guide the development of a new four-year Council plan.

In Victoria, a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) is also a requirement of all Councils. It can be a standalone document or integrated into Council's broader strategic or Council Plan. Hindmarsh Shire Council's MPHWP has been integrated into the draft Council Plan. Council has received notification that the request to seek an exemption from the Secretary of the Department of Health for the MPHWP to be included in the Council Plan has been approved.

This report presents the 2025-2029 Council Plan (Council Plan), incorporating the revised Community Vision and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, for adoption. The Council Plan identifies four (4) themes; Our Community, Built and Natural Environment, Competitive and Innovative Economy and Good Governance and Financial Sustainability. These themes are built into our budget and reflect our service areas.

Under each theme, there are three (3) goals, the goals set out the overall outcome that we're looking to achieve. Under each goal, there are an additional three to four broad priorities that set out the most important types of action that we will take to achieve the goal. Together, they will shape Council's efforts over the next four (4) years, ensuring our decisions and actions remain responsive to and rooted in the needs and perspectives of the community. The Plan has a strong focus on better communication, improved processes, innovation and growth.

Also presented are the draft Council Plan Actions for 2025/2026, incorporating proposed Actions that flow through the remainder of the Council Plan period. To ensure the Council Plan remains flexible and responsive to new opportunities and challenges, Council prepares these annual Actions that identify specific projects and services that we will deliver for that financial year.



Council has mapped out proposed Actions for each year to show how projects might progress over time and how priorities will be built on every year. While Actions have been proposed beyond 2025/2026, Council will still consult with the community to update and revise the Actions for the upcoming year.

### Proposed Vision

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

The Vision offers insight into our community's long-term goals, guiding the direction for future planning, decision-making, and highlighting important priorities for the future. As a key input into the Council Plan developed by Councillors, the Vision serves as a guide for strategic planning and operations, ensuring that the actions of the Council are in harmony with the community's priorities.

### Engagement

After the report was endorsed at the Council Meeting on 23 July 2025, the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 and Council Plan Actions 2025/2026 were made available for community feedback. Council also hosted drop-in sessions with Councillors and the CEO, the drafts were discussed at Town Committee meetings, and an online panel session was held and uploaded to Council's YouTube channel and shared to Facebook page.

All responses received agreed, strongly agreed, or were of neutral opinion in their support for the proposed Council Plan, Council Plan Actions, and revised Community Vision. During the Council Plan drop-in sessions attendees congratulated Council on the plan, complimenting Council on the content, discussed exciting initiatives they were looking forward to Council delivering, and appreciated the Plan on a page for a quick glance at the strategic direction of Council. Positive comments were also received on Council's vision, mission and values.

In total, there were six (6) responses to the online survey at the time of circulating this report. The feedback is detailed below and in the attached report.

<b>Feedback (Summary)</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
Council's activities around reducing vacant commercial properties are missing from the Council Plan.	Council has an Economic Development Strategy and Economic Development and Tourism team who are committed to supporting businesses to grow and develop. Part of their ongoing work plan is working with property owners in central business areas to promote use of their property for businesses.
Council planning policies can be unnecessarily complex particularly for new	Council's Planning and Environment team is committed to reviewing and streamlining

Feedback (Summary)	Officer Response
<p>businesses who must deal with several regulatory bodies.</p> <p>Footpath strategy required.</p> <p>Address the intersection of the main street and the highway.</p>	<p>internal policies and are doing what we can to simplify the processes and work with the community and new businesses. Processes beyond the limits of Council are beyond our control but Council can advocate for reform at a state or federal level as appropriate.</p> <p>Councils asset plan addresses strategic priorities for our footpaths.</p> <p>Council advocates to the Department of Transport and Planning in relation to safety in our central business districts where they are the responsible agency for the roads.</p>
<p>Substantive strategy to improve access to safe, affordable and transitional housing.</p> <p>Mental Health and social isolation</p>	<p>Council continues to work with other organisations such as Regional Development Victoria to hold a developer forum in the region to address housing concerns. The Council Plan contains actions in relation to housing under item 2.3 “We support development that enables needs based growth”, with a priority being “Enable housing that is more flexible, sustainable, and affordable.</p> <p>Council continues to advocate for increased mental health support and the recent addition of Grampians Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect to Nhill is a great step forward. Council is a staunch advocate for rural public transport and will continue to utilise any opportunity to advocate for the importance of connecting rural and remote areas through transportation networks.</p>
<p>Council should address providing Maternal Child Health Services and be concerned with both childcare and healthcare.</p>	<p>The Nurses and Midwives Union have recently resolved to lobby State government for all Maternal Child Health Services to be delivered through the healthcare system as they are better aligned and equipped with access to many different healthcare services.</p> <p>Council will continue to meet with early years' service providers, government agencies, and politicians to advocate for childcare services across the shire.</p>
<p>Council could include more detail for meeting the disability access and inclusion plan aspect and have greater engagement with people who identify as living with a disability and neurodiversity.</p>	<p>Council continually looks to improve access and inclusion for Council assets and activities. Council runs many activities such as Cuppa Connections, Classic Movies, free School Holiday activities program and free access to swimming pools for all.</p>

Feedback (Summary)	Officer Response
	Planned Federal Street sealing works include an assessment of the width of car spaces to improve all-abilities access to key businesses in Rainbow. Our 2025/2026 budget also includes funding to improve damaged sections of footpaths to ensure they are able to be utilised by all.
Reduce traffic speed to 40 klm hour at the roundabout in Dimboola.	Reducing speed limits would require advocacy to the Department of Transport and Planning. We will advocate for an increased police presence and can utilise Council social media platforms and newsletters to educate on safe usage of Roundabouts.

