



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRE, DIMBOOLA MEMORIAL SECONDARY COLLEGE, DIMBOOLA ON WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2017, COMMENCING AT 3:00PM

AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community and Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation of Minutes

4. Declaration of Interests

5. Public Question Time

6. Deputations

7. Activity Reports

8. Correspondence

9. Assembly of Councillors

9.1 Record of Assembly

10. Planning Permit Reports

10.1 No report

11. Reports Requiring a Decision

11.1 Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Grants 2016/17

11.2 2017/18 Rate Cap variation consultation

12. Special Committees

12.1 Nhill Town Committee

13. Late Reports

No report.

14. Other Business

No report.

15. Confidential Matters

- 15.1 Jeparit Town Committee and Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum
- 15.2 Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Expression of Interest
- 15.3 Application to keep more than the prescribed number of animals
- 15.4 Audit Committee
- 15.4 Business Assistance Grants Program Round 2

16. Meeting Close

Present: Crs. D. Nelson (Mayor), R. Lowe (Deputy Mayor), D. Colbert, T. Schneider, R. Gersch, R. Ismay

In Attendance:

Greg Wood, (Chief Executive Officer), Anne Champness (Director Corporate and Community Services), Adrian Gasperoni (Director Infrastructure Services).

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

Cr Nelson opened the meeting at 3:00pm by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and offering the opening prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1 March 2017 in the Council Chamber, Nhill as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: CRS T. Schneider/ R. Lowe

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1 March 2017 in the Council Chamber, Nhill as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachment: 1

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

- Direct; or
- Indirect interest
 - a) by close association;
 - b) that is an indirect financial interest;
 - c) because of conflicting duties;
 - d) because of receipt of an applicable gift;
 - e) as a consequence of becoming an interested party; or
 - f) because of an impact on residential amenity.

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

Cr Colbert declared an indirect interest due to conflicting duties in item 11.2 Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Grants 2016/17 – Golf Club funding application.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mary Clarke, local business owner, questioned whether there were any future plans for the development of streets in our towns.

Properties seem to be purchased cheaply, done up a little and then put on the market for both rent/lease at too high a cost, which means they are left empty and unattended.

Vancouver and Melbourne are examples of introducing a tax on such properties to avoid them being left empty. What could be done locally to address this concern?

Also invited attendees to a meeting at the former Dimboola Hotel site, at 11am, Saturday 18 March 2017 to brainstorm ideas of what could be done with the site.

6. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations.

7. ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: FEBRUARY 2017

Cr NELSON, MAYOR

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 05/02/2017 Dimboola Playgroup open day, Dimboola
- 06/02/2017 Town Committee meeting, Dimboola
- 08/02/2017 Jeparit visit Feb 9 West Wimmera CWA Conference, Nhill
- 10/02/2017 WSMLLEN induction, Horsham
- 10/02/2017 Wimmera Mayor meeting, Horsham
- 12/02/2017 Human Powered Vehicles trials, Dimboola
- 14/02/2017 Councillor retreat, Little Desert Lodge
- 14/02/2017 Wimmera Development Association meeting, Horsham
- 15/02/2017 Briefing meeting, Jeparit
- 15/02/2017 Council meeting, Jeparit
- 16/02/2017 MAV Candidate Forum, Stawell
- 17/02/2017 MAV Strategic planning meeting, Warracknabeal
- 18/02/2017 Youth Council movie night, Dimboola
- 23/02/2017 Meeting with Andrew Broad MP, Nhill
- 23/02/2017 Special Council meeting, Nhill
- 24/02/2017 North West Municipalities Assoc. Meeting, Warracknabeal
- 27/02/2017 Youth Councillor interviews, Dimboola
- 28/02/2017 CEO / Mayor catch up

Cr LOWE, DEPUTY MAYOR

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 03/02/2017 VORRA Off Road meeting, Rainbow
- 13/02/2017 SRC Presentation, Nhill P-12 College
- 13/02/2017 Jeparit Town Committee
- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat
- 15/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Jeparit
- 15/02/2017 Council Meeting, Jeparit
- 21/02/2017 Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, Jeparit
- 23/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill

