

# Hindmarsh Shire Council Council Plan 2021-2025 and Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

**Action Plan 2024-2025**

*Adopted 26 June 2024*





## Theme One – Our Community

Council Plan Reference - “What are we going to do”	Action Item
<i>Use a broad range of communication and engagement techniques with information accessible in different languages</i>	Continue to implement and develop effective communication methods to ensure the community is engaged and informed about Council projects, plans and services, including e-news and newsletters, advertisements and media releases, website development and social media.
	Deliver community safety and education initiatives around Council’s Locals Laws as well as Fire Prevention and animal management.
<i>Support healthy living and provide services and activities for people of all ages and backgrounds</i>	Continue to provide programs and services that promote the health and social engagement of our ageing community, including seniors concert and social connection activities, with a focus on ensuring activities are inclusive and accessible.
	Support and coordinate the Volunteer Taxi Service in Nhill.
	Develop a Sports and Recreation Strategy to support sports infrastructure, sports organisations and active living in Hindmarsh Shire.
<i>Provide infrastructure and support to early years services within Hindmarsh</i>	Facilitate delivery of infrastructure projects in partnership with the Department of Education to provide four-year-old kinder services as of 2025 in Nhill and Dimboola.
	Continue to advocate for after school care and an increase in childcare in Hindmarsh Shire.
<i>Continue to support and facilitate Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council including the development and implementation of a Youth Strategy</i>	Continue to deliver Council’s youth program, including delivery of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy, school holidays activities and the Youth Council.
<i>Facilitate and support arts, music, and cultural community events, celebrations, and activities to build social connection.</i>	Support significant days/weeks for groups represented within the Shire, including International Day of People with a Disability and Harmony Day.
<i>Acknowledge and preserve Aboriginal values and culture through partnerships, land management practices and understanding to deliver positive outcomes</i>	Deliver service and document reviews, events, activities, and statements that promote reconciliation and advance the objectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the community.
<i>Advocate for a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages</i>	Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh

## Theme Two – Built & Natural Environment

Council Plan Reference - “What are we going to do”	Action Item
<i>Advocate for the continuation of State and Federal Government funding to support the maintenance and upgrades of Council’s extensive road network and infrastructure needs.</i>	Commence construction at Davis Park, Nhill, on the AFL compliant changerooms with undercover seating.
	Complete Nhill Aerodrome upgrades including drainage and pavement works.
	Continue to advocate for funding for a new weir at Jeparit.
	Seek funding to install solar on Council buildings and halls.
<i>Implement a range of environmentally sustainable practices throughout the Shire including solar/wind powered infrastructure and water efficient appliances</i>	Develop and implement an up-to-date Domestic Wastewater Management Plan.
	Explore funding options for installation of solar heating at the Dimboola Swimming Pool.
	Consider options for delivery of Weeds, Pest and Plant program following the changes to the Landcare network in the region.
	Adopt a Climate Adaption Strategy that supports community resilience, risk mitigation and reduced negative environmental impact within the Shire.
	Increased building and planning enforcement activity to protect Council’s environment.
<i>Maintain the condition of our existing local road network prioritising capital works investment into renewal on roads and road related infrastructure.</i>	Facilitate Hindmarsh Heavy Transport and Freight Working Group.
	Successful delivery of Council’s Capital Works program as contained within the 2024-2025 Hindmarsh Shire Council Budget.
	Sealed road construction works on Dimboola Minyip Road (subject to funding).
	Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee and Wimmera Regional Transport Group.
<i>Regularly review Council’s asset management plans, and update the Assets Register</i>	Implement Assetic Cloud as an effective Asset Management software system, improving the financial efficacy, sustainability and usability of our asset management functions.
<i>Continuous improvement of our waste management and transfer stations through upgrades and establishment of rural collection points for increased recycling use and waste services, including transition to a new waste strategy</i>	Install recycling and glass collection bins in main street in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.
<i>Encourage the community to implement waste</i>	Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties prior to the fire season.

<i>minimisation and management strategies through education and promotion</i>	Work closely with conservation partners including the Wimmera CMA to educate the community on land management and conservation strategies.
<i>Maintain attractive streetscapes, open spaces and public places</i>	Continued implementation of the Nhill Streetscape Plan.
<i>Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs</i>	Seek funding to upgrade Rainbow Public Amenities and install new all-abilities amenities and ramp into MECCA Supper Room.
	Continue development and implementation of the Hindmarsh Playground Strategy.
	Complete construction of new Mechanics workshop at Jeparit Depot.
<i>Upgrade parks and open spaces as funding stream are available, including lighting for increased nighttime use, safety and security.</i>	Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas.