### Link to Council Plan:

#### Theme One: Our Community

A community well informed and engaged

### Financial Implications:

In developing a Council Plan, the Act notes that the resources needed for effective implementation of the plan must be considered. This is done through the Financial Plan, covering the next 10 years, which describe the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan, and other strategic plans, along with the annual budget process that allocates resources each financial year.

### Risk Management Implications:

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	Preparation of the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is a legislative requirement and ensures both the good governance of Council and the design of services and annual budgets around community needs.

### Relevant Legislation:

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*

### Community Engagement:

As well as the original consultation that informed the development of the draft documents, the following community engagement opportunities took place:

*Councillor and CEO Drop-ins:*

**Jeparit Library and Customer Service Centre**

Monday 18 August 2025

11:00am - 12:00noon

**Rainbow Library and Customer Service Centre**

Monday 18 August 2025

2:00pm - 3:00pm

**Dimboola Library and Customer Service Centre**

Tuesday 19 August 2025

3:00pm - 4:00pm

**Nhill Library**

Thursday 21 August 2025

3:00pm - 4:00pm

*Online Survey via Have Your Say Hindmarsh*Visit [www.haveyoursay.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)*Town Committee Meetings**Webinar with Live Chat***13 August 2025**Register via [www.haveyoursay.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)**Gender Equality Implications:**

Refer to the GIA as previously attached to the Council report presented at the Council meeting on 23 July 2025.

**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:**

As per Community Engagement plan, all opportunities will be publicised via:

- Hardcopy mailout to all addresses within Hindmarsh
- Facebook and social media accounts
- E-news
- Newsletters

**Next Steps:**

Deliver community engagement activities, review feedback and prepare revised plan for presentation at the August Council meeting.

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

- 1. adopts the Council Plan 2025-2029, including the revised Community Vision and Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan; and***
- 2. adopts the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026.***

***MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Barker******That Council:***

- 1. adopts the Council Plan 2025-2029, including the revised Community Vision and Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan; and***
- 2. adopts the Council Plan Actions 2025/2026.***

**CARRIED**

## 10.5 REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Cr Tony Clark declared a material conflict of interest and left the room at 4:05pm.**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

Nil

### **Executive Summary:**

Cr Tony Clark has lodged a request for a leave of absence from his Councillor duties while he is on leave from his usual place of employment.

### **Discussion:**

The *Local Government Act 2020* contains provisions regarding a Councillor requesting leave from the Council and stipulates that any reasonable request for such leave must be granted.

Cr Clark has taken a period of leave from his usual place of employment and has applied for a leave of absence from his Councillor duties for this period being from 31 August 2025 until 20 October 2025.

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

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

Strong governance practices

### **Financial Implications:**

Not applicable.

### **Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Governance	This request is being actioned in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .

### **Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

### **Community Engagement:**

Not applicable.

### **Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – 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:**

Not applicable.

**Next Steps:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council approves Cr Tony Clark's request for a leave of absence from 31 August 2025 to 20 October 2025.***

***MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Barker***

***That Council approves Cr Tony Clark's request for a leave of absence from 31 August 2025 to 20 October 2025.***

***CARRIED***

Cr Tony Clark returned to the room at 4:08pm.

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## 10.6 DRAFT ASSET PLAN 2025-2035

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

1. Hindmarsh Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035 DRAFT [10.6.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council's endorsement for public consultation on the draft Asset Plan 2025 - 2035 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Asset Plan (Plan) is a strategic document that covers the next ten-year period, outlines Council's management approach for community assets, and demonstrates its commitment to accountability, transparency, and financial responsibility in decision making. The Asset Plan ensures that infrastructure and facilities are maintained, renewed, and developed in a manner that aligns with community needs and expectations

This Plan will be available for public submission for period of 4 weeks between 28 August 2025 and 25 September 2025. Public submissions will be incorporated in the Plan (where practicable) and considered at the 29 October 2025 Council meeting.

**Discussion:**

Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to develop, adopt, and keep in force an Asset Plan. The scope of an Asset Plan is for a minimum period of ten financial years and needs to be adopted by 31 October in a year following the general election of the council.

The development of this Asset Plan represents a critical step towards achieving sustainable, efficient, and financially responsible asset management. The Plan outlines how Council intends to manage its infrastructure over the next 10 years, with a focus on sustainability, financial responsibility, and community wellbeing. This ensures our assets support the services and amenities our community needs and expects, both now and in the future, providing sustainable benefits for all residents.

Assets owned and managed by Hindmarsh Shire Council are broken down into four asset portfolios below.

	Gross Replacement Cost (GRC)	Fair Value (\$)	Asset Consumption Ratio (% Remaining life)
<b>\$418 Million</b>			
Transport Infrastructure	284 M	182 M	64%
Stormwater Drainage	16.6 M	10.2 M	61%



Recreation and Open Space	8.2 M	5 M	61%
Buildings and Facilities	109 M	82 M	75%

The data analysis of the entire asset portfolio of Council suggests that 3% of Council's asset stock is approaching end of life, this is at the same level as industry standard. The analysis also indicates that the Council is meeting about 75% of the annual renewal demand. This suggests that the renewal of Council assets should be a priority before any new or upgrade works of infrastructure is undertaken.

This Plan is an integral part of Council's broader strategic framework, working alongside the Council Plan, Community Vision and the long-term financial plan. Asset management is embedded within Council's overall strategic planning to ensure that investment in roads, buildings, parks and community facilities actively contributes to creating a connected, inclusive and sustainable community.

Council takes a lifecycle management approach to asset management planning, considering the resourcing requirements to operate, maintain, rehabilitate and renew assets to meet the service level requirements, asset life expectancy and community expectations.

The Plan incorporates feedback provided by community members during the former consultation sessions, CEO drop-in sessions, and community survey conducted for the Council Plan development. Further feedback on the Plan will be taken via consultation process through Council's "Have your say" page.