Cr GERSCH

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Council meeting
- 01/02/2017 Inspect Boyeo Hall surrounds
- 03/02/2017 Early childhood hub meeting
- 03/02/2017 Wimmera Regional. Roads meeting
- 07/02/2017 Nhill Sporting Club meeting re future of assets

- 10/02/2017 Rural Councils Victoria board meeting
- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat
- 14/02/2017 WDA board meeting
- 15/02/2017 Council meeting at. Jeparit
- 15/02/2017 RCV meeting Minister Gavin Jennings
- 20/02/2017 Reception Western. Bulldogs Horsham
- 21/02/2017 Nhill Neighbourhood house re Papers for citizenship
- 23/02/2017 Special Council meeting
- 24/02/2017 NWMA meeting
- 27/02/2017 Youth Council interviews, Nhill

Cr COLBERT

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat
- 15/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Jeparit
- 15/02/2017 Council Meeting, Jeparit
- 23/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 27/02/2017 Youth Council interviews, Nhill

Cr ISMAY

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Council meeting Nhill
- 07/02/2017 Hindmarsh land care meeting Dimboola
- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat LDL. Nhill
- 21/02/2017 Wimmera Mallee tourism meeting Birchip
- 21/02/2017 Pioneer Museum meeting Jeparit
- 23/02/2017 Special Council meeting Nhill
- 23/02/2017 Art grant meeting Rainbow
- 27/02/2017 Rainbow Town Committee meeting

Cr SCHNEIDER

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Briefing and Council meeting, Nhill
 - 06/02/2017 Dimboola Town Committee meeting
 - 14/02/2017 Council Planning day, Little Desert Lodge
 - 15/02/2017 Briefing and Council meeting, Jeparit
 - 17/02/2017 Wimmera Regional Library Corporation Board meeting, Horsham
 - 23/02/2017 Special Council meeting, Nhill
 - 27/02/2017 Youth Council interviews, Dimboola
 - 28/02/2017 On-site meeting, Dimboola-Minyip Road, with Director Infrastructure and landowner
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SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: FEBRUARY 2017

GREG WOOD, Chief Executive Officer:

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 02/02/2017 CEO meeting Horsham
- 02/02/2017 Nhill Cinema Volunteer
- 07/02/2017 Meeting with Andrew Broad MP staff, Nhill
- 09/02/2017 Nhill Cinema Volunteer
- 10/02/2017 Regional Partnership meeting, Stawell
- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat
- 14/02/2017 Wimmera Development Association meeting, Horsham
- 15/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Jeparit
- 15/02/2017 Council Meeting, Jeparit
- 17/02/2017 MAV Strategic planning meeting, Warracknabeal
- 23/02/2017 Meeting with Andrew Broad MP, Nhill
- 23/02/2017 Special Council meeting, Nhill
- 24/02/2017 North West Municipalities Assoc. Meeting, Warracknabeal
- 28/02/2017 CEO / Mayor catch up

ADRIAN GASPERONI, Director Infrastructure Services:

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 03/02/2017 Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group, Horsham
- 03/02/2017 Rainbow Desert 400 Race – Meeting, Rainbow
- 07/02/2017 Meeting with Nhill Sports Club, Nhill
- 09/02/2017 Wimmera Flood Strategy Priority Projects, Horsham
- 10/02/2017 GCW Forum Meeting & Board Election, Ararat
- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat
- 15/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Jeparit
- 15/02/2017 Council Meeting, Jeparit
- 16/02/2017 Building Inspector Interviews, Horsham
- 16/02/2017 Inroads Meeting, Horsham
- 17/02/2017 TARG Meeting, Bannockburn
- 22-23/02/2017 LGPro Annual Conference, Melbourne
- 23/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 24/02/2017 Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy Steering Committee

ANNE CHAMPNESS, Director Corporate and Community Services:

Attended:

- 01/02/2017 WUC Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
- 01/02/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 09/02/2017 Nhill Settlement Advisory Committee Meeting

- 14/02/2017 Council Retreat
 - 15/02/2017 Briefing Meeting, Jeparit
 - 15/02/2017 Council Meeting, Jeparit
 - 22/02/2017 Nhill Kinder Parent Advisory Group (PAG) meeting, Nhill
 - 23/02/2017 Special Council Meeting, Nhill
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8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

No correspondence.

9. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: 2

Introduction:

The attached Assembly of Councillors Record is presented as an attachment to the Council agenda for the information of Councillors and recorded at the Council meeting as required under s80A Local Government Act 1989.

Options:

1. That Council accept the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accept the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

MOVED: CRS R. Gersch/ R. Ismay

That Council accept the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

CARRIED

Attachment: 2

10. PLANNING PERMITS

No report.

11. REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

Cr Colbert declared an indirect interest due to conflicting duties (Golf Club) and left the room at 3.50pm.

11.1 HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS 2016/17

Responsible Officer: Director of Corporate and Community Services

File: Community and Economic Development/ Community Action Grants 2016/17

Attachment number: 3-7

Introduction:

This report seeks endorsement to provide funding through the Community Action Grants Program to eligible organisation / community groups as outlined in the following report.

Discussion:

The Community Action Grants program was established to support communities with funds to provide services, self-help and assist with community development, social action and connectedness. Total annual funding of \$30,000.00 has been allocated to the program, categorised into four areas:

- Community Assistance
- Event Sponsorship
- Minor Facility Upgrades
- Small Equipment

The 2016/17 Community Action Grants Program was promoted with a media release on the Council's website and to local media; adverts were displayed in shop front windows as well as Facebook promotions on Council's Facebook page.

All Community Action Grants Program categories closed on 24 February 2017. A total of 16 applications were received with funding requests totaling **\$25,925**.

Category	Number of Applicants	Funding Allocation	Total Amount Requested
Community Assistance	2	\$1,500	\$4,600
Event Sponsorship	1	\$1,500	\$1,000
Minor Facility Upgrades	8	\$5,500	\$15,920
Small Equipment	5	\$5,000	\$4,405

Funding applications have been assessed against the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrate direct economic and social benefit to the community;
- Not already receive substantial support from Hindmarsh Shire Council;
- Be made by an incorporated community group or not-for-profit organisation or auspiced by such a group.

Ineligible Applications:

- Community organisations who do not provide direct benefit to the Hindmarsh Shire Community;
- Individuals;
- Community organisations who have successfully obtained funding of \$500.00 or more through the Community Action Grants Program in the current or previous financial year (organisations can only apply for funding every *two* years);
- Capital works on major facility maintenance;
- Funding to groups for purposes already significantly supported by Hindmarsh Shire Council (e.g. groups that use a Council facility free of charge and pay no energy cost);
- Programs considered the major responsibility of the State or Federal Government;
- Schools and their Parents and Friends organisations;
- Projects that are clearly a duplication of an existing service; and
- Retrospective funding (projects that have commenced or have been completed will not be funded).

Assessment Criteria

- All applications have been assessed using the following criteria:

Why? 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain the demonstrated community need. - How will the project improve social connections and build community wellbeing? - How will the project achieve economic benefit for the community? - Has the project been identified in a Community Plan?
What? 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a brief summary of what you are going to do. - How will your project increase community participation? - Complete and submit a Risk Assessment for any Event. - Provide detail on how Hindmarsh Shire Council's contribution will be recognised and acknowledged.
How? 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide quotes/ information on specific item(s) funds will be used to purchase. - Provide a copy of the applying organisation's most recent bank statement and banking details. - Complete the budget and in-kind contribution templates - How will your event's success be measured?
Finally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete eligibility and submissions checklist.

Community Assistance

The **Community Assistance** Program offers grants of up to a **\$1,000** to assist with valuable projects that do not fit under the three other categories of the Community Action Grants Program.