## Theme Three – Competitive and Innovative Economy

Council Plan Achievement	Action Item
<i>Promote Hindmarsh Shire as a destination of choice by increasing and improving tourism signage to encourage people to stop, stay and play in Hindmarsh Shire.</i>	Participate in the Visitor Economy Partnership and commence development of Destination Management Plans and industry development activities.
	Continue delivery of Silo Art project at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow.
<i>Provide support to Hindmarsh businesses through buy local campaigns, Council purchasing locally and promote business assistance grants</i>	Deliver a Business Assistance Grants program responsive to the changing economic interests within the Shire.
<i>Develop and promote local tourism opportunities that attract visitation</i>	Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, play and stay.
<i>Facilitate business networking sessions and showcasing Hindmarsh businesses</i>	Host quarterly business networking sessions in Hindmarsh for businesses to come together, network and learn.
<i>Review and update Council's town planning scheme to allow for urban and commercial development</i>	Undertake a review of the Hindmarsh Planning Scheme.
<i>Develop master plans for all Council owned and operated caravan parks and seek funding to support the implementation of actions and upgrades including cabin accommodation</i>	Seek funding for continued development of Hindmarsh Shire Caravan Parks and implement upgrades to the Nhill Caravan Park as contained in the Nhill Caravan Park Masterplan.
<i>Review and implement Council's Economic Development Strategy</i>	Commence implementation planning for Council's Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028.
<i>Support community initiatives such as markets, pop up shops and appropriate events / activities</i>	Provide financial and in-kind support to regional community events held in Hindmarsh that increase economic benefit.

<i>Facilitating and supporting economic development.</i>	Actively seek funding to upgrade key freight routes for our agricultural economy.
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## Theme Four – Good Governance & Financial Sustainability

Council Plan Achievement	Action Item
<i>Promote benefits of being a Councillor encouraging diversity on Council &amp; Ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020</i>	Deliver proactive activities aimed at encouraging candidature for the 2024 Council elections, including the MAV Stand for Council Program.
	Prepare for, and deliver, a compliant caretaker and election period for the 2024 Local Council Elections.
	Review existing, and develop new, Councillor induction processes (including a training program) to facilitate compliant and effective transition into a new Council period.
<i>Ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020</i>	Review and adopt critical Council policies as per Council's policy review cycle.
	Further develop and maintain a panel of preferred suppliers for critical services areas to ensure the efficiency of Council business.
<i>Continue online streaming of Council meetings to uphold the principles of public transparency and accessibility</i>	Continue to promote transparency and accessibility of Council meetings through streaming meetings online and including closed captioning where possible.
<i>Provide opportunities for culturally diverse and young people through activities such as work experience, cadetships, certificates, apprenticeships and traineeships</i>	Continue to consider trainee, apprenticeship, and work placement opportunities to providing bringing pathways to employment at Council.
<i>Provide a range of engagement and communication methods to ensure open, easily available and transparent communication between Council and the community</i>	Develop a guide to assist the community and to provide clarity on the process of public Council meetings and how to participate.
	Implement the Community Engagement Policy and provide appropriate consultation and engagement methods for policies, projects and plans.
	Develop and integrate organisation-wide framework for managing all complaints relating to Council's functions and services and framework for monitoring success of complaints management processes.
<i>Continue to focus on responsible financial management in budgeting and long-term financial planning</i>	Update Council's Long Term Financial Plan.
<i>Demonstrate leadership on gender equity and promote respectful relationships through partnerships, programs, activities, spaces and education and</i>	Continue implementation of Gender Equality Action Plan.

<i>Council's implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2020</i>	
<i>Enhance our financial management systems through the Rural Council Transformation Project</i>	Continue to collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council and Loddon Shire Council to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project.
<i>Further develop and implement Council's Risk Management Framework and ensure all key risks have been measured and adequately controlled</i>	Maintain the Business Continuity Plan as an active document, ensuring that it is responsive to changing risk environments.
	Enhance the organisations information, communications and technology (ICT) capabilities and systems, including strengthening our cyber-security capability.
<i>Provide for a safe working environment and develop a productive and skilled workforce.</i>	Deliver actions within the Hindmarsh Shire Council Cultural Audit to improve the accessibility of Council services and the diversity of our workforce.
<i>Demonstrate leadership on gender equity and promote respectful relationships through partnerships, programs, activities, spaces and education and Council's implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2020</i>	Engage local sporting clubs in the development and implementation of the Fair Access components of the Sports and Recreation Reserves Allocation and Use Policy.
<i>Enhance our workforce through the development of a Workforce Plan that supports the needs of the organisation and encouraged diversity.</i>	Undertake review of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Workforce Plan.

## Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Action Item
Collaborate with partners to deliver annual priorities from the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health promotion initiatives</li> <li>- Gender based violence prevention initiatives</li> <li>- Providing active living opportunities for all ages and abilities.</li> </ul>
Review Healthy Food Choices Policy (Annual)



# Economic Development Strategy

Action Item
Support Town Committees (or alternative private committee) to develop 'town themes' to promote tourism and economic development.
Enhance the contribution of volunteers within the Shire including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Facilitating the annual citizen of the year awards</li><li>- Celebrating National Volunteers Week</li><li>- Celebrating volunteers with an annual morning tea</li><li>- Reviewing volunteer management processes with the view of supporting and retaining existing volunteers as well as promoting volunteer opportunities.</li></ul>
Deliver a Community Action Grants program to support Hindmarsh community groups and organisations, prioritising projects that have town-centre revitalisation objectives.
Consider development opportunities for vacant Council-owned land to support social and affordable housing options.
Conduct initial demand and feasibility assessments for industrial estates in Dimboola, Rainbow, Nhill and Jeparit.
Participate in Wimmera Southern Mallee Development's Wimmera Housing Innovation projects within the Shire.

## Community Action Plan

Action Item
Provide training and resources to Customer Service Staff in Dimboola, Jeparit, and Rainbow to deliver effective Visitor Information services at existing Customer Service Centres.
Seek funding for short term/high impact initiatives contained within the Community Action Plan.