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

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

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

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

Long-term financial sustainability

### **Financial Implications:**

The asset plan projects the average expenditure to be \$4.6m annually over the 10 year plan, condition assessments and valuations of asset portfolios will guide the financial requirements of the asset.

### **Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management	The asset plan provides a direct link to the long term financial plan reducing the risk to Council and aligning with

	the Council Plan. The asset plan provides council with the framework to manage our assets for our community.
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**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 2020*

**Community Engagement:**

This draft Plan was developed by incorporating feedback from series of consultations undertaken in the past. This plan will be available for public submission for period of 4 weeks between 28 August 2025 and 25 September 2025. The public submissions will be incorporated in the plan (where practicable) and considered at the October Council meeting.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Mick Henderson, Manager Assets and Facilities

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

**Communications Strategy:**

A notice seeking community feedback on the draft plan will be advertised in local newspapers as well as via Council's social media channels and Have Your Say page.

**Next Steps:**

A notice of the Draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 will be advertised in the local paper (Weekly Advertiser, Nhill Free Press, Dimboola Banner, and Rainbow Jeparit Argus) as soon as practicable after the endorsement this plan by the Council for community consultation. The feedback will be sought via council's Have Your Say page. The feedback received will be incorporated, where practicable, into the plan and presented to the October council meeting for adoption.

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

- 1. endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 for public consultation; and***
- 2. undertakes community consultation for the period between 28 August 2025 and 25 September 2025.***

**MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr C Uoy*****That Council:***

- 1. endorses the draft Asset Plan 2025-2035 for public consultation; and***
- 2. undertakes community consultation for the period between 28 August 2025 and 25 September 2025.***

**CARRIED**

## **10.7 AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 173 OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 - 173 NELSON STREET, NHILL - FOR APPROVAL UNDER THE COMMON SEAL**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Draft S173 Agreement - PA1822-2023 [10.7.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council authorisation for the use of the Common Seal of Hindmarsh Shire Council to execute the attached Section 173 Agreement. The Section 173 Agreement is proposed in accordance with Condition four (4) of the approved Planning Permit PA1822-2023, for the subject land Lot 1 on TP81575B (known as 173 Nelson Street, NHILL VIC 3418). The purpose of this Section 173 Agreement is to ensure that the Land is developed for a three-lot subdivision and two additional dwellings in accordance with planning permit PA1822-2023 and the associated endorsed plans.

**Definitions:**

Section 173 Agreement – ‘the Agreement’

Approved Planning Permit PA1822-2023 – ‘the Permit’

Lot 1 on TP81575B (173 Nelson Street, NHILL VIC 3418) – ‘the Land’

The owner of the land and applicant of the Permit – ‘the Owner’

**Discussion:**

The Permit was approved by the CEO on behalf of Council on 11 June 2024 for ‘a three lot subdivision and the development of two additional dwellings’ on the Land. Condition one (1) plans were endorsed to the Permit on 24 April 2025.

Condition four (4) on the Permit states the following:

*‘Before the plan of subdivision is certified under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner must either:*

*Enter into an agreement with the responsible authority made pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act) and make application to the Registrar of Titles to have the agreement registered on the title to the land under Section 181 of the Act, which specifies that:*

- a) The development of the lots will be constructed in accordance with the plans endorsed to Planning Permit PA1822-2023.*

*The owner of the land must pay all reasonable costs of preparation, execution and registration of the Section 173 Agreement on title.’*

Following approval of the permit for PA1822-2023, the Owner engaged Vankish Lawyers to prepare the Agreement. The Agreement’s conditions were negotiated between Council and

the Owner. The Owner has since signed the Agreement and provided the agreement to Council for signature under the Common Seal.

A Section 173 Agreement sets out conditions and restrictions on the use and development of land. It is legally binding for current and future landowners and is recorded on the title of the land. In this case, it is required to ensure the use and development of the Land is carried out in accordance with the Permit.

S173 Agreements are defined in *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as follows:

*'The Responsible authority may enter into agreements*

- 1. A responsible authority may enter into an agreement with an owner of land in the area covered by a planning scheme for which it is a responsible authority.
  - a. Without limiting subsection (1), a responsible authority may enter into an agreement with an owner of land for the development or provision of land in relation to affordable housing.**
- 2. A responsible authority may enter into the agreement on its own behalf or jointly with any other person or body.*
- 3. A responsible authority may enter into an agreement under subsection (1) or (1A) with a person in anticipation of that person becoming the owner of the land.*

*Despite anything in this Division, if an agreement entered into with a purchaser in anticipation of the purchaser becoming owner is recorded by the Registrar of Titles, it does not bind the vendor unless the vendor assumes the purchaser's rights and obligations under the agreement'*

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

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

Facilitating and supporting economic development

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

Strong governance practices

#### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications for Council. The Owner must pay all costs of preparation, execution and registration of the Agreement.

#### **Risk Management Implications:**

<b>Strategic Risk Description</b>	<b>Risk Management Discussion</b>
Community Needs	Choosing not to sign the Agreement would prevent the Owner from proceeding with their use and development.
Financial Sustainability	Under the Permit, Council chose to impose costs associated with the Agreement on the Owner.
Governance	Choosing not to sign the Agreement may be considered an ineffective and inefficient use of Council resources, as

	Council is responsible for requiring the Agreement under the Permit.
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**Relevant Legislation:**

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**Community Engagement:**

The community was engaged as part of the planning permit application process. Further consultation was not necessary.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Mikayla Farmers, Planning Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Not applicable.