Applicants

1. **Dimboola Croquet Club Inc.** seeks funding of \$4,000 (exceeds limit) to purchase and construct a small storage shed (3m x 3m) to store all equipment. The total project cost is \$4,728.00 of which \$288 will be fund-raised by the committee.
2. **Rainbow Lions Club** seeks funding of \$600 to assist in the purchase of an Honour Board for the winners of Rainbow and Hindmarsh Citizen of the Year. The Honour Board will be

fixed in the Civic Centre for generations to see. The total project is \$1,230.00 of which \$630.00 is contributed by the club.

Event Sponsorship

Event sponsorships offer grants of up to **\$500** to assist with an event within Hindmarsh Shire which demonstrates social and economic benefit. Sponsorship up to \$1,000 is available where the event provides significant regional impact.

Applicants

1. **Parkrun Nhill** seeks funding of \$1,000 to assist in raising the initial Parkrun fee of \$5,500.00. This fee covers the equipment required to facilitate Parkrun Australia weekly events in Nhill. Funding is not required from Council until an additional \$4,500 can be raised towards the project. Currently, the event has between 15 – 30 participants weekly, however, it is hoped that these numbers will increase to 40 – 50 once Parkrun Nhill is formally established. Nhill Parkrun will fall under Parkrun Australia Inc. once they have raised enough funds to join.

Small Equipment

Small Equipment grants provide funding assistance of up to **\$1,000** towards the purchase of small equipment items.

Applicants

1. **Nhill and District Senior Citizens** seek funding of \$1,000 to assist in the purchase of a projector and laptop for the Senior Citizens Centre. This equipment will be utilised by the Senior Citizens and available to other community groups who use the facility. The total project cost is \$2,430 with Senior Citizens contributing \$830.
2. **Rainbow Swimming Pool Committee Inc.** seeks funding of \$1,000 to contribute to the purchase of a defibrillator for the Rainbow swimming pool. This equipment will play a crucial role in saving a life in the event of a cardiac arrest. The total project cost is \$2,490 of which \$1,450 will be contributed by the committee.
3. **Nhill Golf Club Inc.** seeks funding of \$675 to purchase a Dyson stick vacuum cleaner to be used in the clubrooms. This type of vacuum cleaner will aid and assist volunteers in cleaning the clubrooms. The total project cost is \$675 to which there is no financial contribution. The Nhill Golf Club received \$343 in the 2015/16 financial year to purchase two soup kettles.
4. **Rotary Club of Nhill Inc.** seeks funding of \$730.15 for the purchase of additional barrier mesh and appropriate steel posts to secure barrier mesh in place. This equipment promotes safety at the Nhill market. The total project cost is \$730.15 with no financial contribution from the Rotary Club.
5. **Wimmera Counselling & community Legal Centre Inc.** seeks funding of \$1,000 to purchase a computer for the centre. The computer will assist in the daily functions such as administrative tasks and appointments. The total project cost is \$1,000 with contributions not detailed.

Minor Facility Upgrades

Minor Facility Upgrade grants offer financial assistance of up to **\$2,000** to upgrade community facilities.

Applicants

1. **Nhill Aero Club Inc.** seeks funding of \$2,000 to enable them to afford the supply and installation of an air conditioner in the Nhill Aero Club's main multi-purpose room. The total project is \$2,460 of which \$300 will be contributed by the group.