**Next Steps:**

Chief Executive Officer, Monica Revell to sign the Section 173 Agreement under the Common Seal of Hindmarsh Shire Council

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council authorises the use of the Common Seal, in compliance with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Local Law, in the execution of the Section 173 Agreement for Lot 1 on TP81575B (173 Nelson Street, NHILL VIC 3418), in accordance with Condition four (4) on approved Planning Permit PA1822-2023.***

***MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr R Barker***

***That Council authorises the use of the Common Seal, in compliance with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Local Law, in the execution of the Section 173 Agreement for Lot 1 on TP81575B (173 Nelson Street, NHILL VIC 3418), in accordance with Condition four (4) on approved Planning Permit PA1822-2023.***

***CARRIED***

## **10.8 AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 173 OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 - 671 NHILL-HARROW ROAD, NHILL - FOR APPROVAL UNDER COMMON SEAL**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - S173 Agreement - PA1877-2024 [10.8.1]

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council authorisation for the use of the Common Seal of Hindmarsh Shire Council to execute the attached Section 173 Agreement. The Section 173 Agreement is proposed in accordance with Condition four (4) of the approved Planning Permit PA1877-2024, for the subject land being Lot 3 and 4 on TP534702A and Crown Allotment 6 and 6A Parish of Winiam (known as 671 Nhill-Harrow Rd NHILL VIC 3418). The purpose of this Section 173 Agreement is to ensure that the future purchaser of the dwelling lot acknowledges the potential for nuisance from nearby agricultural operations and accepts that the driveway easement will also be utilised for agricultural operations.

**Definitions:**

Section 173 Agreement – ‘the Agreement’

Approved Planning Permit PA1877-2024 – ‘the Permit’

Lot 3 and 4 on TP534702A and Crown Allotment 6 and 6A Parish of Winiam (671 Nhill-Harrow Rd NHILL VIC 3418) – ‘the Land’

The owner of the land and applicant of the Permit – ‘the Owner’

**Discussion:**

The Permit was approved by the CEO on behalf of Council on 11 July 2025 for a two-lot subdivision (dwelling excision) on the Land. Condition one (1) plans were endorsed to the Permit on 24 April 2025.

Condition four (4) on the Permit states the following:

*‘Before the statement of compliance is issued under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must enter into an agreement with the responsible authority under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The agreement must provide the following:*

- a. The owner of the dwelling on Lot 2 as shown on the plan endorsed under Planning Permit PA1877-2024 acknowledges and accepts nuisance from adjoining agricultural operations including animal husbandry, spray drift, agricultural machinery use, pumps, trucks and associated hours of operation necessary for agricultural production.*
- b. The owner of the dwelling on Lot 2 as shown on the plan endorsed under Planning Permit PA1877-2024 acknowledges and accepts the use of the carriageway easement by the owner of the adjoining lot. This use will primarily be for agricultural*



*operations including agricultural machinery use, trucks and associated hours of operation necessary for agricultural production.*

*The owner of the land must pay all of the responsible authority's reasonable legal costs and expenses of this agreement, including preparation, execution and registration on title.'*

Following approval of the permit for PA1877-2024, the Owner engaged O'Brien and Smith Lawyers to prepare the Agreement. The Agreement's conditions were negotiated between Council and the Owner. The Owner has since signed the Agreement and provided a copy to Council for signature under the Common Seal.

A Section 173 Agreement sets out conditions and restrictions on the use and development of land. It is legally binding for current and future landowners and is recorded on the title of the land. In this case, it is required to ensure the use and development of the Land is carried out in accordance with the Permit.

S173 Agreements are defined in *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as follows:

*"The Responsible authority may enter into agreements*

- 1. A responsible authority may enter into an agreement with an owner of land in the area covered by a planning scheme for which it is a responsible authority.
  - a. Without limiting subsection (1), a responsible authority may enter into an agreement with an owner of land for the development or provision of land in relation to affordable housing.**
- 2. A responsible authority may enter into the agreement on its own behalf or jointly with any other person or body.*
- 3. A responsible authority may enter into an agreement under subsection (1) or (1A) with a person in anticipation of that person becoming the owner of the land.*

*Despite anything in this Division, if an agreement entered into with a purchaser in anticipation of the purchaser becoming owner is recorded by the Registrar of Titles, it does not bind the vendor unless the vendor assumes the purchaser's rights and obligations under the agreement"*

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

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

Facilitating and supporting economic development

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

Strong governance practices

#### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications for Council. The Owner must pay all costs of preparation, execution and registration of the Agreement.

**Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Community Needs	Choosing not to sign the Agreement would prevent the Owner from proceeding with their use and development.
Financial Sustainability	Under the Permit, Council chose to impose costs associated with the Agreement on the Owner.
Governance	Choosing not to sign the Agreement may be considered an ineffective and inefficient use of Council resources, as Council is responsible for requiring the Agreement under the Permit.

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

**Community Engagement:**

The community was engaged as part of the planning permit application process. Further consultation was not necessary.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Mikayla Farmers, Planning Officer

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Not applicable.

**Next Steps:**

Chief Executive Officer, Monica Revell to sign the Section 173 Agreement under the Common Seal of Hindmarsh Shire Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council authorises the use of the Common Seal, in compliance with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Local Law, in the execution of the Section 173 Agreement for Lot 3 and 4 on TP534702A and Crown Allotment 6 and 6A Parish of Winiam (671 Nhill-Harrow Road NHILL VIC 3418), in accordance with condition four (4) on approved Planning Permit PA187702924.***

**MOVED: Cr R Barker/Cr T Clark**

***That Council authorises the use of the Common Seal, in compliance with the Hindmarsh Shire Council Governance Local Law, in the execution of the Section 173 Agreement for Lot 3 and 4 on TP534702A and Crown Allotment 6 and 6A Parish of Winiam (671 Nhill-Harrow Road NHILL VIC 3418), in accordance with condition four (4) on approved Planning Permit PA1877-2024.***

**CARRIED**

## 10.9 SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION PROPOSALS

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

Nil

### **Executive Summary:**

This report seeks endorsement from Council to submit an application to the Department of Transport (DTP) to reduce the speed limit on Kiata South Road adjacent to Little Desert National Park to 80 KMPH and Lloyd Street Dimboola between South of Wimmera Street and North of Lochiel Street to 40 KMPH. The report also recommends writing a letter to Minister for Roads and Road Safety the Hon. Melissa Horne requesting action on proposed speed changes.

### **Discussion:**

#### Lloyd Street, Dimboola

Lloyd Street, between Wimmera Street and Lochiel Street, in Dimboola is considered as a busy commercial area. This area is typically characterised with high volumes of pedestrians accessing shops and cafés, with angle carparks on either side of the street mostly occupied at most of the times. The road carries an estimated volume of over 2,000 vehicles per day and hence makes it difficult for elderly residents to identify gaps to cross the road. The road is currently zoned 50 KMPH.

The Community Action Plan 2024 – 2028, which was compiled following extensive community engagement, identifies reduction of speed limits through Lloyd Street CDB under “Short Term/Quick Win Initiatives”. It is also understood that the community of Dimboola is preparing a petition for reduction of speed in CBD which will be provided to Council soon to support the reduction in speed limit.

The area of the proposed speed reduction is highlighted in the image below. Speed reduction to 40 KMPH in this area will significantly increase the safety of pedestrians crossing the road as well as vehicles going in and out of parking bays on each side of the road.

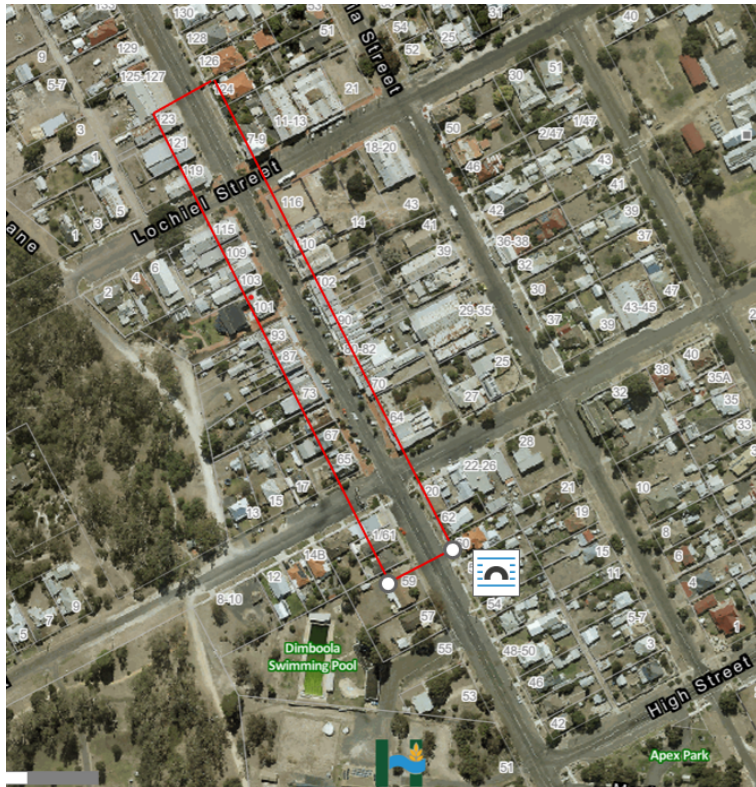


Figure 1.0 - Proposed speed zone change for Lloyd Street, Dimboola

#### Kiata South Road

There have been frequent sightings of endangered Mallee Fowl species near the road reserve on Kiata South Road after habitat destruction due to the Little Desert National Park Wildfires and poor road alignment.

Local community groups and concerned residents have contacted council to raise the urgency of the situation to slow road users to safeguard the refuge migration of the vulnerable Mallee Fowl flocks after the Little Desert National Park Wildfires.

Council has found the average operational speed is 96 km/h as per tube counts taken on 30/07/2025. There have also been 11 near misses in the area from 1/05/2023 to 01/07/2025 as per the data from COMPASS IoT.

The recommendation as per speed zoning policy guides is to use 80 km/h speed zone as the road has overall low alignment standard with substandard curve radii and minimal superelevation. Also, the vegetation is protected under a buffer zone prohibiting the removal or clearing.

The map below shows the speed reduction from 100 km/h to 80 km/h starting from Jordan Rd intersection for a 2.25 km long stretch heading South to compensate for poor road alignment and increased activity of vulnerable Mallee Fowl Species in the area.