2. **Jeparit and District Bowling Club** seeks funding of \$2,000 to assist in the installation of 90% UV resistant shade sails. This upgrade will protect the community members using this facility. Total project cost and contribution were not indicated.
3. **Dimboola Men's Group** seeks funding of \$2,000 to start Stage 1 of the Dimboola Men's Group shed extension. This funding will contribute to the laying of the foundation for the extension. The total project cost is \$3,150 of which they will contribute \$970 (\$600 of donations).
4. **CWA Nhill Twilight Branch** seeks funding of \$2,000 to assist with Stage 1 of the upgrades to the kitchen facilities. Funding will be utilised for re-plastering and painting. The total project cost is \$3,032.35 of which \$32.35 will be contributed by the applicant. Additionally, the CWA will be responsible for the necessary electrical and plumbing refit after the new plaster is installed.
5. **Diapur Hall Committee** seeks funding of \$2,000 to contribute towards the purchase of a new water tank at the Diapur Hall. This project will allow the committee to purchase a reliable water tank as the current one is unstable. The total project cost is \$2,530 with \$290 contributed by the committee.
6. **Nhill Lowan Lodge No. 107** seeks funding of \$2,000 to assist in an upgrade of the current amenities at the Lodge. Funding would assist in the purchase of new fixtures for the bathrooms. The total project cost is \$2,295; in-kind labour is all that the lodge can offer at this time due to donations to other organisations.
7. **Rainbow Bowls Club** seeks funding of \$1,512.47 to allow them to purchase paint and associated materials to complete external painting of the Clubrooms. The Bowls Club will contribute significantly to the project by providing the labour to complete the painting.
8. **Dimboola Playgroup** seeks funding of \$1,920 to allow them to repair and repaint the walls in the Playgroup room. They will use the funds to get a local contractor in to complete the work. The total project cost is \$2670 which includes an in-kind contribution but not financial from the Playgroup.

Options

Council can choose to support some or all, partly or in full, or none of the applications to the Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Grants 2016/17.

Successful applicants are required to complete their projects and acquit the funds received by 30 June 2017, unless prior consent has been approved by the Director of Corporate and Community Services.

Link to Council & Community Plans:

The Community Action Grants relate to Council's Vision of "a caring, active community enhanced by its livability, environment and economy".

Strategic Objectives:

- 1.1 An actively engaged community.
 - 1.1.6 Support and encourage volunteers and work collaboratively.
- 1.2 A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community.
- 1.3 A community that is physically active with access to a wide range of leisure, sporting and recreation facilities.
- 2.1 Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs.
- 3.2 A thriving tourism Industry.
 - 3.2.2 Appealing tourism facilities that promote visitation and meet visitor needs.
 - 3.2.3 To 'support locally-significant community-driven events and festivals that stimulate

tourism growth in the region'.

3.2.6 Promote and support local historic assets and heritage groups

Financial Implications:

The Community Action Grants Program currently has \$20,309 available to be expended over the 2016/17 financial year.

Total funding recommended to be allocated under this round is \$18,905.00, total funding remaining after recommended allocations is \$1,404.00.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – Anne Champness, Director Corporate & Community Services

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

Author – Michelle Farinha, Community Development Officer

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosed interest in this report.

Risk Management Implications:

Risks are to be managed by the successful applicants.

Communications Strategy

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of Council's decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

That

a) based on the eligibility and assessment criteria; Council approve the following funding allocations:

Community Assistance

1. A grant of \$600 to the Rainbow Lions Club

Event Sponsorship

1. A grant of \$1,000 to Parkrun Nhill (pending the remaining funds required being raised)

Small Equipment

- 1. A grant of \$1,000 to the Nhill & District Senior Citizens**
- 2. A grant of \$1,000 to the Rainbow Swimming Pool Committee Inc.**
- 3. A grant of \$675 to the Nhill Golf Club Inc.**
- 4. A grant of \$730 to the Rotary Club of Nhill Inc.**

Minor Facility Upgrades

- 1. A grant of \$2,000 to the Nhill Aero Club Inc.**
- 2. A grant of \$2,000 to the Dimboola Men's Group (pending approval from the committee of management and/or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)**
- 3. A grant of \$2,000 to the CWA Nhill Twilight Branch**
- 4. A grant of \$2,000 to the Diapur Hall Committee**

5. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Nhill Lowan Lodge No. 107**
6. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Rainbow Bowls Club**
7. **A grant of \$1,920 to the Dimboola Playgroup**

b) based on the eligibility and assessment criteria Council decline funding for the following:

Community Assistance

1. **A grant of \$4,000 to the Dimboola Croquet Club (on the basis that the application amount exceeded funding limits and the Club did not provide sufficient evidence of additional external funding).**

Small Equipment

1. **A grant of 1,000 to the Wimmera Counselling & Community Legal Centre Inc. (incomplete application).**

Minor Facility Upgrade

1. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Jeparit and District Bowling Club (incomplete application).**

MOVED: CRS R. Gersch/ T. Schneider

That

a) based on the eligibility and assessment criteria; Council approve the following funding allocations:

Community Assistance

1. **A grant of \$600 to the Rainbow Lions Club**

Event Sponsorship

1. **A grant of \$1,000 to Parkrun Nhill (pending the remaining funds required being raised)**

Small Equipment

1. **A grant of \$1,000 to the Nhill & District Senior Citizens**
2. **A grant of \$1,000 to the Rainbow Swimming Pool Committee Inc.**
3. **A grant of \$675 to the Nhill Golf Club Inc.**
4. **A grant of \$730 to the Rotary Club of Nhill Inc.**

Minor Facility Upgrades

1. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Nhill Aero Club Inc.**
2. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Dimboola Men's Group, pending approval from the committee of management and/or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**
3. **A grant of \$2,000 to the CWA Nhill Twilight Branch**
4. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Diapur Hall Committee**
5. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Nhill Lowan Lodge No. 107**
6. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Rainbow Bowls Club**
7. **A grant of \$1,920 to the Dimboola Playgroup**
8. **A grant of \$2,000 to the Jeparit and District Bowling Club, subject to the required information being provided to the satisfaction of the Director Corporate and Community Services.**

b) based on the eligibility and assessment criteria Council decline funding for the following:

Community Assistance

- 1. A grant of \$4,000 to the Dimboola Croquet Club (on the basis that the application amount exceeded funding limits and the Club did not provide sufficient evidence of additional external funding).***

Small Equipment

- 1. A grant of 1,000 to the Wimmera Counselling & Community Legal Centre Inc. (incomplete application).***

CARRIED

Attachment: 3-7

11.2 2017/18 RATE CAP VARIATION CONSULTATION

Cr Colbert reentered the room at 4.06pm.

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
File: Financial Management/Budget/2017/18 Budget

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the draft capital works program for 2017/18 – 2020/21 for the purpose of community consultation regarding the application for a rate cap variation.

Discussion

Council resolved at its meeting on 21 December 2016 to notify the Essential Services Commission it would seek to apply for a higher rate cap for the 2017/18 financial year. The Essential Services Commission was notified of Council's intent on 22 December 2016.

In preparing the application for the rate cap variation Council must consult widely with the community. It is proposed that consultation occur through a number of formats, with meetings to be held at the following dates, times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
Monday 20 March 2017	2pm – 4pm	Antwerp Hall
Monday 20 March 2017	7pm – 9pm	Rainbow Mecca
Tuesday 21 March 2017	10am – 12pm	Broughton Hall
Tuesday 21 March 2017	2pm – 4pm	Woorak Hall
Wednesday 22 March 2017	2pm – 4pm	Winiam Hall
Wednesday 22 March 2017	7pm – 9pm	Jeparit Hall
Tuesday 4 April 2017	7pm – 9pm	Dimboola Health & Fitness Centre
Wednesday 5 April 2017	7pm – 9pm	Council Chamber, Nhill

It is intended that the rate cap variation consultations be held in conjunction with farmer consultations and consultation on the Council Plan.

Four Year Capital Works Plan

This is the first year in which Council will include a four year view of proposed capital works projects in the annual budget. Over the past three years Council has included a three year capital works program in its annual budget.

This is a guide to proposed projects in future years, improving transparency and providing the community with an opportunity to comment. As seen in previous years' budgets, circumstances may transpire that require an alteration of previously proposed works.

Council is committed to ensuring that renewal targets are met, meaning upgrade projects are limited in the proposed four year capital works.

Options:

Council must formally prepare and advertise its 2017/18 Annual Budget pursuant to Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Link to Council Plan:

The draft 2017/18 Annual Budget provides funding for Council to undertake initiatives and activities proposed in the Council Plan's four key result areas. Each program in the Budget contains a statement about how the program will contribute to the initiatives and strategies detailed in the Council Plan 2017-2021.