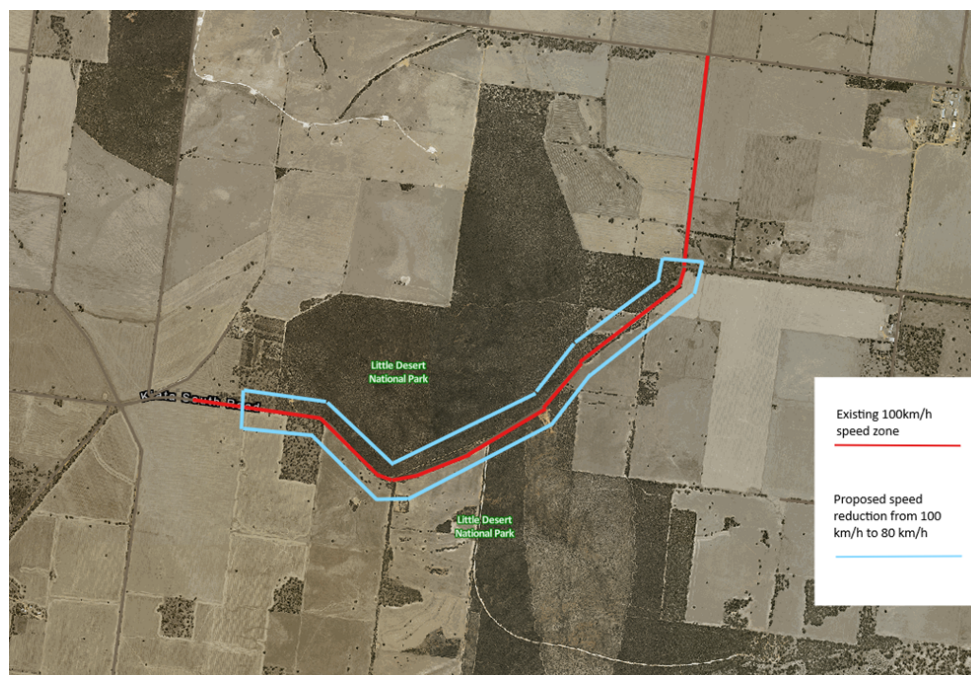


Figure 2.0 - Proposed speed zone change for Kiata South Road

Proposed speed changes in both abovementioned roads will improve the safety of road users within the municipality. The application can be made to Department of Transport and Planning for alteration of those speed limits. Council should consider writing to minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne requesting support and action on the proposed speed changes.

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

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

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

#### **Financial Implications:**

The cost to purchase and install signs could be covered in the Signage budget allocation in the 2025/2026 financial year. The total cost would be less than \$5,000.

#### **Risk Management Implications:**

Strategic Risk Description	Risk Management Discussion
Asset Management Community Needs	Lowering the speed on high-risk roads, will increase the safety for users and native wildlife, whilst also reducing impact on the pavement.

#### **Relevant Legislation:**

*Road Management Act 2004*

**Community Engagement:**

No specific community engagement has been undertaken for proposed changes. The speed changes in Lloyd Street were identified during the development of Community Action Plan 2024-2028 which underwent rigorous engagement process. The changes in Kiata South Road have been proposed to Council following the request from community groups.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Daniel Griffiths, Manager Works and Operations

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Permanent speed reduction in Kiata South Road and Lloyd Street will be advertised via social media and VMS sign boards for information to community following the approval of request from Department of Transport and Planning.

**Next Steps:**

Complete the relevant application requirements for the speed change and submit to Department of Transport and Planning. Mayor to write a letter to minister for Roads and Road Safety the Hon. Melissa Horne seeking the support and action on the proposal.

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

- 1. authorise officers to submit a speed reduction application to Department of Transport and Planning for Kiata South Rd from Jordan Road for 2.25km heading South, adjacent to the Little Desert National Park, and Lloyd Street, Dimboola from South of Wimmera Street to North of Lochiel Street; and***
- 2. authorises the Mayor to write to Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne seeking support and action on speed changes in Kiata***

***South Rd from Jordan Road for 2.25km heading South, adjacent to the Little Desert National Park, and Lloyd Street, Dimboola, from South of Wimmera Street to North of Lochiel Street.***

***MOVED: Cr J Barry/Cr R Barker***

***That Council:***

- 1. authorise officers to submit a speed reduction application to Department of Transport and Planning for Kiata South Rd from Jordan Road for 2.25km heading South, adjacent to the Little Desert National Park, and Lloyd Street, Dimboola from South of Wimmera Street to North of Lochiel Street; and***
- 2. authorises the Mayor to write to Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon. Melissa Horne seeking support and action on speed changes in Kiata South Rd from Jordan Road for 2.25km heading South, adjacent to the Little Desert National Park, and Lloyd Street, Dimboola, from South of Wimmera Street to North of Lochiel Street.***

***CARRIED***



## 10.10 SAFER LOCAL ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure Services

**Attachments:**

Nil

**Executive Summary:**

This report seeks Council approval to submit two (2) applications through the Federal Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) for the Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon-Netherby Road, and to refer \$234,325 in the 2026/2027 draft budget for the required 20% co-contribution.

**Discussion:**

Above average rainfall in 2022 has significantly deteriorated Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon-Netherby Road, resulting in potholing, polishing, pavement deformation in outer wheel paths, areas of minimal cross fall, seal degradation, large drop offs from the edge of seal and pavement failure.

Council was unsuccessful in the previous tranche of funding through the SLRIP to fully repair and upgrade these roads, forcing Council to re-allocate Council's proposed co-contribution for funding towards costs for repairing smaller sections to make the roads safer for users.

Site inspections show at least 1.40km on Dimboola-Minyip Road and 2.20km of Lorquon-Netherby and Lorquon Roads remain in poor condition and will require budget for full reconstruction and upgrade in the near future. All three roads are identified as critical agricultural routes in Hindmarsh, with Dimboola-Minyip Road also heavily utilised by traffic heading to and from the East of Victoria.

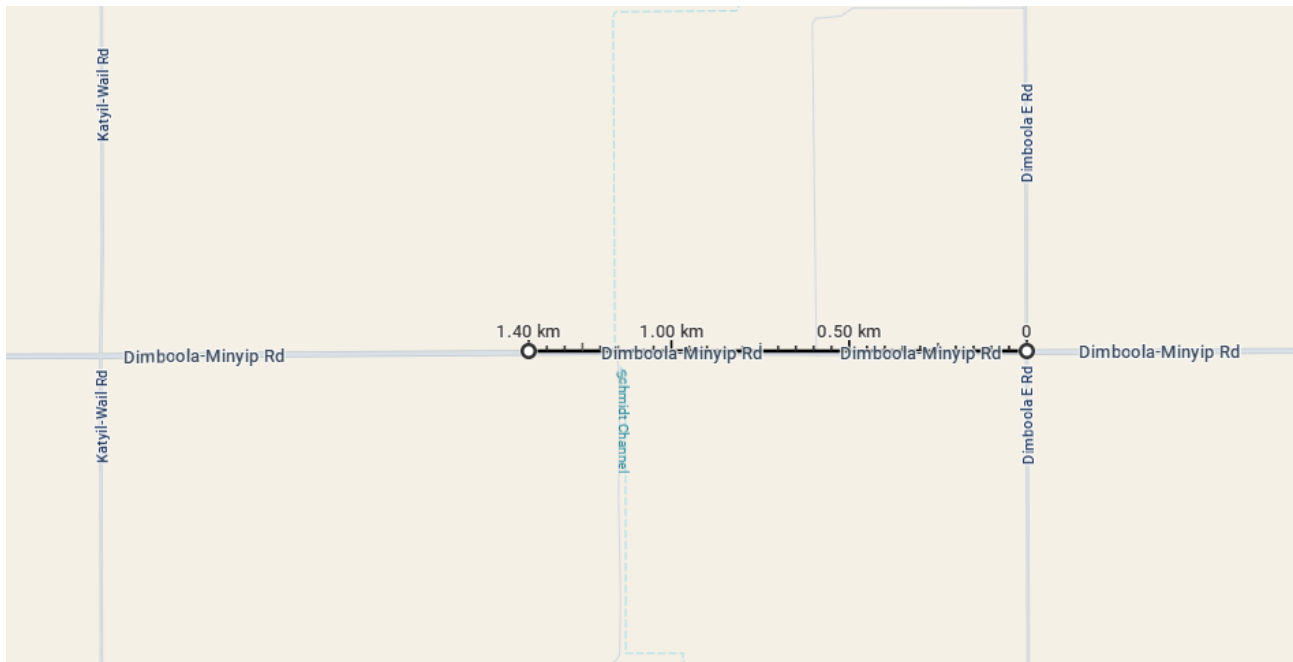


Figure 1.0 – Dimboola-Minyip Road works extent (approx.)



Figure 2.0 – Typical condition of Dimboola-Minyip Road taken Jul 25.





Figure 3.0 – Lorquon-Netherby and Lorquon Road works extent (approx.).



Figure 4.0 – Typical condition of Lorquon Road August 25



Officers have investigated further funding options to rectify these issues. The Australian Government has opened another tranche of the SLRIP that is currently open for applications, accepting project proposals of up to \$5,000,000, with a maximum 80% federal government contribution. The project delivery timeframe is within 36 months of the funding offer being approved.

Council officers have conducted a cost estimate for in-house staff and subcontractors to undertake the works, with a breakdown of the funding required below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Council Contribution</b>	<b>SLRIP Component</b>	<b>TOTAL exc. GST.</b>
Dimboola-Minyip Road	\$91,000	\$364,000	\$455,000
Lorquon-Netherby Road	\$143,325	\$573,300	\$716,625

Table 1.0 – Project cost estimates and funding breakdown

Should Council resolve to apply for the SLRIP grant, officers would develop an application consistent with the cost estimates in Table 1.0. If successful, these projects will be delivered in 2026/2027 and the 2027/2028 financial year.

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

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

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

#### **Financial Implications:**

This proposal requires the Council to refer \$234,325 to the draft 2026/2027 capital works budget towards the project in order to achieve a 20% contribution.

#### **Risk Management Implications:**

<b>Strategic Risk Description</b>	<b>Risk Management Discussion</b>
Asset Management Project Management and Strategic Execution	Without directing funding to undertake the Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby & Lorquon Rd proposed projects, the condition will deteriorate further.

#### **Relevant Legislation:**

*Road Management Act 2004*

*Local Government Act 1989*

#### **Community Engagement:**

The Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby & Lorquon Road has been identified by assessments undertaken by staff, professional engineering reporting and information gathered by conversations had with community members.

**Gender Equality Implications:**

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

**Confidential Declaration:**

Not applicable.

**Conflict of Interest:**

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

Officer Responsible – Ram Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure Services

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

Author – Daniel Griffiths, Manager Works and Operations

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

**Communications Strategy:**

Council officers will liaise with the grant body and prepare an application for submission.

**Next Steps:**

If Council approves the recommendation, Council officers will submit an application for the reconstruction of a section of Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby & Lorquon Road through the SLRIP grant program and report back to Council on the outcome of the application.

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

***approves the application under Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program for Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby & Lorquon Road upgrades; and refers an allocation of \$234,325 comprising Council's co-contribution, to the 2026/2027 draft budget.***

**MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr R Aitken*****That Council:***

- 1. approves the application under Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program for Dimboola-Minyip Road and Lorquon Netherby & Lorquon Road upgrades; and***

- 2. refers an allocation of \$234,325 comprising Council's co-contribution, to the 2026/2027 draft budget.***

**CARRIED**

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## 11 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### 11.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 11 June 2025 [11.1.1]
2. Jeparit Town Committee Meeting AGM Minutes 23 July 2025 [11.1.2]
3. Jeparit Town Committee Meeting Minutes 23 July 2025 [11.1.3]
4. Jeparit Town Committee Meeting Minutes 11 August 2025 [11.1.4]
5. Rainbow Town Committee Meeting Minutes 29 July 2025 [11.1.5]
6. Nhill Town Committee Meeting Minutes 5 August 2025 [11.1.6]
7. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Jeparit Town Committee Finance Report Ending 31 July 2025 [11.1.7]
8. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Rainbow Town Committee Finance Report Ending 31 July 2025 [11.1.8]
9. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Nhill Town Committee Finance Report Ending 31 July 2025 [11.1.9]

**Introduction:**

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

- **Audit and Risk Committee**  
General meeting on 11 June 2025
- **Jeparit Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 23 July 2025  
Annual meeting on 23 July 2025  
General meeting on 11 August 2025
- **Rainbow Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 29 July 2025
- **Nhill Township Advisory Committee**  
General meeting on 5 August 2025

A copy of the financial statements for the month of July for the following committees has been provided as confidential attachments for the information of Council:

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

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2024, the Rainbow Township Advisory Committee minutes for the meeting held on 18 November 2024 were noted, however the request to allocate \$2,000 (GST exclusive) to the Rainbow Progress Association was not endorsed by Council. This request is being presented to Council today. The allocation supports the project undertaken by Rainbow Progress Association on the development of Rainbow 2050 plan.