Financial Implications:

The 2017/18 Budget is consistent with the parameters set out in Council's ten-year financial plan. The underlying operating result and the cash position are positive but reduced in comparison to forecasts in previous long-term plans.

Risk Management Implications:

The preparation of the Budget is a statutory requirement.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80C of the LGA officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible: Anne Champness, Director Corporate & Community Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no interests to disclose.

Author: Monica Revell, Finance & Customer Services Manager
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no interests to disclose.

Communications Strategy:

Council must consult with the community in relation to the rate cap variation. It is proposed the draft budget will be available for community comment from 1 June to 30 June 2017. Comments will be considered at a July Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council;

- 1. Adopt in principle the draft four year capital works program for the purpose of community consultation in relation to a rate cap variation.***
- 2. Note the proposed venues and dates for the community consultation meetings.***

MOVED: CRS R. Lowe/ D. Colbert

That Council;

- 1. Adopt in principle the draft four year capital works program for the purpose of community consultation in relation to a rate cap variation.***
- 2. Adjust its commitment to Albacutya Bridge in line with the Special Council Meeting on 23 February 2017 to \$325,000 in 2017/18.***
- 3. Note the proposed venues and dates for the community consultation meetings (with a change of time to 7:30pm to 9:30pm for the Rainbow meeting).***

CARRIED

12. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

12.1 NHILL TOWN COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Attachment: 9

Introduction:

The Nhill Town Committee held its Meeting on 20 February 2016. The purpose of this report is to note the minutes from this meeting. A copy of the minutes is included as an attachment for the information of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the minutes of the Nhill Town Committee Meeting on 20 February 2017.

MOVED: CRS R. Lowe/ D. Colbert

That Council note the minutes of the Nhill Town Committee Meeting on 20 February 2017.

CARRIED

Attachment: 9

13. LATE REPORTS

No report

14. OTHER BUSINESS

MOVED: CRS R. Gersch/R. Ismay

That Council

- 1) note the compounding effect of the three year freeze of the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants, resulting in an ongoing loss of revenue from the last three years' freeze of more than \$0.5m, or more than \$1m if the freeze continued for another three year cycle;***
- 2) call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Treasurer The Hon Scott Morrison MP and Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government and Territories, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash requesting the freeze on the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants be reversed from the 2017/18 financial year onwards and grants reinstated at the levels they would be at had the indexation not applied for the previous three years;***
- 3) write to our local federal member, Andrew Broad, Member for Mallee, requesting he support the councils in his electorate, and rural and regional councils across Victoria, in their push for a reversal of the indexation freeze.***

CARRIED

MOVED: CRS T. Schneider/ R. Lowe

That Council write and congratulate Rebekah Albrecht, a 2016 Hindmarsh Youth Councillor, on receiving the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize and her forthcoming trip in April to Darwin and Singapore to learn more about the Second World War.

CARRIED

15. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

In accordance with Section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may close the meeting to the public if items to be discussed are deemed confidential, that is, if the items to be discussed relate to:

- a) Personnel matters;
- b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- c) Industrial matters;
- d) Contractual matters;
- e) Proposed developments;
- f) Legal advice;
- g) Matters affecting the security of Council property;
- h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) a resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the meeting be closed in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989, as h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;

- 15.1 ***Section 86 Committees – Jeparit Town Committee and Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum***
- 15.2 ***Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Expression of Interest***
- 15.3 ***Application to keep more than the prescribed number of animals***
- 15.4 ***Audit Committee***
- 15.5 ***Business Assistance Grants Program Round 2***

MOVED: CRS R. Lowe/ T. Schneider

That the meeting be closed in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989, as h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;

- 15.1 ***Section 86 Committees – Jeparit Town Committee and Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum***
- 15.2 ***Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Expression of Interest***
- 15.3 ***Application to keep more than the prescribed number of animals***
- 15.4 ***Audit Committee***
- 15.5 ***Business Assistance Grants Program Round 2***

CARRIED

16. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Nelson declared the meeting closed at 5.43pm