**Next Steps:**

Advisory Committee minutes will be published on Council's website. Council officers to notify Rainbow Town Committee advising them of their request.

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

- 1. notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
  - a) Audit and Risk meeting held on 11 June 2025;***
  - b) Jeparit Township meetings held on 23 July 2025 and 11 August 2025;***
  - c) Rainbow Township meeting held on 29 July 2025; and***
  - d) Nhill Township meeting held on 5 August 2025.***
- 2. endorses the following office bearers for the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee:***
  - a) Chairperson - Jason Hutson;***
  - b) Vice Chairperson – Teresa Smith;***
  - c) Secretary – Cheryl Quinn; and***
- 3. approves the Rainbow Town Committee's request to allocate \$2,000 (GST exclusive) to the Rainbow Progress Association to support their Rainbow 2050 project.***

**MOVED: Cr C Uoy/Cr T Clark*****That Council:***

- 1. notes the minutes of the following Advisory Committees:***
  - a) Audit and Risk meeting held on 11 June 2025;***
  - b) Jeparit Township meetings held on 23 July 2025 and 11 August 2025;***
  - c) Rainbow Township meeting held on 29 July 2025; and***
  - d) Nhill Township meeting held on 5 August 2025.***
- 2. endorses the following office bearers for the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee:***
  - a) Chairperson - Jason Hutson;***
  - b) Vice Chairperson – Teresa Smith;***
  - c) Secretary – Cheryl Quinn; and***
- 3. approves the Rainbow Town Committee's request to allocate \$2,000 (GST exclusive) to the Rainbow Progress Association to support their Rainbow 2050 project.***

**CARRIED**



## 11.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes AGM 16 July 2024 [11.2.1]
2. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 17 June 2025 [11.2.2]
3. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes AGM 15 July 2025 [11.2.3]
4. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 15 July 2025 [11.2.4]
5. Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Minutes 19 August 2025 [11.2.5]
6. Yurunga Homestead Minutes AGM 24 July 2025 [11.2.6]
7. Yurunga Homestead Minutes 24 July 2025 [11.2.7]
8. Yurunga Homestead Chairperson's Report 2024-2025 [11.2.8]
9. Yurunga Homestead Financial Report 2024-2025 [11.2.9]
10. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2025 07 17 Christa Robnik Volunteer Application WMPM [11.2.10]

**Introduction:**

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

- **Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committees=**  
Annual meeting on 16 July 2024  
General meeting on 17 June 2025  
Annual meeting on 15 July 2025  
General meeting on 15 July 2025  
General meeting on 19 August 2025
- **Yurunga Homestead Community Asset Committee**  
Annual meeting on 24 July 2025  
General meeting on 24 July 2025

Yurunga Homestead has also presented the Chairperson's report and Financial report for 2024-2025 to Council for noting.

An expression of interest form for the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee was received by Council on Thursday 17 July 2025 from Christa Robnik. This has been included as a confidential attachment.

**Next Steps:**

Contact appointee and advise of the outcome of their nomination to the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

1. *notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:*

- a) *Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meetings held on 16 July 2024, 17 June 2025, 15 July 2025 and 19 August 2025;*
  - b) *Yurunga Homestead meetings held on 24 July 2025;*
2. *notes Yurunga Homestead Chairperson report and financial report for 2024-2025;*
3. *appoints Christa Robnik to the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee for the current term ending 30 June 2026; and*
4. *endorses the following office bearers for the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum:*
  - a) *Chairperson – Wendy Werner;*
  - b) *Secretary – Craige Proctor (temporarily for approximately one month);*
  - c) *Secretary – Natalia Aguirre and Christa Robnik as Co-Secretaries; and*
  - d) *Treasurer – Mary-Anne Paech.*

**MOVED: Cr T Clark/Cr J Barry**

**That Council:**

1. *notes the minutes of the following Community Asset Committees:*
  - a) *Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum meetings held on 16 July 2024, 17 June 2025, 15 July 2025 and 19 August 2025;*
  - b) *Yurunga Homestead meetings held on 24 July 2025;*
2. *notes Yurunga Homestead Chairperson report and financial report for 2024-2025;*
3. *appoints Christa Robnik to the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Community Asset Committee for the current term ending 30 June 2026; and*
4. *endorses the following office bearers for the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum:*
  - a) *Chairperson – Wendy Werner;*
  - b) *Secretary – Craige Proctor (temporarily for approximately one month);*
  - c) *Secretary – Natalia Aguirre and Christa Robnik as Co-Secretaries; and*
  - d) *Treasurer – Mary-Anne Paech.*

**CARRIED**

## **12 LATE REPORTS**

**No late reports.**

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## **13 NOTICES OF MOTION**

**No notices of motions.**

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## **14 OTHER BUSINESS**

**No other business.**

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## 15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

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

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

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**15.1 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2022-2023-02 PANEL OF PREFERRED SUPPLIERS - GOODS & SERVICES – this report contains “Council business information,**

*being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released";*

- 15.2 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2024-2025-42 - SUPPLY OF GRAVEL – 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 Barker**

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

- 15.1 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2022-2023-02 PANEL OF PREFERRED SUPPLIERS - GOODS & SERVICES – this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released”;**
- 15.2 AWARD OF CONTRACT 2024-2025-42 - SUPPLY OF GRAVEL – this report contains “Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released”.**

**CARRIED**

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## **16 LATE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

No late confidential reports.

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## **17 MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business, Cr Ron Ismay declared the meeting closed at 5:19pm.

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